



EDITOR'S

One idea that always gets my attention is the value of this newsletter for the readers. I presume the readers would be interested to know what their colleagues everywhere are doing. We tried in this issue to have updates from different countries. There are still many countries that are carrying out lots of activities that many members in IFMSA know nothing about. We want to cover them, just write for us. On page 2, you can find about an IFMSA project in Greece and about a training in Malta. IFMSA members always act positively in the hard times, as what we see from Pakistan after the earthquake. There are more articles about different activities from Bosnia, Indonesia & UK, have a look at page 3. IFMSA news in brief can be found in the last page.

AM

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1st Executive Board Meeting (aka TOM1) held in Prague, 19-23 Oct



The IFMSA Team of Officials had their first meeting of the term in Prague, Czech Republic. 26 officials from more than 20 countries have attended the meeting.

The team building was the most tangible outcome of the meeting. Those who were there can figure out how much their expectations have changed after the meeting.

After brainstorming of up to 100 priority possibilities for the team, the officials finally decided to have only 3 for the upcoming term; marketing, fundraising, and global health. To focus on few priorities was a realistic approach of the officials especially that each one has individual tasks, plans... and study.

Another issue that took lots of the meeting time is the preparations of the next General Assembly, the March Meeting in Chile. A detailed task list and assignments have been created. Many radical changes in the agenda have been discussed as well.

In brief, the new team of officials has left Prague and looking forward to the next meeting. Carefully optimistic, most officials expect EBM2 to be better...but definitely it would be so different in Beirut!

AM

LOCAL ACTION FROM GREECE

The Daisy Project - Margarita - is a pilot community-based educational programme of HelMSIC that is run in Thessaloniki, Greece since 2001, in cooperation with the International Association of Health Policy. It's trans-national IFMSA project. The project's name, Daisy, is based on its structure with an essential core, Training in Communication skills, and peripheral activities that represent the project's petals. These petals are Medicine in Community, Health Intervention in Secondary Schools, Nurse Aid and Research in Social Medicine. During **Training in Communication** skills medical students meet with a psychologist in small groups on a weekly basis. Discussion, role plays and simulation games help students to acquire communication skills, recognise their own emotions and cope with different types of people. **Medicine in the Community** puts students alongside General Practitioners in health care centres, and they meet regularly to discuss various cases. **Nurse Aid** allows participants to work alongside nursing staff at hospitals, gaining technical abilities and communication skills. **Health Intervention in Secondary Schools** is the oldest petal of the flower. Since 1996 students and tutors have met weekly to discuss reproductive (sexual) health issues. Acquired knowledge is passed on to school students during the interventions. **Research in Social Medicine** teaches the main research techniques after which students choose a specific topic for their research. There are regular meetings with tutors and a final presentation. **Interested** in "planting" your own Daisies? Check www.margarita.uni.cc

Kyriakos Martakis

LOCAL ACTION FROM PAKISTAN

A team of IFMSA-Pakistan had joined the relief efforts in Muzaffarabad. The purpose of the visit was to assess the situation on ground and plan a strategy for a relief operation, along with delivery of collected goods and medicine. We, in collaboration with NCA, took a consignment of medicine worth 0.4 million rupees, food and clothing to Muzaffarabad.

A **multi faceted** activity was undertaken; special mobile medical treatment was taken beyond Muzaffarabad city, along the road to Gari Dupkata and the airport area by me and my team mates. Other members of IFMSA, along with NCA students, focused on delivery of food and warm clothing to the affected people. A survey of the situation was carried to assess requirements and to plan further relief efforts.

As a result of our survey we have drawn some conclusions on which further strategies shall be based. There is a need to focus on providing tents. We have already identified an area of a measles outbreak in the airport area of Muzaffarabad, which require vaccinations against cholera and measles. Pneumonia is the most common disease, which requires antibiotics in solution form for children, being the worse affected. Paedalyte solution is needed for children suffering from diarrhoea because it is the second most common problem we came across.

We are currently devising a delivery system to get the goods and medical aid to those who are in most need, especially those who are far on hill tops and cannot travel. I request all members to pitch in and contribute to the cause.

