



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



Meeting of ICOH National Secretaries

in connection with the ARAOH Occupational Health Conference, 1-3 August 2014,
Johannesburg, South Africa

Date 2 August 2014, 17.00–19.00 hrs
Venue Johannesburg, South Africa

Participants Kazutaka Kogi, ICOH President
Dingani Moyo, ICOH NS for Zimbabwe
Adriaan Combrinck, ICOH NS for South Africa
Okon Akiba, ICOH NS for Nigeria
Cheikh Al Khalifa Aboubacar Cisse, ICOH NS for Senegal
Claudina Nogueira, ICOH Board member
Antoine Vikkey Hinson, ICOH member in Benin
Gleb Csigirinszkij, Hungary
Suvi Lehtinen, ICOH Vice President, via Skype connection from Finland

Topics discussed

1. Welcome

Kazutaka Kogi wished all participants welcome to the meeting as the Skype connection to Helsinki was being established.

2. Introduction of participants

The participants briefly introduced themselves. The other ICOH NSs in the African region had sent their apologies for not being able to attend because of other commitments in their countries.

3. News from ICOH Vice-President via Skype connection

Suvi Lehtinen, on her part, bid all participants of the meeting welcome and described ICOH's tradition of arranging at least one regional meeting of ICOH National/Area Secretaries in every region during the Triennium. She warmly thanked the Organizers of the ARAOH for organizing the time and venue for the ICOH NS meeting.

She mentioned that the ICOH Mid-term Meeting was held in February 2014 in Helsinki. In that meeting, the report of National Secretaries' activities was presented to the ICOH Board. She explained that the final triennial reports of ICOH NSs will be requested by 30 November 2014, in order to be prepared for the Triennial Report, and to be presented to the ICOH Board in May-June 2015 in Seoul.

In addition, all who wish to present a paper in the Seoul Congress should submit an abstract to the on-line submission system of the ICOH2015 website. Partial financial support for experts coming from developing/transitory countries to attend and contribute to the Congress has been reserved by Organizers and ICOH.

The procedure for the selection/election of ICOH NSs will be described in more detail in the next information letter by ICOH VP. In countries where the ICOH NSs have served two terms, a new candidate, to be appointed by the ICOH President, should be selected/elected. In those countries, where the ICOH NS has served only one term, he/she is eligible for another term, if the ICOH members in the country so agree.

She also reported that in 2011, a questionnaire survey was carried out among ICOH NSs on the state of occupational health services in the countries. This was reported on by an article published in the Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health. The aim is to repeat the survey, and the questionnaire is to be sent out in October-November 2014. http://www.sjweh.fi/show_abstract.php?abstract_id=3317

4. **Brief reports of ICOH National Secretaries**

Brief reports from the four participating ICOH NSs and from an ICOH Member, Dr. Hinson of Benin, were heard. All of them mentioned the progress in membership campaigns and collaboration with national associations. In addition, a great deal of training of occupational health professionals is going on in the countries.

In discussion, the NSs mentioned the need to facilitate the payment of membership fees. As regards regional collaboration, they raised the issue of promoting co-operation with ICOH members of the countries where NSs have not yet been appointed. The need for strengthening collaboration through regional conferences in occupational health fields was also stressed. In addition, some promotional materials describing the activities of ICOH including the application form would be much appreciated.

5. **ICOH Congress 2015 advances**

Kazutaka Kogi briefly described the preparations for the ICOH2015 Congress, to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 31 May–5 June 2015. He mentioned that the preparations are well underway, and the 10 keynote speakers have been confirmed, as well as the Semi-Plenary Speakers. More information is available on the ICOH2015 website: <http://www.icoh2015.org/>.

6. **Revised ICOH Code of Ethics**

Kazutaka Kogi briefly reported on the preparation of changes to the ICOH Code of Ethics. The revisions were made on a minimal basis in order to maintain the current structure, which has been used by some countries as a basis in their OH&S legislation. The changes deal with confidentiality, organizational ethics, and the proactive role of occupational health personnel.

7. **Other issues**

As there were no other issues, Suvi Lehtinen thanked the participants for active discussions, wished good continuation for the ARAOH Conference and closed the meeting.

Notes made by Kazutaka Kogi and Suvi Lehtinen