

International Society of Doctors for the Environment - ISDE ASSEMBLY minutes

Saturday 21st, 15,00 – 19,00
Sunday 22nd, 9,00 – 19,00
November 2015

Saturday 21st afternoon

Welcome, participants (see annex 1), Introduction of all present

Counting of voting participants (see [annex 1](#): 18 out of 36 votes are represented, no proxy votes)

Election of secretary for the meeting: **Peter vdH unanimously elected**

Nomination of note taker: **Hanns M unanimously elected**

Approval of agenda: **agenda approved**

Presentation of new future member SEHC: Dr. Grubor could not participate personally and Skype contact failed due to technical problems. Her short presentation (see annex 2) of SEHC was read and the decision of the DB (2014) to accept **SEHC from Serbia as new ISDE member was confirmed**. The AGM expressed its wish to warmly welcome the partners from Serbia to our global network and its hope for good and fruitful cooperation.

Short report of president: Roberto Romizi gave a short talk thanking the members of the board and the executive committee for assisting him throughout the 2 years. Detailed reports by president, international secretary, scientific office, vice president for North America, and member organizations: see [annex 2](#)!

Short report of international secretary

Short report of Scientific Office President: see also detailed discussion on Sunday afternoon about (among others) the future of the SO!

Report of the regional activities

Report of major activities of each country

Report of treasurer: Treasurer apologizes for not being very active because of personal work-load. He promises to send invoices for 2015 and 2014 to larger member organizations before the end of this year. He explains that it does not make sense to send invoices to small organizations that only have to pay EUR 20.-: The payment would be less than eventual costs of bank transfer. For smaller members other modes of payment must be found; e.g. in-kind contributions or payment in cash during meetings. In 2015 only EUR 5000,- were spent (3000,- for travel, 2000,- for the Arezzo conference). (approximate figures, assuming EUR = CHF = USD).

Decision on budget 2016: A budget of approximately the same magnitude as for 2015 was approved (see [annex 3](#) for details!)

Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2013 (Basel): The minutes were approved.

Sunday 22nd morning

Confirmation of president: **Mahmood Khwaja unanimously confirmed**. He thanks all for the trust

Elections of president elect: **Matilda Van Den Bosh unanimously elected**. She thanks for the trust and accepts the election.

Election of nominating committee for officers for 2017: **RR** (as immediate past president), **CF, FD**

Election of treasurer: PK

Election of regional vice-presidents: **CF for NA, LC for LA, PM for E**

Election of reg. VP on executive committee: **LC**

Confirmation of the President of the Scientific Office: **RR**

Confirmation of the President of the International Scientific Committee: **EB**

Sunday 22nd afternoon

THE FUTURE OF ISDE

The discussion of ISDE future has been chaired by PvdH. He also prepared a table to organize the discussion. This table also serves as documentation (minutes) of the discussion ([annex 4](#)).

DB meeting

In the course of the AGM the directing board also held its board meeting.

The **minutes** of the 2014 DB meeting (Arezzo) were **approved**.

The **e-mail decisions** of the board (list: annex 5) since the last DB meeting were **approved**.

Annex 1: list of participants

Present (number of votes and organisation presented in brackets)

Borgo Stefania		
Burgio Ernesto		
Corra Lilian	(Argentina	1)
Cullen Elizabeth	(Ireland	1)
Duff Feargal		
Duff Juliet		
Falvo Cathey	(USA	3)
Kalin Peter	(Switzerland	3)
MoshammerHanns	(Austria	2)
Ohnsorge Peter		
Pasciuto Antonio Maria		
Petersen Erik	(Germany	2)
Romizi Roberto	(Italy	3)
Sibilia Lucio		
Van Den Bosh Matilda	(Sweden	1)
Van Den Hazel Peter	(Netherlands	1)

Excused, present by Skype

<u>Khwaja Mahmood</u>	<u>(Pakistan</u>	<u>1)</u>
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SUM (out of 36:) 18

Excused, not present by Skype

Belpomme Dominique
Grubor Milena
Irigaray Philippe

Annex 2: Various reports:

Argentina, Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Pakistan, Serbia, Sweden, USA
International Secretary, Scientific Office

ISDE with UN bodies and other international groups

2015

Compiled; Cathey Falvo

1. Scott Carlin, PhD – short discussion about ISDE on two separate UN radio programs – January
2. Cooperate with women’s major group on actions related to the development of the Sustainable Development goals
3. We applied for official consultative status with UNEP which has not yet happened despite our continued work with them and the acceptance by SAICM of our EPPP proposal
4. Dr. van den Bosch is representing ISDE on the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of NCDs
5. Drs. Elizabeth Bowen, Scott Carlin and myself participated in various parts of the Commission on the Status of Women 59th annual conference at UNHQ, March
6. Disseminated to countries and other appropriate groups/institutions publications of WHO
7. In February WHO renewed our official working relationship
8. WHO accepted our invitation to participate in the 5th International Conference, UPDATE ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, 28th February 2015, Auditorium Pieraccini, San Donato Hospital of Arezzo
9. Signed on to letter **Request for formal mechanisms for the participation of Major Groups and other Stakeholders in the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG indicators**, April and attended several meetings. Maria Arias made a statement from the floor on our behalf
10. Eduardo Missoni has been representing us in Geneva and did attend one day of the WHA plus other activities
11. Presentation on integrating environment and health into discussions of arms trade and use, June 2 at the program of action on small arms and light weapons annual meeting (under participation with IPPNW)
12. Maria Arias represented us at the High-Level segment of political action for sustainable development of ECOSOC, June
13. Panel on promoting ratification of the Minimata Treaty-September 24
14. SAICM accepts Environmental Persistent Pollution of Pharmaceuticals as an issue of international concern and focus, October
15. We will have 3 people each week representing ISDE at the COP21 in Paris: Juliet and Feargal Duff, Matilda van den Bosh week one and Pouné Saberi (PSR), Philippe Iragary and Dominique Belpomme the second week. Peter van den Hazel is going with another group.

Other international cooperation

1. Asbestos issues led by Kathleen Ruff in Canada
2. Peace & Planet Mobilization for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just, & Sustainable World., April
3. European Project Energy4Health
4. Fifth Paris Appeal, Brussels, May
5. Manifesto on Circular Economy, August
6. International declaration on electrohypersensitivity (EHS) and multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), September

Quadrennial Report on **ECOSOC** cooperation for year 2010 - 2013

<http://esango.un.org/civilsociety/submitQuadReport.do?quadReportCode=12102&method=print&ecosocCode=2139&startYear=2010&endYear=2013&profileCo...> 1/2

International Society of Doctors for the Environment; User Copy - Version: Updated; Report Review; Status: Special, 2002; 5/6/2014 Print Preview

Introduction:

The International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) is an independent non-governmental non-profit organization of medical doctors and others in related fields. It was created on 25 November 1990 and has now national and regional member organizations in over 35 countries. The Executive Office of ISDE, located in Switzerland, coordinates research, information and training activities.

Aims and purposes of the organization:

We are family doctors, researchers, clinicians, as well as specialists of all branches of healthcare who are only too aware of the ecological problems impinging on our health and safety. We are professionals, who in the face of growing pollution and environmental decay, are concerned about the rise in incidence of pathological conditions related to environmental degradation, and are resolved to offer to our communities answers in terms of medical care, advocacy and promotion of effective preventive actions. This goal is the foundation of ISDE. To safeguard the health of our own generation and of future ones, we must care for the environment. ISDE was established as a tool for educating and updating physicians and the general public, and stimulating awareness and initiatives by public and private bodies, in particular governmental agencies. The Association reaches out to all, as fellow citizens of the world. ISDE has over 30.000 members and is continually growing. In countries from all five continents, there are doctors who share and promote its purposes and goals. It fosters contacts and co-operative efforts with international, regional and local organizations and many NGOs to support projects of international relevance, and to link-up national groups working on local projects. ISDE advocates that health policies give priority to prevention rather than the cure of diseases, and information campaigns and other psycho-social programs aimed at reducing unhealthy and harmful lifestyles.

