

Advisory Group on RIG Development Report to IFOMPT General Membership 2020

Background:

The Advisory Group on Registered Interest Group Development was set up at the behest of the IFOMPT Executive Committee following the IFOMPT Conference in Glasgow 2016.

As per the Terms of Reference determined by the Executive, the purpose of the group was to develop growth of Registered Interest Groups (RIG) and Member Organisations (MOs).

By focusing on/prioritising growth of RIGs/MOs, (IFOMPT membership) IFOMPT will:

- Develop strategies to support and maintain existing MO's/RIGS; and
- Pro-actively seek and engage potential new RIGs.

The Advisory Group consisted of:

Prof Duncan Reid -Chairperson

Prof Karen Beeton

Ann Porter Hoke

Chris Showalter

Dr Ken Olson- representing the IFOMPT Executive

Per Kjaer - representing the IFOMPT Standards Committee

Executive Summary:

The Advisory Group on RIG Development has been very active of the past four years and overall has met the purpose of the group. There has been significant growth in the RIG area and the number of RIGs is now close to the number of MO's. France and Cyprus have moved to having their status voted on for full membership at the next AGM. There are a number of countries in various stages of development towards full membership and the Advisory Group has been working with these countries geographically to assist this as set out below.

There are a number of consistent issues that the Advisory Group encounters and these are:

- The ability to form an umbrella group - there are always significant political issues within countries
- The ability to link with the Parent Body
- The ability to develop a curriculum consistent with the Standards Document
- The costs associated with joining IFOMPT and the curriculum development
- The ability to understand the IFOMPT processes

In order to overcome these issues and to ensure consistent messaging from IFOMPT, the Advisory Group has developed a number of resources now available on the IFOMPT website including relevant documents and voice over power presentations. This should help RIG's move forward with the assistance and individual support from the members of the Advisory Group.

As Chairperson, I would like to thank the Group for all their hard work in this area and Ingrid for her support in the office. We also sadly said goodbye to Ann Porter Hoke who resigned from the group in 2020. Ann - thanks for all your work and hopefully you now have more time for other things.

The remainder of this report provides greater detail of the activities the group has undertaken over the last four years.

Prof Duncan Reid

Chairperson Advisory Group on RIG Development

August 2020

1. The first meeting was held on-line in Feb 2017

The following areas of responsibility to manage the RIG's was decided.

- South Pacific/Asia – Duncan Reid
- Europe, North Africa – Jan Pool and Karen Beeton
- South America – Ann Porter Hoke, Chris Showalter and Ken Olson (Also assisted by Phil Sizer).

It was agreed that all members will continue their work independently and report back to the group via the Chair and the office from time to time and when there are developments to note. The Chair would write to all the prospective RIGs that have made contact with the office and let them know who their primary contact will be.

As new interest is noted and the potential RIGs begin their journey, they will be allocated to the members of the group to assist them in their process. Once RIGs are ready to submit their curriculum, they will then be handed over to the Standards Committee.

2. The second meeting was held in May 2017

The following developments had emerged

- **South Pacific/Asia – Duncan**
Duncan is currently working with one of the groups in Korea and will teach the NZ community based programme there twice this year and will meet with the RIGs while in Korea re their process and formation of an umbrella. The NZ/Korea collaboration is one way of having the bigger MOs assist the RIGs in developing their skills and programmes.
- **Europe, North Africa – Jan and Karen**
Jan to lead re Poland and Karen re France. Jan visited Poland recently and will do so again at the end of the year.
- **South America - Ann, Chris and Ken** (Also assisted by Phil Sizer).
Ken has been invited to Peru later this year and will feed back after the visit. We are awaiting the inputs from Colombia and Ann will work with Marco in this regard.

There has been a proliferation of groups wanting to be RIG's in 2017. Completed applications from Brazil, Colombia and the Philippines were received in the office. There was also interest from another group in Chile and Egypt. Another group in Japan has contacted IFOMPT and was having problems with JFOMT who don't seem to want to assist in development of other groups.

