14th General Assembly of the International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI)

10 June 2014
ILO Building, Room IX
4, route des Morillons
Geneva

SUMMARY REPORT
IALI GENERAL ASSEMBLY
10 June 2014
1430 – 1700 hrs

AGENDA

1. Reports by
   - President
   - Secretary-general
   - Treasurer
   - IALI Auditor

2. Approval of the reports and the accounts

3. Proposed Changes to Statutes

4. Endorsement of the Performance Measurement Handbook

5. Endorsement of the Common Principles for LI Worldwide

6. Endorsement of Revised 3-Year Action Plan

7. Election of the new Executive Committee
Minutes of meeting

The meeting which started at 1430hrs was chaired by Ms Michele Patterson, President of IALI.

1. Reports
(a) Report by the President

Ms Michele Patterson, President of IALI welcomed all members to the 14th IALI General Assembly meeting. She announced that she would be stepping down after this term and expressed that it was a great honour to serve as President of IALI for the last 9 years and as Vice-President for 3 years before that.

Ms Patterson was pleased to report that demand for IALI services continues to grow and that it would be grow even stronger as IALI is increasingly involved in more wide-ranging national, regional and global events to improve labour inspection. Consequently, IALI’s capacity to influence developments in labour inspection continues to increase as the interest to develop robust and professional labour inspection systems will continue to grow.

She gave a summary of progress for the 4 IALI Priority Areas: 2011-2014, namely

a) Priority Area 1: Creating the foundation for Professional Ethical Effective Labour Inspection worldwide
IALI embarked on a new strategy to improve the professional identity and operational governance of the organisation. IALI also developed global tools for the professional foundation for Labour inspection, such as the IALI Global Code of Integrity for Labour Inspection; A Handbook for Labour Inspectorates: Performance Measurement of the OSH Function; and International Common Principles for Labour Inspection.

b) Priority Area 2: Regional Co-operation Initiatives since 2011: IALI as a Catalyst
IALI has continued to build and consolidate regional cooperative initiatives such as RALI: South Eastern Europe, Azerbaijan and Ukraine; RALI: CIS and Mongolia; ASEAN Conference of Labour Inspection and North African Alliance of Labour Inspection. IALI had also been actively involved in various international and regional conferences.

c) Priority Area 3: IALI as Partner and Influencer
There have been increased interactions with a wide range of global and regional groups and other organisations with related interests, such as WHO, EU-OSHA and ILAB-US. Key work with existing contacts and networks has also been enhanced and will continue to be a key focus area.

d) Priority Area 4: Provision of Technical Assistance
There has been an increase in demands for technical assistance from our members and assistance has been provided wherever possible using the Technical Assistance policy as guidance when assessing the request.
Ms Patterson gave her heartfelt thanks for the excellent support and assistance that she had received throughout her 3 terms as President of IALI. They are namely the IALI Executive Committee members, IALI’s Technical Advisors and IALI Regional Delegates both past and present, as well as members who have held conferences, forums and events during 2005-2014 and participated and contributed IALI’s many activities. She also thanked the ILO and LAB/ADMIN for their partnership and cooperation during this period, as well as the IALI’s secretariat and in particular Claire Lonsdale and her Team in the United Kingdom 2011-2014; The Treasurer and his Team in Geneva throughout the period and the secretariat located in Luxembourg during 2005-2011.

Lastly, she thanked all the Team involved in organising the IALI Congress and General Assembly and ILO office for the provision of interpretation services and facilities, the State Council of the Canton of Geneva for hosting the reception and the administrative support provided by the Geneva Canton’s Labour Inspection Service.

In conclusion, she wished the incoming Executive Committee the very best success over the next triennium 2014-2017 and hoped that they can build-on, consolidate and enhance IALI as a professional association.

