

Agenda with Minutes for ISDE DB meeting Malmo, Sweden

1-6pm 28 September and 9am-5pm 29 September (lunch break Saturday)

The meeting will be held at TEM, Stortorget 17, 211 22 Malmö (look for signs for room assignment when you arrive at the building)

Tel: 040-606 55 80

For those not coming-we have internet/Skype available.

Friday:

1. Approval of agenda: Approved
2. Nomination of note taker: Hanns Moshammer

Present:

Wolfgang Stück (Germany)
Hanns Moshammer (Austria)
Ingrid Eckeman (Sweden)
Ernesto Burgio (Italy, SO office)
Roberto Romizi (Italy)
Philip Michael (Ireland)
Cathey Falvo (USA)

Participating by Skype (part time):

Colin Butler (Australia)
Mahmood Khwaja (Pakistan)
Lilian Corra (Argentina)

Guests:

Erik Petersen (no DB member, Germany) (Friday only)

Excused (by e-mail):

Peter van den Hazel
Peter Kaelin
Colin Butler
Lilian Corra
Mahmood Khwaja
Guy Magnus

Discussions, general proposals, Cathey's introduction:

We need a person to collect all decisions and information on activities throughout the year.

We must do something about leadership development

3. Approval of minutes of last DB (Paris, 2011) (attached): Approved but for the completion of names and the missing attachments. The financial reports were only presented on paper. Peter K should scan those / turn into pdf to be attached to the minutes. Cathey will fill in the gaps in the minutes (names missing etc., no more changes to the contents) (Auditors' report has been sent by Peter K; attached)

Discussion Ingrid: minutes and financial reports (and all the attachments) should be put on the web-site eventually, in a members' only section - general discussion: many more documents should be put on the website; also, photos and other visuals as part of current activities.

Input from Colin: DEA wants to stay within ISDE for the time being, wants to contribute to next year meeting.

He will come in person if it is next to the ISEE conference in Basel (August 20-23, 2013). Workshop on Limits to Growth and Health has been proposed. There could be a second workshop on activism of medical doctors / health activism / societal responsibility of medical doctors. Following ISEE could be an opportunity for the next ISDE GA.

4. Approval of DB decisions per e-mail since last DB meeting: no decisions taken
List of documents we signed (to be added / attached by Cathey)

5. Report of president: 2011-2012

(attachment to come) International activities, together with partners, e.g. with IPPNW Africa at UN about long-term effects of armed conflict on environment and health. Several IPPNW chapters in Africa have created "one bullet story" describing the medical and social/economic effects and costs of a single gun shot wound.

UN Department on Public Information – every year (but for this year) they had a meeting and Cathey participated (this year was on volunteers in Bonn)

Australia: Health + Sustainability, Mexico: Disarmament, Paris: Human Rights

Feargal, Juliet, Cathey: in Rio + 20: Governments disappointing. Civil Society active, "Health" is finally getting on the agenda. Health is not just health-care but rather health and well-being.

In Rio also connected to business and to other health groups (cancer society, International Federation of Medical Student and WHO)

Lilian's activities. (postponed till Saturday)

Discussion:

Wolfgang: DU use in Iraq war. How do we better coordinate our expertise?

Cathey: Lack of organised information ("too many e-mails")

Ingrid: Hanns to send out the list of DB-list members to the list (agreed, to be done next week)

Peter Orris (Occupational Health physician from Chicago) likely to replace Lilian as the focal point for the technical working group within UNEP representing ISDE and WPHA (World Public Health Association) in (SAICM) (therefore to be put on the DB list again).

6. Report of treasurer (including auditor's report)

- Balance 2011 Peter K will participate by Skype tomorrow. He promised by e-mail to provide the financial details later this year.

- Budget 2012 (idem)

-Reporting on the current financial state of the accounts what's in the cash box of today: 23'818.35 SFR, 1'558.60 EUR, 8'634.19 USD

7. Discussion and decision on budget (postponed till Saturday)

8. Report of international secretary (include EPPP now or Saturday as part of where ISDE is going?) (postponed till Saturday)

9. Report from scientific office

Roberto within the context of the report on Scientific Office made also a short presentation of the EU financed project LIFE+ 10ENV/000331 "Participated assessment of the health, environmental and socio-economic impacts from urban waste handling". This is a HIA project (the only HIA project on waste handling which is financed by EU) developed since 2011 by ISDE Italy (with the support of ISDE Scientific Office) and other local, national and regional organisations and research agencies.

The purpose of the project is the application of the HIA procedure integrated to that of LA21 for the evaluation of the existing and future impacts, as well as for the policies planning of waste cycle management.

