IMIA Health Informatics for Development WG 2023 Report (June 2022 – June 2023)

Raymond Francis R. Sarmiento, Chair (2017-2020)
National Telehealth Center, National Institutes of Health University of the Philippines
Manila, Philippines

Carlos Otero, Vice-Chair (2017-2020)
MS Department of Health Informatics, Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires,
Buenos Aires, Argentina

WG Website

1. Achievements – IMIA WG Events and projects conducted, and publications completed

The health informatics working group for developing countries has been working hard on the idea of disseminating the discipline and investigating the barriers that prevent countries from advancing towards mature and inclusive health information systems.

In this sense, we have actively participated in meetings both in Asia and Latin America. With regard to Latin America, we have dedicated space in the information system conferences of the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, so that the countries can work together on the difficulties they encounter when implementing health information systems.

With this information, the working group plans to carry out a research project to formalize the findings obtained during these meetings. The idea is also to formalize it at the level of the rest of the regions.

Based on these findings, we will also propose the possibility of organizing as a group in three regions (Latin America, Africa and Asia) and appointing three co-chairs that represent each region. We understand that in this way we can facilitate the flexibility of participation since one of the findings found when analyzing the participation in the working group has to do with the language and the time availability of the people who participate, above all, in live events.

We are also working to offer training courses based on the free offer that exists on the internet after moderation and review by the Working Group, in addition to obtaining scholarships for the courses of the institutions we represent.

2. Describe WG/SIG Participation - Engagement and participation in IMIA, IMIA Region or member health informatics events and activities in the past year
Several of the members of the Working Group for Developing Countries have actively participated in IMIA events. Some of the members have been reviewers and even reviewer coordinators for MEDINFO.

The members have also accompanied researchers and have encouraged them to participate in IMIA events. With regard to the Latin American group, we have managed to increase participation in the congresses by submitting papers to MEDINFO, a trend that continues to rise and we hope it can continue like this for future events.

3. **Provide details of the WG/SIG’s Outreach - Recruitment and engagement of new members and target communities, publicity, and representation at major events and/or on social media.**

With the aim of increasing participation in the working group, we have carried out some initiatives to identify the barriers that prevent or stop participation and, on the other hand, increase the dissemination of the group in Latin America by participating in local events in most countries representing the working group and actively participating in both local and international scientific events.

We have also encouraged the creation of scientific associations under the regulations and recommendations of IMIA so that they can join as a country. In this sense, we have supported the creation of the Paraguayan Health Information Society and we have had conversations both in Bolivia and Ecuador.

We also participate by supporting the Chilean Health Information Technology Association and collaborating with other institutions such as HL7 in their national and regional affiliates. We have also supported PAHO in projects and events. We also intend to have more presence in social networks and thus be able to disseminate the working group to increase the representation of the countries.

4. **Current List of members:**

We have a group running in Facebook with more than 200 people participating there. We are thinking to move the gripu to Google in order to follow the standard use for IMIA and other WG.

As we previously mentioned, one of the ideas to increase participation is the reorganization of the working group between regions (Africa, Latin America and Asia) and thus be able to increase the level of participation and members within the group. We also plan to increase our presence in networks and achieve publications from the working group that allow us to have a greater scientific presence in the events.