

Dear friends,

Greetings!

In keeping with our practice of sending out a periodic communication to the DC ISG members, please find attached herewith a brief update on the ISG.

With best regards,

Joseph L. Mathew (Chair) and Paulo Picon (Co-Chair)

HTAi DC ISG

31 Aug 2012

Copy:

Dr. Cliff Goodman, President HTAi.

Dr. Laura Sampietro-Colom, Past President HTAi

Dr. Carole Longson, Vice-President HTAi and Chair ISG Steering Committee.

Mr. Chris Sargent, HTAi Secretariat

1. Annual DC ISG Meeting at the HTAi 2012 Annual Meeting

This year, a total of 40 HTAi members participated in the Annual DC ISG meeting. Several are already members, and others are interested in the activities of the DC ISG. This communication is also copied to everyone present at the meeting, with a request to enroll as DC ISG members.

The major highlights and proposals suggested at the Meeting include:

- To approach the LOC and ISPC of the 2013 Annual Meeting (Seoul, Korea) to request a track for developing country issues in the Scientific programme; as well as pre-conference scientific activities. This is hoped to encourage participation from developing countries as well as avoid the somewhat disappointing situation of the 2012 Annual Meeting.
- A Basic Level HTA Introduction course for “users” of HTA that can be delivered online has been under consideration for the past three years. However, HTAi had expressed inability to host the course owing to the logistic challenges. The matter was discussed during the ISG meeting, and a fresh proposal is outlined below.

- A HTA training/teaching course for HTA “doers” was also suggested and discussed. The details of this will be worked out in the near future and updated to members.
- Contributions from members to the DC ISG web-space were requested again. One of the members, from Brazil, Dr. Guilherme Sander, offered to work on an internet tool that can translate presentations/talks from different languages. This could be of interest for conducting courses and online discussions.
- A report presenting the work of the DC ISG, is proposed to be submitted to the IJTAHC for publication.
- Several DC ISG members shared their work and experiences, with short presentations.

2. Utilization of the Webspace

Please note that we have not yet had a very encouraging response to this till date. Interestingly, a recent visit to the HTAi website showed that the DC ISG is listed as the last of the various ISGs on the HTAi homepage. Another interesting development was that the DC ISG webspace link was missing from the tab for the ISGs. The Chair took this matter up with the HTAi Secretariat. Ms Christine Batdorf was very helpful in identifying the problem (the tab was configured to list only 8 links, and for some inexplicable reason, the DC ISG link was designated the ninth and dropped altogether). Through Christine’s intervention, the DC ISG link is now available on the ISG tab on the HTAi homepage.

We have started putting up materials on the ISG webspace. Please access the space and send your contributions which could include the following:

- (i) *Journal papers/ articles (after obtaining appropriate copyright permissions) authored by members or otherwise; that are relevant to DC issues.*
- (ii) *Powerpoint slides presented at Meetings/Conferences etc that could be general in content or on specific research findings. If too specific, then the content could be reviewed and decisions taken on a case-by-case basis.*
- (iii) *Other important documents/materials authored by members or otherwise; with copyright permissions (where required).*

3. Member profile (*Here too we have not had a very encouraging response to this; please do complete this at the earliest*).

As noted above, frequent requests and reminders to prepare a database of ISG members; has also not generated the expected response. We are grateful to all those who have sent their contributions; and would be grateful if others could kindly send their details as per the template attached below. Please note that the template is only a guide and members are encouraged to add/delete points as appropriate. Please also note that we cannot put up the available profiles until we have a sufficient number.

Template Draft

Please feel free to add more information if you prefer

Name:	
Designation:	
Contact details:	
HTA-related work:	
HTA-related interests:	
Academic expertise interests.	
Research interests.	
Brief CV.	
Informal Photo	

4. Online course on Introduction to HTA

As mentioned above, it is proposed to develop an online course at a Basic Level for “users of HTA”. DC ISG members interested in participating in the project in any of the following capacities may kindly contact us in the next few days: (i) Content development, (ii) Advisory role, (iii) Tutor/Facilitator, (iv) Recruitment of potential participants. (v) Translation of content from English to a local language