



**International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH**  
**Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST**  
*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*



## **Meeting of the new ICOH Board 2018-2021**

**May 5, 2018**  
**Dublin, Ireland**

**Time:** Saturday, 5 May 2018, 9.30 – 12.30

**Venue:** Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

**Participants:** **Dr. Jukka Takala (Finland)** – ICOH President  
**Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy)** – ICOH Secretary General  
**Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea)** – ICOH Vice President  
**Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa)** – ICOH Vice President  
**Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan)** – ICOH Past President  
**Prof. Maureen Dollard (Australia)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Martin Hogan (Ireland)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Seichi Horie (Japan)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Eun-A Kim (Rep. of Korea)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Stavroula Leka (United Kingdom)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Olivier Lo (Singapore)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Rosa M. Orriols Ramos (Spain)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Christophe Paris (France)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Shyam Pingle (India)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Kari Reijula (Finland)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Dr. Paul Schulte (USA)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Francesco Violante (Italy)** – ICOH Board Member

**Ms. Erika Cannone (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy)** – ICOH Staff  
**Mr. Carlo Petyx (Italy)** – ICOH Staff

**Apologies:** **Prof. Mats Hagberg (Sweden)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Prof. Sunil Kumar Joshi (Nepal)** – ICOH Board Member  
**Ms. Maria Luisa Tupia Gonzales (Peru)** – ICOH Board Member

### **1-2. Opening of the Meeting and welcome of new Board Members**

The President of ICOH, Dr. Jukka Takala, opened the meeting welcoming all the new Board members for the tenure 2018-2021.



**International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH**  
**Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST**  
*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*



### 3. Action Plan 2018-2021

ICOH President Dr. Takala presented to the Board the Framework of the Action Plan for the triennium 2018-2021. He stressed the importance of strengthening the results achieved during the past triennia, and to guarantee the continuity of ICOH action.

ICOH will focus on these strategies: evidence, ethics and engagement.

Cooperation with ILO and WHO is also encouraged to adopt shared solutions. In order to gather wider interest in occupational health and safety, ICOH will invite the decision makers to put in place effective policies and measures.

Two important objectives of ICOH will be:

- 1) Zero harm
- 2) Equal and universal health and safety at work and through work

ICOH will continue to collaborate with all interested parties, including the sister organizations of ICOH and other professional organizations.

It will also be necessary to identify new solutions for funding and supporting global action.

Dr. Takala concluded his introduction by reminding that another objective will be to raise ICOH credibility and visibility, with the help of new channels and networks, while keeping the existing ones.

Based on the Framework of the Action Plan presented by the President, the Board members joined the discussion.

Dr. Schulte remarked the importance of identifying a broader vision of the burden of work, with special reference to the burden of changing jobs over life. Prof. Violante suggested that an emphasis should also be put on the reduced life expectancy of workers and work life expectancy.

Prof. Fischer recalled the importance of social determinants for most workers. Dr. Pingle remarked that, as for injuries, there is a very poor focus on prevention of occupational disease, while compensation and treatment are high priority areas, and receive the bulk of the available resources (financial and other).

Prof. Reijula and Dr. Takala spoke about the Global Ban of Asbestos and the need to advertise and showcase the relevant initiatives developed by ICOH.

Prof. Leka remarked that, also for the psychosocial area, it is the responsibility of ICOH to be innovative and raise issues for discussion.

Dr. Kogi highlighted the importance of the active promotion of ICOH aims and suggested stronger and proactive collaboration with national societies, by leveraging the established links with National Secretaries and Scientific Committees.

Starting from an intervention by Prof. Dollard, Dr. Takala remarked that Board members could contribute to the Action Plan and suggest possible implementation.

In line with encouraging more accessibility, Dr. Lo proposed a thorough review and revision of the publications section on the ICOH website, so that all ICOH publications can be posted according to a new layout. The ICOH Secretariat will perform this task, to consolidate all the publications that are now posted in



different pages and sections on the ICOH website. Prof. Iavicoli added that the ICOH Repository project was in progress and is expected to be completed and accessible at the end of 2018.

Prof. Leka asked about the procedure for the production and dissemination of position papers. Prof. Iavicoli explained that position papers must be presented to the Board for final approval. He also suggested that key factsheets may be developed jointly by a number of Scientific Committees, with the additional aim to collaborate and develop transversal action.

Ms. Nogueira proposed engagement with other international organizations for potential collaborative work on topics that are not covered by the ICOH Scientific Committees.

Prof. Violante presented a proposal by the SC on Musculoskeletal Disorders for the preparation of a working document for diagnosis criteria of musculoskeletal disorders. The document will be prepared by a team of experts which are asking permission to use the name "ICOH expert panel on occupational musculoskeletal disorders" to work jointly with other ICOH Scientific Committees.

The President thanked the Board members for their input and for possible future comments that could be received for the final development of the Action Plan 2018-2021.

