



Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the ICOH Officers, Board and Scientific Committees

March 14, 2008
Hamburg, Germany

Time: Friday , 14 March 2008, 9.00- 17.00

Venue: Hamburg Congress Center

Participants:

Prof. Jorma Rantanen (Finland) - ICOH President
Dr. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) - ICOH Secretary General
Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA) - ICOH Vice President
Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan) - ICOH Vice President
Prof. Hua Fu (China) - ICOH Board Member
Ms. Jennifer Serfontain (South Africa) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Yves Roquelaure (France) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Petter Kristensen (Norway) - ICOH Board Member
Ms. Suvi Lehtinen (Finland) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Ken Takahashi (Japan) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Frank Van Dijk (The Netherlands) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Michel Guillemin (Switzerland) - ICOH Board Member
Mr. Ian Eddington (Australia) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Antonio Mutti (Italy) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. John Harrison (United Kingdom) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Jorge A. Morales (Mexico) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Renè Mendes (Brazil) - ICOH Board Member

Dr. Shyam Pingle (India) - Secretary of SC on Occupational Health and Development

Ms. Suvi Lehtinen (Finland) - Chair of the SC on Occupational Health and Development

Prof. Pier Alberto Bertazzi (Italy) - Chair of the SC History of Prevention

Prof. Claudio Colosio (Italy) - Chair of the SC on Rural Health

Prof. Bruno Piccoli (Italy) - Secretary of the SC on Work and Vision

Prof. Giovanni Costa (Italy) - Chair of the SC on Shiftwork and Working time

Dr. Hans Martin Hasselhorn (Germany) - Chair of the SC on OH for Health Care Workers

Prof. Clas Hakan Nygard (Finland) - Secretary of the SC on Aging and Work

Dr. Knut Ringen (USA) - Chair of the SC on Construction on Industry

Prof. Fabriziomaria Gobba (Italy) - Secretary of the SC on Radiation and Work

Prof. Jens Peter Bonde (Denmark) - Chair of the SC on Reproductive Hazards

Prof. Sverre Langard (Norway) - Chair of the SC on Respiratory Disorders

Prof. Ole Andersen (Denmark) - Secretary of the SC on Toxicology of Metals

Prof. Giacomo Muzi (Italy) - Chair of SC on Indoor Air Quality and Health

Prof. Roberto Lucchini (Italy) - Chair of the SC on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology



Prof. Norito Kawakami (Japan) - Chair of the SC on Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors

Dr. Seong -Kyu Kang (Korea) - Secretary of the SC on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology

Ms. Marjatta Peurala (Finland) - Chair of the SC OH in Nursing

Prof. Paul Kuijer (The Netherlands) - Secretary of the SC on Musculoskeletal Disorders

Dr. Carel Hulshof (The Netherlands) - Chair of the SC on Health Services Research and Evaluation in OH

Prof. Thomas Kieselbach (Germany) - Chair of the SC on Unemployment and Health

Prof. Maurizio Manno (Italy) - Secretary of the SC on Occupational Toxicology

Prof. Peter Lees (USA) - Chair of the Industrial Hygiene

Dr. Ruddy Facci (Brazil) - Chair fo the Working Group on Biological and Infectious Agents

Ms. Janine Cantineau (France) - Secretary of the SC on Education and Training in Occupational Health

Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy) - ICOH Staff

Mr. Carlo Petyx - ICOH Staff

1. President's Reports

ICOH President presented the half-term report, showing the objectives accomplished along with the future goal to be reached. Prof. Jorma Rantanen pointed out the following:

A. SUBSTANTIVE PRIORITIES

1. Strengthening training and education in occupational health and safety;
2. Developing occupational health services throughout the world including development and dissemination of BOHS;
3. Responding to challenges from changing world of work and identifying and assessing new risks;
4. Developing good occupational health practices, GOHP;
5. Developing and strengthening induction, guidance and conduct in ethics;

B. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: DEVELOPING ICOH AS AN ASSOCIATION

