



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Meeting of the ICOH Board

Session 1

May 30, 2015
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Time: Saturday, 30 May 2015, 14.00 – 19.15

Venue: Room 201 (ASEM Hall), COEX Convention Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Participants: **Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan)** – ICOH President
Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) – ICOH Secretary General
Ms. Suvi Lehtinen (Finland) – ICOH Vice President
Prof. Bonnie Rogers (USA) – ICOH Vice President
Prof. Jorma Rantanen (Finland) – ICOH Past President
Prof. Giovanni Costa (Italy) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Elia Enriquez (Mexico) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Timo Leino (Finland) – ICOH Board Member
Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Yves Roquelaure (France) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Mary Ross (South Africa) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Malcolm Sim (Australia) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Harri Vainio (Finland) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Peter Westerholm (Sweden) – ICOH Board Member

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

Observer: Dr. Jukka Takala (Singapore) – ICOH President Elect

Apologies: Prof. Andrew Curran – ICOH Board Member

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President of ICOH, Dr. Kazutaka Kogi, opened the meeting welcoming all the participants. Dr. Kogi offered his thanks to ICOH 2015 Congress Organizers for the excellent preparation of the 31st International Congress on Occupational Health and wished everybody a successful and productive congress. The agenda items were read out by the President.



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Decision:

- All the participants accepted the items of the proposed agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes of the ICOH Board Meetings held in Helsinki on February 8-10, 2014

The minutes of the activities and decisions made at the last Midterm Meeting held in Helsinki (February 8-10, 2014) were circulated among the ICOH Board Members for comments and amendments and then made available on the ICOH website.

Decision:

- The Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the minutes of the ICOH General Assembly held in Cancun in 2012

Also the minutes of the ICOH 2012 General Assembly were circulated among the ICOH Officers and Board members for comments and amendments and then published on the ICOH website.

Decision:

- The Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. President's Report

ICOH President, Dr. Kazutaka Kogi reported on the activities carried out in the triennium 2012-2014. During this triennium ICOH has been active in all the essential elements of its mission, i.e., research, information, training and reinforcing good practices in the field of occupational health and safety and enjoyed the high contribution of the ICOH Scientific Committees, National/Area Secretaries and their networks.

ICOH has carried out activities according to the priorities set at ICOH 2012 and in continuity with the lines set by the Centennial Declaration, approved during ICOH 2006 Congress. In February 2014, the Midterm Meeting was held in Helsinki, Finland. Among the major achievements of the Midterm meeting, the ICOH Board adopted on February 10, 2014 the new revised ICOH Code of Ethics. The ICOH Code of Ethics was printed in English and French and distributed to the participants of the ICOH 2015 Congress.

ICOH continued to strengthen its organizational arrangements, collaboration with allies, information activities and membership campaign, and contributed intensively to the WHO and ILO Programmes with particular reference to BOHS activities.

The advancement of comprehensive and proactive risk management has been undertaken through the work of the Scientific Committees and Working Groups who have made concrete plans for developing guidelines and guidance materials in numerous technical areas.

Working Groups on Occupational Infectious Agents, Participatory Approaches in OH, Implementation of Global Strategies, Elimination of Asbestos-related Diseases, and Young Workers and Child Labour are preparing guidance materials on action-oriented risk management for use by occupational health services. Significant progress was noted in field activities undertaken by Scientific Committees, Task and Working Groups and ICOH-related projects to extend occupational health services in many sectors and countries, particularly in developing regions.

Special efforts have been made for developing action-oriented toolkits for use in occupational health services. The development of action-oriented ICOH toolkits reflects these advances in risk management



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



procedures and occupational health services, and is therefore expected to lead to production and field use of a number of practical toolkits for risk management, occupational health services including BOHS and training. ICOH published in 2015 the OH Guide for Occupational Health Professionals *“Creating a healthy and safe workplace. A Guide to Occupational Health and Safety for Entrepreneurs, Owners and Managers of the Enterprises in the Developing World”*, edited by Professor Tee Guidotti and sponsored by the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health and Development.

Then Dr. Kogi focused on the ICOH good financing policy of the triennium 2012-2014: ICOH finances have been stable and in balance as both incomes and expenses are in line with the forecasts.

