REPORT OF THE President-Elect

Christoph U. Lehmann, MD, FAAP, FACMI, MIAHSI

Regional Representation in the Middle East

Background:
Currently MEAHI is the organization representing the member societies in the Middle East region on the board of directors of IMIA. A number of concerns have developed over the past years including:

- Only two member societies
  - Iran – The Iranian society has not paid IMIA dues for four years
  - Saudi Arabia – this society expressed interest to leave MEAHI
- Expressed concerns that MEAHI is not active and does not represent regional interests
- Expressed concerns over lack of renewal of MEAHI leadership.

A number of member societies and corresponding members from the region have formed a new organization: The Middle East and North African HEALTH Informatics Association (MENAHIA). The effort is led by luminaries Drs. Najeeb Al-Shorbaji (Jordan) and Riayd Al-Shammari (Saudi Arabia).

The new organization has created statues that are congruent with IMIA by-laws.

Letters of support for MENAHIA were received from:

- Tunisian Telemedicine Society and the Arab Telemedicine Society
- Oman Health Information Management Institute
- UAE’s Emirates Health Informatics Society (EHiS)
- eHealth Association in Jordan (under establishment)
- Saudi Association for Health Informatics
- Kuwait Medical Information Society
- Biomedical Informatics Center of Excellence (BMICoE) at the Egyptian government

Proposal:

1. MEAHI shall no longer represent the region within IMIA and will lose its seat at the Board of Directors.
2. MENAHIA shall represent the region within IMIA and will gain a Vice President position on the Board of Directors to be filled by an individual elected by MENAHIA members.

Appendix:

Support letters