



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 2012-2015

March 24, 2012
Cancun, Mexico

Time: Saturday, 24 March 2012, 8.30 – 12.30

Venue: Hotel Fiesta Americana , Coral Sea Room, Blvd. Kukulcán km. 9.5 Zona Hotelera
77500 - Cancún

Participants: **Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan)** - ICOH President
Dr. 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. E. Enriquez (Mexico) – ICOH Board member
Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Monique 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
Prof. Mary Ross (South Africa) - ICOH Board Member
Dr. Edoardo Santino (Brazil) - ICOH Board Member
Prof. Malcolm Sim (Australia) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Peter J.M. Westerholm (Sweden) - ICOH Board Member

Mr. Carlo Petyx (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Ms. Valeria Boccuni (Italy) - ICOH Staff

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President of ICOH, Dr. Kazutaka Kogi, opened the meeting welcoming all the new Board Members for the tenure 2012-2015. Before starting the discussion, Dr. Kogi recommended all the participants to fill in and to return the Transparency Declaration Form for the tenure 2012-2015 as a prerequisite for the acceptance of the charge.

2. Welcome of new Board Members

The Board Members and Officers introduced themselves and briefly described their professional backgrounds and previous ICOH activities. Dr. Kogi thanked the participants for this brief introduction and listed ICOH Board Members' duties and activities as specifically stated in the Constitution (Article 5, Section 7). Then Dr. Kogi shared with the participants the agenda items.

Decision:



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- The Agenda of the Meeting was accepted.

3. Action Plan 2012-2015

(Reference: p.32-37 Triennial Report 2009-2011)

ICOH President Dr. Kogi presented to the Board his strategic priorities for the tenure 2012-2015 set on the basis of the achievements of the previous term. He stressed the importance to strengthen the results achieved and to guarantee the continuity of ICOH action. Then Dr. Kogi presented twelve areas of future priority action for achieving ICOH goals. The first six areas concern strategic goals as priorities of substantive action by ICOH. The other six areas concern strategic goals for the organizational development of ICOH.

- **Priorities of ICOH action**
 1. Advancing proactive risk assessment and control at work
 2. Extending effective occupational health services to all workers including Basic Occupational Health Services (BOHS)
 3. Developing action-oriented ICOH toolkits
 4. Developing and sustaining induction, guidance and conduct of ethics
 5. Promoting good occupational health practices in diverse work situations
 6. Strengthening ICOH network activities
- **Organizational Development**
 1. Strengthening and sustaining organizational development of ICOH
 2. Developing collaboration with international allies
 3. Strengthening activities of Scientific Committees
 4. Supporting the activities of ICOH National/Area Secretaries
 5. Strengthening information activities
 6. Developing ICOH membership

The proposal of the strategic priorities was followed by a productive discussion among ICOH Board members. Prof. Rantanen congratulated ICOH President for the excellent plan of priorities presented and proposed to the Board to consider the possibility of having one additional strategic priority in the action plan concerning specifically ICOH activity for developing occupational health services. Prof. Rantanen stressed that ICOH should increase its engagement to implement the occupational health service infrastructures and occupational health service systems in practice. Prof. Rogers supported this intervention reporting that people in developing countries, in particular nurses, often ask for more information about OH practice. Prof. Malcolm Sim and Prof. Peter Westerholm also agreed with the need of increasing occupational health services and were in favour to include this issue in ICOH strategy consistently with the other priorities set. Dr. Iavicoli noted that ICOH should aim at a more integrated and coordinated role of national associations within the network and at the same time, should continue its action to expand the individual membership. Prof. Rogers called the Board's attention to another critical point, i.e. young people recruitment. She remarked the need to develop further strategies to get young people more actively involved in ICOH, for instance in the activities of the Scientific Committees. With reference to the SCs triennial work, Dr. Kogi took the opportunity to share with the participants a very positive figure he got from Prof. Rogers: almost sixteen thousand people participated in the meetings organized by the Scientific Committees during the last triennium that is a very good result. As for the young members, Dr. Santino and Dr. Leino suggested to spread more information about ICOH concrete actions in the external communication and to look for more benefits to provide young members with in order to attract them to join ICOH. Dr. Fingerhut drew attention to the success of the students session organized at ICOH 2012 Congress. Dr. Iavicoli also highlighted the improvement of the student posters awards if compared with the first edition in Cape Town and emphasized what ICOH offered to the winners, i.e. not only an award but also the possibility to join ICOH network through the waived registration to ICOH for the triennium 2012-2015.



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Decision:

- The ICOH Board approved the President Address and the Strategy for the triennium 2012-2015.
- ICOH Board agreed to incorporate additional remarks/points in the action plan if written proposals would be sent to ICOH President.

4. Task Groups, Working Groups and Network 2012 – 2015 and Assignments

Dr. Kazutaka Kogi went through the Task Groups, Working Groups and Network and Assignments of the Officers and Board Members 2012-2015. He suggested to confirm the three ICOH Committees (Ethics and Transparency Committee, Finance Committee, Scientific Advisory Committee) already active. In view of the Code of Ethics review process to be continued and finalized by ICOH 2015, Dr. Kogi proposed to form a Code Revision Group composed of the ICOH Officers, ICOH Past President and two members of the Ethics and Transparency Committee (Prof. Giovanni Costa and Prof. Peter Westerholm) aimed at collaborating with this task.