Furthermore Dr. Kogi gave prominence to the special efforts made for the ICOH Congress organization as core event of ICOH for reviewing current research and practice and for developing future directions in the field of occupational health and safety worldwide.

Finally Dr. Kogi expressed his cordial thanks to the ICOH Board, Vice-Presidents and Secretary General, as well as to the Chairs and members of TGs, WGs, Networks and the ICOH Secretariat staff for the work done during the Triennium.

ICOH President's report was followed by a discussion among Board members who widely recognized the excellent work done by ICOH in terms of results achieved, actions taken and finances management during the last Triennium. The discussion focused on some important points, such as the need to take action with respect to the growing inequalities of Occupational Health Services also in industrialized countries. Furthermore, ICOH should make it clear what OH, healthy workplaces and workers' health are and emphasize that they need to be given a high priority in national policies and programmes.

Decisions:

- The President's report was approved unanimously.

5. Report on Scientific Committees

Prof Bonnie Rogers, ICOH Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees, reported on the activities of the tenure 2012-2014.

35 Scientific Committees operated collaboratively, generating high-quality scientific work and products and organizing at least one conference or meeting during the triennium.

Prof. Rogers also remarked the enormous contributions given by the Scientific Committees to the scientific programme of the Congress based on input from ICOH leaders, National Organizers, International Scientific Committee and other scientific bodies. They also helped in identifying Keynote and Semi-plenary speakers. Furthermore, with their support the Policy Forum, 10 plenary sessions, 33 semi-plenary sessions, 112 special sessions and 88 oral sessions were organized, and 559 posters in total were displayed.

Prof. Rogers indicated possible future goals for the Scientific Committees: increased collaboration with other organizations, such as WHO; symposia and special interest groups on what are healthy workplaces; delivery of basic occupational health services; and facilitation of outputs.

Prof. Rogers also reported that Business Meetings were organized for all the SCs providing a good opportunity for people to share experience and information and to recruit new members.

All the SCs' final reports were received and reviewed to be available on the website.

Then Prof. Rogers reported on the ICOH SCs Officers Meeting held in the morning (May 30, 2015) before the Board Meeting. The meeting was very productive and some issues for further discussion arose from the Breakout sessions: whether or not some of the Scientific Committees should be merged, and how to increase collaboration among SCs based on their work plans, the possibility to extend participation in more than 3 SCs and the importance of significant and active contribution from members.

The Vice-President report was followed by a discussion.



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Decisions:

- The Report on Scientific Committees was approved unanimously.

8. Report on activities of National/Area Secretaries

Ms. Suvi Lehtinen, ICOH Vice President in charge of the National/Area Secretaries (NSs), informed the ICOH Board of the NSs triennial activities.

Firstly, Ms. Lehtinen recalled the role of the NSs: the 58 National Secretaries appointed during the Triennium operated according to the strategic goals set by ICOH work plan with positive results.

In order to increase and improve the two-way communication among the ICOH NSs an Information Letter to all ICOH National Secretaries was circulated 3-4 times a year by the ICOH Vice President. ICOH NSs were also encouraged to recruit new members in collaboration with National Associations.

Another important result is the effective use of the NS Virtual Office. Almost all National secretaries had utilized the Virtual office in their tasks. It was agreed that at least one regional meeting of ICOH NSs was to be held in each continent. For the future, it would be good to have – if possible – two regional meetings per Triennium in each continent in order to increase exchange of information.

NSs have also contributed to one questionnaire survey on emergency care in the countries, have provided members to the Working Group on Mining and have helped in the evaluation of the posters of the ICOH 2015 Congress.

The results of the survey to ICOH NSs on the status of occupational health services in 2010–2011 were published in the Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health (published online in 2012, then in hard copy in 2013). A new questionnaire survey on OHS was prepared for the triennium 2012–2014: 42 NSs have replied and 2 more replies are under preparation. Among those, 24 respondents informed that they have made major regulatory, programmatic or service system changes in their countries since the previous survey.

