

# IFHRO Expands Goals

Save to myBoK

by Jean S. Clark, RRA

The Executive Board of the International Federation of Health Records Organizations (IFHRO) held a strategic planning and business meeting last spring to discuss the organization's direction. The meeting took place in conjunction with the European Health Records Congress in Hull, England. I attended the meeting as a representative of AHIMA and director on IFHRO's executive board. IFHRO is made up of 20 countries, each of which has its own organized health information associations. The associations themselves are the members, and each country is represented on the Grand Council. However, individuals can join as a "friend" and receive its quarterly newsletter.

Traditionally, IFHRO has focused on providing education and assistance to countries for the practice of health information management. The executive board, still committed to this purpose, wants to broaden IFHRO's focus and influence through the initiatives listed. These goals may seem aggressive but we believe they are achievable by the year 2000, and we are committed to making them happen.

The Health Records Congress, "Changing Patterns of Healthcare Delivery—Bridging the Gap," brought international speakers to discuss many subjects, including ICD-10 coding practices in education in Australia and use of the Internet for healthcare communications in the Netherlands.

Internationally, HIM issues and practices differ greatly in their levels of complexity. However, I have learned through attending international meetings that HIM practitioners are dedicated professionals worldwide.

The 13th International Health Records Congress, scheduled for October 1-6, 2000, in Melbourne, Australia, provides an opportunity to experience what is happening on the international scene. To be on the mailing list for information about the year 2000 Congress, e-mail your name and address to [himaa@himaa.org.au](mailto:himaa@himaa.org.au). For information on IFHRO, contact me via e-mail at [jean.clark@carealliance.com](mailto:jean.clark@carealliance.com).

Item	Initiative
Governance	Increase executive board's ability to govern between International Health Records Congresses
Membership	Increase country and individual membership
Education	Provide educational materials/speakers
Finance	Improve financial portfolio
Public relations	Improve visibility and alliances
Current members	Identify and meet country and individual members' needs
2000 International Health Records Congress	Increase promotional efforts
Data quality/coding	Serve as international resource for data quality and coding

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