

Highlights on: The International Hospital Federation

The International Hospital Federation (IHF) is the successor to the International Hospital Association, which was established in 1929 after the first International Hospital Congress in Atlantic City, USA. The Association ceased to function during the Second World War, but was revived with a new title in 1947 by some of the pre-war members, under the presidency of the late Dr René Sand of Belgium. It is constituted under the Civil Code of Switzerland. The Secretariat which since 1947 was based in London, moved in November 2002 to Ferney Voltaire, France (Greater Geneva Area).

The International Hospital Federation (is an international non-governmental organisation, supported by members from over 100 countries. As the worldwide body for hospitals and health care organisations it develops and maintains a spirit of cooperation and communication among them, with the primary goal of improving patient safety and of promoting health in underserved communities.

Vision

Mission, vision, business plan and activities

The IHF vision is to become a world leader in facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience in health sector management. Through the dissemination of evidence-based information, IHF will help improve patient care quality around the globe.

- IHF collects, collates, publishes and facilitates the exchange of information and ideas on best practice in hospital and healthcare management.

- It assists in the creation of environments that support organisations in the promotion and delivery of healthcare.
- It fosters international partnerships that promote interaction among public and private hospitals and healthcare organisations, the community and commercial entities.

The IHF vision will be promoted through events, publications, networking and projects in line with the mission and values of the IHF. These activities will prioritize information on the leadership and management of hospitals and health services. The focus will be on both developed and developing nations and the learning that can be achieved through dialogue between countries, organizations and individuals.

The IHF is driven by its founding ethos that it is the right of every human being irrespective of geographical, economic, ethnic or social condition to enjoy the best standard in quantity and quality of health and access to hospital and health care services. By promoting this value, IHF is supporting the improvement of the health of society.

The provision of health and health care to all people recognises and accepts current best practice in medical standards and patient care as well as the ethical behaviour and standards of integrity required to govern, lead and manage healthcare organizations.

The IHF strives to promote and protect the dignity, safety and welfare of patients.

Membership and communications

In addition to publications, events and projects IHF will offer other types of services to members such as acting as



a bridge between members in order to facilitate and support cross-fertilization of knowledge and experience in management and leadership of health organizations. Through networking the IHF will support the creation of new national hospital associations and thereby ensure the involvement of an increased number of countries in its activities and an expansion of its possible membership.

The IHF will communicate with and engage IHF members in order to disseminate the new mission statement and to take into account their responses. The new e-newsletter will be a crucial tool to keep IHF in touch with its members and for engaging members more actively with each other.

Partnerships

Publications

IHF publications, be they paper or electronic, will support and enhance the cross-fertilization of evidence-based management practices. They will, through the promotion of dialogue, contribute significantly to improving management and operations of health organizations. The featured articles, statements, Q & As and advertisements, will aim to stimulate the exchange of ideas within and between the public and corporate sectors. These actions will improve and enhance IHF image and also provide the potential of increased revenue for the IHF. IHF will, through its publications, endeavour to embrace and convey its mission objective to improve and raise the levels and quality of patient care irrespective of the level of development within its members. Published articles will cover issues relevant to the entire membership and will range from sophisticated management healthcare techniques to more fundamental ones.

Events

Events will be organized and located so that IHF will be present in same manner, in all regions of the world at least every second year. These events will be coordinated with events organised by

Regional Organisations. The subject focus of each of these events will be tailored to address the needs of the host Region, thereby enabling the IHF to contribute to regional management development as well as establishing a presence in the area. These regionally-hosted events (Pan-Regional or others) will be supported by the Biennial Congress, IHF's primary event. The aim will be to ensure that this rotates from region to region in accordance with criteria agreed by the Governing Council. Events will also provide both a forum and meeting place for public and corporate actors. Finally, they will provide a significant source of revenue generation for the IHF.

IHF will take care that all events fall within the broad scope of IHF's interests. When IHF discusses future events with potential partners and hosts, it will ensure that there is a significant correlation between the event and IHF's goals as included in this mission statement.

Another tool, in particular in reaching out to poor countries, but also in general outreach, is the participation by IHF members and secretariat in international projects focusing on topics of concern enveloped within IHF's overall vision. These projects will, through external funding, contribute to an increase in skills and manpower at the IHF secretariat as well as stimulating networking between members, other NGOs and Governmental organizations such as WHO. Priority will be given to projects that assist low income countries to develop their health services. Administration and governance summary
The IHF vision is a world of healthy communities served by well managed hospitals and health services where all individuals reach their highest potential for health.

IHF Constitution