The President’s report is reproduced in full at Annex A. The Status report on progress towards the IALI Action Plan for the Future: 2011-2014 and Beyond and Revised Action Plan for the Future 2014-2017 and Beyond are attached as Annex A-1 and A-2 respectively

(b) Report by the Secretary-General

Mr Kevin Myers, IALI Secretary-General, thanked Ms Patterson for her contribution to IALI over the past 12 years and praised her for her devotion and commitment towards IALI’s cause. He said that it was his pleasure to be elected as IALI Secretary-General, taking over from Luxembourg after the 13th IALI General Assembly. He added that it was his intention to maintain the high standards of the previous Secretariat and to continue their good work by providing effective administrative support to members and to the IALI Executive Committee.

Mr Myers said that the change in Secretariat had offered an opportunity to review IALI’s communications more generally and to consider how to make improvements for the benefit of members. The Secretariat had also worked to further improve the services that IALI provided to members and in particular, concentrated on ensuring that decisions made by the Executive Committee on behalf of the membership are transparently communicated to members.

In terms of IALI’s participation in conferences and other events, Mr Myers said that IALI conferences, seminars and symposiums over the past 3 years have mainly been held in conjunction with other large events. This was to make it easier for members to justify attendance and helped IALI to reach a wider audience. In total, IALI activities have included significant contributions to 34 Conferences and events worldwide, often in partnership with other organisations. Events ranged from the IX World Congress of Safety and Health at Work in, Istanbul, Turkey in 2011 to the more recent China Forum on Work Safety, Beijing, China in November 2013. He gave an overview of the conferences that involved IALI and also highlighted that IALI had provided speakers and seminars for many events around the world as indicated in the report.

Mr Myers told the General Assembly that IALI membership which stood at 120 members across 103 countries as at 10 June 2014. He added that the Regional Delegates are currently
working to increase awareness of IALI and to encourage membership within their designated area. He also shared that IALI has produced several publications to provide guidance or updates for IALI members. For example, an IALI Forum newsletter was produced with member’s contributions. He added that an important change in IALI’s approach to publications is to make documents available online via the IALI website rather than produce hard copies. This helped to reduce expense involved in publishing hard copies and enable IALI to continue to provide members with free guidance. He also shared that the number of Regional Delegates has been increased to cover more geographical areas and at present, there was one Regional Delegate vacancy to be filled for RALI: South-East Europe, Azerbaijan & Ukraine.

The redesigned and upgraded IALI website provides members with easier access to information about IALI, its policies, publications, activities and events. Mr Myers explained that the changes were recognition that the IALI website was an important means of communication with IALI members. As part of the drive to increase the transparency of E.C. decision making in 2012, and to enable members to learn more about how the organisation is run by the E.C. on their behalf, the minutes of all E.C. meetings are available on the website, as are other documents that record IALI’s policies.

Mr Myers informed IALI members that 2 IALI guidelines which have gone through consultations to seek members’ feedback will be submitted for endorsement at today’s General Assembly. He also added that an amendment to the IALI Statutes to provide clarity about requirements for eligibility for E.C. membership in between elections, and; conditions for appointments to the E.C. in the event of a vacancy would also be submitted for endorsement.

In conclusion, Mr Myers expressed his pleasure to serve IALI as Secretary-General for the past 3 years and thanked all members for their engagement and support during this period.

The Secretary-General’s report is reproduced in full at Annex B.

(c) Report by Treasurer

The Treasurer, Mr Michel Gisler, presented the financial report for the calendar years of 2011 to 2013. Copies of the report were made available to the participants. The Association’s finances were reasonably healthy at 296,793.42 CHF at the end 2013. Between 2011 and 2013, the total expenses were 129,077.05 CHF and a total receipt of 216,442.11 CHF was recorded, resulting in a surplus of 87,365 CHF. He reported that the bulk of the expenses were for the organisation of IALI conference in particular the IALI Congress. A very small proportion was used for meetings and expenses of the Executive Committee. He added that other forms of support provided by IALI members and administrative support from countries such as UK, Switzerland and Australia was substantial and was estimated to be 10 times the IALI budget.

