

IFHIMA Organizing a World of HIM: What to Expect Out of the 2016 IFHIMA Congress

Save to myBoK

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The familiar phrase “think globally, act locally” urges people to consider the health of the entire planet and to take action in their own communities and cities. The rapid spread of epidemics such as Avian flu, Ebola, HIV, and the latest threat of Zika to pregnant women and their unborn children remind us how small the world is. This also underscores the importance of embracing global standards to facilitate information collection and data sharing to advance health and wellness.

Consider how “think globally, act locally” applies to the health information management (HIM) community. The need for a strong and appropriately trained HIM workforce is reinforced as HIM professionals around the world apply ICD-10 codes (i.e., A98.4 – Ebola Virus; B20 – HIV/AIDS; J09.X2 – Avian flu) to the epidemics referenced above, as well as routine illnesses. It’s HIM professionals who also lead in governance, data quality, and privacy discussions.

Purpose of IFHIMA

IFHIMA has been thinking globally since it was founded in 1968. A volunteer-based umbrella organization of international HIM associations, IFHIMA is unique in its scope and purpose by combining the efforts of HIM associations around the world for the advancement of HIM best practices and improved outcomes. AHIMA is a key member of IFHIMA, providing membership processing, financial management, and teleconference support for the international association.

The purpose of IFHIMA is to:

- Promote the development and use of health records/information management in all countries around the globe
- Advance the development and use of international health records/information management standards
- Provide for the exchange of information on health records/information management education requirements and training programs
- Provide opportunities for education and communication between people working in the field of health records/information management in all countries
- Promote the use of technology and electronic health records (EHRs)

The IFHIMA Board of nine elected HIM leaders from around the world and the membership chair manage the execution of ongoing business and strategic planning, and further development of the IFHIMA organization, including regional activities. IFHIMA’s strategic initiatives are organized to address advocacy for the importance of the HIM profession and coded data, knowledge of technology, and best practices and education for current and future HIM professionals around the world.

The HIM profession encompasses a broad spectrum of working fields across the longitudinal health and wellness systems in settings such as hospitals, ambulatory or long-term care centers, mental healthcare agencies, government organizations, and more.

The capture/creation of digital information and the volume of Big Data it creates enable the healthcare industry and patients to share health information broadly and quickly. This is transforming healthcare planning and delivery, and encourages HIM

professionals to participate in today's global, digital world.

This will certainly be one of the main topics at the upcoming International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) meeting, taking place this October in Tokyo, Japan.

Attend the 18th IFHIMA International Congress, Explore Tokyo

Both IFHIMA delegates and individuals are invited to attend the 18th IFHIMA International Congress, taking place from October 12 to October 14, 2016 in Tokyo, Japan. Registration fees are \$170 for delegates/members and \$341 for non-IFHIMA members through May 2016, after which the price increases to \$256 for delegates and \$426 for non-members (rates converted from yen to US dollars; current as of January 2016). For additional registration, housing, and tourism details visit the event website at <http://ifhima.org/events/>.

Come for the IFHIMA Congress, then stay to explore Tokyo—including these notable landmarks.

Rikugien

These gardens were constructed by Yanagisawa Yoshiyasu on land given to him in 1695 by Tokugawa Tsunayoshi, the fifth shogun. Yoshiyasu spent seven years constructing a garden with paths around artificial hills and a pond. Since the land was part of the flat Musashino region, when building the gardens Yoshiyasu had to dig a pond, create hills, and bring in water from the Senkawa water supply to fill the pond.

Boulevard of Gingko trees

In the autumn season, visitors can enjoy the coloring of the ginkgo trees, which frame a magnificent boulevard.

Senso-JI Temple

Founded in 628 AD, Sensoji Temple is the oldest temple in Tokyo. Many people believe that the Asakusa Kannon deity enshrined here has the ability to bestow benefits on earth. Around 30 million visitors from throughout Japan and abroad visit the temple every year. It was the epicenter for the development of Edo culture, and these traces still remain today. The huge lanterns hung at Kaminari (Thunder) Gate are very famous throughout Japan.

Photos provided by the Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau©

Details on 18th IFHIMA International Congress

The 18th IFHIMA International Congress will take place October 12 to October 14, 2016 in Tokyo, Japan. The IFHIMA International Congress is held every three years in one of the association's member countries. The 2016 Congress is expected to host over 1,000 HIM professionals from over 45 countries who will share successes, challenges, and initiatives to advance HIM.

In this millennium, IFHIMA Congresses have been held in Melbourne, Australia; Montréal, Canada; Milan, Italy; Seoul, South Korea; and Washington, DC, US.

The 2016 Congress' theme "A New Chapter in Global HIM Begins: Application, Implementation and Dissemination," will serve as the platform for plenary and concurrent sessions aiming to expand HIM knowledge and experiences. The scientific program portion of the meeting consists of an International Symposium, the Summit on Mortality Statistics, oral sessions, and poster sessions. Visit the event website for program updates at <http://ifhima2016.com/program.html>.