#### **Decisions:**

- The Board approved the Framework of the President's Address and the Strategy for the triennium 2018-2021;
- The Board agreed on the possibility of proposing amendments to the Action Plan 2018-2021;
- The President will develop the Action Plan 2018-2021, taking into consideration suggestions received;
- The publications section on the ICOH website will be revised and restructured using a new layout; this project and the "ICOH Repository" will be completed and accessible by the end of 2018.
- The Board approves the proposal from Prof. Violante. Such proposals shall be prepared in compliance with ICOH Constitution and Bye-Laws.

## **4. ICOH 2021 Congress**

Prof. Malcolm Sim and Ms. Melinda Miller briefly reported on the progress of the organization of the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Occupational Health – ICOH 2021 – in Melbourne, Australia.

They gave an overview on the congress programme, congress venue, social programme, marketing drives, and tentative deadlines for early bird registration and for confirmation of keynote speakers.

The congress website is live: [icoh2021.org](http://icoh2021.org)

The National Scientific Committee will be established shortly.

In terms of funding received from sponsorships, AU\$200,000 have been secured to date.

As with previous congresses, special support will be afforded to participants from developing countries.

Dr. Takala thanked Prof. Sim and the members of the ICOH 2021 Congress Organizing Committee for their precious and dedicated work. ICOH Officers and Board members will contribute to the development of the



## International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*



scientific programme and to the invitation of senior representatives from WHO, ILO and local authorities, as a collaborative objective of ensuring a successful congress. Prof. Iavicoli proposed the establishment of an Honorary Committee, to assist with the process of transparency in terms of congress sponsors.

### **Decision:**

- The Officers and Local Organizers will follow up on roles and responsibilities between the parties, in accordance with the ICOH Guidelines on Congress Organization.

## 5. Task Groups, Working Groups and Assignments 2018-2021

Dr. Takala discussed the proposal to re-organize the TGs, WGs and assignments of the new Board members. The list of member allocations to TGs, WGs and assignments will be prepared and circulated in due course.

## 6. Budget Plan 2018-2020

ICOH Secretary General, Prof Sergio Iavicoli, reported on the budget proposal for the triennium 2018-2020. He presented on the financial statements and the reserves of ICOH financial management of the previous term. Based on the good performance of ICOH savings in the previous triennia and on the positive report received from the Auditors, Prof. Iavicoli proposed active investment in ICOH undertakings for the new triennium, aiming at the best use of the resources, also in consideration of the “non-profit making” profile of ICOH.

Prof. Iavicoli presented the forecasted income for the new term, mainly from ICOH membership fees and the ICOH 2018 Congress. Lastly, Prof. Iavicoli illustrated in detail the expenses which ICOH anticipates incurring during the next triennium, and the amount allocated for each budget item.

The ICOH Board members discussed the possibility of reducing the costs associated with postage of the ICOH Newsletter in hardcopy. A specific question about the two versions (hardcopy and digital) of the ICOH Newsletter was included in the survey that was administered to ICOH members in early 2018. Based on the results of the survey, improvement and optimization of available resources may be considered at a later stage. Dr. Kang stressed that it is important to bear in mind that many ICOH members from developing countries continue to prefer the hardcopy version of the ICOH Newsletter. Additionally, he reminded the Officers and Board members that since the ICOH2012 Congress, KOSHA has made a substantial contribution to offset the costs associated with the hardcopy version of the ICOH Newsletter.

### **Decision:**

- The proposed Budget Plan 2018-2020 was approved.



**International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH**  
**Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST**

*Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission*



## 7. Other issues

Another issue was presented for discussion: the ICOH 2024 Congress, to be held in Morocco. Dr. Takala expressed his concern with respect to the feasibility, in consideration of the limited economic capacity of the host. Guidance from ICOH Officers and Board members has been requested.

Prof. Reijula suggested having a “Plan B” in place, in case of an emergency (non-delivery from the hosts). Dr. Pingle recalled that an ICOH conference scheduled to be held in Morocco a few years ago, had to be cancelled, and another venue for that event had to be identified and secured urgently and at short notice.

Prof. Leka suggested a revision of the current Guidelines on Congress Organization, with the introduction of basic criteria for selection for the bidders, so that proposals for bids can be accepted only from those organizations that meet the basic criteria, in terms of economic capacity and technical/logistics facilities.

It is also important for the ICOH members in good standing, who vote for future congress venues, to have sight of how the bidding organizations have scored against the basic criteria, to better inform their voting decision.

### **Decision:**

- An *ad hoc* Working Group on Congress Regulation will be established. It will be tasked with looking into the specific issues and concerns raised around the ICOH 2024 Congress.

No other issue was presented for discussion.

ICOH President Dr. Takala closed the meeting thanking all the participants and the Organizing Committee of the ICOH Congress 2018.