3. The next meeting was held in July 2018

By this time IFOMPT now had 19 RIGS following the acceptance of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and 2 other RIGS have also applied to IFOMPT.

Progress at that time was as follows

France Karen Beeton

France had submitted their curriculum and paid the fee and the SC will now do the necessary evaluation.

Egypt

Egypt was keen to progress with their curriculum but the therapist leading the development was not based in Cairo. He has indicated that he is committed to move forward and hopes to be able to send information by year end.

Middle East

Saudi Arabia has been approved as a RIG, so great progress as has the UAE. No further news from Lebanon. John Langendoen representing the SC indicated that the stumbling block in Lebanon is finances and they hope to have a solution in due course.

Poland John Langendoen and Jan Pool

John and Jan have both just spent a week examining in Poland and had various discussions while there. OMT Poland is connected with the parent body KIF state registration. KIF is a member of WCPT.

In addition to this, they have the Polish Physiotherapy Association (SFP) of which OMT Poland is a subgroup. The aim of OMT-Poland is to strive for a special subgroup of KIF in the near future.

EM-MED has an OMT educational program and curriculum and is working on a new curriculum based on the educational standards of IFOMPT, this will be completed in 2018/2019. Jan Pool and John Langendoen are involved in this program and have presented courses on practical and theoretical issues. They both examined 25 students in July 2018 and the event was also observed by the IG delegate for OMT Poland. The aim of OMT Poland is to strive to a full membership of IFOMPT in the near future. Another issue is the Polish Association of Manual Orthopaedic Therapy (Kaltenborn), is this another RIG? They are not involved with OMT Poland. The current status of this group is not clear. There is good cooperation between the 2 RIGS in Poland.

Hungary

They have no critical mass, have financial problems and so will remain a RIG.

Argentina -Chris Showalter

Been working with a University and a CPD group to combine to form a RIG

Their concerns/trepidation include:

- 1) Cost of RIG appl (\$300) and subsequent MO (\$2000)
- 2) Developing a program that fully meets IFOMPT Standards
- 3) International oversight which is seen as Cultural Colonialism

Chris is supporting them and gently moving them thru the process, BUT their currency has devalued 30% in the last 2 months and they are in significant economic distress and it won't improve until their economy recovers or gets bailed out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

China and Taiwan- Chris Showalter

Chris is currently talking to people there as their programme is doing some teaching in the fall. They are starting from a very low base as physiotherapy teaching is still very new with only 9 Universities running programmes of which 3 post graduate programmes. This will be a big challenge and he will keep Duncan updated as to who is responsible for that region in the loop on developments.

Romania- Duncan Reid

Romania are in the process of applying to be a RIG. They are working on their Constitution as the document previously presented was not acceptable.

Japan- Duncan Reid

A second group from Japan have been in contact as they are keen to become a RIG but have had pushback from the current MO. Ken Olson met with the current MO while in Spain recently and they agreed to open up dialogue, while a letter was also drafted by Ken, Ali Rushton and Duncan and sent to the potential RIG and in which the correct information was supplied. Duncan has offered to meet with them in person when in Korea in October to assist the process.

Korea- Duncan Reid

Duncan taught in Korea earlier in the year and met with all the various groupings. A representative of the parent organisation who speaks good English also attended and that greatly assisted in the communication. The Koreans have formed an umbrella (KFOMPT) and they have included all the groupings and will continue to work to ensure all are involved. The one school is quite near to submission of their curriculum, while several others still have a long way to go and will need a lot of support. Duncan will teach there again in October and will continue to work with them.

Pakistan-Duncan

Approved as a RIG in July.

4. The next meeting was held in June 2019.

Per Kjaer has joined the group replacing John Langendoen from the SC.

Progress Discussion

Korea-Duncan Reid

Duncan reported that he continues to teach the NZMPA COMT Programme in Korea over two week-ends each year. This is not at IFOMPT accredited level but is used to upskill the participants as the level of their programmes is not up to standard at this stage. One of the Universities in Korea has introduced a programme that mirrors the AUT post graduate programme and they have 5 students in 2019. A second group teaching a Kaltenborn Programme from Germany had previously indicated that they would submit their programme but have not done so yet. He will follow up with them when he returns later in the year.