Then Ms. Lehtinen recalled some other activities conducted by ICOH NSs, reporting as examples that the ICOH Code of Ethics has been integrated into the national legislation in Italy and Argentina and used as training material in Tanzania and Ghana. Other important goals have been reached in the dissemination of the Asbestos Statement, in the organization of regional meetings and in the dissemination of information strengthening the network.

Additionally, Ms. Lehtinen remarked the importance of collaboration with the Chairpersons of the ICOH Scientific Committees on national and regional symposia. Finally, Ms. Lehtinen briefly reported on the funds provided to assist experts from developing and transitory countries to attend the ICOH 2015 Congress.

After her presentation, the Board stressed the importance of having so many NSs in developing countries.

Decision:

- The Report on activities of National/Area Secretaries was approved unanimously.

9. Reports of Task Groups

a) Report of Task Group on Membership

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli reported on the Task Group on Membership achievements and on the main tasks carried out during the Triennium according to the 2012–2014 work plan. ICOH Secretary General pointed out a progressive growth of the membership starting from 2002 according to the final figures indicating a total number of 1,921 ICOH members in good standing at the end of the triennium 2012–2014, (+15% since 2003). Prof. Iavicoli showed the leading countries in ICOH membership and highlighted the best results



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



achieved in Japan, Italy, USA, Brazil, India, Peru, Mexico and others. ICOH has achieved a wider geographical distribution, and also the increase of developing countries affiliation has been an important result. ICOH also succeeded in having a more diverse professional distribution and balance in gender among its members.

The number of young members joining ICOH is increasing, but currently the ICOH members' average age is still high even if the trends show some positive results of the initiatives taken. Therefore, the implementation of a strategy aimed at a major involvement of young generations in ICOH remains a priority.

Also the renewed support of ICOH Sustaining and Affiliate Members was an important result of this Triennium.

Decision:

- The Report of Task Group on Membership was approved unanimously.

b) Financial Update and Budget 2012–2014 and Auditors' report

Prof. Iavicoli presented the budget 2012–2014 and the interim budget from November 1, 2011 to March 23, 2012. The budget 2012–2014 and the interim budget were audited by the Mazars and Guérard company according to the international standards. The Auditors' report states: "In our opinion, the financial statements of the International Commission on Occupational Health as of November 30, 2014, comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union; therefore they are clearly stated and give a true and fair view of the financial position and the results of the operations of the International Commission on Occupational Health for the three years period then ended."

Then Prof. Iavicoli presented the new fee system developed following the instructions of the Finance Committee.

The process was first discussed at the Midterm Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, in February 2014, when the Board gave a task to the Secretariat General to develop a new fee system. The proposal was reviewed by the Officers and the Finance Committee, then discussed at the Board Meeting on May 30, 2015. The new fee system was developed in order to increase accessibility for developing countries and in consideration of the changes in the global economy. The proposal was to extend benefits for retired and young members to all countries, while the previous fee system conceded benefits only to these categories from industrialized countries. The most important innovation is that the countries will be divided into three groups based on their GDP per capita: countries with a GDP below 5000 USD; countries with a GDP between 5000 and 15000 USD; countries with a GDP of 15000 or more. In order to grant more equal accessibility to membership, countries with a GDP below 5000 will enjoy a special, low fee. For the two remaining groups a small increase in the amount of the fee is proposed in consideration of the inflation rates.

Based on the results of this analysis and after consultation with the Finance Committee, the Secretary General proposed the following fee system:

Fees triennium 2015–2017 – Individual Membership			
Countries with	GDP<5,000 USD	5,000<GDP<15,000 USD	GDP>15,000 USD
Active member	45.00 CHF	72.00 CHF	345.00 CHF
Young <34	30.00 CHF	45.00 CHF	72.00 CHF
Retired*	30.00 CHF	60.00 CHF	90.00 CHF

*The Status of retired members will be acknowledged to those who are older than 64 years old and will supply the documentation of their retirement.



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



For what concerns the collective membership fees, the proposal was to confirm the current amounts.

Fees triennium 2015–2017 – Collective Membership	
SUS Membership	5,000.00 CHF
Affiliate Membership with 200 or more members	660 CHF
Affiliate Membership with less than 200 members	440 CHF

Prof. Iavicoli remarked that considering the current distribution of the membership, the fee system will facilitate the accessibility for developing and transitory countries and will not produce big changes on ICOH budget.

