Informatics Capacity Building in the Developing World:

Working Towards an International Educational Model and Curriculum

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Workshop Agenda

• Plenary session I (15 minutes)
  – Introduction to the workshop
  – Breakout session leader introductions

• Breakout sessions (45 minutes)
  – Facilitated discussion on one of three topics
  – Participants will note top three issues / ideas that should be addressed in working toward international curriculum model

• Plenary session II (30 minutes)
  – Summary of discussion by each group leader
  – Ranking of issues / ideas by participants
  – Summary and discussion of next steps
Workshop Aims

• Raise awareness about the challenges of informatics education and capacity building in the developing world

• Elicit feedback and dialogue from members of the international informatics community about local capacity building challenges

• Discuss possible, common, and sharable educational models

• Discuss and agree upon options of how to continue the dialogue, needs assessments, and offerings of solutions

• Agree to continue to work on these solutions after the Workshop
Dr. Maurice Mars
Capacity Building

• How do we address lack of capacity to teach informatics?
• Is there a failure to understand local context and constraints?
• How do we deal with policy makers who may lack experience and in depth knowledge of eHealth issues?
• What are the career paths for informaticians?
• How can we develop pragmatic solutions to legal and ethical problems?
Dr. Paula Otero

Educational Resources: Is there a chance for “glocalization”?

- Can we establish a common knowledge base from where to start from that addresses the need of developing and developed countries?

- Which is better: Modules or prescribed program?

- What are the 10 topics we can’t miss in health informatics training?

- Can we establish standards that apply to all of informatics, from nano- to public health?

- What is best for sharing resources: Creative Commons or copyrighted materials?
Dr. Alvin Marcelo

Government Challenges and Issues

• What are the challenges faced by health informatics training programs with regards government support?

• What are the issues that prevent government from maximizing health informatics training programs?
Summary
Capacity Building

• Insufficient people to teach
• Career paths need to be established (industry, MOH)
• Context specific teaching materials needed
• Must develop capacity over full spectrum of people
• Distance learning opportunities
  – Positives and negatives
Summary

Educational Resources

• Language & translation
• Common/fundamental themes (framework)
  – Developing a common reference model for the health informatics discipline.
• Formal training programme
• Specifics programmes, context adapted
• Face to face, videoconference, videos (smartphones or DVD), MOOC (Massive Open Online Course)
• Availability (Internet access, Resources, Money)
Summary

Government Challenges and Issues

• Challenges faced by health informatics training programs:
  – Time issues (too long)
  – Incentives, career track, credential program, continuing development.
  – Clear protocols, policy and procedures
  – Relationship between academia and ministries.

• Challenges faced by government on maximizing health informatics training program:
  – Availability and adequacy of financial resources
  – Bureaucracy and separated organization
Discussion