

ISDE GA 2013 Basel, Switzerland 23-25 August

AGENDA

Friday, 23 August, 5:30pm, Hotel Bildungszentrum 21 Missionsstrasse 21

Saturday, 24 August, 9am-5:00 Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Socinstr. 57, (<http://www.swisstph.ch/>)

1. Election of secretary for the meeting: Hanns Moshhammer; acceptance of the agenda: accepted
2. Introduction of all present: Participants already met on Friday evening and all know each other: Cathey Falvo, Peter vd Hazel, Hanns Moshhammer, Roberto Romizi, Ernesto Burgio, Dominique Belpomme, Colin Butler, Philip Michael, Atanu Sarkar (CAPE), Mahmood Khwaja, Peter Kaelin, Erik Peterson, Wolfgang Stueck (arrived slightly later)
3. Presidents Report:

Signed 2 statements on asbestos, one to government of Pakistan, one to government of Peru.

Signed letter to General Secretary of UN regarding follow-up on Rio Declaration (environment, sustainability)

Participating in Rio+20 meetings in NY (Feargal Duff) in September, will send report),

Declaration on safe medical devices (HCWH Europe) signed in May (after long co-operation and e-mail discussions).

Applied for Chemical Risk Assessment Network of WHO (want input from experts around the world, asked for academic institutions and NGOs, still under consideration at WHO headquarters): share experiences, assist WHO in training, and provide experts in several fields.

Scott Carlin representing ISDE at CC talks at UNHQ, New York.

Lilian sent a report on her activities (ANNEX). Currently, she is in Mexico on a UNEP meeting
4. Presentations of country activities with lessons which might be useful for all
 - a. Roberto Romizi-Italy:

Scientific Office. Local activities:

 - i. Training sessions for physicians in Tuscany;
 - ii. Proposes to collaborate more closely with WONCA in future to include also other national ISDE affiliates in this project.

- iii. Position papers on urban air pollution, EMF
UNEP proposal for project in Lebanon to implement new public health system, ISDE to work on EH aspects: but still unclear how ISDE should contribute
 - iv. Life project HIA21 on health effects of waste disposal practices (in Tuscany): ISDE Italy to collect health data, dissemination of results with the help of other European partners
Proposal: 5th International Conference on Environment and Health, 2014 (date to decide) in Arezzo, in collaboration with WHO.
- b. Mahmood Khwaja-Pakistan, SDPI established 1992, has more than 100 staff
- i. Aim: narrowing science-policy gap: keeping in mind socio-political context, provide research based evidence, alliances
 - ii. Recently strong focus on mercury, SDPI motion at IUCN GCC 2012 (help/co-operation of ISDE and also other networks): adopted; Minamata Convention on Hg (UNEP, in the process of coming into force this year): after signing still work to enforce and implement the convention; SDPI study on Hg contamination in dental clinics: now working on dissemination of (shocking) results; working on Zero Mercury Global Report, and other activities
 - iii. SMART program of industry (self monitoring), POPs National Implementation Plan, chemically polluted hot-spots.
- c. Colin Butler-Australia: "Coal, climate and eroding the social contract that risks civilization"; DEA has 300-400 members, annual conferences, publications, media and policy contacts, advocacy work.
- i. Focus on CC, coal (and Hg)
 - ii. CC: mankind walking into catastrophe;
 - iii. Australia as leading coal exporter, leading poisoner of the world
 - iv. Suggest, support, propagate solar energy

5. Report from International Secretariat – 10 minutes (written report, short SKYPE communication planned for later, but when we looked her up she was not online)
6. Report from ISDE Scientific Office
Ernesto Burgio on ISDE SO (Ernesto elected president in May): lack of funds (EUR 5000 annually, mostly on personnel costs),
 - a. Participating in several conferences and projects
 - b. Papers, brochures, newsletters, etc. in Italian, eventually translation into other languages possible
 - c. Cooperation with Italian federation of pediatricians, member of GARD (Global Alliance against chronic respiratory diseases, an Italian initiative: www.salute.gov.it/gard/gard.jsp.) Work on epigenetics and the environment.
 - d. Proposal to prepare a joint SO web space where (i) members can present their products (example: summary of Peter's thesis), (ii) electronic "ISDE Bulletin" (int. scientific advisory board) containing both a news section and a scientific section.

Action: Ernesto to approach ISDE affiliates to ask who is willing to serve on such a board working on a special theme (such as CC) as reviewer and producer of papers (board members not just from ISDE board, but seeking experts from a larger range). Ernesto in addition wants to attract "famous names" as a kind of visible faces for the board, but these persons would likely not provide any work input.

- e. Co-operation with ARTAC in starting ECERI (Europe Cancer and Environment Research Institute), proposal to also co-operate with EUROPAEM. Seeking other alliances.
7. Report of major activities of each country
 - a. France (Dominique): sent pdf presentation (annex) created ISDE France (100 members), created ECERI - an international network of 15 European research centers (headquarters in Brussels), already had first workshop (on epigenetics);
 - i. Oct 15/16 2014: 4th Paris Appeal, focus on EMF, in Brussels

