

Welcome Message

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Member, eHealth Consortium Steering Committee

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Welcome to the last issue of the eHealth Consortium for 2009. And what a year it has been for eHealth in Hong Kong!

In July, with extensive support from the community the Legislative Council approved funding for the Hong Kong-wide eHealth Record Sharing Project. The eHR Office has been formed under the Food and Health Bureau, and under the guidance of the Steering Committee for eHealth Records Sharing and its Working Groups, the Office will work with healthcare and IT sectors to develop the eHR for Hong Kong.

The eHR Shipshape Symposium on HL7 & Health Data Standards was held on 7 October, where a large audience gathered to hear local experts and our two special guests from HL7 Inc. share their thoughts and experiences on health records interoperability. On the following day HL7-HK was formally established. This is a key milestone as HL7 will be one of the key standards to adopt for the eHR development in Hong Kong.

The launch of HL7-HK was but one of many highlights of the eHealth Forum 2009. Over 700 attendees were informed, educated and entertained by over 40 speakers. I can say without reservation that this was one of the most successful eHealth conferences ever held in Hong Kong, and the participation and enthusiasm shown bodes very well for eHealth in Hong Kong.

I hope you found 2009 as exhilarating as I did, and together let's make 2010 an even more exciting year for eHealth in Hong Kong!



Membership Drive

To ride on the success of the eHealth Forum 2009 in October, with strong support from over 75 organizations of high prestige, we'd think it is an opportune time to widen participation in the Consortium to advocate initiatives for eHealth advancement in Hong Kong. The inaugural Annual Membership Subscription commences on 1 Jan 2010 and we are inviting individuals, corporate and NGO to join.

Invitation for membership subscriptions were sent to organizations in healthcare/IT and related industries, which would like to support eHC as voting members and contribute to our ongoing works. Major decisions on our plan on development and implementation for eHC are at the members' disposal.



Above: Organizing Committee of eHealth Forum 2009 at work. Join us to support our initiatives and events!

Members would enjoy benefit such as:

- **Training Opportunities:** Conferences, seminars, trainings provide great changes to excel your professionalism. The eHealth Forum, held in 2006 and 2009 in Hong Kong, is one of the most notable and signature events held in the region. Privileged discounts and priority registration would be offered to members.
- **Awareness and Advocacy:** We encourage members to contribute their views and offer their suggestions to advocate eHC's vision and mission, for the betterment of the eHealth development in Hong Kong.
- **Increased Knowledge:** Members would receive eHC's quarterly newsletter delivered by email to learn about the latest eHealth development in Hong Kong.

For more information about our membership scheme, please email info@ehealth.org.hk or call 3157 7028. Your support at this critical stage in our development can make a significant difference. We look forward to working closely with you!



Above: Example of great teamwork – Organizing Committee of eHealth Forum 2009.

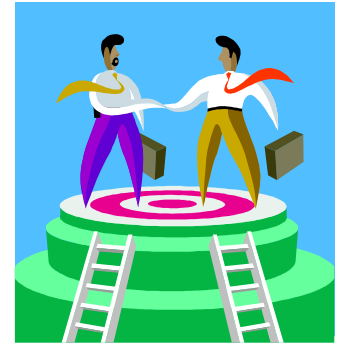
Validation Platform Project for eHealth Data Standard Conformity

Project Progress and the Way Forward

Ray Cheung

Project Director, Validation Platform

Chairman, eHealth SIG, iProA



Phase 2 of the Project is in progress, heading to completion in April 2010. During a recent project meeting, the team confirmed to include three more added semi-structured elements in the Platform, namely drugs, allergies and diagnosis. System design would be completed in January 2010, implementation in February and UAT in April.

Through the Pilot Validation Platform project Phase 1 and Phase 2, the stakeholders experienced how their patient information could conform to the standards for sharing in the future. To let stakeholders be more prepared for the data sharing in 2014, eHCL proposes to further include more functionalities of the pilot Platform and ensure the system would be a sustainable and automated one which we named it as Phase 3 of the project.

The Platform will function as a quality and safety guard. The eHR data from healthcare practitioners can use the Platform to validate whether their eHR products/services conform to the territory-wide standard before connecting to the sharing platform. Objectives of Certification Platform are:

1. Provide an environment for stakeholders to test the conformity of more eHealth data such as Radiology Results, Laboratory Results, etc.

2. Provide an environment for EHR Office to setup control files defining the eHealth record data value and constraint on eHealth record data field suitable for the territory-wide electronic health record system in Hong Kong.
3. Protect, manage and display the eHealth record data that has passed the validation successfully in order to let stakeholder further experience how the data sharing work in the future eHR platform. Notification will be sent to the patients if their patient information has been viewed by a health care practitioner.
4. Test the feasibility of more message exchange mechanisms, in addition to web services and sftp.
5. Test the feasibility of different authentication methods.
6. Illustrate the future certification scheme for compliance and inter-operability.