Significant changes in the organization: None

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations:

All our country programs work to promote understanding of the serious health consequences and preventable causes of climate change and the serious health effects of environmental pollutants the numbers of which are increasing rapidly. These serious detrimental health effects especially impact women and children (MDG 4 and 5) as well as potentially increasing poverty (MDG 1) because ill people can not work efficiently or effectively. Members participated in the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)(now part of the Strategic Alliance for International Chemical management(SAICM)) working groups on nano-particles, lead, mercury and cadmium. We submitted a proposal to add environmentally persistent pharmaceuticals to the agenda which was referred to the next meeting in 2015.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations:

ISDE participated in the 22 February-4 March 2011, the 27 February-9 March, 2012 and 4-15 March, 2013 Commission on the Status of Women-United Nations Headquarters, New York; 2-13 May 2011, Commission on Sustainable Development-United Nations Headquarters, New York; 23 April-4 May 2012, the 29 May-2 June 2012 informal consultations on the Rio+20 outcome document, United Nations Headquarters, New York; was a member of the health subcommittee of the NGO Stakeholder group and finally the 20-22 June 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Federal Republic of Brazil; the 16-27 May 2011 and 20-31 May 2013 Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues meeting, United Nations Headquarters, New York; the 20, 22 September and 22 November 2013 Major Groups and Stakeholders Briefings on the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies:

On 30 August-1 September 2010 we participated in the 63 Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference, Melbourne, Australia and co-chaired the Expert Committee including responsibility for writing the meeting outcome document; we were a subcommittee member for the 64 Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference, Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany. ISDE has had representatives at the semiannual meetings of the WHO governing body and the annual meetings of the North American, Latin American and European UNEP for civil society input.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals:

ISDE work, while not specific to addressing any MDG, is related to achieving all of them.

Additional Information:

We cooperated/consulted with the civil society Arms Control Secretariat to bring environmental health concerns to the talks leading to the Arms Trade Treaty of 3 June 2013 and the ongoing Plan of Action for Small Arms and Light Weapons.

WHO

2014 - Preparation and submission of the Report the main activities performed in collaboration with WHO the activities under the Plan of Work presented for 2011- 2014

2014 - Preparation and submission of the Plan of Action 2015 -2018 of collaboration with WHO

Main areas identified include:

- Climate change
- Children Environmental Health
- Educational tools on Health and Environment (CEH Modules and others)
- Medical radiation exposure
- Non Communicable Diseases
- Chemical Safety (issues under the SAICM Plan of Action)

2012-2015 -Work done to include NGOs with Consultative Status with WHO (in Special Relations) in the Group of Collaborating Centers on Children Environmental Health

UNEP Chemicals - SAICM

SAICM Bureau

Participation as SAICM Bureau member representing Health NGOs sector ICCM2-ICCM3)

Participation as SAICM Bureau member alternate representing Health ONGs sector 2012- 2015

Participating as SAICM Bureau member alternate representing Health NGOs sector 2015 - 2020

SAICM New and emerging issues

Invitation to the governments of Peru and Uruguay to accompany our proposal on EPPP as a new and emerging policy issue to be incorporated to the SAICM process.

In collaboration with the governments of Uruguay and Peru:

Review of the proposal according to the recommendations emerged from the SAICM OEWG1 (2011)

Presentation of the new proposal to the SAICM

Collaboration with the government of Germany in the organization of the Conference on EPPP, Geneva 2014.

Participation of a SAICM pre-OEWG2 Conference on EPPP (Geneva - 2014) organized by the government of Germany.

SAICM OEWG 2 (October 2014)

Organization of a Preconference technical briefing on EPPP

Presentation of the proposal to the SAICM OEWG 2 (October 2014)

The proposal was approved from the plenary of the OEWG2 and open to comments.

Incorporation of the comments and new review of the document in collaboration with the governments of Peru and Uruguay.

SAICM ICCM4 (September 2015)

Collaboration with the government of Germany in the review of the proposal on EPPP to be presented to SAICM ICCM2.

The proposal was opened for comments. Revision and inclusion of the recommendations presented by the different parts members of SAICM to the proposal on Environmental Pharmaceutical Pollutants - EPPP.

Discussion with the governments of Peru and Uruguay of the best policies and strategies for lobby.

Collaboration with the government of Germany on the organization of the Work Group on EPPP (Geneva - July 2015)

Participation on the Working Group meeting on EPPP (Geneva - July 2015) with the participation of representatives of the government of Germany (8, UBA), de Uruguay, UNEP, WHO, UNDP, EU and others.

Presentation of the proposal on EPPP in collaboration with the governments of Peru and Uruguay.

Discussion in the Contact Group ad hoc and approval of the proposal with the changes and incorporation of the comments proposed. (USA, EU,

Presentation of the proposal on EPPP in the plenary and approval by consensus.

Currently ISDE is following up this issue with the focal point designated by UNEP chemicals for new strategies and policies in the near future.

Other main issues and activities during ICCM4 were:

- Support of HHP issues
- Nano particles
- Lead in Paint
- Chemicals in products
- Endocrine disruptors

SAICM Regional (GRULAC)

ISDE/AAMMA is representing the Health Sector in the SAICM Regional Committee (GRULAC). In the character participated of three preparatory regional meetings for SAOCM OEWG and SAICM ICCM4.

The work done on EPPP and the support from the Latin American and Caribbean region were important to get the approval of the EPPP as a SAICM new and emerging issue.

Mercury Negotiation process

ISDE International Secretary had participated of all the Intergovernmental Negotiation Conference INC (1 to 4), the Regional Inter-sessional Meetings (GRULAC 4/5), the Diplomatic Conference in Minamata (INC5) and the INC6 (Conference for the Implementation). (Next INC7 will take place next March 2016).

ISDE played a very important role proposing at INC1 the incorporation of the health issues in the letter of the Convention in a more relevant and specific way (was only mentioned in the first paragraph).

ISDE lobbied with the GRULAC and worked together to develop and include a full paragraph on health that includes also a mention to workers health. GRULAC and ISDE leaded the proposal all along the negotiation process.

Currently ISDE is following up this issue with the focal point designated by UNEP chemicals for new strategies and policies in the near future.

Other activities

Collaboration with the organization of the Conference in Peru (October 2014)

Two Pre-Conference meetings in Italy (October- November - 2014)

ISDE 25th Anniversary Conference

ISDE ACTIVITIES 2013 (International)

1. Statement condemning asbestos industry efforts to defeat a proposed ban on asbestos in Pakistan from scientific community - circulated statement widely for signatures - January/February (cf. email Kathleen Ruff)-posted on ISDE Face book
2. Further Statement condemning asbestos industry in Peru (cf. email Kathleen Ruff)
3. Open letter to the UN Secretary General drawing his attention to the Rio+20 Report on Future Generations. (Organized through ISDE Ireland and letter organized by World Future Council - 4-23-13)
4. Declaration of Safe Medical Devices (organized by HCWH-Europe) May 29 email Grazie Cioci

ISDE activities 2014

1. Accepted to membership on the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network (12//5/2013)

AAMMA have been centring the activities in three main points:

- Education and Information
- Building educational and decision-making tools and space of dialogue
- Regional cooperation and participation on health and environment political issues

Education and information:

- Creation of the Career for Medical Specialist on Health and Environment - 3er generation egressed. Dictated under the School of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires. Dictated since 2012.
- Post-degree on Health and Environment for professionals, dictated since 2002.
- Degree education Medical School Universidad Favaloro (private). Mater in 1st year, Seminar at 5th year. Since 2013.