Decision:

- The budget 2012–2014 and the interim budget from November 1, 2011 to March 23, 2012 were approved unanimously.
- The new fee system was approved unanimously.

c) Report of Finance Committee

Dr. Elia Enriquez reported on the activities of the Task Group on Finance. The number of members in good standing has increased compared to the previous Triennium (105%). Also the participation of young members has increased, thanks to dedicated discounted fees. Retired members enjoy discounted fees, too. ICOH has showed an overall stable economic development and the evaluation of possible investments does not seem to be a priority at this stage.

The Finance Committee has evaluated possible adjustments of the membership fee system and gave its advice to the ICOH Secretary-General.

Adjustments of the membership fee system have been evaluated by the Finance Committee taking into consideration the impact of the inflation rate and the respect of a fair and equal distribution among the different categories of members (young members, members from industrialized and developing countries).

Decision:

- The Report of the Finance Committee was approved unanimously.

d) Report on ICOH Newsletter

Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang reported on the triennial work carried out as Editor-in-Chief of the ICOH Newsletter. Ten issues in seven copies were published from the 1st issue in 2012 (V10N1) to the 1st issue in 2015 (V13N1).



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



The Newsletter achieved its goal of providing information on members and their activities through ICOH communities, such as Scientific Committees' reports in international conferences, National Secretaries' reports on domestic and regional activities, introduction of Sustaining members, information on publications and upcoming scientific meetings, welcome to new members, etc. The printed copy was sent by postal mail to all members in good standing and an electronic version was available on ICOH website.

The Board members expressed their gratitude to KOSHA for the support given to the ICOH Newsletter.

Decision:

- The Report on the ICOH Newsletter was approved unanimously.

e) Report on ICOH Website

Prof. Iavicoli presented the new layout of ICOH website, which is now more modern in terms of readability and more connected to social media. In consideration of the increasing popularity of mobile devices (smartphones and tablets), an ICOH app has been developed and is now available for free download for both iOS and Android. The app will provide ICOH members with useful tools, such as the possibility to save event dates on their calendar, and will facilitate networking within ICOH members.

Statistics show that most of the visitors of ICOH website are under 34.

Decision:

- The Report on ICOH website was approved unanimously.

f) Report of Ethics and Transparency Committee

Prof. Giovanni Costa, Chair of the Ethics and Transparency Committee, reported on the activities carried out during the Triennium. The most important achievement was the revision of the Code of Ethics within the Code Editing Group chaired by ICOH President. The aim was to keep the current structure of the Code as much as possible close to the previous one, minimizing the changes while incorporating new items and updating chapters. The final version of the Code was approved and adopted by the ICOH Board on February 10, 2014 in Helsinki.

Decision:

- The Report of the Ethics and Transparency Committee was approved unanimously.

10. Proposal for Honorary Members election

Prof. Iavicoli presented the two ICOH members to be proposed to the ICOH General Assembly for election as Honorary Members, in recognition of their long-lasting contribution to ICOH and occupational health.

- Prof. Tee Lamont Guidotti, USA
- Prof. Kee-Seng Chia, Singapore



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Decision:

- The Board decided to submit both proposals to the General Assembly for the election.

11. Issues related to the Elections of ICOH Officers and Board members, Scrutineers Committee Appointment

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli described to the Board members the procedure related to the election of ICOH Officers and Board members. The procedure adopted was in line with the ICOH rules: the Call for Election was published in the ICOH Newsletter and Website by April 30, 2014, then the candidatures were submitted by September 15, 2014 and finally the curricula were made available on the ICOH website starting from November 30, 2014 and on the ICOH Newsletter 3-2014. Additionally, in January 2015 the ballots were sent out - to all ICOH members in good standing at May 31, 2014, i.e. one year before the beginning of the Congress - and the deadline for voting and returning the ballots to ICOH Secretariat General was fixed at April 30, 2015, i.e. one month before the beginning of the Congress, as stated in the ICOH rules.

Prof. Iavicoli also reported on the special actions undertaken by the ICOH Secretariat to encourage voting: ballots for members of South Africa and Mexico were sent by courier to the respective NSs in consideration of the inefficient postal service in those countries, and two reminders were sent by email to all ICOH members in order to send the ballots again to those who had not received it.

