MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF ICOH SC ON HISTORY
Fifth International Conference on History of Occupational and Environmental Health
Rotterdam (The Netherlands), April 24, 2014

The business meeting of the ICOH Scientific Committee on “History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases” was held on Thursday April 24, 2014 at 5.00 p.m. during the Fifth International Conference on History of Occupational and Environmental Health in Rotterdam (The Netherlands) with the following agenda:

1. Communications by the ICOH SC Chair (Michele A. Riva)
2. 2015 ICOH Conference in Seoul: free paper sessions and special sessions
3. Proposals for sixth International Conference on History
4. Candidatures of ICOH SC History Officers for 2015 election
5. Sundries

Participants: Michele Riva (Chair), Jurjen Breedijk, Francesco Carnevale, Daniela Fano, Max Lum, Leslie Nickels, Rod Noble, Alessandro Porro, Liliana Rapas, Silvana Salerno, Dick Spreeuwers, Paul Swuste, Kjell Toren, Alfondo Vernooy, Andrè Weel, Ebba Wergeland.

Jean-Francois Caillard, Rene Mendes, Alfredo Menéndez-Navarro justify their absence

1. Communications by the ICOH SC Chair (Michele Riva)

The meeting starts with the communications by the ICOH SC Chair, Michele Riva, who initially thanks Dick Spreeuwers, Andrè Weel and all the members of the local committee for their hard work in organizing the Fifth Internal Conference on History of Occupational and Environmental Health in Rotterdam (The Netherlands).

Regarding the publication of the proceedings of the Conference, Weel announces that he will circulate report of contributions by August/September. Toren proposes to publish the conference abstracts on the journal, whose he is the editor-in-chief. Porro is also editor of an Italian publishing company, that could publish the proceedings at low-cost. In the following months, Spreeuwers and Weel will contact Toren and Porro for publishing abstracts and proceedings of the conference. Report of the Conference will be presented during the ICOH General Conference in Seoul (South Korea) in 2015.

Riva outlines the status of the ICOH SC on History in the first two years of the 2012-2015 triennium, reporting that new members joined the scientific committee, particularly from South America, probably as a consequence of the ICOH 2012 General Conference in Cancun (Mexico). Meeting attendees discuss on how to increase the number of the members of the ICOH SC on History and how to improve the participation in the International Conference on History, since Conference in Rotterdam unfortunately had a limited number of participants. According to Noble, the focus would be to widen the scope of the ICOH SC, including other issues (engineering, environmental health, etc.) and other researchers (specially historians) to better develop the ICOH
SC activities. In this view, contacts with Collegium Ramazzini would be welcome; it is also suggested to start further contacts with Eastern scholars (Swuste).

The Chair reminds that from the end of 2013, ICOH SC on History has a new website (http://www.icoh-history.org/) that has been also used to promote the conference in Rotterdam. The implementation of the website was free of charge; financial support was kindly provided by the University of Milano Bicocca (Milan, Italy). Riva is the webmaster and he is able to upload any documents, including photos and videos. The Chair invites all the members to send him their CVs or other documents that could be uploaded. The website also has a reserved area, where members could share documents, using a password. Riva has been recently contacted by the ICOH SC on Nursing to upload documents on the history of occupational nursing, so demonstrating that website is an useful tool to disseminate information and to promote the history of the occupational and environmental health.

In these years ICOH SC on History has actively collaborated with the ICOH Newsletter, providing several papers, such as the column on the issue “Occupational Health in Fine Arts, Music and Literature”. The report of the conference in Rotterdam should also be published on the ICOH Newsletter.

Finally, in these years, the SC Officers have been contacted by some scholars for more information on specific issues on history of Occupational and Environmental Health. In this way, thanks to the support by the other ICOH SC members, the committee has promoted historical studies of other colleagues in this issue, allowing ICOH itself to become an international reference point for history of Occupational Health.

2. 2015 ICOH Conference in Seoul: free paper sessions and special sessions

The Chair reminds that the 31st ICOH General Conference will be held in Seoul (South Korea) from May 31st to June 5th, 2015. Riva reports some information on the ICOH General Conference, provided during the ICOH Midterm meeting, held in Helsinki (Finland) in February 2014. Since history is one of the topics of the Conference, the Chair invites all the members of the ICOH SC on History to submit a paper on this subject. On-line abstract submission opens on May 31st, 2014 and closes on August 30th, 2014. For further information, ICOH SC members can visit the website http://www.icoh2015.org/

In detail, ICOH SC on History has requested two free paper sessions on history, since in last conference in Cancun a high number of abstracts (eight) on the topic “history” was submitted. The Chair hopes that this number of abstracts will be confirmed (or increased) in the Seoul. In addition, ICOH SC on History will organize two Special Sessions. A special session will be on the historical development of Occupational Health through the history of ICOH SCs. Indeed, 2015 marks the 40th anniversary from the institution of the first ICOH scientific committees (1975), under the presidency of Enrico Vigliani. So, according to the deputy-president Bonnie Rogers, this anniversary will be celebrated with an historical special session. Some officers of ICOH SC accepted to participate in this special session. The second special session will be on history of Occupational Health in Asian countries and it will be organized with the support of Leslie Nickels and Marilyn Fingerhut (CDC, NIOSH). This special session will be on a less investigated and fascinating issue (history of OH in Asia) and it could allow increasing the number of members of scientific committee on history from Eastern countries, as previously proposed.
3. Proposals for sixth International Conference on History

Proposals for sixth International Conference on History of Occupational and Environmental Health came from Alfredo Menéndez-Navarro (Granada, Spain in 2017), Toren (Gothenburg, Sweden in 2017) and Nickels (Chicago, USA in 2018). The Chair presented the proposal from Menéndez-Navarro (who apologizes for his absence due to previous commitments): the conference in Granada (Spain) should be a joint conference with the “European Association for the History of Medicine and Health”. Toren and Nickels presented their proposals in detail. After a debate among the meeting participants, the proposal of Toren is accepted: the sixth Conference on History of Occupational and Environmental Health will be held in Gothenburg (Sweden) in September 2017. Furthermore, the members believe that the organization of a second international conference on history in the 2016-2018 triennium could be a positive challenge for the ICOH SC on History. Indeed, until now only one conference was organized in a triennium. So, the attendees also support Nickels’ proposal that seventh international conference on history will be organized in Chicago (USA) in September 2017. All the members are positively impressed by the high number of proposals for the international conference, considering it as sign of new interest towards the activities of the ICOH SC on History. Even if Menéndez-Navarro’s candidature for the conference in Granada was not accepted, Riva wishes to express his gratitude to him for his high-level proposal and for his support as Scientific Secretary of the ICOH SC on History during this mandate.

4. Candidatures of ICOH SC History Officers for 2015 election

Riva reminds that in June 2015 his appointment as Chair of the ICOH SC on History expires and that he will not able to run another mandate, after two consecutive triennia (2009-2012 and 2012-2015). The participants unanimously suggest the present chair to hold the position for another mandate, if possible. Riva thanks for their confidence in him, but he thinks that a new chair should be appointed and ensures his full support to new Officers. The new Chair should be elected in the next year, so this issue will be discussed in the next business meeting to be held during the ICOH General Conference in Seoul. In the following months, Riva will launch the call for candidatures for the new Chair. However, during the discussion, participants believe that a good candidate could be Leslie Nickels.

5. Sundries

Since there were no other issues for a discussion, the Chair closes the meeting at 6.00 p.m. and thanks to all the members for their participation.