Japan- Duncan

There has been no further communication regarding the second group in Japan. Duncan will follow up with them when he, Ken and members of the Standards Committee attend the conference in Japan in September.

Fiji-Duncan

Duncan indicated that he had been approached by Fiji with a request for assistance as they are keen to develop their current programme from a Diploma to a Post Graduate Degree. As with all countries, this will follow a phased approach and they will be assisted along the way.

Egypt-Karen Beeton

Karen reported that Egypt are sadly no longer a RIG due to their parent body losing its WCPT membership status. The therapist leading the development has indicated that he is keen to remain involved with IFOMPT in some capacity.

Dubai and Saudi Arabia- Karen Beeton

Karen met with the representatives of both countries in Geneva. Both are keen to progress but are not sure how to go about this. They have tried to ask for assistance but have not been successful to date. The problem is that the individuals in charge are not OMT Physios and have no clinical experience. This is a recurring occurrence and needs to be addressed in the training initiatives of IFOMPT. The Directory of people that can assist would be useful in cases like this.

Romania- Karen Beeton

Karen reported that she had seen some of the material from Romania and they seem to be quite far advanced, but they need guidance on exactly what to present. Another recurring issue that keeps coming up is that individuals try to run programmes without being graduates of other accredited programmes. Romania to be informed that they cannot state in their advertisements that their programme is run by IFOMPT Teachers as there are no IFOMPT teachers.

Poland -Jan Pool

Jan reported on the work done in Poland and his offer to continue assisting them. The meeting discussed the various groups in Poland and the interactions that had taken place with them in Geneva. One additional group have since applied for RIG status. Jan to send Ingrid the information he has on the various groups in Poland and to continue mentoring them.

Brazil- Ken Olson

Ken reported that Ann had done an initial review of the proposed programme from Brazil and had indicated that they still have a lot to do to meet the requirements. They have been sent the Power Point from the RIG Workshop in Geneva and offered support, as needed.

Colombia- Ken Olson

As with Brazil, Ann had looked at the documentation received from Colombia in Spanish and translated to English. Several documents are still outstanding, and Marco Morales has been contacted for these.

Chile- Ken Olson

There has been no further contact on the progress in Chile. They did have delegates at the events in Geneva.

Other Interest

Ingrid reported that several potential future members visited the trade stand at the WCPT Congress in Geneva and asked for more information and guidance on how to become involved. These included Mongolia, Montenegro, Bangladesh, India and the Ivory Coast. The information on IFOMPT will be sent to all of them.

RIG Application Received - Third Group from Poland

The application received from the third group from Poland is complete and will be considered at the next EC meeting in July.

RIG Development Initiatives and Action Plans

A lengthy discussion was held about the developments over the past few months and in particular the outcome of the survey sent to RIGS by the Membership Qualification Task Force and the presentation used for the RIG Workshop in Geneva.

Four main topics were discussed namely:

- The need for manpower to undertake the initiatives in the various parts of the world and the suitable upskilling of such representatives

The meeting agreed that when the current members of the group go out and mentor the RIGS, they do it from a position of having the entire picture and can advise accordingly. Even knowing the setup is, however, not easy if you cannot meet in country with the potential members. As seen from the RIG survey, there is also a lot of other support happening and the concern is that those offering such support may not be fully informed and may be giving partial or biased advice that will inevitably lead to frustration and duplication. We need to map exactly who is giving such advice and then determine if they need support and training to ensure they convey the correct message. We should develop material that can be used to train the trainers. For a start, Karen will send question to the RIGS who indicated that they are receiving assistance to determine who exactly is providing this assistance. Importantly, those providing support must be encouraged to start with the basics from the outset namely with learning outcomes.

Summary- Need for more people to assist and they must be suitably trained and resourced and preferably be able to meet in country with the RIGs.