- b. Austria (Hanns) 200 members, publications, advocacy. Air pollution, indoor air, CC, nuclear power, fossil fuels, EMF. ECI 30km (circulate link!)
- c. Netherlands (Peter vdH) try to recruit new members, co-operate with other associations, mainly a professional association.
- d. Germany (Wolfgang):
 - i. GMO food successful campaigning
 - ii. drinking water privatization successfully opposed
 - iii. Federal Government will stop nuclear power production: working on safe dismantling and storage, energy transition, co-operation with FoE- research to respect sustainability (NGO representatives on the board of each university),
 - iv. pharmaceutical industry to give open access to all studies;
 - v. Plastics: safe and sustainable re-use (separate collection, recycling, ...)
- e. US (Cathey): PSR 12,000 members (stable now). Environmental program only low staff (1.25 persons) but maintains the Environmental Health Perspectives in collaboration with many other organizations and experts
 - i. changing from coal fired power plants, closing nuclear power plants, work on fracking gains momentum,
 - ii. main work of PSR on peace / nuclear disarmament etc. really. Cathey brings in environmental aspects of nuclear weapons etc.
- f. Switzerland (Peter K): 25th anniversary (2012), 1600 members stable now. Hired staff (1 person in total);
 - i. quarterly newspaper, annual conference;
 - ii. nuclear power plants and catastrophe scenario;
 - iii. ecology in medical office
- g. Canada (Atanu Sarkar): CAPE 8500 members working all over Canada.
 - i. Examples of successful advocacy work (since 2011):

- ii. Ontario pesticide ban (in gardens) and bans in other provinces, Ontario closes its coal fired power plants,
 - iii. Quebec closed asbestos mine and industries.
 - iv. “The high cost of cheap power”; “A costly diagnosis”, Health effects of CC, of pesticides... produced usually in co-operation with other organizations
 - h. Ireland (Philip): 30 members;
 - i. CC & Health participating at WHO, UNEP, WRI, etc. meetings and processes;
 - ii. implementation of (EU) Environmental Law issues in the Irish law;
 - iii. EMR: letter to school headmasters;
 - iv. GMOs; updated website; co-signing letters together with other ISDE affiliates.
8. Discussion: in international conferences (UN, ...): try to get on a governmental delegation to get inside information. Issue: do we support/sign the letter regarding EDC? Cathey will answer telling about our problem with the introduction of the text (“We are writing as scientists and editors of peer-reviewed journals...published in the field...”)
9. Treasurer’s report (Peter K): Only few members paid a fee (CH, AU) and some paid in-kind (Austria, Argentina, Ireland). Some participants point out they need an invoice. Treasurer asked to send an invoice to every member. Members can ask for postponement in case they have a financial problem in a given year.
- Proposal:** 3-tier membership fee for (a) organizations from developing countries, (b) for smaller organizations from developed world, (c) larger organizations from developed world, plus option for in-kind contributions
1000 EUR – 250 EUR – 50 EUR: agreed, additional donations always welcome
- a. Report on current cash resources and decision about the distribution of funds for next year: see annex: xls-sheet to be provided by Peter K: approx.:
 - b. EUR 2000 - to be spent per year for international (secretariat) work.

- c. Small amount of money for phone/video conference (estimated EUR 500 per year), get an offer for a new website (Peter K will ask the guy who did their web-page).
 - d. Peter K to check with the bank costs of exchange rates versus running costs of 3 different accounts.
10. Confirmation of president (done, Roberto thanks all and asks us to help him with the difficult tasks ahead) and election of president-elect: Mahmood elected, he thanks us for our trust and confidence
- a. Election of nominating committee for officers for 2015: Cathey, Hanns, Wolfgang. We will ask Lew.
 - b. Election of treasurer: Peter K,
 - c. regional vice-presidents: Europe: Philip, NA: Atanu will seek a person from CAPE, LA: Raul;
 - d. reg. VP on executive board: Philip
 - e. Confirmation of EC and DB decisions 2011-2013 (since last GA): ISDE to pay for dinner on Friday (yesterday) night (estimated approx. CHF 500.-)
11. Next meeting: 4 suggestions on the table: Oct 2014 Brussels (Paris Appeal), Koblenz 2014, Arezzo 2014 International Environmental Health conference (date to be decided with WHO). Where ever the site of the meeting, we must try to also have available video conference technology so everyone does not have to travel or miss the meeting-we must be mindful of the money we spend and the carbon footprint we make. Because we still do not know the dates the decision is postponed for e-mail discussion. Proposals for GA in 2015: INCHEs meeting scheduled in Italy, or INCHEs together with PP-TOX (Philippe Grandjean) a meeting in 2014/15 (finally tbd in Jerusalem in November) Maybe Cleanmed Europe (tbd in September in Oxford).
11. THE FUTURE OF ISDE
- a. What are ISDE's goals for the future/the next 5 years: there was a general discussion on that issue on Friday afternoon
 - b. How do we integrate country activities and international activities: Peter vdH proposes a statement against chemical warfare / use of poison gas. Peter and Colin will draft a proposal.

- c. Cooperation with other organizations with related goals. Hanns reports about a request from Peter Ohnsorge regarding closer co-operation. Hanns proposes co-operation in the field of publication (ISDE Bulletin), supporting the Würzburg Conference, co-operating in WHO conferences, eventually joint EU projects. Cathey: we need to get feed-back from curative medicine but ourselves must remain focused on preventive medicine (public health). Ernesto: ARTAC should form a working group on “new environmental diseases”. Dominique: ARTAC already organizes conferences on this topic. Setting up a European diploma on environmental medicine together with doctors from Belgium and Germany. Wolfgang presents the (old) German training system on environmental medicine. Philip: ISDE set-up to cure the environment, not the patients. Wolfgang agrees. Decision: co-operation while keeping a clear distinction between their curative and our preventive approach.
- d. How will the work plan be achieved-some specific assignments made for responsible organizer (in text of action proposal)
- e. How to increase membership/active membership: seek active organizations via the web. (Peter vdH: e.g. some doctors or even active groups in Norway, Poland, Russia, etc...). Cathey volunteers to do such a search and to prepare a general invitation letter.
- f. How will we communicate, hold meetings, etc. mindful of the environment to carry on the work plan
- g. How do we appraise everyone of country and international activities given different languages of everyday use