Dr. Kogi suggested to confirm the Task Groups which were established during the previous triennium and to replace the Task Group on Restructuring and Occupational Health with a new one, the Task Group on Social Determinants and Occupational Health. As for the Working Groups, Dr. Kogi proposed to confirm the Working Groups on Occupational Infectious Agents, Participatory Approaches in OH, Elimination of Asbestos-related Diseases, Young Workers and Child Labour and to add a new Working Group on Implementation of the Global Strategy of Occupational Health for All with a special reference to global ban of asbestos in order to strengthen ICOH joint efforts for global ban of asbestos. Then Dr. Kogi communicated to the Board the Liaison persons with international allies he intended to appoint for the new triennium.

Prof. Rogers asked the Board to consider the possibility of identifying a young member to be actively involved in each of these groups - TGs, WGs, Liaisons with international allies – as a strategic initiative in line with ICOH priority of increasing the involvement of young professionals in ICOH network.

Decisions:

- Based on the comments and suggestions, the Assignments will be reviewed by the President and circulated among ICOH Officers and Board members for final agreement.

5. ICOH 2015 Congress

Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang briefly reported on the advances and progress of the organization of the 31st International Congress on Occupational Health – ICOH 2015 to be held in Korea.

Dr. Kogi asked Dr. Kang to warmly thank the Korean Minister of Labor as well as the President of KOSHA for their participation in the Cancun Congress. The Board members had a brief discussion about the role played by the International Scientific Advisory Committee and the Scientific Committees in the congress organization. Prof. Rogers stressed that their major role was to recommend contents for the congress and contribute to the high quality of the scientific programme. Based on the experience of the previous two Congresses, Dr. Fingerhut suggested to involve a strong national leader and scientific co-chair in the Scientific Advisory Committee. In support of this comment, Dr. Iavicoli also stressed the importance to clearly identify the contact/key persons for all the activities to be activated in view of the Congress (financial support, support to developing countries, organization of ICOH meetings and business meetings, etc.) in order to guarantee an easy bilateral communication and productive collaboration in the congress organization.

Dr. Kang thanked the Board for all the comments and reaffirmed KOSHA's commitment to facilitate communication and cooperation for the ICOH 2015 Congress organization to secure a successful Congress.



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6. Budget Plan 2012- 2014

ICOH Secretary General reported on the budget proposal for the triennium 2012-2014. He started sharing with the new ICOH Board Members the results and the reserves of ICOH financial management of the previous term. Based on the constant increase of ICOH savings in the last tenures and on the positive report of the Auditors, Dr. Iavicoli proposed to actively invest in ICOH activities in the new triennium, considering the non-profitmaking profile of ICOH organization aiming at the best use of its resources but also the need for a safe financial management due to the current time of crises. Dr. Iavicoli showed the forecasted incomes for the new term coming mainly from ICOH membership fees and from ICOH 2012 Congress. Then Dr. Iavicoli illustrated in detail the expenses to be faced by ICOH in the next triennium and the amount allocated for each budget line. He highlighted that more attention will be given to the Scientific Committees and Noro Fund budget lines in order to have them completely allocated by the end of the triennium. Prof. Rantanen took the opportunity to recognize the substantial contribution that INAIL is giving to ICOH, thus allowing ICOH to successfully carry out its work and activities; in the same way, many other institutions such as NIOSH, FIOH, KOSHA are vital for their support to ICOH and it is very important to give feedback to these institutions about their major value for ICOH.

Decision:

- The proposed Budget Plan 2012 – 2014 was approved.

7. Other issues

The Board members briefly discussed about the timing of the next Mid Term Meeting. They agreed to wait for information about the scientific conferences planned in the first quarter of 2014 in order to explore the possibility to organize it as a satellite event in view of a better allocation of resources.

The Board also discussed some concerns raised with reference to the Special Session “Health effects in semiconductor industry” held on March 21, 2012 where Samsung Electronics provided to Korean journalists photos and information that led to the publication of web articles claiming that “ICOH verifies Samsung’s safe working environments”. Granted that ICOH is an international non-governmental professional society with the sole purpose to foster the scientific progress, knowledge and development of occupational health and related subjects on an international basis, ICOH Board members agreed on the urgent need to act and state that ICOH has never had any kind of direct involvement in the workplace safety assessments of Samsung and/or any other company in the world. The verification and certification activities are not included in ICOH’s field of action.

Decision:

- The ICOH President asked Dr. Iavicoli and Dr. Kang to look into the case in order to send an open letter to the Korean ICOH members, to the speakers and organizers of the Special Session and take prompt action to clarify the role and mission of ICOH and to ask to Samsung to remove the name of ICOH and any reference to ICOH in any commercial publications, documents and websites.

ICOH President closed the meeting thanking all the participants. Dr. Iavicoli took the opportunity to express special thanks to the staff of the ICOH Secretariat General, Ms. Valeria Boccuni, Mr. Fabio Boccuni, Mr. Pasquale Fruscella, Mr. Marco Mirabile, Ms. Antonella Oliverio, Mr. Carlo Petyx, Ms. Bruna Rondinone and Mr. Antonio Valenti for the work done in support of all the ICOH events and activities held during the Cancun Congress.