- Involvement of the current MOs

It was suggested that we write to the existing MOs and invite them to put forward names of individuals who would be able to assist with this initiative in nearby countries. Importantly, they must have the physical ability to get into those countries and work with them in their process of developing their programmes. Training of such representatives before they go will determine the success of such initiatives. For a start they need to realise that they are facilitators and not there to solve problems on behalf of the RIGs. They should also feed back to the RIG Advisory Group on issues that come up so that we can learn from those and possibly develop a repository that can assist future potential members.

Summary – Need to find suitable mentors from the current MOs that can be trained and that can go into nearby countries to mentor RIGs

- Making useful resources and support readily available for RIGS

For the exercise to be successful, we need to have good resources readily available for the RIGs to use. The Power Point presentation used by the SC in Geneva is a case in point. Per indicated that it can be sent to the RIGS, but that it needs a bit of tidying up and refinement. It was agreed that Duncan and Karen will have a look and send their comments to Per who will then finalise it together with Ronel Jordaan and Lorrie Maffey.

Summary – Resources to be developed to assist RIGS in their process. The recent SC Workshop document to be the first such document.

- **Clarity on the role of the RIG Advisory Group and the SC**
A discussion was held about the exact role of the RIG group and where that ends, and the SC takes over. Per indicated that the SC becomes involved when the programme is ready to be evaluated. The meeting agreed that this puts a lot of onus on the RIG Group member to have a strong educational framework understanding in addition to understanding IFOMPT. The question that keeps coming up is exactly what such document needs to look like and contain? The SC are strongly opposed to making a template available as each case differs and there are multiple examples of curricula that can be referenced and used but adapted to the specific setup per programme. Although this is understood, the meeting still felt that there is a need for more guidance from RIGS on what they need to present. There are some basic items that are a given and should be included in all cases and beyond that the customisation occurs. It is thus not a blow-by-blow template that is being suggested, but rather a structure of what is needed (guidelines and headings) and together with that links can be provided with examples. It was agreed that Karen will attempt to develop a document outlining such a structure and run it by Jan and Duncan and Per will take that back to SC to discuss.

Summary - Need for more guidance to RIGS on the outline and structure of the curriculum that is presented to IFOMPT

5. The next meeting was held in October 2019

Progress Discussion

Japan -Duncan Reid

Duncan, Ken, Alison Rushton and Ronel Jordaan recently attended the ACOMPT Conference in Japan where they met with the second group from Japan. They indicated that the interactions again re-iterated the value of meeting face-to-face. The groups need a lot of support but encouragingly, the current MO are open to cooperating. The Presidents message in the recent newsletter will assist in increasing the understanding of the need to work together.

Korea-Duncan Reid

Duncan reported that he recently taught in Korea again and met with the groupings. It is clear that in spite of the work done with them to form one, they still don't quite understand how the umbrella organisation should function. The President of the national PT organisation which represents 50 000 members, does understand the concept and will be an important role player in the success in Korea.

Fiji -Duncan Reid

No further developments.

Egypt-Karen Beeton

Karen reported that RIG delegate had contacted her as he remains keen to develop a Masters Programme together with a UK University. The problem remains that they are not a member of WCPT and Ken indicated that Jonathan Kruger told him in Geneva that he is not optimistic that the situation would change.

Poland -Jan Pool

There has been a lot of activity and meetings called between the various groups in an effort to form the umbrella group. Based on communication from the newest RIG that has submitted a curriculum but been advised to use the guideline document, two of the groups have withdrawn from the discussions. It was agreed that the message to them will remain to form an umbrella group. Jan to submit a report on this take of the situation.

Other matters

1. Development of manpower to assist with RIG Development

The provision of additional support in countries remains the key to assisting RIGS to develop. It was agreed to approach the MOs and ask them to report on their members who are involved in the development of skills in the various parts of the world. They can be asked about their experiences and requested to assist the IFOMPT initiative. Various presentations that have taken place over the past few months and it was agreed that Ken, Duncan and Karen will have a look at these in order to come up with a folder that can be made available to representatives who train in the various countries. The material will also be added to the website and Duncan to develop a follow-up piece for the December Newsletter on mentoring.

