



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Meeting of ICOH SCs Officers Meeting

March 17, 2012
Cancun, Mexico

Time: Saturday, 17 March 2012, 9.00 – 12.45

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

Participants: see Annex 1

1. Opening and review of Scientific Committee' activities

The President of ICOH, Dr. Kazutaka Kogi, opened the meeting welcoming all the participants and sharing with them the agenda items. Dr. Kogi asked to the participants to briefly introduce themselves.

2. President's report

(Reference: Triennial Report 2009-2011, pp. 10-37)

ICOH President, Dr. Kogi, briefly reported on the activities carried out according to the strategic priorities set at the Cape Town General Assembly and Board Meeting in March 2009 and on the main results achieved. In particular, Dr. Kogi acknowledged the work of the Scientific Committees (SCs): more than one hundred SCs conferences and meetings were organized during the triennium aiming at discussing the recent developments in managing work-related health and safety risks. The proceedings of these meetings showed the progress in upgrading proactive workplace procedures for preventing work-related risks. A number of SCs were very active also in developing guidelines or guidance materials for supporting risk assessment and control process at the workplace. Dr. Kogi concluded his report by thanking the SCs Officers for their close collaboration with ICOH work and activities.

2. The ICOH Scientific Committees' reports for the triennium 2012-2015

(Reference: Triennial Report 2009-2011, pp.43-56)

As ICOH Vice-President in charge of the Scientific Committees, Prof. Bonnie Rogers welcomed all the SCs Officers attending the meeting and gave an overview on the work done by ICOH SCs during the triennium 2009-2011.

First of all, she remarked that ICOH had 34 very active Scientific Committees during the triennium 2009-2011, each of them having its own Chair and Secretary appointed. At the Midterm Meeting held in Milan, the Board voted to dissolve the SC on Fibres because of its inactivity for several years and discussed the possibility of having a new Scientific Committee on nanotechnology to be formed in Cancun. 33 out of 34 final reports were received and reviewed to be available on the website. Prof. Rogers expressed her positive evaluation on the work done by the SCs in terms of productivity and collaboration. Then Prof. Rogers briefly informed the participants about some amendments she was going to propose to the Board (in the Board Meeting to be held at 14.00) mostly aimed at clarifying the election procedures.

Prof. Rogers remarked the high engagement of the SCs in contributing to ICOH 2012 Congress with a total number of 1439 presentations. 10 keynotes and 30 semi-plenary sessions were organized, nearly 120 special sessions were planned, over 90 oral abstract sessions and more than 50 thematic poster sessions



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were planned, displaying nearly 550 posters in total. Finally she gave some guidance for the new triennium 2012- 2015 - candidatures, election process and requirements, SCs work plan, business meetings, etc. - and invited all the participants to refer to the Guidelines for SCs available on ICOH website to get all the detailed information.

3. ICOH Membership campaign and SCs role

(Reference: Triennial Report 2009-2011, pp. 38-42)

ICOH Secretary General, Dr. Sergio Iavicoli briefly reported on the main issues on membership. He pointed out that the association is continuing to grow in terms of ICOH members. Dr. Iavicoli showed the leading countries in ICOH membership at the end of the triennium and highlighted the best results achieved in Mexico, Brazil, India, South Africa and in particular in Peru which registered the best membership increase of the triennium. Another achievement was the further increase of developing countries affiliation (37% of the total members in gs) due not only to the differentiated system of ICOH fees but also to many activities intensified in these countries (organization of meetings, events, educational and training activities). With reference to SCs role, Dr. Iavicoli reported that a total of 96 events were organized or co-organized by SCs during the triennium 2009-2011, thus creating important opportunities to promote ICOH activities and recruit new members. Dr. Iavicoli also reminded the meeting participants of another important tool available for the SCs Officers to get updated information and materials, i.e. the Virtual Office of the ICOH website where SCs Officers can look into their SC's members, find packages of promoting materials as well as application form to be used during their meetings or events. Therefore he strongly encouraged the participants to benefit from this tool.

4. National Secretaries and Scientific Committees cooperation

(Reference: Triennial Report 2009-2011, pp. 57-63)

Ms. Suvi Lehtinen reported on the activities of National/Area Secretaries in consideration of the extreme importance to increase the collaboration and the cooperation between NSs and Scientific Committees in particular when meetings or symposia are organized.

Ms. Lehtinen emphasized the value of ICOH as a global association shown by the fact that ICOH has members in 98 countries all around the world and 61 ICOH National Secretaries were appointed in the triennium 2009-2011. In addition to this, she reported on the Officers' decision to activate the appointment of ICOH NSs also in countries with very low membership as a strategic action to increase the ICOH members and information on ICOH in these countries. 54 final reports out of 61 (89%) were received by the deadline with informative descriptions of the activities carried out and quite a number of proposals about how to increase the information exchange and the collaboration between SCs and NSs. Finally, Ms. Lehtinen briefly reported on the Questionnaire survey conducted among the 61 countries in which ICOH has a National Secretary with the aim of collecting information on the OSH organizations in the countries, as well as on the status of occupational health services. 47 replies were received. A directory of the OSH institutions and associations in the respondent countries will be compiled and a summary article on the status of occupational health services will be submitted for publication.

5. Breakout sessions A-B-C

Dr. Iavicoli presented the breakout sessions by listing them:

- A. Virtual Office use, new journal platform
- B. Interaction and Integration among Scientific Committees
- C. SCs Outputs and membership campaign



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1 hour was allocated for the breakout sessions.