1. Continuation of Organizational Development, OD;
2. Developing collaboration with allies
3. Strengthening Information activities
4. Development of Membership



2. Report on Scientific Committees

Marilyn Fingerhut, the Vice President in charge of the Scientific Committees, informed the attendees on the current situation. She pointed out that all the active Scientific Committees have provided the Mid Term Report required, from which is possible to learn that many activities were carried out (Conference, published articles, jointly cosponsored conferences, etc)

She also mentioned two important goals achieved in the first part of the current triennium: the development of the Scientific Committee Virtual Office and the Revision of the Guidelines for Scientific Committees. **(See Annex 1 and BD2 in Scientific Committee Reports)**

Firstly, ICOH Vice President expressed her appreciation for this achievement which will guarantee the internal communication among the ICOH Scientific Committees Officers. Secondly, Dr Fingerhut reported on the draft guidelines for Scientific Committees as reviewed for the Midterm Meeting. She particularly focused on the main objective to set clear guidance for the Scientific Committees and for newly appointed officers.

Decisions :

The Report on Scientific Committees was approved.

3. Breakout sessions

Sergio Iavicoli explained the innovation of the “breakout session”, according to which the attendees were divided in four groups in order to discuss and make their proposals on the different topics assigned to them. **(See Annex 2)**

a. Alternative funding and possible revenues from Scientific Committees activities

Prof. Frank Van Dijk conducted the report as spokesman of the group and described the current situation. Many Scientific Committees are committed in the organization of International Conferences to which ICOH give its contribute through the limited resources available. The group agrees that Scientific Committees should implement their fundraising activities by using sponsorships from industries or revenues collected during the conferences they organize, in respect of the general principle of ICOH. John Harrison, who participate in the team, clarified that some of the money get through the fundraising might go back to ICOH centrally. Further analysis on the strategies to raise funds and on the support for the Scientific Committees activities will be developed.

b. Publication of ICOH “Position Papers”

Sverre Langard was in charge of making the report on behalf of the rest of the group. He particularly stressed the criteria, which must be based on two pillars: the scientific evidence and the social relevance. Then, he started analyzing the mechanisms to be used in developing a position papers: the critical review and the competent drafting made by a Scientific Committee or a Group of Scientific Committees. Prof. Langard pointed out that ICOH has to be the publisher as this is deemed as an official document to be issue on scientific journals and available on the ICOH web site.



Sergio Iavicoli remind to the other participants that the topic will be also discussed during the second board by taking into account on of the amendment of the Bye-Laws. Furthermore, ICOH President noticed that ICOH should ensure a frame for external position paper and should also guarantee a peer review of them. **(See Annex 3)**

c. Interaction and Integration of ICOH Scientific Committees

Roberto Lucchini, chair of the Scientific Committees on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology, reported on the discussion had in the group. The group focused both on the idea of the integration as added value in terms of economical advantages and simplification and then on the interaction as close collaboration among Scientific Committees. The discussing group emphasized the weight of having an increased exchange among the Scientific Committees, which has also a great impact in terms of developing countries support.

Lucchini pointed out that “Training and Education” as the top priority in the field.

d. Membership Campaign

Shyam Pingle reported on the results achieved by the working group on Membership Campaign. The Group recommend to focus on four levels of action:

1. A major involvement of the Scientific Committees on the membership recruitment campaign;
2. To market the benefits of being an ICOH member;
3. More benefits for young members for instance creating a specific award for ICOH young member or facilitating knowledge transfer;
4. Simplifying the procedure of becoming ICOH member by making available the payment through website.

4. Future of Scientific Committees

Kazutaka Kogi focused on the importance of having an increased cooperation between the Scientific Committees and the National Secretaries. Dr. Fingerhut agreed on that and also pointed out that the ICOH efforts have to be addressed towards facilitating a mutual knowledge and a greater integration.