International Symposium

Speakers from Africa, the Americas, Europe, South East Asia, the Western Pacific, and Eastern Mediterranean have been invited to present at the IFHIMA meeting's international symposium. These speakers will present on the status of current and future initiatives that are working to advance HIM in their respective countries.

Summit on Mortality Statistics

The IFHIMA 2016 Program Committee has invited participants from developing countries to present their current conditions on mortality statistics. Participants will discuss how to improve mortality coding and the need for accuracy in this area, especially in developing countries. Accurate coding from all countries informs health policy planning and care delivery, World Health Organization (WHO) research, education and training, and disease surveillance. The practical knowledge of IFHIMA delegates will greatly assist WHO as they strive to address the information paradox in developing countries.

Joint Events Planned

This is the first time an IFHIMA Congress will be held jointly with a WHO-Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) meeting. While the WHO-FIC meeting is invitation only, some joint activities are planned, including the opening ceremony and gala dinner, affording opportunities for informal networking with global peers. Additionally, attendees will be invited to observe the Japan Society of Health Information Management via simultaneous translation.

Expected Takeaways for Attendees

The IFHIMA Congress provides a unique opportunity for students, educators, and practitioners to interact with their peers as well as international HIM thought leaders. Attendees will:

- Gain new insight to how ICD-11 is being developed and tested
- Observe how ICD-10 is being applied to morbidity and mortality coding around the world
- Hear global speakers discuss how to apply best practices for EHR implementations, training, and education of the HIM workforce
- Learn the latest theories and practices for other HIM topics such as privacy, security, and patient consent

IFHIMA Member Nations (as of February 2016)



What IFHIMA Does

IFHIMA serves as the global voice of HIM for its 22 member nations and hundreds of individual members. Moreover, IFHIMA, an independent non-profit non-governmental organization, maintains official relations with the WHO and collaborates with other related key international organizations including the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA).

Advocacy plays an important role in IFHIMA's mission. Examples of key advocacy activities include:

- **WHO-FIC.** IFHIMA is a standing contributor to the WHO-FIC discussions to advance the creation of ICD-11 and address the general need for morbidity and mortality classification systems.
- **The WHO Trainer Database.** IFHIMA, in conjunction with WHO, promotes the WHO ICD-10 trainer database as a resource to identify potential ICD-10 trainers for an interested party.
- **Morbidity Exam.** IFHIMA and WHO initially developed a coding morbidity exam to test the proficiency of coding professionals in countries that do not have formal certification exams. The exam is today advanced by IFHIMA. Additional information is available on the IFHIMA website, <http://ifhima.org/who-fic-ifhima/>, with guidelines available upon request.
- **IFHIMA Global News.** The *IFHIMA Global News* is published approximately three times per year with an emphasis on publicizing regional activities, industry trends, and happenings with the WHO, IMIA, and IFHIMA. The newsletter is available for download at <http://ifhima.org/global-news/>.

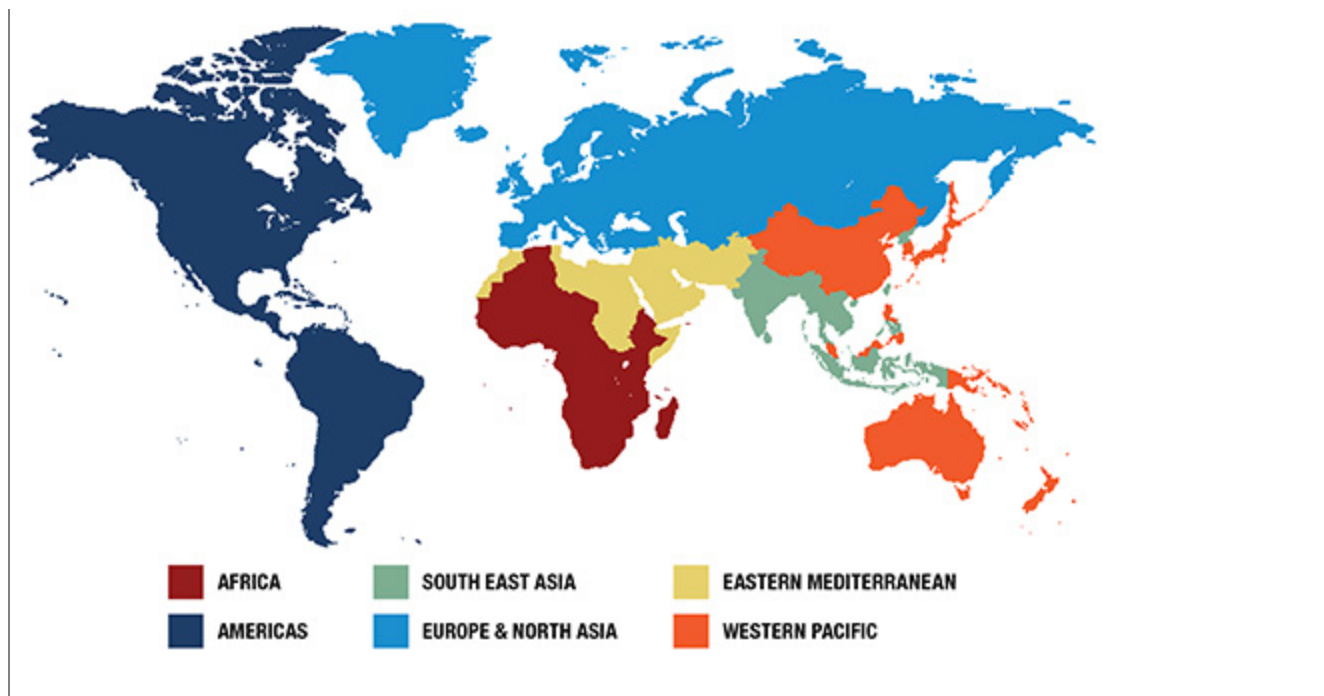
Advancing the knowledge and visibility of current HIM professionals is even more important in today's digital world. Supporting HIM professionals in developing countries through education, training, and certification is also key amongst IFHIMA activities. Examples of this include:

- **Global HIM education curriculum development.** IFHIMA is an active participant in the Global Health Workforce Council (GHWC) Grants being executed by AHIMA and funded by the US Department of Commerce. This initiative is delivering a global HIM curriculum that can be used as a template for HIM education.
- **ICD-10 simplification for developing countries.** The Asia Pacific Network (APN) of WHO-FIC, along with the Japan Hospital Association (JHA), has developed a simplified ICD-10 coding system for developing nations. This is being tested in field trials in APN countries.
- **Book donation project.** IFHIMA and AHIMA jointly sponsored a book donation project in 2015. This project delivered books to 36 countries in the six WHO regions to advance the education and training of HIM professionals.
- **Advancement of HIM in developing countries.** The IFHIMA Board supports activities in developing regions and countries as they assess current knowledge and skills, develop action plans to raise professional standards, and encourage cross boundary collaboration. Examples include the APN and the 2nd International HIM Conference for the region of Africa, "Experience IT," scheduled for June 22 to June 23, 2016, in Accra, Ghana.

IFHIMA Organization and Membership

IFHIMA's member nations are grouped into the six WHO regions according to their geographical location (below). Membership currently stands at 22 member nations. Each nation appoints a national director and a deputy for a three-year term of office, and the General Assembly elects a national director to serve as the regional director for each of the six WHO regions. Each member nation has one vote in the General Assembly at each IFHIMA Congress. Information about current national members can be found on the [IFHIMA website](#).

Map of Six IFHIMA/WHO Regions



Regional activities may include outreach to non-member nations, assistance to developing nations to help with educational activities, assistance to establish new national HIM associations, the development and use of international HIM standards and promotion of the use of technology and EHRs as appropriate.

Individual Membership Welcome

Not only are national organizations members of IFHIMA, but individuals can obtain membership as well. A person benefits from an individual membership in the form of professional support, a sharing of experiences on an international scale, and access to unique HIM knowledge. Individual members also receive:

- Inclusion in an internationally recognized professional organization, which is a non-governmental organization in official relations with WHO that shares its values
- Access to IFHIMA materials that promote the profession and education of HIM practitioners
- Participation in international working groups as a volunteer and sharing of clinical, HIM, or instructional expertise
- Access to *IFHIMA Global News* and items of interest on the IFHIMA website in the membership area
- Reduced registration fees at IFHIMA Congresses

How to Join IFHIMA

HIM professionals have the opportunity to “think globally and act locally” by joining IFHIMA and sitting at the forefront of international HIM education, healthcare policy-making and strategy, and governance of the Big Data that is created in an increasingly digital world.

Membership in IFHIMA, whether on a national or individual basis, offers educational and professional networking opportunities and brings international connections that can open new doors for professional and personal growth. For more information on joining IFHIMA, visit <http://ifhima.org/membership-2/>.

Lorraine Fernandes (lorraine@fhci.biz), from the USA, is regional director for the Americas, Angelika Haendel, from Germany, is president, Marci MacDonald, from Canada, is president-elect, Lorraine Nicholson, from the United Kingdom, is membership chair and past president, Margaret Skurka, from the USA, is immediate past president at IFHIMA. Yukiko Yokobori, from Japan, is regional co-director for Southeast Asia at IFHIMA and co-chair of the WHO-FIC Education and Implementation Committee.

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