

International Society of Forest Therapy



International Society of
Forest Therapy - ISFT

Minutes

Subject: **ISFT Board Meeting**
Date: 2024, August, 2nd, 11:30 - 13:30
Place: IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems
Am Campus, 3500 Krems an der Donau, Austria

Participants:

- [Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h. c. \(mult.\) Horst Klinkmann, F.R.C.P.](#)
Chairman ISFT
- [Manfred Baum](#)
Deputy Chairman ISFT
- [Sven Rüger](#)
Treasurer ISFT, Germany
- [Dr. h.c. Mag. Heinz Boyer](#)
Secretary ISFT/ Chairman of the Supervisory Board of IMC Krems
- [Dr. Darija Cvikl](#)
Deputy Secretary ISFT
- [Mag. Dr. Udo Brändle, LL.M.\(Com\)](#)
CEO IMC Krems
- [Susanne Bauer](#)
Project Manager Healing Forest Göttweig, IMC Krems (Minutes)

Online Participants:

- [Alex Gesse](#)
Deputy Treasurer ISFT

Agenda:

1. Welcome and confirmation of the agenda
2. Preparation for the congress in Lithuania
 - Scientific committee (Prof. Klinkmann, A. Gesse, M. Baum)
 - Advisory committee (Dr. H. Boyer, Dr. U. Brändle)
 - Organization committee (Sven Rüger, Darija Cvikl)
3. Membership structure development of ISFT (Darija Cvikl, Alex Gesse)
4. Preparation of the general meeting of ISFT in Lithuania (Darija Cvikl)
5. Others

1. Welcome and confirmation of the agenda

- Chairman Prof. Dr. Klinkmann welcomes the attendees and thanks them for their participation. Thanks also to the host, IMC Krems. It is gratifying that the board meeting is once again taking place in Krems, Austria. The visit will be also used to handle the association's banking matters.
- Secretary and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of IMC Krems Dr. Boyer and IMC CEO Dr. Brändle also extend their greetings to the board members and express their appreciation for the visit to Krems.
- The board has no objections against the agenda.

2. Preparation for the congress in Lithuania

Congress Program:

Deputy Secretary Dr. Cvikl and Treasurer Sven Rürger provides an update on the current status of the program. To date, many requested modifications have been implemented but there are still outstanding issues concerning the integration of the ISFT. At present, the ISFT is not optimally positioned or represented across various functions. This matter needs to be addressed regarding the leadership of the ISFT at the congress, and additional adjustments will be required.

Discussion within the board with the following resolution: Dr. Cvikl and Sven Rürger should please undertake the following arrangements:

Board resolution:

- **Congress Program Scheme-Updates:**
 - *In the Official welcoming & opening ceremony section on the 18th all speakers should be listed by their full names.*
 - *Welcome speech is on behalf of the ISFT.*
 - *Guest of honour for the 6th ISFT Congress must be specified.*
 - *The person in charge of each module should be specified.*
- **Q & A Session (September 18, Azteca Hall, 12:15-12:30 PM):** *scheduled time for questions and answers should be removed from the Opening Session: Global Perspectives - Forest Policies and Strategies for Health.*
- **Presentation by the Research Council of Lithuania:** *this presentation should be moved from the Opening Session and incorporate it into the Official Welcoming & Opening Ceremony from 09:30-11:00 AM.*
- **Workshop "Requirements and Criteria for Healing Forests – Certification Aspects" (September 18):** *For the workshop led by ISFT President Manfred Baum - only his name as the chairman should be listed.*
- **Presentation Format:** *The ISFT Presidium's position is that all presentations should be delivered in person. Exceptions, such as for Prof. Liisa Tyrväinen, should be limited to video connections only when absolutely necessary.*
- **Status and Timeline for Abstract Proceedings:** *Asking the congress office for the current status and timeline for the abstract proceedings.*
- **Workshops generally:** *The Chairpersons must be listed for all workshops.*

- **Authorization Program:** *The final draft must be submitted for approval. No printing of the program is permitted until it has been authorized.*

Learning Sessions:

In the future, it should be considered to establish a standardized process for the congress to ensure that ISFT congresses are conducted uniformly and orderly.

Invitation of Media:

Alex further reports that there are still unresolved issues regarding the invitation of media representatives to the congress. Media coverage is important and desirable, and therefore, Alex would like to discuss this in the board.

Discussion within the board with the following resolution: Deputy Treasurer Alex Gesse should please undertake the following arrangements:

Board resolution:

- *ISFT has decided to directly offer journalist accreditation for the upcoming congress. This decision underscores ISFT commitment to ensuring comprehensive and accessible coverage of the event, as well as our approach to Healing Forest and Forest Therapy, which is strongly underpinned by science.*

3. Membership structure development of ISFT

3.a. Membership application from the municipality of Lohmen:

Dr. Cvíkl informs about the membership application from the municipality of Lohmen and presents the letter. The municipality of Lohmen is currently engaged in the development of a children's healing forest, which is the reason for their desire to join.