International Conference on Health and Environment, Lima – Peru March 2015-11-20: ISDE/AAMMA presided the Conference and cooperated with the organization.

Workshop on Children Environmental Health. Lima - Peru, March 2015.

Collaborations with other organizations:

Blacksmith Institute/ Pure Earth on (collaboration since 2009 to nowadays)

- identification and impacts on health of polluted sites
- facilitation of activities in Uruguay, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Colombia and Argentina.

Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (launched 2013)

The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health (launched 2015)

Fundación Chile (governmental and private funds) (January 2015), Training workshop on Health and Environment for governmental agents working on polluted sites identification and evaluation.

Projects:

Mercury in Argentina

Project on mercury and mercury waste management: legal and technical framework for the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Argentina: www.mercurioenargentina.org

Under financial support of the Global Environment Facility – GEF, AAMMA Executive Agency, UNIDO Implementation Agency. 2013 – 2016, Based in three elements:

- Evaluation of the existing regulatory framework, analysis and recommendations to adapt it to for the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Argentina
- Evaluation of the existing technical scenario on the way mercury and mercury waste are managed, evaluation and proposal for BAT/BET technologies to facilitate the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Argentina.
- Information and dissemination of the Minamata Convention by preparing a clearing house and periodical bulletins.
- Organization of two National Consultative Meetings (October -2014 and April - 2016) with the representation of all provinces and sectors to inform on Minamata Convention framework and identify extension of the scenario of Hg and Hg containing waste, already available technologies, capacities, gaps and needs for the successful implementation of the Minamata convention in Argentina.
- Create a multi-sectorial space of dialogue with participation of the different governmental sectors (environment, health, energy, science and technology, work, industry), non-governmental actors (private waste management and disposal providers, industry and chemical chambers, biodiversity NGOs and others) as well as academia (Private University on engineering and technology: ITBA).

Chemical Safety

2013 – 2014 - SAICM GRULAC (Grupo Regional Latin America and the Caribbean) regional meetings

2012 – 2013 -2014- Mercury Negotiation and Minamata Convention GRULAC

ISDE Austria (AeGU, www.aegu.net) activity report 2014/15

Prepared for the ISDE GA in Arezzo, Nov 21st/22nd, 2015

AeGU has continued to work on several environmental health topics. We raise awareness and educate the public through our own media (a quarterly journal, mailing list, press releases, press conferences, and our web-site). We are perceived by the media, by policymakers, and by different stake-holders as a reliable and unbiased source of expertise in environmental health. By close cooperation with science and (environmental) administration we ensure an impact on policy and on the research agenda.

The main fields of interest in the last year(s) were:

- Air pollution and noise mostly in relation to motorized transport (road traffic) and airports
- Climate change
- Electromagnetic fields and modern communication technologies
- Ionizing radiation
- Physical activity both as a personal boost of better health and as a viable means of sustainable mobility
- Emissions and health consequences of the agricultural sector in Austria
- Persistent organic pollutants in the Austrian environment with a special focus on a hot spot in the south of Austria (Görtschitztal in Carinthia)
- Global health: epidemiological studies on exposure to pesticides of farm workers in the Dominican Republic and Ecuador

Our board members are mostly also active in scientific research and have initiated also some research projects in other parts of the world (see above). We have also tried to shape Austrian health policy and were successful in including Environmental Health in the curriculum of the medical specialty of “Clinical microbiology and hygiene”. We also contributed to the “environmental health” (additive diploma) curriculum for medical doctors organized by the board of medical doctors.

Local and global co-operations helped us to put our topics on the agendas even given our scarcity of resources. So we are partners of several Austrian networks on environmental protection, social responsibility, and climate change. We are well connected to European networks (HEAL, HCWH Europe) as well.

Membership within AeGU remains fairly stable with about 250 paying members and many more persons only loosely linked to our association. Nevertheless the administration of the association is done by volunteers only and without payment. This limits our capability to manage expensive projects or to apply for research funding at the international level. Nevertheless our association is well enough known and trusted in Austria so that for specific smaller projects (brochures etc.) we receive funding or we are even mandated by local agencies or governments to coordinate such projects.

Some aspects of the work done by **ISDE-France** and/or in the context of ISDE policy during 2015, prepared for the ISDE meeting, 21-22 November, 2015

1) **Fifth Paris Appeal congress** on hypersensitivities to electromagnetic fields and to multiple chemicals

The ECERI, in partnership with ISDE-International organized the fifth Paris Appeal congress on the 18th of May, 2015, at the Royal Belgium Academy of Medicine in Brussels.

This congress dedicated to hypersensitivities to electromagnetic fields and to multiple chemicals gathered around twenty European and North American leading experts, among them: Pr Lennart Hardell (Sweden), Pr David Carpenter (USA), Dr Magda Havas (Canada), Dr William Rea (USA), Dr Igor Belyaev (Slovakia), Pr Michael Kundi (Austria), Drs Joachim Mutter and Peter Jennrich (Germany), Dr Ernesto Burgio (Italy), Dr Philippe Irigaray and Pr Dominique Belpomme (France).

About 180 medical doctors, scientists, jurists, European parliament members and other elected representatives, journalists and NGOs representatives coming from many countries worldwide attended this 18th May congress, probably one of the most important scientific event organized on this two pathological disorders.

- International Scientific Declaration

Following this congress, the attending European, American and Canadian scientists unanimously decided to write a Common International Declaration to request an official recognition of these new human pathological disorders and of their sanitary consequences worldwide.

The declaration calls upon national and international bodies and institutions and particularly the WHO, for taking urgently their responsibility for recognizing electrohypersensitivity (EHS) and multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) as real diseases, including them in the International Classification of Diseases. This International Declaration also asks national and international institutions to adopt precautionary measures of prevention, to inform populations and requires the appointment of real independent expert groups to evaluate these sanitary risks in total scientific objectivity.

The declaration was addressed to the WHO, the UN, the UNEP, the European Commission (EC) and the US-NIH. An answer from the WHO is still expected, whereas the US-NIH and the EC have given already an official answer taking into consideration the scientific value of this appeal in that field.

- International working group

Following this congress, an international working group on Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance (IEI) was created in the form of a worldwide scientific task force in order to make EHS and MCS acknowledge by international bodies and institutions.

The aims of this working group are:

To propose the inclusion of EHS and MCS as recognize pathological disorders within the framework of the WHO already proposed IEI syndrome in the WHO International Classification of Diseases,

To conduct collaborative research in order to get a better understanding of the pathophysiological mechanisms of Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance,

To develop and evaluate protocols for the treatment of patients and protection measures

Members (under confirmation): Igor Belyaev (Slovakia); Dominique Belpomme (France); Alison Bested (Canada); David Carpenter (US); Magda Havas (Canada); Philippe Irigaray (France); Lennart Hardell (Sweden); Kathleen Kerr (Canada); Henry Lai (US); Pierre Leruz (France); William Rea (US); André Vander Vorst (Belgium).

-Scientific Publications

Following the congress, 10 articles related to the scientific presentations of the congress are under publication in the US peer reviewed journal Reviews on Environmental Health. This publication included the paper from Dominique Belpomme and Irigaray Philippe entitle: Reliable disease biomarkers characterizing and identifying electrohypersensitivity and Multiple Chemical Sensitivity as two etiopathogenic aspects of a unique pathological disorder.

-Institutional meetings

Following the congress, a working meeting was held with DG SANCO representatives and SCENIHR members, on 18th September, 2015 in Luxembourg.

