



Minutes of the 2nd General Assembly of the International Commission on Occupational Health

June 5, 2015
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Time: Friday, 5 June 2015 (15:30 – 17:30)

Venue: 3F Auditorium, COEX Convention Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea

1. Opening

ICOH President Dr. Kazutaka Kogi opened the 2nd General Assembly of the 31st International Congress on Occupational Health and read out the agenda items. Dr. Kogi warmly thanked the ICOH members, the ICOH Board, the Scientific Committee Officers and the National/Area Secretaries, for their contribution to ICOH activities.

2. Farewell Officers and Board 2012-2014 and Service Awards

ICOH Secretary-General Prof. Sergio Iavicoli expressed appreciation to the outgoing ICOH Vice-Presidents Prof. Bonnie Rogers and Ms. Suvi Lehtinen who were awarded with Service Award for the cooperation and great results archived working together during the two past triennia.

Prof. Iavicoli also praised the ICOH Board members of the triennium 2012-2014 for their continuous support, collaboration and active contribution to the achievement of the goals set by the ICOH work plan.

Prof. Iavicoli conferred and distributed the Service Award to the ICOH Board members who served for two terms (2009-2014): Prof. Giovanni Costa (Italy), Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA), Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang (Rep. of Korea), Dr. Norito Kawakami (Japan), Dr. Timo Leino (Finland), Prof. Yves Roquelaure (France), Dr. Mary Ross (South Africa), Dr. Harri Vainio (Finland), Prof. Peter Westerholm (Sweden).

Then Prof. Iavicoli bestowed the Service Award to the Chairs of Scientific Committees who served for two terms (2009-2014): Prof. Lars Barregard (Sweden), Prof. Mario Di Gioacchino (Italy), Dr. Mats Hagberg (Sweden), Prof. Yukinori Kusaka (Japan), Prof. Dana Loomis (France), Prof. Maurizio Manno (Italy), Dr. Shyam Pingle (India), Prof. Glenn Pransky (USA), Ms. Louwna Pretorius (South Africa), Dr. Michele Riva (Italy), Dr. Keith Scott (United Kingdom), Dr. Akizumi Tsutsumi (Japan), Prof. Jukka Vuori (Finland).

Prof. Iavicoli expressed his thanks to all the National Secretaries for the work done and their relevant contribution to the increase of the number of ICOH members and conferred the Service Award to the best performing National Secretaries in terms of membership recruitment: for Europe, ICOH NS for Hungary Dr. Barnabas Biro; for Africa, ICOH NS for Ghana Ms. Edith Clarke; for North America, ICOH NS for Mexico Dr. Arturo Juarez; for South America ICOH NS for Peru Dr. Raul Jesus Gomero Cuadra; for Asia ICOH NS for India, Dr. R. Rajesh. Finally, Prof. Iavicoli awarded the ICOH 2015 organizing committee for the excellent work done: Young Soon Lee, Kuck-Hyun Woo, Gye-Wan Bae, Hyung-Chul Choi, Sook Shim and Dae-Jung Kim. The General Assembly congratulated the awardees by applause. Those who could not attend the General Assembly were awarded separately.

Finally, Prof. Iavicoli expressed the enormous gratefulness of the ICOH community to the outgoing ICOH President Dr. Kazutaka Kogi for his long and successful career in ICOH. Secretary General showed some slides about the key moments of Dr. Kogi presidency. Dr. Kogi expressed his wish to continue to offer his active contribution and expertise to ICOH.



3. Results of the Elections of ICOH Officers and Board 2015-2017

ICOH President asked Dr. Mary Ross, member of the Scrutineers Committee, to report on the election results of the ICOH Officers and Board Members for the tenure 2015-2017. Dr. Ross explained the counting procedure and proceeded to read the results of the candidates elected as follows:

ICOH PRESIDENT

Dr. Jukka Takala (Singapore) Elected Uncontested

ICOH VICE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA) Valid votes: 334 – Elected
Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea) Valid votes: 306 – Elected
Dr. Jorge Morales (Mexico) Valid votes: 198 – Unelected

ICOH SECRETARY GENERAL

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) Elected Uncontested

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Valid Votes</i>	
1	<i>M. Sim</i>	Australia	340	elected
2	<i>M. Hagberg</i>	Sweden	337	elected
3	<i>E. Enriquez</i>	Mexico	314	elected
4	<i>M. Frings-Dresen</i>	The Netherlands	307	elected
5	<i>A. Curran</i>	United Kingdom	302	elected
6	<i>C. Nogueira</i>	South Africa	298	elected
7	<i>S. Horie</i>	Japan	291	elected
8	<i>K. Reijula</i>	Finland	283	elected
9	<i>R. Orford</i>	USA	274	elected
10	<i>D. Ellingsen</i>	Norway	259	elected
11	<i>M. Hogan</i>	Ireland	259	elected
12	<i>R. Orriols Ramos</i>	Spain	228	elected
13	<i>E. Santino</i>	Brazil	226	elected
14	<i>D. Moyo</i>	Zimbabwe	225	elected
15	<i>C. Paris</i>	France	223	elected
16	<i>J. Vuori</i>	Finland	221	elected
17	<i>E. Kim</i>	Rep. of Korea	218	
18	<i>J. Mustajbegovic</i>	Croatia	201	
19	<i>S. Pingle</i>	India	201	
20	<i>M. Bandini</i>	Brazil	197	
21	<i>C. Colosio</i>	Italy	179	
22	<i>M. Lum</i>	USA	178	
23	<i>R. Gomero Cuadra</i>	Peru	164	
24	<i>Y. Demiral</i>	Turkey	158	



25	<i>T. Rajgopal</i>	India	138	
26	<i>M. Manno</i>	Italy	129	
27	<i>L. Pretorius</i>	South Africa	129	

Decision:

- The ICOH General Assembly unanimously approved the report of the Scrutineers Committee.