(Ppt presentation by Roberto and Ernesto: Attachment A)

10. Report of regional directors

Europe (Philip): excel table overview and written reports from several national affiliates (attached). But not many affiliates answered to the request. Philip will try to update the table and get input from more affiliates. Proposal to put the table on the ISDE website. Discussion about the meaning of “x” to “xxx” (regarding expertise) and exact part of each general subject heading. There might be scope of improvement in cooperation between European ISDE organizations.

North America (Cathey): CAPE is functioning but Cathey had no direct contact. She will contact them in the near future. PSR environmental work focuses on coal fired power plants, on fracking (which is now also started in NE USA – NY, NJ, PA), policy lobbying against weakening US EPA legislation. Some local chapters are active in various environmental issues like nuclear power plants (NY) or on Climate Change.

Australian report (attached: Climate Change, Coal fired power plants, fracking)

No report from Africa, Asia, Latin America

Input from Mahmood: Proposes the forming of special working groups to develop common positions. He mentions several topics that seem very urgent. Closer contact to Canadian groups would be vital e.g. to groups working on asbestos.

11. Discussion

Discussion about electromagnetic fields (should ISDE have a position?) and about long-term effects of low-dose nuclear radiation. How should we decide about a position in case of disagreement within the board? How are we going to use our position papers? To be discussed and hopefully decided tomorrow. First need to decide if we need a position paper or if any other tool might be more appropriate. Then we need to appoint a person responsible to write the first draft. We need a thorough review process and then we need a final decision. Majority decision has benefits and dangers.

Saturday

1. What should be the future of ISDE

- What do you/your national organization see as the benefit(s) of being a member of ISDE?
- What do you/your national organization see as the ‘failure(s)’ of ISDE
- What should/could ISDE do on the international/regional stage? How are we going to do this?
- EPPP-Ernesto, Ingrid, Lilian

Getting back-up from international partners and support with national positions and troubles.

But we need to find compromises so that everybody can agree on every statement.

At least it is necessary that nobody disagrees.

We can participate in international fora and activities (HCWH, SAICM, WHO, ...)

International work raises the status even in our own country.

Strengthens credibility especially among the medical profession and especially for a small national organization. (But we do not make sufficient use of the network yet)

Geographical spread and language are still a problem.

Medical issues brought into chemical issues by ISDE participation. Awareness raising regarding impact of chemicals on health and especially child health. Support of our motions at conferences. Essential that we receive timely response. But ISDE still lacks practical activity to get involved directly. Of course there is a lack of funding which hampers more extended projects.

ISDE has an important and strong visibility in international fora. But many members are not aware of that because they take no active part. We are frequently asked for advice and positions. It needs ongoing commitment and investment both of finances and personal work. How are we going to sustain this position?

We have 2-3 important topics. Climate Change is an important problem and it is still not seen as a health problem in many negotiations. This is one reason why the negotiations are not successful. Chemical issues are important and we have been active since the Stockholm Convention; have been working with IFCS and

SAICM, recently in the mercury negotiations; cooperation with IPEN. We brought in the pharmaceuticals in the environment as an emerging issue to SAICM, supported by Germany. The topic has been accepted for further discussion and consideration within SAICM and thus is on the table now. There could be a first meeting on that topic in Berlin in January (financial support by German MoE).

The WHO recently published papers on the health impact of chemicals. Strong collaboration with WHO on that issue but recently we also started to work with WHO on radiation (meeting in December in Bonn planned).

Medical use (X-rays) only until now but in future might also look at environmental (low dose) exposures to radiation. They were very interested in our position paper on X-rays.

But who should represent ISDE in Bonn on the issue of X-rays? Do they want an expert or a civil society representative? They do not want an expert on radiation and/or an expert on how to work on environmental health issues in general and on tackling issues in the public domain. ISDE is expert on the general methodology for disseminating EH information. You can never be “specialist on everything”, but you can know how to approach and use information.

We have too few people working internationally. (Maybe only 3-4 persons) This is not sufficient. And it is not carbon-sustainable to have Lilian go to Bonn from Argentina as our only international representative. We need to get more local people to be involved.

But the person involved in one process (e.g. mercury) must stay in that process even if the meetings take place in several continents. Yes, ISDE must have more than one face. But it is not enough to show up just at one conference, it must be a continuous process including participation in and contribution to e-mail working groups.

We need to provide also expert input. Here in Europe we have a sufficient number of experts we could send to a conference. But we have to make sure that it is understood that this is a serious commitment, not just about giving a speech at one conference.