David Carpenter (US) and Igor Belyaev (Slovakia) contributed to this meeting. The congress team focused on the main problem which is to find real scientific experts in the field of biology and medicine specialized in EHS and / or MCS: there are currently no qualified medical experts in SCENIHR, a fact which questions the quality of persons who select and judge scientific papers in

peer-reviewed journals at the SCENIHR. Besides, despite the efforts to progress on transparency (relating to conflicts of interests), the ECE recognizes the difficulty in finding independent experts.

The working group and the scientific committee of the congress have already met several WHO European representative and are planning to meet further WHO representatives in charge with electromagnetic fields. In France a specific meeting on this topic is planned to be held in February 2016 at the French parliamentary assembly with French deputy Laurence Abeille and the European parliament member Michelle Rivasi.

2) **Europe-US collaboration**

The ECERI Administrative Board, that was held on the 19th of May, 2015, officially formalized its partnership with the United States and Canada, in particular with the Institute for Health & Environment at Albany University (US), represented by its director, Pr David Carpenter, and with the Trent University (Canada), represented by Dr Magda Havas, who decided entering the ECERI administrative board and scientific committee which already comprising Drs Burgio and Ohnsorge.

3) **Fourth Paris Appeal Congress** and Crime against humanity

Following the 4th Paris Appeal Congress organized on the 14th of November, 2014, in Paris, the participants created an international working group including lawyers and scientists in order to study the way of recognizing damage to environment and to human health at a penal level. This group consists in a joint venture between the Supranational Environmental Justice Foundation (SEJF, Italy, represented by Judge Antonino Abrami) and the Association for Research on Treatment against Cancer (ARTAC, France) for setting up and carrying out the 3 main objectives:

Creation of an international compensation fund for pollution victims

Organization of a new international conference on health and justice in Geneva, following the Stockholm's conference

Studying the way of having irreversible environment-associated health damage recognized at a penal level.

This group gathered 3 times in France and Italy and wrote a draft amendment that will be submitted to the vote of government representatives of the general assembly of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2017. Pr Dominique Belpomme met personally Judge Cuno Tarfusser, Vice-President of the ICC, in the Hague, in order to consider the possible means of amendment and acknowledgment by the ICC.

4) **Research on Pesticides**

Following the 2014 ECERI toxicological report on pesticides in Martinique and Guadeloupe, aerial spraying of pesticides was finally forbidden by the French Government in these islands.

5) **Cancer**

On the 9th of October, 2015, the ECERI was asked by Mrs Marilyns Corbex, in charge of cancer at the Regional Office WHO-Europe to give its scientific expertise on cancer taking care in poor European countries. As a way of collaboration between ECERI and WHO, she invited ECERI to apply to become a collaborative expert of WHO on cancer, as regards cancer screening, control, prevention and treatment.

An article was published early this year in Science, entitled Cancer etiology. Variation in cancer risk among tissues can be explained by the number of stem cell divisions, in which the authors stated that many cancers are stochastic. The ARTAC scientific team wrote an answer to this article entitled: Are cancers actually caused by replicative random mutations? currently under publication in the scientific journal Molecular and Clinical Oncology and Science accepted to publish a summary of this paper on its website.

6) **Environmental Medicine Course**

Following the fifth Paris Appeal Congress in Brussels, an international environmental medicine course was held on the 19th of May, 2015 entitled Clinical environmental medicine: new science and praxis in complex multisystem illnesses. Some 130 medical doctors who wanted to specialize in environmental pathology attended this meeting, organized in collaboration with EUROPAEM and particularly with Dr Peter Ohnsorge. Dr Ernesto Burgio's presentation on epigenetics was highly appreciated by the participants.

7) **Next Congress** on Epigenetics and common Environment-related diseases

The ECERI is organizing, in the framework of a Europe-US joint venture, possibly involving the US-NIH, a Europe-US international Congress on Epigenetics and common environment-related diseases that will take place in 2017 in Brussels at the Royal Belgian Academy of Medicine. Pr David Carpenter will be the key contact in the US for the organization of this event.

Ökologischer Ärztbund - Ecological Physicians Society - German Affiliate of ISDE

Report on activity 2014-2015

Journal umwelt medizin gesellschaft (environment medicine society, umg), in cooperation with other four societies working in the field of environmental health and clinical environmental medicine, quarterly, ca. 2,000 copies, for main topics see below (in German, abstracts in English).

2014 (Vol. 27): Main topics Cardiovascular Diseases, Indoor Air, New Media – New Risks, Polyetheretherketone (PEEK) – A new material

2015 (Vol. 28): Main topics: Oncology and Clinical Environmental Medicine: Diagnosis and Risk Factors, Oncology and Clinical Environmental Medicine: Therapeutic Strategies, Orthodontics, Environmental Medicine: Yesterday – Today – Tomorrow

Action/ main topics

Since 2001: “Children’s Health and Environment”

Since 2002: “Nutrition and Health”, for example: “Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)”, “pesticides”, “antibiotics” etc.; in cooperation with many other NGOs, for example: Friends of the Earth Germany, PAN Germany.

Since 2010: “Biocides”. After the ending of the project “Alternatives to biocides – improvement of the information for the public”, UFOPLAN 37 10 67 407, Ecological Physicians Society in cooperation with Pesticide Action-Network – PAN-Germany, sponsor: Federal Environmental Agency/ Ministry of Environment, on 10/31/2011, we continue with actions on the topic “biocides”, for example: “alternatives to biocides”, “nano silver”, “nano medicine” etc. in cooperation with other NGOs.

Since 2012: European Citizens’ Initiative “30kmh – making streets liveable!”, <http://en.30kmh.eu/>.

Since 2014: “Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership – TTIP”, especially possible consequences on E & H, in cooperation with other NGOs. Conferences Once a year we have almost one conference in cooperation with other NGOs working in the field of Environmental Health and Clinical Environmental Medicine, participants ca. 150-350.

10/10-12/2014 Würzburg/Germany: „Oncology and Clinical Environmental Medicine, - From Science to Practice -, International Congress, European Academy for Environmental Medicine (EUROPAEM), and partners.

11/13-14/2015 Berlin/Germany: „Chronic Inflammatory Diseases. The intestine as a central organ of Inflammation”, 14 th Annual Environmental Health Congress, German Professional Association of Environmental Medicine, and partners. Presentations and Posters (all in German, except ICEH 2014) – examples:

02/19/2014 Düsseldorf/Germany: Masterplan Environment and Health North Rhine-Westphalia, Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection of North Rhine-Westphalia, PETERSEN E.: “About children’s environmental health”, short oral contribution.

09/24-26/2014 Porto/Portugal: 3 rd International Congress on Environmental Health (ICEH 2014), IPP Instituto Politecnico do Porto, PETERSEN E.: “Effects of Nanosilver in Medical and Consumer Products – A critical Review on Impacts to Health and Environment”, oral presentation.

09/23-26/2015 Berlin/Germany: 10 th German Breastfeeding and Lactation Congress, PETERSEN E.: “New children’s diseases and possible relationships with environmental pollution”, oral presentation.

Publications in our journal “environment medicine society” (in German) – examples:

- GERMANN P (2014): Pathogenic aerosols with parasites, bacteria and viruses, umg 27(1): 68-69.
- GERMANN P. (2014): Indoor pollution, umg 27(2): 148-149.
- BAUR W, GERMANN P. (2014): Children’s Health, umg 27(4): 314-315.
- PETERSEN E. (2015): The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC): Cancer is largely an environmental disease and preventable, umg 28(1): 7-9.
- PETERSEN E. (2015): Controversy over glyphosate, umg 28(2): 151-152.
- BAUR W. (2015): Gastrointestinal problems - only inflammation? umg 28(3): 203-205.
- STÜCK W. (2015): Environment - Medicine - Society 2015: A real-satirical year in review, umg 28(4): 325-326.

Publications in other journals (in German):

- PETERSEN E (2015): New children’s diseases and possible relationships with environmental pollution, frühe kindheit (early childhood) 1/2014: 12-19.