2. Membership Category Review

Ken informed the meeting that the Constitutional Review Task Force is currently working on various proposed amendments to the Constitution of which one is the possible addition of a third membership category. A Forum will be conducted in early December to gauge the opinion of the members on this matter.

6. The next meeting was held in March 2020

Progress Discussion

Korea-Duncan Reid

Duncan reported that he was supposed to teach in Korea shortly, but it had been cancelled due to the Corona Virus outbreak. He expects to teach in June once the matter is under control. An additional group has been formed in Korea and Duncan has explained the need to all work together within the umbrella group and will continue to reinforce this message.

Pakistan-Duncan

Duncan will reach out to RIG Delegate to provide assistance as required and requested.

Romania- Karen Beeton

Karen has been in contact with RIG delegate and is assisting him with the information required.

Argentina-Ken Olson

Ken reported that he had been invited to speak at a conference in Argentina. He will not be able to make it this year but did follow up on their membership plans. They have indicated that they are keen to become a RIG and are working on their processes.

Ken also informed the meeting that the Constitutional Review Task Force has been working on the membership categories for IFOMPT and will suggest the addition of a third category, namely Associate member Organisation.

Poland Jan Pool

Jan met with the various groupings in Poland in February 2019 and explained the process of forming an umbrella group to them. This was followed by various interactions and the addition of a third RIG which also presented its curriculum for review. Jan has been working with them on this. The WCPT parent body changed in late 2019 and there has been a lot of communication to various IFOMPT members since. The meeting agreed that the best route will be for Duncan to let them know that all correspondence must happen through him and to encourage them to work together to form the umbrella group. Jan will be in Poland in June and will meet with all the parties to again explain the process and requirements.

Other matters

RIG Video

Duncan will convert the Geneva RIG presentation into a video that will hopefully explain the exact steps that RIGs need to follow in the process to become MOs.

7. The final meeting for 2020 was held in June.

Progress Discussion

Korea- Duncan Reid

Duncan reported that there has not been much progress in Korea due to the Covid-19 situation. He has had contact with an ex student who is part of a different programme to the one he has been working with and has encouraged them to all work with the existing umbrella group.

Spain-Duncan

Duncan reported that he had met with RIG delegate and two of her colleagues to discuss their proposed programme that seems to be very comprehensive and far in its development. Duncan to use the template developed by Karen to provide feedback to RIG Spain. He has also encouraged them to enter into discussions with OMT Spain to form the required umbrella body.

Poland-Jan Pool

Duncan reported that he, Ken and Jan had met with Pawel from Poland and had again suggested that all the groups work together to form an umbrella and also that all correspondence should be through the office

Romania-Karen Beeton

Karen has provided feedback regarding the proposed programme from Romania. She indicated that the first parts are comprehensive, and she has pointed out areas where more information is required using the template for evaluation she has developed. In the next round, she will only look at the additional material presented and not review the entire programme again, On a question at what point the programmes are handed over to the SC, it was agreed that once the information seems comprehensive this should then progress to the SC. It was suggested to Use the title Preliminary Review for the report compiled by the RIG Group as per the template developed by Karen. A section could be added at the end of the report in which a summary of the status of the programme is given, e.g. it still needs considerable work to be ready to present or it is ready to present to the SC.

South America-Ken Olson

Ken reported that he has not had any interactions with the role players in South America due to the Covid-19 situation.

South America and China -Chris Showalter

Chris reported that he has not had any interactions with the role players in his area due to the Covid-9 situation.

Other Matters

RIG Video

Duncan will update the RIG video based on the feedback received.

Future Plans

It was agreed that all members will keep going with their allocated tasks. The one good aspect that has resulted from Covid-19, is the growth in technical skills and virtual interaction and it is hoped that this will also enhance the work of this group. KO indicated that with the planned addition of the Associate Member Organisation Membership category, the name of the Advisory Group should change to Membership Development Advisory Group, while we will also need to work out the details of how a RIG becomes an AMO.