ICOH Secretary General informed the Board members about the ballot counting planned for June 2, 2015 at the presence of the Scrutineers Committee. Prof. Iavicoli submitted to the Board the proposal of ICOH Officers to have the Scrutineers Committee composed of three members: Prof. Jerry Jeyaratnam (Chairperson), Dr. Mary Ross and Dr. Timo Leino, with the assistance of the Secretary General, Prof. Sergio Iavicoli.

Decision:

- The Board unanimously approved the proposal and the Committee of Scrutineers was appointed by the President.



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



Meeting of the ICOH Board

Session 2

May 31, 2015
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Time: Sunday, 31 May 2015, (08.30 – 13.30)

Venue: 201 (ASEM Hall), COEX Convention Center, Seoul, Korea

Participants: **Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan)** – ICOH President
Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) – ICOH Secretary General
Ms. Suvi Lehtinen (Finland) – ICOH Vice President
Prof. Bonnie Rogers (USA) – ICOH Vice President
Prof. Jorma Rantanen (Finland) – ICOH Past President
Prof. Giovanni Costa (Italy) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Andrew Curran (United Kingdom) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Elia Enriquez (Mexico) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Monique H.W. Frings-Dresen (The Netherlands) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Timo Leino (Finland) – ICOH Board Member
Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Yves Roquelaure (France) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Mary Ross (South Africa) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Edoardo Santino (Brazil) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Malcolm Sim (Australia) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Harri Vainio (Finland) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Peter Westerholm (Sweden) – ICOH Board Member

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

Observer: Dr. Jukka Takala (Singapore) – ICOH President Elect

1. Voting on the venue of ICOH 2021

The first item on the agenda was the Bid Committees' presentation for determination of ICOH 2021 venue. ICOH Secretary General, Prof. Iavicoli, reminded the ICOH Board members of the decision-making process to determine the venue of ICOH 2021 Congress – Bid submission process, Board recommendation, Voting by ICOH Members – according to the Guidelines for ICOH Congress Organization.

Four applications were received for hosting ICOH 2021: Australia (Melbourne), India (Hyderabad), Morocco (Marrakech) and Qatar (Doha). Qatar later decided to withdraw the application. A site visit was organized in each of the bidding country (Dr. Kogi visited Australia and India and Prof. Iavicoli visited Morocco).



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



The time allocated for each Bidding Committee was 10 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for discussion.

As for the Board recommendation, Prof. Iavicoli reminded the meeting participants of the terms of reference and the criteria to be taken into consideration by the Board as follows:

- professional strength, including the local Scientific Community
- occupational health situation in the country
- technical facilities, logistics, feasibility
- economic capacity
- geographical rotation
- demonstrated experience in organizing Scientific Conferences with the involvement of professional conference organizing company with large experience in the organization of international conferences.

The first Bidding Committee in alphabetical order was asked to join the meeting.

Prof. Malcolm Sim (Monash University), Prof. Dino Pisaniello (University of Adelaide) and Dr. Peter Connaughton (AFOEM - Australasian Faculty of Occupational & Environmental Medicine), members of the Local Organizing Committee, presented the bid for hosting the 33rd ICOH Congress in Melbourne, Australia. The conference proposed theme was: "Sharing solutions in occupational health: locally, regionally, globally".

The local organizers stressed the key points of their bid: a valuable scientific programme, affordable registration fees, convention center facilities, national and international support. Melbourne is a safe, enjoyable city that grants accessibility thanks to the International Airport.

Dr. Rajesh, ICOH NS for India and member of the Local Organizing Committee, presented the bid for hosting the 33rd ICOH Congress in Hyderabad, India. The bid was organized by the Indian Association of Occupational Health. The strong points presented by the organizers were: the opportunity to expand the horizons of Occupational Health within India and South Asia, and the congress center facilities.

Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholi and Dr. Mounia El Yamani, members of the Local Organizing Committee presented the bid for hosting the 33rd ICOH Congress in Marrakech. The bid was organized by the Moroccan Occupational Health Association, the Moroccan National Institute for Working Life and the Occupational Health Unit of the Faculty of Medicine of Casablanca. The main points presented were the importance of hosting an ICOH Congress in an African, francophone country, and attractiveness of Morocco.