Knut Ringen, Chair of Sc on the Construction on Industry, made the presentation of the ICOH Tobacco Control Project, which aims to instill tobacco prevention and smoking cessation in all occupational health services. The project will be supported by Pfizer. ICOH President reminded that ICOH is an NGO in official relation with WHO, so any policy or project has to be in accordance with the WHO policy in the field. Prof. Van Dijk remarked that ICOH has to remain absolutely independent with respect to the industries.



5. Forthcoming ICOH Congresses

a. ICOH 2009

Prof. Daan Kocks introduced the state of the art of ICOH 2009 organization and showed to the Board: the program structure, the scientific topics, for which Marilyn Fingerhut was fully involved, and the venue, explaining the facilities and the security of the place. Finally, he analyzed the abstract submission issue and clarified that the abstracts will be only submitted online and in English (in order to guarantee the peer review). **(See Annex 4)**

Prof. Rantanen opened the discussion leaving the floor to the Scientific Committees Officers and to the rest of the Board.

Maurizio Manno asked for more information on the peer review system and on how the ICOH Scientific Committees are expected to be involved on that. Daan Kocks, in his capacity of ICOH 2009 Chairperson, clarified that the peer review is based on three different levels and the person in charge of the review is the ICOH Vice President, Marilyn Fingerhut.

Furthermore, Marilyn Fingerhut gave a more detailed explanation on the functioning of the peer review.

As for the abstracts submission, Sverre Langard raised a problem concerning the abstracts submission, since many people might be excluded from taking part to the congress due to the lack of internet facilities.

Kocks replicated that they are available to retype and to submit in the system the abstracts of the people who have registered in advance.

Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut asked for some comments regarding the high registration fees set by the organizers, which will not allow people to participate. ICOH 2009 Chairperson repeated that high registration fees are due to the fact that South Africa is a developing country with some economical problems.

After that, Claudio Colosio took the floor by pointing out that high registration fees will surely affect developing countries participation rate. In this perspective, he proposed to delay the early registration fees for the attendees coming from the developing countries. Prof. Mendes, ICOH Board member from Brazil, expressed the same concerns on that, as the registration fees are not affordable for many people.

Sergio Iavicoli, who along with the other ICOH Officers negotiated the registration fees at the Cape Town Meeting in July 2006, remarked that the fees published by the ICOH 2009 organizers are totally different from the ones they agreed upon in South Africa. He continued spelling out that the fees were unilaterally increased by about 20% without giving any notice to the ICOH Secretariat.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health and Development, Ms. Suvi Lehtinen, asked for some figures on the funds available for developing countries participation.

Daan Kocks complained that ICOH 2009 Organizers didn't receive any contribution from International Organizations, so they can support only 15 people with a discounted registration fees of about 50%.



ICOH Secretary General expressed also his concern with reference to the communication strategy. In fact, the announcement will not be printed, but only available on the web. This, according to Sergio Iavicoli, would affect the participation rate.

Prof. Kocks replied that there is no problem, as the announcement posted on the ICOH web is downloadable and will be circulated by email which is deemed a pretty reliable way to market the event.

Martin Hasselhorn and Sergio Iavicoli raised also the problem related to the accessibility of South Africa in terms of travel and lodging costs. Both of them asked for more resources to be addressed to grant some people. Sergio Iavicoli reminded that no grant will be assured until fix costs budgeted by the organizers will not be covered. Prof. Kocks insisted that this will depend on the international funds available.

At the end of the discussion, ICOH president summarized the three most important issue on the floor:

- Registration fees are too high
- No discounts forecasted for developing countries
- The announcement can not be available online only, as this will affect the communication of the event.

Daan Kocks replied by remarking the following:

- Fees are more or less in line with Milan
- No discounts are possible until international funds will not be available
- As for the announcement, there is not problem since it is downloadable.

Jorma Rantanen closed the discussion by clarifying that ICOH Board and Scientific Committees were still unhappy with the explanation given to the key issue.

b. ICOH 2012

Jorge Morales, Chair of ICOH 2012 Organizing Committee made the presentation of the event and described the strong points of the Monterrey Congress:

- High level of the Scientific Program
- The low registration fees
- The Congress facilities. **(See Annex 5)**