6. Report from the breakout sessions

The three groups reported on the outputs produced.

A. Virtual Office use, new journal platform (Rapporteur: Dr. Diana Gagliardi)

A presentation illustrating the scientific journals platform which will be very soon available on ICOH website was shown during this breakout session. This platform represents a further implementation of ICOH website and will provide the ICOH members with a new tool, i.e. a specific section of the Private Area to keep members updated on initiatives agreed with scientific journals' partners and to allow them to directly access to the negotiated discounted subscription rates. It was also discussed how to inform ICOH members of these new benefits and it was suggested to spread information about the new journal platform at the business meetings to be held during the Cancun Congress.

Some proposals were offered for implementing the use of the website and private area for members and SCs Officers, as an example to evaluate the possibility to create new boxes in the private area where SCs can upload results, scientific contents and updated information on activities carried out to be shared by ICOH members.

B. Interaction and Integration among Scientific Committees (Rapporteur: Ms. Susan Randolph)

One of the issues raised by the discussion was the need for more communication exchange between Scientific Committees and Working Groups (WGs) in order to have the Scientific Committees informed earlier about the Working Groups' activities and eventually involved in these activities from the beginning and take advantage from the SCs and WGs joint cooperation. There should be more formal involvement of the SCs also in the ICOH cooperation with WHO, ILO and sister organizations. In order to facilitate the internal collaboration among Scientific Committees, it was suggested that SCs could take advantage from the ICOH virtual office and look up the SCs reports identifying areas of common interest in order to jointly collaborate on specific issues. As for possible strategies to involve non members and other stakeholders in SCs activities, SCs members should try to promote ICOH during their business meetings or symposia and to encourage non members belonging to the SCs to join ICOH. Finally, it was stressed the need for SCs Officers to keep in close contact with the Vice President in charge of SCs in order to speed up the election process and SCs' triennial work.

As a result of this discussion, it was proposed to think more about the possibility to merge some scientific committees and find a better integration in order to avoid too much fracturing and to preserve, at the same time, the SCs' specificity and the transversal and multidisciplinary approach.

C. SCs Outputs and membership campaign (Rapporteur: Prof. Clas-Håkan Nygard)

This Group discussed two main issues: how to attract new young members to ICOH and how to retain the 'old' members, and what are the guidance for producing ICOH publications. During the discussion the important role played by the personal contacts in the recruitment activity was acknowledged: ICOH members should give their support to this activity by making use of any SCs event and international congress to spread information on ICOH work and benefits for the members and to invite people joining ICOH. As for the strategy to attract young members, a key tool is utilizing the internet and more specifically the information and devices provided by the ICOH website and private area. An important point still remains also to give better visibility to the benefits ICOH members can enjoy. It was recognized that SC Chairs could be encouraged to look into possibilities for recruiting new members to ICOH in their own expertise areas. An analysis of the reasons why people leave ICOH membership could be made. One reason was recognized and that is reaching the retirement age and moving on to other activities. The potential of national associations as a source for membership recruitment was also mentioned in the discussion. Finally, with specific reference to ICOH publications and products, it was proposed to



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develop some kind of guidance on how to produce position papers or proceedings, and on how to deal with the publication process.

7. Closing remarks

Dr. Kogi concluded this productive meeting by thanking all the participants for their attendance, their active participation in ICOH activities and useful comments to implement the future work of Scientific Committees. As final remarks, Dr. Kogi summarized the main proposals to be taken as future directions as follows:

- Implementation of the scientific journal platform and evaluation of the possible inclusion in the private area or in the SCs virtual office of new boxes where upload SCs results, scientific contents, etc.
- Analysis of the current SCs structuring aiming at possible merging and better integration among SCs keeping their specificities and transversal approach.
- Development of guidance material on how to produce ICOH position papers or proceedings and how to deal with the publication process.



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ANNEX 1 List of participants_ICOH SCs Officers Meeting
17 March 2012

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	Office
KOGI	KAZUTAKA	ICOH President
IAVICOLI	SERGIO	ICOH Secretary General
LEHTINEN	SUVI	ICOH Vice President
ROGERS	BONNIE	ICOH Vice President
RANTANEN	JORMA	ICOH Past President
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SC
RINTAMÄKI	Hannu	Thermal Factor
TSUTSUMI	Akizumi	Cardiology in OH
YASSI	Annalee	Healthcare
NYGARD	Clas-Hakan	Aging and Work
ANDERSSON	Lena	Industrial Hygiene
RANDOLPH	Susan	Occupational Health
KIM	Eun-A	Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology
FISCHER	Frida	Shiftwork and Working Time
CHEN	Pau-Chung	Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace
SIM	Malcolm	EPICOH
SARTORELLI	Pietro	Occ. Environ. Dermatoses
MATTIOLI	Stefano	Occupational Medicine
OTSUKI	Takemi	Allergy and Immunotoxicology
DI GIOACCHINO	Mario	Allergy and Immunotoxicology
MUZI	Giacomo	Indoor Air Quality
RIVA	Michele	History
FANO	Daniela	History
GAGLIARDI	Diana	SCOHDEV
PINGLE	Shyam	SCOHDEV
DE LA HOZ	Rafael	Respiratory Disorders
COLOSIO	Claudio	Rural Health
RODRIGUEZ GUZMAN	Julietta	Women Health and Work
PRETORIUS	Louwina J	SCOHN
BOCCUNI	Valeria	ICOH Secretariat General - Staff
OLIVERIO	Antonella	ICOH Secretariat General - Staff
PETYX	Carlo	ICOH Secretariat General - Staff