The presentations of the bidding committees and the report of the Officers' site visits were followed by a discussion among the Board members. Then, the voting for the Board Recommendation took place by secret ballot.

The results of the voting were:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| ▪ Australia (Melbourne) | 12 votes |
| ▪ India (Hyderabad) | 6 votes |
| ▪ Morocco (Marrakech) | 1 vote |

Decision:

- The Board decided to recommend Australia as the venue for ICOH 2021 Congress;
- The Board was informed that the President appointed the Committee of Scrutiniers for counting the votes for ICOH Congress venue in 2021. The members were Prof. Jerry Jeyaratnam (Chairperson), Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang, Dr. Jorge Morales and Ms. Claudina Nogueira with the assistance of ICOH Secretary General, Prof. Sergio Iavicoli.



2. Reports of Working Groups

a) Occupational Infectious Agents

Dr. Mary Ross reported on the activities carried out by the WG on Occupational Infectious Agents. The activities focused on prioritising OIAs and exposed groups, developing and disseminating information as generic products for country adaptation. Two articles to ICOH newsletter and paper to FIOH's African Newsletter on Occupational Health and Safety plus individual member publications were produced. Priority groups considered were miners and agriculture; material on waste disposal workers will be forthcoming.

Decision:

- The Report of the WG on Occupational Infectious Agents was approved unanimously.

b) Implementation of the Global Strategy of OH for all with a special reference to the Global Ban of Asbestos

Prof. Harri Vainio reported on the activities carried out by the WG on Implementation of the Global Strategy on OH for All with a special reference to the Global Ban of Asbestos. He reported that the WG was involved in the organization of three conferences during the Triennium. Then Prof. Vainio remarked that the harm on global health of asbestos continues to be significant and imminent and for this reason the implementation of the global strategy will be necessary. This issue will remain open for discussion and action within the new ICOH Board. The 1997 Helsinki Criteria remain valid but, in view of the rapidly advancing knowledge, there is a need for regular further updates.

Prof. Rantanen took the floor recalling the strong legislation made in cooperation with international bodies for the total ban of tobacco. The same may be achieved for asbestos, and ICOH should act with this purpose. Prof. Rogers suggested that SCs produce position papers on this issue.

Decision:

- The Report of the WG on Implementation of the Global Strategy of OH for all with a special reference to the Global Ban of Asbestos was approved unanimously.

c) Participatory Approaches in Occupational Health

The Chair of the WG, Dr. Ton That Khai was absent. Dr. Kogi spoke in his place recalling that material on participatory approaches will be forthcoming.

d) Elimination of Asbestos-related Diseases

Dr. Yukinori Kusaka reported on the activities of the WG. One of the main goals was to examine the national and global situations concerning the ARD elimination and the protection of workers and the public from exposure to asbestos and propose ICOH action needed. A Questionnaire "Survey on maintaining,



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



demolishing and removing asbestos-containing materials” will be produced soon. It is needed taking into consideration the status of asbestos exposures among demolishing workers in asbestos removal sites.

Decision:

- The report of the WG on the Elimination of Asbestos-related Diseases was approved unanimously.

e) Young Workers and Child Labour

Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut, Chair of the Working Group on Young Workers and Child Labour reported on the activities carried out during the Triennium. The WG was quite instrumental in establishing collaboration between ILO and WHO during the early part of this period. It has been less successful in maintaining that collaboration in the face of the fundamental changes in the structure and functions of the agencies. For the future, considering that ILO is now establishing a focal point on child/youth health in its occupational health division, there is the basis for moving forward from that side.

Decision:

- The report on the WG on Young Workers and Child Labour was approved unanimously.

f) Emergency Care in Occupational Health and Safety

Dr. Alexis Descatha, Chair of the WG on Emergency Care in Occupational Health and Safety, presented their report and the proposal of creating a new Scientific Committee on the basis of the existing WG. During the first ECOH WG meeting in Paris in 2014, the Group changed its name into Emergency Response to enhance the group. The WG has worked to examine the needs for improving and supporting emergency care in occupational health services and to propose international support measures and guidance materials.

