

Dear friends,

Greetings!

I've deliberately delayed our email exchange by 15 days, in order to update everyone till the HTAi Board teleconference meeting held earlier today.

1. HTAi VIII Annual Meeting, Rio de Janeiro

1.1 The VIII HTAi Annual Meeting will be held from June 27-29, 2011 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The pre-conference workshops will be on 25th and 26th June 2011.

1.2 The deadline for submission of parallel panel session proposals has been extended till 3rd December 2010; I do hope that you would submit proposals relevant to the ISG and developing countries in general. On our behalf, I have submitted (or in the process of submitting) the following proposals:

(i) Beginner's guide to HTA (aimed at newcomers to HTA, especially amongst policy-makers)

(ii) Beginner's guide to HTA Methodology (targeted at the same group as above).

(iii) Different models of HTA Capacity Building in developing countries.

I will be happy to discuss further, on these or any other panel proposals that you may have.

1.3 Abstract submission is open till 17 January, 2011.

1.4 Please access the HTAi website for information on Travel Grants for people from developing countries.

2. Recent Activities

2.1 The First Global Forum on Medical Devices was organized by the WHO (in partnership with HTAi) at Bangkok, Thailand from 9-11 September, 2010. Details of the Meeting and individual presentations are available at the following site: http://www.who.int/medical_devices/gfmd/en/index.html

2.2 The first regional meeting in Latin America was held on October 21-22 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. During the Board telecon, I understood that nearly 150 participants, policy-makers, academics and representatives from industry, participated in the Meeting. decision-makers, researchers, and industry from across Latin America. I believe that some of the key presentations will be posted on the HTAi website.

3. Update of SIGNET capacity building programme in India

The third SIGNET Training of Trainers workshop was held in Singapore from 1-4 November 2010 at Singapore. 22 participants from the public and private sector institutions, participated in the training. These participants will now initiate 12-month long projects in their institutions, to utilize their knowledge and skills, to enhance the health-care management system within their institutions.

4. Africa initiative

4.1 The initial series of email discussions with colleagues in Malawai, resulted in an exchange of ideas. Four local, trained Health Economists are committed to take the initiative forward. The next series of steps is as follows:

1. To prepare a HTA needs –assessment document to sensitize local Ministry officials about the need, role and scope of HTA.
2. To organize a teleconference meeting with key Stakeholders in Malawi.
3. To explore the possibility of an awareness building workshop in Malawi.

4.2 The correspondence with South African, Zambian and Sudanese colleagues has stalled somewhat; hopefully, they will restart when it is convenient for them.

Please do send your thoughts/comments that will help in building upon the work in progress.

With best regards,

Joseph L. Mathew

Chair, HTAi DC ISG

15 November 2010.