

IFHRO General Assembly Takes Worldwide View

Save to myBoK

HIM professionals from around the world gathered on October 9 to discover ways they could work to increase collaboration and advance HIM practice. During the general assembly of the 14th Congress of the International Federation of Health Records Organizations (IFHRO), members addressed key HIM issues facing practitioners worldwide and identified actions the organization could take in five areas:

- Electronic health records
- Privacy, security, and confidentiality of personal health information
- Clinical data management
- Health information management education
- Needs of developing countries

Steps to the Future

The Congress reaffirmed its commitment to develop training for mortality coders around world. The program is in cooperation with the World Health Organization's Committee on the Family of International Classifications.

In addition, participants confirmed Seoul, Korea, as the site of the 2007 Congress. The meeting will mark the first time a general assembly has been held in Asia. Members of the Korean Medical Record Association (KMRA) in traditional dress highlighted a presentation about Korea and Seoul's growing recognition as a popular convention destination. They added that KMRA has 10,000 members eager to welcome the world to their country.

Recognition and Representation

Phyllis Watson of Australia, Uli Hoffman of Germany, and Carol Lewis of the US received the Founders Award for their contribution to IFHRO. All are past presidents of IFHRO, have provided support and training to health information management in developing countries, and continue to be active advocates for the organization. IFHRO President Willem Hogeboom also thanked Phillip Roxborough, past executive committee member, for his service as secretary-treasurer.

In other business, new directors were added to the executive committee to better represent global regions. The group also adopted amendments to the constitution and put in place a new membership and dues structure. The membership task force reported that 3M is IFHRO's first corporate member in a new membership category. In addition, IFHRO has moved to all-electronic communication with an electronic newsletter and an enhanced Web site at www.ifhro.org.

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