Board resolution:

- *The municipality of Lohmen is admitted as a member of the ISFT.*
- *Formalities - including the confirmation of admission, transmission of the membership form, and subsequently the invoice - can now be initiated.*
- *The ISFT is committed to the European Project for Children's Health" and it is therefore welcomed when additional children's healing forests are initiated. A presentation at the congress would be desirable. Dr. Cvíkl is requested to contact the municipality of Lohmen regarding this matter.*

3.b. Other Membership inquiries:

Deputy Secretary Dr. Cvikl. presents the new membership applications based on the list.

Afterwards discussion within the board about potential membership categories. For example, if someone joins the ISFT as an individual member, does this mean they also represent their university if they are employed there?

Board resolution:

- *All applicants can be admitted as members. Deputy Secretary Dr. Cvikl is requested to initiate the necessary steps.*
- *The board decides to address this topic in one of the upcoming ISFT meetings.*

3.c. Regional Governors

Discussion within the board regarding the Governors and their membership status. Currently, they may be members. → *President Klinkmann recommends promptly addressing the issue after the General Assembly.*

Due to the resignation of Secretary Dr. Boyer, the Austrian Governor position also needs to be filled. The IMC proposes Dr. Uwe Rinner as the replacement.

Board resolution:

- *The board approves the proposal and requests Udo Brändle to discuss this with Uwe Rinner.*

4. Preparation of the general meeting of ISFT in Lithuania

4.a. Format of the General Assembly:

Discussion in the board regarding the format of the general assembly—open or closed.

Board resolution:

- *First, there will be a session with the outgoing board, followed by the general assembly.*
- *The general assembly is open to all, but only ISFT members are eligible to participate in the election.*

4.b. Roomsituation:

Dr. Cvikl informs that a separate room has been reserved for the General Assembly.

Board resolution:

- *The board requests following preparation of:*
- **List of Participants for the General Assembly of ISFT (September 19)**

- **Lunch Organization for the General Assembly of ISFT (September 19):** buffet-style meal for 20 people, including glasses and natural water on the tables
- **ISFT Table/stand:** it should be incorporated on the visible spot with a welcome note to all congress participants.

4.c. Extract from the association register:

The current extract from the register needs to be urgently requested in English or translated. Susanne Bauer offers to contact the association authority and/or handle the translation of the document.

Board resolution:

- *The board requests that appropriate arrangements be made.*

4.d. Election of the new board at the General Assembly

The current Chairman Prof. Klinkmann and Secretary Dr. Boyer will be stepping down from the ISFT-Board and will not be available for re-election. The board members extend their gratitude for the long and fruitful collaboration and express their regret at the departure from the board.

Discussion of the election proposal for the next term. Deputy Secretary Dr. Cvikla proposes elevating Susanne Bauer (IMC, Project Manager Healing Forest Göttweig) to the board, specifically to the position of Deputy Secretary. The board welcomes the proposal and asks if she is willing to stand for election. Susanne Bauer expresses her sincere gratitude for the suggestion and the trust shown, and agrees to the proposal.

Board resolution - Election Proposal:

- *Chairman:* Manfred Baum
- *Deputy Chairman:* Alex Gesse
- *Secretary:* Darija Cvikl
- *Deputy Secretary:* Susanne Bauer
- *Treasurer:* Udo Brändle
- *Deputy Treasurer:* n.n.
- *Member without statutory representative function – responsible for Strategic planning and development* Sven Rüger

Considerations must also be made regarding who will represent the association externally in the future. Currently, this role is held solely by the Chairman. The future Chairman will need to address these considerations.

5. Others

- Upcoming ISFT-Congresses:
 - o As part of today's presentation on the utilization concept "Healing Forest Göttweig" by IMC Krems (not part of the board meeting), a proposal was also made to consider hosting the ISFT Congress in Krems next year (2025), in conjunction with the opening of healing forest.
 - o The board welcomes the proposal. The conference next year will be held in Heringsdorf to celebrate the anniversary of Chairman Prof. Dr. Klinkmann. The suggestion to hold the conference in Austria in 2026 is favorably received.

Board resolution:

- *2025: ISFT Congress takes place in Heringsdorf, Germany*
 - *2026: ISFT Congress takes place in Krems, Austria*
 - *This information will be announced at the conference, and applications for hosts will reopen starting in 2027.*
- Healing Forest Göttweig as 2nd ISFT-Leading Healing Forest
 - o Chairman Prof. Dr. Klinkmann thanks again for the presentation of the usage concept for the Healing Forest Göttweig this morning. He suggests that Healing Forest Göttweig becomes the second leading demonstration healing forest of the ISFT after Heringsdorf.
 - o Udo Brändle and Susanne Bauer thank for this proposal. It is a great honor and, at the same time, a challenge due to the even higher quality standards. The proposal will be gladly considered. This topic also needs to be discussed with Stift Göttweig and is dependent on funding possibilities.

Board resolution:

- *The board agrees with the proposal. Before a final decision is made, a consultation between IMC and Stift Göttweig should be conducted to obtain the cooperation partner's consent as well.*

The Deputy Chairman closes the meeting. All participants thank for the fruitful cooperation and the constructive exchange.

Next Meeting in September 24 at the congress in Lithuania.

Attachments to the minutes:

- Translated Association register excerpt
- Draft Election Proposal General Assembly 2024