The team is now preparing the proposal to FHB to seek the support of this initiative.

About the Validation Platform Project

eHealth Consortium Limited (eHCL) is an NGO to support the HKSAR Government on the electronic health records (eHR) sharing project. In April 2008, the Government has granted a funding for eHCL to build a web-based Validation Platform which aims at testing the readiness of conformity and interoperability of eHR from various health care practitioners. The project is divided into 2 phases.

eHealth Forum 2009

Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, 8-9 October 2009

The second international conference, eHealth Forum 2009, organized by eHealth Consortium was successfully held on 8 – 9 October at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. The objective of the two-day “intellectual banquet”, as remarked by Dr Charleston Sin, Chairman of the Forum Organizing Committee, was to share ideas in promoting interoperability of electronic medical/patient record (eMR/ePR) systems and seamlessness in electronic health record (eHR) sharing and to gain a more in-depth appreciation of current and future development plans for eMR/ePR and eHR sharing system in public and private healthcare sectors.

The Opening Ceremony of the Forum was graced by Dr York Chow, GBS, JP, as the Officiating Guest who shared the vision of the eHR initiatives launched by the Government. The inauguration of the Hong Kong international health standards developing organization, HL7-HK, also took place after the Forum’s Opening Ceremony. The establishment of HL7-HK is recognized as one of the most important milestones in unifying eHealth development in Hong Kong.



Above: The eHealth Forum was initiated by the Honorable Guests placing mascots on the Globe, signifying sharing, collaboration, and participation.

*(Right, from centre: Dr York Chow, Dr Leung Pak-yin, Prof Li Baoluo, Mr Victor Lam, Dr Charleston Sin;
Left, from centre: Dr Winnie Tang, Dr Heston Kwong, Mr Ray Cheung, Dr CP Wong, Dr NT Cheung)*

The Forum received overwhelming support with more than 700 participants including top government officials, and senior executives and professionals from healthcare and IT industries in the region. The Forum has provided superb opportunities for networking, sharing on new initiatives and dialogues with key industry players. Over 40 speakers participated in an extensive range of sessions and talks.



Above: Honorable Guests and Sponsors of the Forum in a group photo taken at the Opening Ceremony.



Above: Officiating Guests and Some Representatives of the 46 Supporting Organizations of the Forum in a group photo taken at the Opening Ceremony.



Above: Presentation of Certification of Appreciation by Dr Winnie Tang, Chairperson of eHealth Consortium Steering Committee, to Mr Victor Lam, Acting Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Business Transformation).

The Special Plenary Session by Mr Victor Lam, Acting Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Business Transformation) and the Closing Plenary Session by Dr NT Cheung, Chief Medical Informatics Officer of Hospital Authority respectively gave detailed background on the Government's effort in eHR development and the way forward of its future endeavors. World renowned experts from US, UK, Australia, Singapore, Mainland and the Pearl River Delta Region were drawn to share their expertise and contribute insights to the development direction of eHealth around the world.

eHR Shipshape – Symposium on HL7 & Health Data Standards

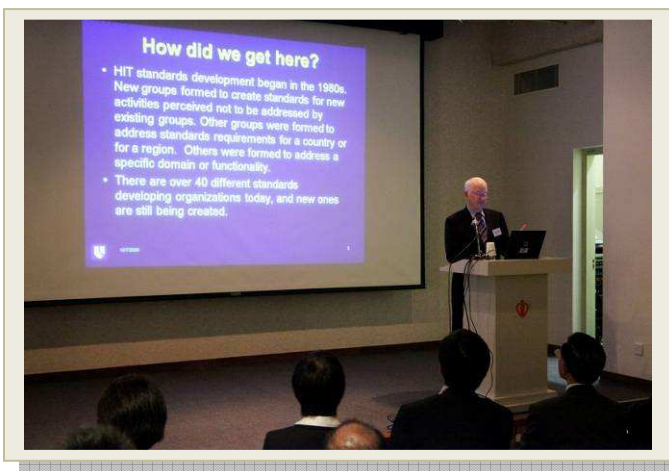
Ruttonjee Hospital, 7 October 2009

Healthcare is now being delivered by teams of practitioner serving patients over long periods. In Hong Kong, the government is developing a territory-wide, patient-oriented electronic health record (eHR) with the aims to improve efficiency and quality of care, improve continuity and integration of care, enhance disease surveillance and redress public-private imbalance. The symposium aims to promote the understanding of HL7 and other health data standards and to share ideas on the management and implementation of HL7 and other health data standards.



Above: Group Photos of Dr CP Wong (3rd, left), Co-Chairman of eHealth Consortium Executive Committee and Speakers (from left) Mr Michael Cheung, Prof Ed Hammond, Dr Charles Jaffe, Ms SC Chiang, Ms Vicky Fung, Mr Pascal Tse.