Decision:

- The report on the WG on Emergency Care in Occupational Health and Safety was approved unanimously.

g) Mining Occupational Health and Safety

Dr. Erik Joers, Chair of the WG, presented their report of activities for the triennium 2012–2014. He remarked that mining is an important issue for Occupational Health and Safety because many people are involved globally. Becoming a SC, more can be done to propose action and documentation in this field.

Decision:

- The Report of the WG on Mining in Occupational Health and Safety was approved unanimously.

After the presentations, the Chairpersons of the two WGs on Emergency Care in Occupational Health and on Mining in Occupational Health and Safety who proposed to create new SCs left the room. The Board then discussed the opportunity to create the two new Scientific Committees considering the need for reorganizing



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



all SCs in order to avoid overlapping and also in consideration of the SCs that are less active. This issue was proposed for further analysis at the Midterm Meeting. The ICOH Board then voted for the creation of the two new SCs.

Decision:

- The Board approved the proposal of the WGs to create a new SC on Emergency Preparedness and Response in Occupational Health. The name of the latter SC should be SC on OH&S in Mining

3. Report of the Task Group on Social Determinants and Occupational Health

Prof. Frings-Dresen presented the report of the TG on Social Determinants and Occupational Health. The procedure of the Task Group was to gather information from inside and outside their network about the definition of social determinants of health, the different topics belonging to social determinants and occupational health and to discuss the relevant information in the ICOH Board. During the ICOH Mid-Term Meeting (February 8–10, 2014) in Helsinki, Finland, a presentation was given about the results found in reports and international publications.

Decision:

- The report of the TG on Social Determinants and Occupational Health was approved unanimously.

4. Report of Task Group on Constitution, Bye-Laws and Guidelines

Dr. Kogi reported on the activities of the TG. Following the amendments of Bye-Law 6 approved by the Board Meeting on 8 March 2014, the new voting procedures have been applied for the elections of Officers and members of the Board, with the increased number of fifteen members in good standing for endorsing an Officer candidate and that of ten members in good standing for a Board candidate. The new procedures also include the number of names to be marked on the voting form, a minimum of 8 names for Board elections and not exceeding the number of posts available in any election. ICOH Guidelines for SCs and on Congress organization have also been implemented.

Decision:

- The report of the TG on Constitution, Bye-Laws and Guidelines was approved unanimously.

5. WHO and ILO relationships

Dr. Kogi reported on the status of the collaboration with WHO and ILO. ICOH continues collaboration with the ILO in promoting the ILO Global Strategy and the ILO Conventions on occupational safety and health including the ILO Framework Convention No. 187 (2006). ICOH participated in the modeling of OSH profiles and in the development of guidelines for preparation of a national profile. The model profile presented by ICOH continues to be used widely as guidance. ICOH further assisted the development and use of training



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



materials on OSH in these and other countries. For what concerns collaboration with WHO, ICOH helped to promote the WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health and regional and country level activities. ICOH supported pilot projects and the development of practical guidelines for Basic Occupational Health Services (BOHS) for underserved workers and workers without access to occupational health services so far. In some countries, collaboration was concentrated on producing practical training materials for BOHS implementation.

Decision:

- The Report on WHO-ILO relationships was approved unanimously.

6. Liaisons with NGOs

ICOH President referred to ICOH's close collaboration with the sister NGOs in occupational health and safety (IEA, IOHA, ISSA, IALI). Among the results achieved, he reported that the Ergonomics Guidelines for Occupational Health Practice in Industrially Developing Countries have been produced together with the International Ergonomics Associations (IEA). In 2013, ICOH, IEA and IOHA have agreed to renew the Memorandum of Understanding on scientific and professional collaboration, with a new provision that after five years, the MoU will be automatically renewed if neither of the associations provides a written notice to terminate the collaboration. This renewal has signified strengthened cooperation between the three associations.

Decision:

- The Report on liaisons with NGOs was approved unanimously.

8. Other issues presented by Board Members

Prof. Rantanen thanked the outgoing President Dr. Kogi for his precious, long-lasting contribution to ICOH.