Pharmaceuticals in the Environment (EPPP – Environmental Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollution – is likely not a good term especially regarding “persistent” - has been criticised by others, maybe have to change the term) We agree that EPPP is an important topic. We have started the process within SAICM, so we should continue with it. Within SAICM they want to finish a few other issues first, therefore put it on “parking position”, but in general agreed to proceed with the topic. Should not discuss pharmaceuticals in food as chemicals in general in food are discussed in other fora. SAICM is not a scientific forum. We do not discuss scientific evidence, but if the topic needs (special) regulation. This question has been answered finally and thus was transferred to a working group (sponsored by Germany, participation of Sweden, Uruguay and Surinam, UNEP and WHO on board). This work will take approximately 3 years. Questions to be answered: Is this an issue for SAICM? Does it need special legislation? Is it an environmental issue as an environmental pollutant? Is it a global issue? Lilian will contact all supporters in Nairobi by e-mail and thank them for their support. She will contact the German partner (Juliane Koch, UBA) and UNEP/WHO to start the detailed planning of the meeting in Germany. She wants to arrange the meeting close to the mercury meeting or to the X-ray meeting to reduce long-distance travels. Wolfgang Stuck volunteered to work on project if Germany will be a major partner as he is quite close to Bonn and knows the German system.

Ingrid: Lilian must propose a project including a budget to get money (e.g. from Swedish government). Lilian: this is a 3-year project with at least one small working group meeting each year. - Detailed discussion between Lilian and Ingrid to draft the budget of the project. (Travel costs for the 4 person ISDE core group and for occasional additional experts, eventually for representatives from developing countries, website as a kind of clearing house, campaign, coordinating secretariat) Lilian, Cathey, Ingrid to work out the details and personal responsibilities for the next steps.

Ernesto presents a few statements regarding antibiotics as part of pharmaceuticals in the environment (attached).

2. Budget-where to find further funding, what to fund (Peter K could not be reached by Skype)

What do we need? Next year we have a GA where we should at least be able to partly support trips from Asia, LA, Africa. One trip will cost approx EUR 2000 / USD 3000, 6 trips for 2013. Should be covered in part by

other funds or by the person individually.

Proposal: EUR 4000 reserved for year 2013 for International Secretariat and EUR 2000 for other international ISDE travel (the latter to be agreed on by the Executive Committee on a per case basis). Agreed

note: EC should also include one representative of the VP. That was not elected in Paris. We ask Mahmood if he is willing to serve in the EC. He agrees.

3. Updating resolutions: which ones, who will do (i.e. which countries are already taking the lead on the topic) Yesterday we discussed possible new resolutions / position papers and the process of deciding upon it (no decision taken yet).

4. Mechanism for decision making between meetings-what/how much email/reading and replying in a timely fashion

We have to clarify our e-mail decision process. "No response" is not automatically a "yes". Mails that ask for decision should be clearly marked in the mail header. "URGENT RESPONSE NEEDED", "PLS ANSWER UNTIL...", "DECISION" - Otherwise: "FYI" only.

5. Nominating committee members

Hanns Moshhammer. Peter van den Hazel and Lilian Corra already elected in Paris. According to the statutes we should have 4 persons. Philip Michael elected in addition.

6. Next meeting (GA) site – what makes the GA different from DB other than voting on officers and final acceptance of resolutions, etc.

Two proposals: Basel August 19-23 or thereabout; Arezzo September or October. Decision to be postponed to entertain further/more robust offers by e-mail discussion with final decision/discussion end of October.

7. New business: Oct 18 Geneva. Consultation on WHO – NGO cooperation. Who could represent ISDE there? Wolfgang could go, Mahmood will be in Geneva only the next week and could maybe go there earlier. The role of NGOs in international fora is a very hotly debated topic right now (e.g. also in SAICM).

Draft finalised 2012-09-29

Hanns Moshhammer

Further discussion after the departure of Hanns M:

Resolutions—should ISDE member without great expertise speak (when asked) if we could get an expert to represent us? Agree: EXPERT, if no/low cost and is willing to mention ISDE in some fashion (invited by, a member of, etc.) much better

-How to link ISDE.org to information on country websites – grid that Philip did in alpha order with national link site link—put only +++ on list

-Need to revise the website to have more useful information and better linkage. Scientific office is redoing its website and will ask if their web developer will do something for ISDE.org

-DB needs to assign someone/s to look at and keep up to date ISDE.org

-Do we need to hire a webmaster to design and manage website? To be discussed next DB meeting if still a problem; can we find a student who needs/could use the experience of designing a website?

The meeting ended at 17:00

Cathey Falvo