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Ireland: IDEA Activities in 2014

We continue to be active in a broad range of areas, usually in association with national groups such as the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), Irish Electromagnetic Victim's Network (IERVN) or international organisations such as Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE), International Committee of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (ICRC), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and AVAAZ. The latter, according to the Guardian newspaper is the "globe's largest and most powerful online activist network" claiming to have 39 million members in 194 countries. The Irish Environmental Network (IEN) consists of over 30 national environmental NGOs who form the basis of the Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership with direct access and input to government departments and organisations. We have thus contributed to the various submissions by the Pillar on draft legislative proposals.

Our strategy for addressing the wide range of critical health issues, that are reaching a planetary threshold, is the Ecosystem Approach. This approach is loosely based on biomimicry or learning how to better manage complex living systems from Nature. This holistic approach strives to keep the whole (complex system) healthy while addressing the needs of its parts, for all of them are interdependent. As our *modus operandi* this can be used to deal with any issue: climate change, energy, pollution, sustainable food production & water management, economy... to find truly sustainable solutions that are the best for everyone and planet over the long term. Two of our members attended a workshop on the Ecosystem Approach in Wales in Feb. 2014, to consolidate our knowledge and interact with other organizations in UK/Ireland, using the Ecosystem Approach.

At our 2014 AGM, Dr. Graham Roberts joined our committee as our new chairperson and Ivana Lutchman became our first official student (RCSI) representative. Graham brought with him a knowledge and passion to address Ireland's energy needs without unacceptable health risks. His main focus has been on the health impacts of the large-scale wind energy project that has been proposed for much of Ireland. This has become one of IDEA's new issues, this year. He has brought other members on board through this work.

The other usual issues we address include climate change, fluoridation of drinking water, electromagnetic radiation, hydraulic fracturing (fracking), nuclear weapons ban, genetic modification of food, sustainable 'clean' energy, asbestos, and environmental chemicals (including endocrine disruptors).

We continue to believe that the most urgent health threat/symptom to humanity is climate change. This year has been so far, deemed to be the hottest on record, being even hotter than last year's record-breaking heat. We have members registered to participate in the COP 21 UN Climate Change meetings in Paris this winter (2015), under ISDE's delegation.

We have remained actively engaged with IEN/Pillar to progress our work.

In association with IEN we are still in the process of formulating an Action Plan on Environment and Health utilising an Ecosystem approach.

Through IEN/Pillar & other stakeholders:

EPA: Attendance at meetings organized through the IEN to present Ecosystems Approach to EPA.

Working Groups (WG)

Law Pillar Working Group, on-going work for addressing judges conference, Rio+20 follow up Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), participated in EU Life Project on SDG's, input into Environmental Law Implementation Group (ELIG)

Climate/Energy WG lobbying dept. Energy re. energy infrastructure projects in Ireland, need of SEA etc., arranged meeting with Dept of Energy for IDEA

Nature Directives WG: working with Andrew Jackson on EU Nature legislation/nature directives.

Low carbon agriculture Review of government draft consultation paper on low carbon agriculture.

Presented Dept. of Agriculture on need to empower farmers to manage farms sustainably by *interalia* empowering them to measure emissions inside the farm gate

Attending French Embassy and other preparatory meetings to network and organize for our participation at the COP 21 (Climate Talks) in Paris, 2015.

IDEA'S Programme 2015/16:

IDEA bases its work on the Ecosystems Approach in defining challenges and finding solutions. This whole systems approach facilitates finding the most effective solutions for the people affected (their health & well-being), the economy and ecology, without reverting to habitual patterns that have caused the problems we are now facing.

Unsustainable Development is probably the source of the greatest and most diversified threat to human health and possibly our survival as a species. It is the cause of dramatic and rapid climate change, destructive pollution and impacts on ecosystems and societies, loss of biodiversity, the major and increasing threat to fresh water availability, the 3 global F "crises" in **f**uel, **f**ood and **f**inance with subsequent problems globally of increasing conflict, violence and insecurity and displacement of populations (refugees). As it is now apparent that the Earth's capacity to maintain its dynamic state of equilibrium/balance is at a 'tipping point', many of our man-made constructs and infrastructures are starting to crumble.

It is, in fact, becoming increasingly apparent that the most essential changes needed are at the individual level as this is the most basic unit. Each of us matters and each of us has a part to play. For how we each perceive ourselves, our lives and our purpose here, drives the way we speak and behave, how we shop, eat, consume, waste, interpret experiences, communicate, teach our children, vote, create & produce and generally live. This creates our world or the reality in which we experience life. Our health is often a reflection of this.

We welcome the Pope's Encyclical on the Environment as a very important step forward.

Priority Projects for 2015:

Promoting the **Ecosystems Approach** as the only effective and sustainable strategy for problem solving.

Climate change - co-operating with all civil society organisations to encourage decision makers to make effective and binding agreements at the Paris summit (COP 21) in Dec 2015.

Energy: Ireland's need for developing a strategic energy policy, we advocate:

- 1 Logically assessing the ability of interventions to address carbon change and CO2 emissions
- 2 Ensuring compliance with all Irish state, European and international public health documents
- 3 Ensuring compliance with Irish state, European and international policies for the environment

Other Projects

Chemicals, Electro-Magnetic Radiation(EMR), GM food crops, Water quality (fluoride), health threats of nuclear industry (weapons and electricity generation).

2015 AGM & Public Meeting

DATE **Sat 29 Aug 2015**

Venue Teacher's Club, Parnell Sq W, Dublin 1

Time AGM 1100hrs Public Meeting 1400hrs

Topics: Climate Change and the Ecosystems Approach

Renewable Energy & Health

Electromagnetic Radiation (Enda Dalton/Eithne Naylor Memorial Lecture)

Speakers to be confirmed. Please check our website www.ideaireland.org

Philip Michael Hon Ass Sec

Bandon

Co Cork

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ACTIVITY REPORT 2014 - 2015 - ISDE ITALY

The organisation (data at 20 November 2015).

President and contact person: Roberto Romizi isde@ats.it

Website address: www.isde.it

The number of members for 2015: 682

N° of officially established ISDE Italy local branches: 57

N° of Executive Board Members: 9

N° of Directing Board members: 79 (Presidents of officially established ISDE Italy local branches, representatives of establishing branches and regional coordinators)

N° of Experts Members: 16

N° of Scientific Committee Members: 16

Currently active workgroups: "Waste", "Nuclear Power", "Environment, Health and Justice", "Genetically Modified Organism", "Pesticides", "Vaccinations", "HIA", "Drilling".

Main character

As we believe that only an interinstitutional and intersectorial work can guarantee the realization of a wide range of health promoting initiatives, projects and policies, ISDE Italy aims to implement an "Integrated Model for Health, the Environment and Sustainability".

Our association works as an interface between the scientific community, institutions and citizens' organizations.



Cooperation with different national and local GOs and NGOs, actively participating in different workgroups by GOs and NGOs and in many conferences in the national territory.

National activities: many public initiatives at local level and at national level

[It's available in vision the list about regional and national activities (in Italian)].

International work:

Relationship with WHO (mainly on Healthy Cities Project).

Our leading slogan is "Think and act globally and locally".

Written papers: on all the focus areas mentioned above.

Media (articles, TV, radio, websites):

- ISDE Italia e-newsletter is mailed to about 20000 Italian email addresses once a week on many and different initiatives/news generally related to environment and health especially at national level but also at international level. We reached 590 publications (at 20th November 2015). Sometimes one issue is published in English and mailed to a wider international mailing list.

- We officially and continuously collaborate with 15 national scientific and popular magazines.

- We constantly collaborate with 25 journalists but our media mailing list reach over 200 contacts.