The number of members and amount collected from membership fees has remained fairly stable over the last few years. However, there had been a decline in the proportion of members paying their membership fees in full in recent years. The Treasurer’s report is reproduced in full at Annex C.

Ms Patterson thanked Mr Michel Gisler who will also be stepping down after this term for his work in keeping track of the accounts of IALI all these years. As there were no questions
from the floor, the auditor was invited to report on his examination of the finance and accounting records

(d) Report by IALI auditor

Ms Patterson informed the meeting that Mr César Guedeja-Marrón de Onís, Asociación Profesional Sindical de Inspectores de Trabajo y Seguridad Social, Spain, had been appointed to review the finance and accounting records of IALI.

Following a review of the banking and accounting, Mr Guedeja-Marrón de Onís reported that a positive surplus is observed. The active assets of IALI had corresponded to the banking transactions carried out over the past few years. Having gone through the bank statements, Mr Guedeja-Marrón de Onís explained that there were no irregularities observed and proposed that the financial and accounting results be put before the General Assembly for endorsement. With no objections from the floor, the accounts were approved as they stood.

Ms Patterson thanked Mr Guedeja-Marrón de Onís for his professional advice as the appointed auditor and conveyed her gratitude on behalf of members.

2. Approval of the reports and the accounts.

The motion to approve the 4 reports namely the President’s Report, General Secretary’s Report, Treasurer’s Report and the Auditor’s Report was formally proposed by Mr Ho Siong Hin, Occupational Safety and Health Division, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore, and seconded by Mr Daniel Eyewumi Neburagho, African Regional Labour Administration Centre, (ARLAC). The General Assembly voted unanimously to approve the reports.

3. Proposed Changes to the Statutes

As the IALI Statutes require that members be informed about any proposed changes to the Statutes one month prior to the IALI General Assembly, it was decided that the decision on the proposed changes to the Statutes will be postponed.

4. Endorsement of the Performance Measurement Handbook

Ms Patterson introduced IALI’s Measuring Performance of Occupational Safety and Health function: A Handbook for Labour Inspectorates, hard copies of which had been distributed to members. She expressed her gratitude to Helle Tosine, Canada and Nils-Petter Wedege, Norway for their assistance in helping IALI develop this handbook and were present to take any questions from the floor.

Ms Patterson shared that the development of the handbook on how to measure the results, or the performance, of labour inspectorates’ work in relation to occupational safety and health was to meet the growing demand for measuring effectiveness of public service programs from the public. For labour inspectorates, even if their programs and projects are well-managed, the inspectorate needs to show that there is a discernible improvement in the lives of workers as a result of their programs.

Mr Bernhard Brückner, Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration, Germany highlighted the practical examples helped organisations in the application of the handbook and said that it could be translated in other languages so that it could reach out to more
organisation. Ms Patterson agreed and added that IALI would require members’ assistance in translating the handbook.

Mr. Pedro Nuno Pimenta Braz, Autoridade para as Condições do Trabalho Ministério da Solidariedade, Emprego e Segurança Social, Portugal said that Portugal was ready to translate it into Portuguese. Mr Brückner also added that Germany would be happy to translate in German. Mr Braz also commented if the handbook could be applied to occupational health as the outcomes could only be seen much later.

Mr Myers, UK added that IALI members can be ambassadors to help promote the use of the handbook and there were plans to have workshops to guide members to use the handbook.

The motion to endorse the IALI’s Measuring Performance of Occupational Safety and Health function: A Handbook for Labour Inspectorates was formally proposed by Mr Bernhard Brückner, Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration, Germany and seconded by Mr Ho Siong Hin, Occupational Safety and Health Division, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore. The General Assembly voted unanimously to endorse the handbook.

5. Endorsement of the IALI International Common Principles for Labour Inspection

Ms Patterson introduced IALI’s International Common Principles for Labour Inspection and hard copies have been distributed to members. She added that this was developed to address the need to provide some basic criteria on which each country can assess whether their Labour Inspection system is professional, ethical and effective as well as independent and credible. For those establishing inspection systems for the first time, it provided a sound basis for development.

