Information on IMIA Regional Groups

APAMI

Regional Representative's Report

1. Membership of APAMI

There has been no change in the membership of APAMI during the past year. The current member societies include Australia, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Bangladesh, Indonesia and Kazakhstan have been observer members.

2. General Assembly Meeting of APAMI

The AGM 2007 was held at Convention and Exhibition Center of Brisbane in conjunction with MEDINFO 2007 in Australia on August 21, 2007. This meeting was attended by 8 member societies (Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Taiwan). Some highlights of the AGM reports are:

a. In order to establish its legal entity, APAMI shall be organized under Hong Kong law in the form of an NPO, as defined in the Hong Kong Civil code.
b. After an addition of a $20,000 USD contribution from APAMI 2006 in Taipei, the current reserved fund is now at $50,000 USD.
c. In light of the strong development of Health Informatics in this region as well as the rest of the world, we may need to hold conferences in the years in between the MEDINFO year and APAMI triennial conference year.
d. The next APAMI triennial conference will be held in Hiroshima, Japan in 2009.
e. The official website of APAMI has now been reformed and served at http://www.apami.org/
f. An online forum master-minded by HM Goh and created by the APAMI website maintenance group is now hosting a wide variety of discussion topics relevant to APAMI members at http://forum.apami.org/. A Google group named "Asia Pacific Association for Medical Informatics (APAMI)" is also created to facilitate inter-member communications.

3. Activities in the APAMI Region

More medical informatics conferences, meetings and symposia have been held in the APAMI region than ever before. In addition to the routine annual national medical informatics conferences in Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, etc. that typically attract hundreds to thousands of local attendees, we are encouraged to see several major international conferences held in Asia-Pacific in 2007. In addition to the MEDINFO 2007 in Australia, HL7 Interoperability Health Informatics Conference 2007 (IHIC 2007) was held in New Zealand. HIMSS has also held its first HIMSS AsiaPac Conference and Exhibition in Singapore this year and scheduled the next one in Hong Kong in May, 2008. The pursuit of a national standardized EHR and a patient-centered approach on PHR has never been more eager. Besides visions and policies, major budgets have been allocated for national-scale Health Informatics projects in Australia, Korea, Taiwan and Japan. On the other hand, the emphasis on bridging the Bioinformatics and Medical Informatics research through pooling and integrating all the biomedical research data nation-wide is also on the rise.

The rise of medical tourism in and to this region calls for a need on a standardized travelers' medical summary in electronic forms. With the auspice of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Health Task Force's endorsement, a project called Travelers' Electronic Health Summary Template (TET) will provide a working template to fill this need. A milestone meeting of TET hosted by Dr.Yu-Chuan (Jack) Li was held in conjunction with MEDINFO 2007 in Brisbane, Australia and a finalization meeting was held in Taipei, Taiwan on Nov. 20, 2007. More information can be found on the TET website at http://www.medinfo.org.tw/TET/.

4. APAMI WG Activity

a. APAMI WG1, Standardization (Chair: Dr. Yun Sik Kwak) and IMIA WG 16 Standards (Chair: Dr. Michio Kimura) jointly held a workshop on HIT standards during APAMI Conference 2006 in Taipei. A work item on clinical terminology standard has been proposed and its progress will follow.
b. WG2 Developing Countries (Chair: Dr HM Goh). There will be a few meetings planned for Vietnam (Jan 2008), Hong Kong (May 2008), Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia (to be announced). The workshops will focus on health informatics standards, capability building and issues of 'digital divide'.
c. WG3, Decision support (Chair: Dr.Yoon Kim) will be actively developing its action plan during 2008.
d. WG4, Nursing Informatics (Chair: Dr. Polun Chang) will propose (1) a strategy to establish a better connection network and promote the NI activities and movement in the APAMI countries, especially for those newly developed and developing ones; (2) a better cooperation plan, supported by the Taiwan Nursing Informatics Association (TNIA),

with other international or national related organizations or groups; and (3) a plan to encourage the scholars/professionals of the APAMI countries or organizations to prepare for the NI2009, to be held in Finland.

APAMI Web Site

http://www.apami.org

APAMI forum

http://forum.apami.org

Regional Editor
Dr. Yu-Chuan (Jack) Li
Institute of Biomedical Informatics
National Yang-Ming University
Taipei, Taiwan
Fax: +886 2 2821 7090
E-mail: jackli@ym.edu.tw

Helina

HELINA 2007 Conference: "E-Health in Africa"

Summary

The 5th international conference of Health Informatics in Africa - HELINA 2007: "E-Health in Africa" – has been organized by the IMIA National member for Mali, SOMIBS, Société Malienne d'Informatique Médicale, Biomédicale et de Santé and the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA). Also the (12th Edition) Francophone Health Informatics Conference, JFIM was organized in Mali.
The conferences were held in Bamako, Mali January 9th– 12, 2007. The International Organizing Committee of HELINA 2007 represented some 15 African countries in addition to members from Europe and the Americas. Tanzania who was to host the current Helina accepted the change in venue. The conference was well attended with representatives from 23 countries around the world. The scientific contributions were from authors of Africa, Europe and North America. The hosting was impressive despite the speed with which the conference was organized.
IMIA's *"Special Topic Conference"* (January 9th and 10th, 2007) in Bamako, aiming to bring together the medical informatics community around the World on the topic "E-Health in Africa". JFIM (January 11th & 12th, 2007) provided attendees with a high quality concurrent session and workshop schedule, focused on improving health professionals and students achievement.
The conference was attended by representatives from following African countries:
Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe... as well as from Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Finland, UK and USA; IMIA President-elect Prof. Reinhold Haux and VP MedInfo, Prof. Antoine Geissbuhler represented the IMIA Board.

Scientific Sessions

Topics were presented in major aspects of health informatics. Major emphasis was on ongoing projects around Africa, the move towards eHealth systems and their integration in African countries health system, as well as health informatics training and education in Africa. Such major projects included openMRS, Millenium Global Village-Net, RAFT, iPath and DHIS. Unfortunately, some announced projects such as Nigeria's MINPHIS were not represented at the conference. The announced contributions were arranged by the scientific committee under following main topics:

- Health IT training and capacity development
- Electronic patient records and patient management systems
- Telemedicine applications
- Strategic visions for eHealth in Africa
- Experiences, case studies and evaluation of eHealth projects
- Engineering eHealth: architectures and technologies
- Designing and enabling Health IT
- Public Health informatics
- Human factors in Health IT

Papers are available on the Helina 2007 website http://www.sim.hcuge.ch/helina/list.htm

HELINA Secretariat, Governing Board and General Assembly

IMIA funding of this program was the consequence of a broader goal - a component of the IMIA Strategic Plan - facilitating representatives of African Health Informatics Associations to organize themselves for the operation and for the establishment of a sustainable Pan-African Organization within the IMIA "Family".
In order to achieve these goals a meeting of African leaders in Health Informatics was held on the second day of the conference in conjunction with the scientific Session of HELINA 2007. As a consequence, Africa, as a region of IMIA was formally re-constituted:

- "HELINA" standing for Health Informatics in Africa originally proposed at the first Helina meeting in 1993 in Ile-Ife Nigeria - was adopted as the name of the Africa Region.
- A constitution for the running of HELINA was crafted, debated and agreed upon.
- Officers of the Region were elected.

The South African Health Informatics Association was chosen as the current secretariat of the body. They will be responsible for registering the body under South African law.