Arezzo, Italy, 20th November 2015, Roberto Romizi, President

Activities

Focus areas

Main issues	General Public: Awareness Raising	Specialists: Education	Policy-makers: Campaigns	Research
Biodiversity and health			X	
Chemicals/heavy metals and health	XX	X	XX	X
Incineration	XXX	XXX	XXX	X
Pharmaceuticals, environment and health	X	X	X	
Green health care	XX	XX	XX	X
Children's health and environment	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX
Climate changes and health	XXX	XXX	XXX	X
Electromagnetic radiation and health	XX	XX	XX	X
Food and health	X	X	X	
Energy and health	XXX	XX	XXX	
Nuclear power	XXX	XX	XXX	
Transports/Mobility	XX	XX	XX	
Traffic accidents	XX	XX	XX	
Air pollution	XX	XX	XX	X
Water pollution	X	X	X	X
Housing	X	X	X	

Anno 2014

- **Audizione presso la Commissione XIII (Agricoltura) della Camera dei Deputati** ai fini di un'indagine conoscitiva sulla valorizzazione delle produzioni agroalimentari nazionali con riferimento all'Esposizione universale di Milano 2015 (Roma, 5 Marzo 2014)
- Organizzazione del convegno "**Comunicazione: salute e ambiente**" con il patrocinio di Regione Veneto, Università di Verona, Royal Society of Medicine (Londra), WHO Reference Centre for Education and Communication in Drug monitoring (Verona), Ordine dei Medici di Verona (Verona, 21-22 Marzo 2014)
- Partecipazione attiva al Corso di Formazione "**Attivatori civici per la salute e l'ambiente**" promosso dal Centro Servizi Volontariato della Regione Marche con intervento su "Relazioni tra ambiente e salute" (San Severino Marche - MC, 12 Aprile 2014).
- Organizzazione del convegno "**Inquinamento ed Epigenetica: impatto su tumori ed altre patologie dell'infanzia**" in collaborazione con l'Ordine dei Medici ed Odontoiatri di Forlì-Cesena (Forlì, 3 Maggio 2014)
- Workshop "**Salute, urbanistica e mobilità. Dai principi condivisi alle azioni**" promosso in collaborazione con Agenzia Nazionale per le Nuove Tecnologie, l'Energia e lo Sviluppo Economico Sostenibile - ENEA, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare, Ministero della Salute, Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti, Federazione Nazionale degli Ordini dei Medici Chirurghi e degli Odontoiatri - FNOMCeO (Federazione Nazionale Ordini dei Medici Chirurghi e Odontoiatri - FNOMCeO, Roma - 16 Maggio 2014)
- **2° Focus ISDE delle regioni del Centro-Sud Italia** e Convegno "**L'ambiente ferito nelle terre dell'illegalità. Inquinamento delle catene alimentari, interferenza sul genoma umano**" organizzato con l'Ordine dei Medici Chirurghi e degli Odontoiatri di Campobasso (Termoli - CB, 30-31 Maggio 2014)
- Partecipazione con una relazione al Convegno "**Ambiente e Salute**" organizzato dal Laboratorio Regionale per la Formazione Sanitaria - FORMAS della Regione Toscana (Firenze, Villa la Quiete, 10 Giugno 2014)
- Adesione alla campagna "**Vacanze coi Focchi 2014**" coordinata dal Centro Antartide in collaborazione con l'Osservatorio per l'Educazione Stradale e la Sicurezza della Regione Emilia-Romagna (Giugno 2014)
- Organizzazione del convegno "**L'impatto sanitario del carbone. La funzione sociale del medico: promotore di salute e di ambiente**" in collaborazione con WWF e Ordine dei Medici ed Odontoiatri di Savona (Savona, 15 Luglio 2014)
- Promozione del **Progetto Nazionale di Prevenzione dell'Autismo** insieme alla Società Italiana di Pediatria, la Federazione dei Medici Pediatri e l'Associazione Culturale Pediatri (Settembre 2014).

- Coordinamento Scientifico ed organizzazione del convegno "**Inquinamento e salute. L'impatto sanitario delle attività a rischio dei siti inquinati**" in collaborazione con Cittadini Reattivi, FIMA, ASL Mantova, Ordine dei Medici di Mantova, Rete Comuni SIN, FIMMG, Legambiente, Coordinamento Nazionale Siti Inquinati (Mantova, 19-20 Settembre 2014)
- **Ile GIORNATE MOLISANE SALUTE E AMBIENTE** promosse dall'Ordine dei Medici Chirurghi e degli Odontoiatri di Campobasso e dalla Sezione ISDE Italia di Campobasso (Campobasso, 26-27 Settembre 2014)
- Workshop nazionale ISDE Italia "**Oltre i medici sentinella. Dall'azione di sorveglianza e monitoraggio a quella di advocacy**" (Arezzo, 11 Ottobre 2014).
- Partecipazione al Convegno Europeo "**Medici Sentinella per l'Ambiente a tutela della salute dei cittadini**" promosso da Ordine dei Medici Chirurghi e Odontoiatri di Udine e FNOMCeO (Udine, 17-18 Ottobre 2014).
- **8e Giornate Italiane Mediche dell'Ambiente "Agricoltura e salute: il caso pesticidi"** (Arezzo, 24-25 Ottobre 2014).
- Copromotore della **Campagna Stop TTIP Italia** (2014) <http://stop-ttip-italia.net/>
- Partecipazione al Convegno Finale "**Valutazione partecipata degli impatti: salute, conoscenze ed aspettative nella gestione dei rifiuti urbani - I risultati del Progetto LIFE HIA21**" nel contesto di Ecomondo (Rimini, 7 Novembre 2014)
- **Adesione alla lettera** promossa da Genitori Antismog per il Governo Italiano **contro i tagli al "Pacchetto Aria"** della proposta di Programma di lavoro europeo per il 2015 (Novembre 2014)
- Organizzazione del "**2° Forum Internazionale su Sviluppo, Ambiente e Salute**" nel contesto del 9° Forum Risk Management in Sanità (Arezzo, 27 Novembre 2014)
- Copromozione con l'Ordine dei Medici di Arezzo del Workshop nazionale "**Consumismo Sanitario**" (Arezzo, 11-12 Dicembre 2014)
- Partecipazione al **tavolo di lavoro dell'Osservatorio Ambientale del Comune di Ciampino** (22 Dicembre 2014)
- Partecipazione nella giuria del **Concorso di Comunicazione e Creatività sui cambiamenti climatici "The grand challenge" edizione 2014/15**