The eHealth Consortium has the honor to sponsor, together with the Hospital Authority, the “eHR Shipshape – Symposium on HL7 & Health Data Standards” organized by the eHealth Record Office of Food and Health Bureau and HL7, Inc. The Symposium, held in the Ruttonjee Hospital, was a full house with 150 participants.



Above: Speeches by Prof Ed Hammond (Chairman of HL7) and Dr Charles Jaffe (Chief Executive Officer of HL7)

Capacity Building: eHealth Training Course for Chinese Medicine Practitioners



Positive Feedbacks from Basic Level Course Participants; Advanced Level Course Starts in January

In the month of October and November 2009, we have organized a total of 9 classes (comprising of 27 sessions of 2 hours each) of basic-level workshops, enrolling a total of 176 Chinese Medicine Practitioners (CMP) with an average of attendance rate over 89%.

A questionnaire was given to the participants after the completion of each workshop session. Among the attendees, 93.3% rated good and excellent regarding the practicability of the training course material, 93.5% considered this training course to be able to arouse their interests and confidence in using computer; and over 74% considered to recommend the training programme to other CMPs.



Above: Topics in Basic- Level Workshop includes usage of webmail to communicate with others.

Following the remarkable success of the basic level lectures and workshops, we continue our effort in the development of advanced level lectures and workshops, through which we would like to further promote eHealth to a different population of CMP who have been using IT in their daily work.

We will organize a series of advanced level lectures on three consecutive Sundays, starting from 3 to 17 January 2010, in Lecture Room 215 of the Community College of City University (Telford Annex) - with the aim to train up 150 CMP on how IT can assist their daily clinical work, as well as the eHealth concept and its development; some specific topics include Computerized Clinical Solutions in Hong Kong, Local and Worldwide Trend on eHealth, Data Privacy and Security, and Health Care Vouchers and future eVoucher applications, etc.

In addition to the lectures, we have also planned to hold 8 classes of hands-on advanced level workshops, in which CMPs will have the opportunity to learn how to participate in the Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme, redeem Health Care Voucher on completion of patient visit and try out and different Computerized CMP Clinical Solutions on their own. The workshops are scheduled to be held from February to April 2010.

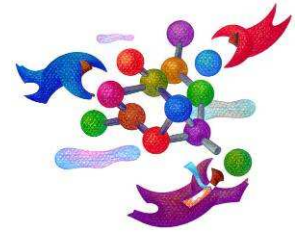


Above: Strong interests and positive feedbacks from participants.

EEI – eHR Engagement Initiative

October 2009

On 8 October, in the eHealth Forum 2009, the eHealth Record Office announced the Electronic Health Record Engagement Initiative (EEI) which is to invite expression of interest (EOI), from private and non-government healthcare stakeholders, with preliminary proposals for possible eHR partnerships, including pilot projects and interface projects that could facilitate deployment of electronic medical/patient record (eMR/ePR) systems in the private sector and contribute to the development of a territory-wide eHR sharing system.



Above: Speech by Mr Victor Lam, Acting Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Business Transformation) on EEI, at the Day 2 Conference Luncheon of eHealth Forum 2009.

The proposals submitted can make use of the public sector expertise and resources available through the Government, to facilitate: the development of eMR/ePR systems in the private sector, adaptation to comply with standardization, and interfacing with the core eHR sharing infrastructure. All feedbacks and preliminary proposals received during this first stage EEI invitation exercise will assist the Government to formulate appropriate strategy to further promote eHR development and sharing in the private healthcare sector.

Deadline for submission of these EEI preliminary proposals is set on 29 December, 2009. One may know more details by visiting their website at:

<http://www.ehealth.gov.hk/en/index5.html>.

About Us

Established since 2005, eHealth Consortium is one of the major non-profit making organizations in Hong Kong leading eHealth advocacy in the region and we are the prime agency bridging healthcare and IT industries to advance the development of eHealth in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Over the years, our efforts are focused on three key areas, namely data standardization, education and capacity building, and facilitating pilot projects for the advancement of eHealth applications. We work closely with the healthcare and the ICT sectors to offer training programs, conferences, and seminal events for eHealth stakeholders.

eHealth Consortium Secretariat

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Career and Volunteering

Healthcare expertise and volunteers are the heart of the eHealth Consortium. For information about joining us, please contact our Secretariat or our Human Resources at hr@ehealth.org.hk.

Call for Members

We cordially invite you and your organization to participate in the development of eHealth by joining the Consortium as a member!

The inaugural annual membership subscription commences on 1 January 2009.

Contact us for details.

e-Newsletter Subscriptions

To subscribe / unsubscribe, please email info@ehealth.org.hk.