4. President's Address and Strategy 2015-2017

Dr. Jukka Takala, in his quality of newly elected ICOH President, received the gavel from Dr. Kogi. He thanked all ICOH members and in particular Dr. Kogi for all the work done in the past. He also thanked the ICOH Congress 2015 Organizing Committee for the successful event.

Dr. Takala addressed the ICOH General Assembly and illustrated his strategy for the tenure 2015-2018.

Firstly he gave an overview on workers' health worldwide presenting some data on work-related mortality and injuries worldwide. The results of the analysis showed what is still to be done in this field and how ICOH can contribute.

Dr. Takala stressed the importance to act following three fundamental strategies:

1. Scientific evidence;
2. Ethics, focusing on how to treat workers equally in the world;
3. Engagement, in strengthening dialogue with all policy makers and other bodies operating in OH worldwide.

ICOH activities will have to focus on the following priorities:

1. Substance priorities (death, disability and diseases, risk management, exposure elimination...);
2. Collaboration with ILO and WHO, in order to establish and collaborate with programmes for developing occupational health services for all and to propose new campaigns and programmes;
3. Dialogue, alliance, networking with new partners;
4. Identifying new solutions for funding and supporting global action.

Then Dr. Takala presented the following as key points for the plan of action for the triennium 2015-2018:

1. Organizational measures to make a difference;
2. Collaborate with all interested parties to promote good work anywhere, equally and universally;
3. Enhance ICOH credibility and visibility;
4. Follow up of past action on priorities set for earlier triennia, in order to guarantee the continuity of ICOH action plans.

ICOH will operate to reach two important objectives: zero harm and equal and universal Health and Safety at Work and through work.

Decision:

- The ICOH General Assembly unanimously approved the President's Address and Strategy for the tenure 2015-2018.

Dr. Rajgopal and Dr. Parekh took the floor pointing out that few board members are from developing countries. Dr. Bandini arose the same concern. After that, the General Assembly suggested that ICOH



should act in order to balance distribution of Board members among developing and industrialized countries. Secretary General specified that this may be attained with the choice of two co-opted Board Members as defined in ICOH Constitution (Article 5, Section 6).

Some members proposed the introduction of electronic vote, which will facilitate voting procedures especially for those countries where postal service is not always efficient. ICOH Secretary General pointed out that ICOH Secretariat undertook specific actions by sending ballots to NSs from South Africa and Mexico by courier in consideration of serious problems with local postal service. Additionally, ICOH Secretariat sent two reminders by email to the whole membership, asking to refer any problem in receiving the ballot papers in order to send them again to those that did not receive. However, the number of the ballots received by the Secretariat was in line with previous elections. ICOH Secretariat will seriously look into the possibility of introducing the electronic vote and to amend ICOH Constitution and Bye-Laws accordingly.

Furthermore, Dr. Cisse suggested to raise special strategies for French-speaking countries in Africa in collaboration with ILO and WHO. Dr. Enumah expressed his concern about the difficulties faced by ICOH members from Nigeria and other African countries in paying ICOH membership fees.

Secretary General, Prof. Iavicoli, stated that different modes of payment are available, among them the Paypal system, which allows also the use of Debit Cards, was enhanced. Yet the Secretariat will take care of specific needs, particularly related to the use of debit cards.

Dr. Knut Ringen, Secretary of the SC on OH in the Construction Industry, called the attention of the General Assembly on one point for further discussion and action: the deaths, work-related diseases and injuries, reported among workers at construction venues and living quarters for the 2022 FIFA World Cup events in Qatar. ICOH President, Dr. Jukka Takala acknowledged this problem for future actions needed.

5. ICOH 2021 Congress – Bids Results

ICOH President asked ICOH Secretary-General Prof. Sergio Iavicoli, member of the Scrutineers Committee, to report on the results of the votes for the venue of the 33rd International Congress on Occupational Health to be held in 2021. Before illustrating the results, Prof. Iavicoli thanked the bidding committees of the three candidate countries for the excellent proposals presented.

BIDS RESULTS

Melbourne	Australia	181 votes
Marrakech	Morocco	103 votes
Hyderabad	India	84 votes

Total ballots counted: **368**

Number of spoilt votes: 0

Prof. Malcolm Sim, representative of the Australian Local Organizing Committee, took the floor and expressed appreciation and warm thanks for electing Melbourne as venue of the ICOH 2021 Congress. He also expressed his respect for the two other Bidding Committees and recognized their hard work.

Decision:

- The results of the votes were confirmed by the ICOH General Assembly;
- Melbourne, Australia, was unanimously approved as the venue of the ICOH 2021 Congress.

6. Closing



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
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ICOH President Dr. Takala presented the two newly elected ICOH Vice-Presidents and their roles: Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut, ICOH Vice-President in charge of Scientific Committees, and Dr. Seong-Kyu Kang, ICOH Vice-President in charge of National Secretaries.

Then Dr. Takala closed the 2nd General Assembly by expressing his sincere thanks to all the participants for their high contributions given to ICOH activities and to the good results of ICOH 2015 Congress in Seoul.