Anno 2015

- Partecipazione alla **Commissione tecnico-scientifica "La salute: un bene da difendere, un diritto da promuovere"** promosso da Salute Donna onlus www.salutebenedadifendere.it (Gennaio 2015)
- Intervento di un rappresentante ISDE alla **seduta dell'Ufficio di Presidenza integrato dai rappresentanti dei gruppi delle Commissioni riunite Industria e Ambiente del Senato per il Decreto-Legge Ilva e sviluppo di Taranto** (Roma, 21 Gennaio 2015)
- Copromozione con la FNOMCeO dell'**Expert Meeting sulle strategie della formazione per la salute ambientale in età pediatrica** con il supporto tecnico dell'OMS (Sansepolcro-AR, 27 Febbraio 2015)
- Copromozione con la Regione Toscana della **5° Conferenza Internazionale "Salute Ambientale globale"** (Arezzo, 28 Febbraio 2015)
- Collaborazione all'organizzazione del corso "**Ambiente, Salute e Media: conoscere per comunicare**" promosso da Eaci (European Association on Consumer Information), insieme alla Federazione Nazionale della Stampa Italiana, all'Ordine Nazionale dei Giornalisti e all'Ordine dei Giornalisti del Lazio (Federazione nazionale della Stampa - Roma, 13 Aprile 2015)
- **3e Giornate Molisane Ambiente e Salute** su "Ho a cuore l'ambiente... Inquinamento urbano e patologie cardiovascolari" e "Ambiente, salute ed economia: correlazioni" promosse dall'Ordine dei Medici di Campobasso, la Sezione ISDE di Campobasso e Mamme per la salute e l'ambiente Onlus (17 Aprile 2015, Isernia - 18 Aprile 2015, Campobasso)
- Adesione alla campagna "**Vacanze coi Fiocchi 2015**" coordinata dal Centro Antartide (Giugno 2015)
- **Audizione presso la V commissione (Ambiente) del Consiglio Regionale Piemontese** sul Piano Regionale Gestione Rifiuti e fanghi di depurazione - 23 Luglio 2015
- Firma dell'**appello per bandire i pesticidi altamente pericolosi** promosso da PAN Internazionale (Luglio 2015)
- **6° Giornata in memoria di Lorenzo Tomatis "Inquinamento ambientale e salute: quale futuro per le nuove generazioni in Italia"** promosso insieme all'Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Roma, 24 Settembre 2015)
- Convegno ISDE Lombardia "**Tra inquinamento ambientale e cambiamento climatico. Le nuove sfide per la salute**" (Centro Pastorale Paolo VI, Brescia - 26 Settembre 2015)
- Partecipazione attiva al convegno "**Ambiente e Tumori**" promosso dal Dipartimento Diagnosi e Cura dei Tumori della ASL di Pescara (Auditorium Flaiano di Pescara – 3 Ottobre 2015)
- **9e Giornate Italiane Mediche dell'Ambiente** promosse insieme a Federsanità ANCI, in collaborazione con Cittadinanzattiva e European Association of Consumers Information (EACI) (Roma, 9-10 Ottobre 2015)
- Adesione alla **7° edizione della Campagna "Siamo tutti pedoni"** promossa dal Centro Antartide (dal 28 Ottobre 2015)
- Collaborazione al **Master di 2° livello in "Sistemi di qualificazione ambientale nel mercato edilizio europeo e italiano: economia del Green Building e del Green Retrofitting"** promosso dall'Università Europa di Roma (docenti Maria Grazia Petronio e Stefania Borgo) (Anno Accademico 2015-2016).
- Copromozione del **Convegno "Valutazione Impatto Sanitario (V.I.S.). Esperienze attuali e prospettive future"** insieme a ISDE Cremona e Ordine dei Medici di Cremona (Cremona, 7 Novembre 2015)

Pakistan:

ISDE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

November 21 – 22, 2015, Arezzo, Italy

Activity Report: Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja, Pakistan

A. RESEARCH:

OBJECTIVES	
Program/Unit Objective/s	Sustainable development for the protection of environment and public health (especially of children) with focus on exposure to chemicals, entering into environment, due to use of industrial/ agricultural practices and lack of public awareness and education
Focused Research Areas	<p>Mercury exposure – Resulting environmental and health issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study at dental sites(dental teaching institutions, hospitals and private clinics)• Study at artisan small scale gold mining (ASGM)• Review & evaluation of curriculum at dental teaching institutions in Pakistan <p>Hazardous waste sites in Pakistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mapping, identification, assessment and remediation.• Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) problem in Pakistan. <p>Sustainable Industrial Development</p>

FIELD VISITS:

Over 90 private dental clinics in four main cities of Pakistan were visited for interviews with dental professionals (June 15 – 17, 2015).

Hattar industrial state, KPK (EIA/NoC Public hearing) and abandoned DDT factory site, Nowshera (EIA/NoC), January 30, 2015

B. PUBLICATIONS:

MERCURY EXPOSURE AT WORK PLACE AND HUMAN HEALTH: DENTAL AMALGAM USE IN DENTISTRY AT DENTAL TEACHING INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE DENTAL CLINICS IN SELECTED CITIES OF PAKISTAN

Review Environment Health, New York Academy of Sciences, August, 2015 (revised draft submitted/ under review)

“Environmental Health Threats and Challenges of Mercury Amalgam Use in Pakistan Health sector.” SDC-2014 anthology (accepted/in press)

“Regulating Mercury Amalgam Use at Private Dental Clinics in Pakistan. SDPI Policy Brief 2015 (under review)

Research report, “ASSESSMENT OF MERCURY AMALGAM USE AT PRIVATE DENTAL CLINICS IN SELECTED MAIN CITIES OF PAKISTAN,” SDPI, 2015

Mercury Amalgam Use at Private Dental Clinics in Selected Main Cities of Pakistan, SDPI R & N Bulletin, July – September, 2015 (in press)

Review/comments on UNEP draft policy document (revised final draft) “Chemicals in Products (CiP)”

Review/comments on ARNIKA, Czech Republic, publication on Armenia hazardous waste site, August, 2015

C. POLICY OUT-REACH KPK & SINDH PROVINCES/POLIC ADVICE:

-Held stakeholders EPA, KPK – SDPI joint meeting on “Dental Mercury Amalgam phase out in KPK,” in Peshawar. February 25, 2015

- Joint LUMHS, Hyderabad – SDPI special session on “Mercury phase out in dentistry” at Internal Congress, Pakistan Dental Association (PDA), Karachi, January 23, 2015

-Comments/recommendations for Islamabad Environmental Commission, 2015

- Held meetings at Pak.EPA, provincial EPAs and ministry of climate change and discussed issues related to hazardous substances, specially mercury and wastes/wastes sites.

- Continued technical support and inputs towards Pakistan position for Minamata convention on mercury and hazardous chemicals.

- Continued interactions with PMDC, provincial health departments, HEC, and MoH, regarding review and revision of BDS curriculum offered at dental teaching colleges in the country.

D. ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING:

Memberships (participated In-Person, Webinars/Skyp meeting/discussions/interactions)

Global Alliance on Health & pollution (GAHP); Zero Mercury Group;

World & South Asia Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry; Pakistan Focal Person for SAICM;

International Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Elimination Network Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities CAT/Net;

Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives, GAIA; Pak-EPA and KPK EPA advisory committee for EIA; Board of Directors, Pacific Basin Consortium on "Environment and Health Sciences," East - West Center, Hawaii, USA; UNEP Working Groups on Mercury partnership; High level national committee, Industry - Environment, Ministry of Industry, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad; National technical committee on chemicals, Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad; UNEP steering committee on Chemicals in Products (CiP)

Print Electronic media/Radio/TV: Interview on Ozone depletion for TV channel News 92

Webinars/Skype meeting: Participated in international/regional webinars/skype meetings on chemicals issues.

Youth and Students Awareness raising: Invited presentations/discussion at Qaid-e-azam University (SDPI panel on Nation Building - Way Forward; January 7, 2015) and University of Gujrat (Seminar: Green Industry; 2015)

Conferences/paper presentation/meetings:

Presented papers at the following conferences/workshops/meetings/roundtables:

PBC international conference, University of Indonesia, August, 2015

SDPI panel on Nation Building: Way forward, Qaid-e-Azam University, Jan., 2015

One-day Seminar, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Gujarat University, 2015

Roundtable on dental mercury amalgam use, EPA, KPK, Feb., 2015

Participated in UNEP chemicals in products steering committee meeting, Beijing, China, July, 2015

Participated in national consultation meetings on "Ship-breaking" and Climate Change - Industrial Pollution," 2015

D. Others:

Received "Excellence in Research " by WAMFD, USA & ACEH, Bangladesh, October, 2014

EPA,KPK shield for contributions for environmental protection, industrial pollution control and rehabilitation of polluted sites in KPK, February, 2015

Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja,

Ph.D. (La Trobe, Melbourne)

Senior Adviser,

Chemicals, Sustainable Industrial Development & Hazardous Waste/Sites,

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI),

Islamabad. Pakistan

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Serbia: SOCIETY OF ECOLOGISTS IN HEALTH CARE

I'm Dr. Milena Grubor, environmental biologist, Court expert in the field of Ecology, especially in the field of Safe Management of Hazardous Medical Waste, and President of the Association of Ecologists in Health Care in Serbia.