Mr Braz agreed with the content and that it was relevant any organisation. He also suggested that there could be greater collaboration amongst IALI members to apply the principles.

The motion to endorse the IALI’s International Common Principles for Labour Inspection was formally proposed by Miss Iwona Hickiewicz, National Labour Inspectorate, Poland and seconded by Mr Paul Weber, Luxemburg. The General Assembly voted unanimously to endorse the Common Principle.

6. Endorsement of the Revised 3 – Year Action Plan

Ms Patterson introduced the revised action plan that is in Annex A-3 that proposed activities over the next triennium of 2014-2017, so as to build on and consolidate the IALI’s work of the last decade. She added that proposals inside the document will be further considered by the next IALI E.C. and hoped that IALI members will take the opportunity to provide the new IALI E.C. with some direction for the future.

The motion to endorse the IALI’s International Common Principles for Labour Inspection was formally proposed by Mr Bernhard Brüeckner, Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration, Germany and seconded by Ms Shi Yan Ping, State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS), China. The General Assembly voted unanimously to endorse the Code.
7. Election of the new Executive Committee

Ms Michele Patterson handed the meeting over to Mr Michel Gisler as the Returning Officer for the IALI Executive Committee election to chair the election process. Mr Gisler explained the voting procedures and called on the countries to receive the voting list. Two persons assisted Mr Gisler in the process. They were Ms Michele Patterson from Australia and Mr Carlos Moyano from Spain. Mr Gisler announced that the contestants for the election:

- Mr Kevin Myers, Director, Health and Safety Executive, United Kingdom
- Mr Bernard Brückner, Director, Hesse Labour Inspectorate, Germany
- Mr Yves Calvez, Directeur-Ajout, Direction Generale du Travail, Ministre du Travail, de l’Emploi et Dialogue Social, France
- Mr Jean Parrat, Occupational Hygienist and Labour Inspector, Association Intercantonale des Offices Cantonaux de Protection des Travailleurs (AIPT), Switzerland
- Mr Daniel Eyewumi Neburagho, Director, African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC), Zimbabwe
- Mr Ho Siong Hin, Commissioner for Workplace Safety and Health, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore
- Mr Jose Maria Torres Cia, Inspector de Trabajo y Seguridad Social, Sindicato de Inspectores de Trabajo y Seguridad Social, Spain
- Mr Ivan Shkolovets, Deputy Director General, Federal Service on Labour and Employment (Rostrud), Russian Federation
- Ms Shi Yanping, Director, Department of International Cooperation, State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS), People’s Republic of China

As there were only 9 nominations and the IALI Statutes allowed for 9 members in the IALI Executive Committee, all the nominees were elected in accordance with IALI’s Statutes into the IALI Executive Committee. Hence the new IALI Executive Committee for 2011-2014 are:

- Mr Kevin Myers, United Kingdom - President
- Mr Ho Siong Hin, Singapore – Secretary General
- Mr Jean Parrat, Switzerland - Treasurer
- Mr Bernard Brückner, Germany – Vice-President
- Ms Shi Yanping, P.R. China - Vice-President
- Mr Yves Calvez, France - Vice-President
- Mr Jean Parrat, Switzerland - Vice-President
- Mr Daniel Eyewumi, Zimbabwe - Vice-President
- Mr Jose Mara Torres Cia, Spain - Vice-President
- Mr Ivan Shkolovets, Russian Federation - Vice-President

Mr Gisler congratulated the new IALI Executive Committee members on their appointment and wished them every success in their tasks for the next 3 years.

Ms Michele Patterson expressed her heartfelt thanks to the out-going Secretary General Mr Kevin Myers and the IALI Secretariat team from UK (Ms Claire Lonsdale) and out-going IALI Treasurer Mr Michel Gisler, and welcomed the new IALI Executive Team.

The General Assembly officially closed at 1700 hours.