The Society of Ecologists in Health Care, registered in June 2014.

The "Society of Ecologists in Health Care" (hereinafter referred to as the Society) is a non-profit association, established for an indefinite period of time to achieve the objectives in the health aspects of ecology: Protection, restoration and improvement of the environment; Implementation of the new system of hazardous medical waste; Continuous education, and Sustainable development; Preservation and promotion of public health, protection and improvement of the entire living world through ecological concept of local, national and global ecological system.

I personally and my NGO are delighted what ISDE do. All events we closely monitor, and trying to slowly, but surely, that what is done ISDE and scored, we want to implement in Serbia. But without help from ISDE and all of you individually, we cannot do as much as we need to do, so, someone once said: no one can do everything, but everyone can do something!!!

I am especially thankful to the Professor Roberto, and Doc. Hanns Moshamer for helping the SEHC to become part of your great Society.

I wish successful work of this Conference, and I'm very sorry that I cannot come to Arezzo and to be present here today. I deeply apologize on my behalf and on behalf of SEHC, and I hope that this esteemed Assembly would accept our apologies, and finally confirm our reception in the ISDE Assembly.

I will be free to propose the distinguished gathering that it would be nice to meet once a year in different countries, therefore we can show you our hospitality in Serbia, especially in my beautiful Belgrade.

Once again my sincerest congratulations for 25 years of work and existence of your Society.

Thank you very much for everything!

Sincerely!
Milena Grubor

President of SEHC

Swedish Doctors for the Environment Activity Report 2014

We are an association of physicians that was founded in 1991 and the number of members in 2014 was 224. The mean age of the members is high, but we also have some students and a few other health care professionals as members. The board consists of about 10 people who meet every other month, most often by phone. We are both practicing physicians and researchers.

The present economic status of the Society is good.

We have a very informative homepage, www.lakareformiljon.org (also English translation available on website), with >1000 visitors per month. We are also on Facebook and Twitter. In addition, we have an electronic news letter, sent to our members 3-4 times a year.

We have tight bonds to the medical societies of Sweden. A recent issue of the Journal of the Swedish Medical Association (Läkartidningen 2014-04-01) had "The future of the environment and health" as a theme, with one of our board members as editor. The issue was followed by a symposium.

At the General Meeting of the Swedish Society of Medicine we organized a symposium: "Climate and health - what can the doctor do?" The main speaker was Professor Anthony Costello from London, UK. After the symposium all panel members signed a Declaration on Climate and Health. The symposium was followed by a lecture of Professor Tord Kjellström on the effects of high temperature on human working capacity and economy. In addition, a Committee of Global Health was recently formed within the Swedish Society of Medicine.

Swedish Doctors for the Environment (Lfm) is a member of ISDE. Two of the board members (Matilda van den Bosch and Ingrid Eckerman) are active in ISDE.

In Gothenburg we have a very active group of members who, in collaboration with Engineers for the Environment, organized a study circle on climate and environment. They have also arranged several lectures on the safety of Nanotechnology, the health risks of Cadmium and on new environmentally friendly technology.

In Stockholm there is a working group on climate change who organized the above mentioned symposium on climate and health. Members of the group attended the first Climate Parliament in the world that was arranged in the Swedish city of Norrköping in 2014. We have also had contacts with Swedish politicians and media to emphasize the importance of a rapid reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases.

During the past year we have answered a number of referrals from various authorities. A National Action plan for the safe use and handling of Nanomaterials was one of those referrals. Our opinion was that we know too little about the effects of nanomaterials on the human body and health. More research is needed. That is also our opinion on Safe spread of sludge from purification plants on farmland. We also recommend prohibition of epoxy material for relining of tap water pipes because of the risk that Bisphenol A could be released into the water.

Several of the board members have been engaged in scientific endeavors around environment, climate change, pro-environmental behaviour, and health and have attended international public health conferences to present results regarding interactions between environmental changes and health.

A member of the board has also worked as consultant to WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, developing methods for following-up on the Parma Commitments.

During 2015 we will continue our cooperation with the two Swedish medical societies. We will arrange a symposium concerning Food, Climate and Health. We will participate in the COP 21 negotiations in Paris and in regional climate events and marches for the climate.

Sven Blomqvist

President Swedish Doctors for the Environment

1. Security Issues related to environment

- a. Use of nuclear weapons as a humanitarian issue
- b. Drs. Ira Helfand and Vic Sidel co-authored "Docs and Nukes--Still a Live Issue" for the Nov. 19 edition of *New England Journal of Medicine*.
- c. Nuclear weapons in small exchange create a 'nuclear winter'

2. Environmental Health Issues

- a. Climate Change & Policy Course - Jonathan Patz. On line 11/912-12/7
- b. Worked in coalition to stop the Keystone Pipe line of tar sand gas from Canada to the Gulf Coast
- c. Petitioning the US EPA on clean air and water, stronger methane release regulations, control of fracking, "Selling Our Health Down the River" (coal ash from power plants dumped into rivers)
- d. Working with states and citizen coalitions to prevent or seriously restrict and control fracking
- e. Set up climate action teams in various states to work for reduced carbon dioxide/methane and increased clean renewable energy
- f. Signed on to all the various letters from other groups, including WHO, to the delegates to COP21.
- g. Pouna Saberi, MD, MPH from Philadelphia PSR will be at COP21 the second week. Her mandate from PSR includes:

Strong health reasons for advocating for 1.5, but we are not doing enough, fast enough to truly achieve a fossil-fuel free future

Institute worldwide carbon pricing

All first world countries need to pledge \$1bil/y for mitigation/adaptation measures for 3rd world countries so they can leaping over fossil fuel development and into distributed energy solutions; advocating for local transit rather than car economies, etc.

No support for gas or coal subsidies

3. See www.psr.org for more details

Annex 3: Budget 2016 (separate file)

Annex 4: Discussion Sunday afternoon (separate file)

Annex 5: List of e-mail decisions

ISDE ACTIVITIES 2013 (International)

1. Statement condemning asbestos industry efforts to defeat a proposed ban on asbestos in Pakistan from scientific community - circulated statement widely for signatures - January/February (cf. email Kathleen Ruff)-posted on ISDE Face book
2. Further Statement condemning asbestos industry in Peru (cf. email Kathleen Ruff)
3. Open letter to the UN Secretary General drawing his attention to the Rio+20 Report on Future Generations. (Organized through ISDE Ireland and letter organized by World Future Council - 4-23-13)
4. Declaration of Safe Medical Devices (organized by HCWH-Europe) May 29 email Grazie Cioci

ISDE ACTIVITIES 2014

1. Accepted to membership on the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network (12//5/2013)
2. Supported the international campaign for this year's Peace Declaration
3. Signed the Joint statement of non-State actors for Climate Summit

ISDE ACTIVITIES 2015

1. Supported statement requesting the Government of India to withdraw the NIOH study and support the listing of Chrysotile asbestos as a hazardous substance at the upcoming conference
2. Signed PAN International - Appeal for a ban of highly hazardous pesticides
3. Complaint to EU Commission on SCENIHR
4. Signed on for First Committee statement on gender and disarmament
5. Signed HCWH letter on Medical Devices
6. Supported the letter to Canada's new Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, calling on his government to introduce legislation to ban asbestos
7. WHO's call for action on climate change and health
8. Support of European Manifesto for the regulation of electromagnetic fields in the European Union
9. Support of the joint statement for the Climate Summit
10. Endorsement of the Peace & Planet Mobilization for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just, & Sustainable World