Omair Ali Chaudry

LOCAL ACTION FROM MALTA

Malta Medical Students' Association (MMSA) organised the Training and Resource Development Seminar 2005 (TRD), 14 -16 October. The TRD aims to recruit new members to MMSA, by generating awareness of MMSA and its various activities, as well as indicating to students where it is that MMSA needs their help most. TRD also serves to train MMSA existing members, so that even those who are already interested are maintained, and will be more efficient in their work.

Initiation of the project was probably the most tedious part. The organising committee (OC) began meetings way back in August to get ready for this 200-student seminar, and the usual sponsor and hotel hunting began. As the opening ceremony drew closer, however, things began falling into place. Luckily, finding speakers and trainers was not a problem as the seminar is seen as an excellent means of input into society; training tomorrow's doctors is sure to reap dividends.

On site, the whole seminar worked like clockwork. Each Standing Committee (SC) had their own 2 hour session, during which they could reach out to prospective members. This was preceded by what the OC termed 'Speed-dating'. This involved the SCs setting up little booths with surrounding stands. Students were invited to sit at the booth for 10 minutes, and be 'seduced' by the SC, by an overview of the SC activities, to come to the SC session. Then, in true speed-dating fashion, a bell would ring and the students would move to a different booth. This way, in less than hour, students would have experienced 4 or 5 SCs, giving a wider exposure than just attending the 2 hour session.

A week after TRD, we can already see results. Several SC mailing lists are actually growing with new students interested in MMSA activities. Everybody is looking forward to the same success in TRD 2006.

Paul Cacciottolo

LOCAL ACTION FROM INDONESIA

Attending meetings and conferences held nationally and internationally doesn't just involve paying the registration fees. It can often be difficult to get cheap hotels and transportation, especially flights. These things all increase the cost of attending conferences or meetings, especially for those members who are actively involved in national and international levels.

In October 2005, in order to assist Indonesian medical students, The Executive Board of The Centre for Indonesian Medical Students' Activities (CIMSA Indonesia) launched the CIMSA Travel Agent. The Board realised that with more than 300 medical students as members and the fact that CIMSA is getting bigger all the time, they need to assist the members of CIMSA Indonesia to attend these meetings.

CIMSA-discounted airfare and accommodation would encourage members to attend the May Meeting (Annual CIMSA Meeting) and international meetings such as the Regional Meeting and IFMSA August Meeting. CIMSA Indonesia Travel Agent gives discounts of up to 20%.

Satria Perwira

TO WRITE FOR eVAGUS...
CHECK OUT;

www.ifmsa.org/publications/eVagusGuidelines.pdf

LOCAL ACTION FROM BOSNIA

BoHeMSA organised the SPORT against AIDS, 15 October, at the biggest city stadium, "Kosovo".

For this event, we picked a football match between our city's two rival teams. All players wore a red ribbon on one shoulder and BoHeMSA logo on the other. Also, one hour before starting the game and during halftime, a group of children brought a huge red ribbon (about 20 meters long) onto the field, and it was left there until the game started so everybody could see it. At the same time, it was announced over the speakerphone that the sign represented the fight against AIDS and that was it had been produced by the BoHeMSA members.

About 15 people were involved in organizing this event - among them were 10 or 11 medical students and rest were members of the Football Union (FCK-Sarajevo). The major goal of this event was to make the young people aware that AIDS is present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and not only in distant countries, and we all should strive to fight against it.

We believe that we reached about 10,000 people by this event, and as it is going to continue, we would reach more. This event attracted lot of attention as it was the first of the kind in our country. A few days afterwards, we were asked to be guests on a TV show and talk about BoHeMSA, IFMSA and this event. We feel that this event successfully publicized the AIDS problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Nina Jovanovic

LOCAL ACTION FROM UNITED KINGDOM

MedSIN-UK held its 6th National Conference in Leeds(28-30 October) Over 300 delegates from around the UK attended to learn more about Global Health issues.

The conference covered four themes – 'Healthcare on our Doorstep'; 'Pharmagood or Pharmabad?'; 'Medical Tourism or a Helping Hand' and 'The G8 and the Future of Health'. In addition to the plenary lectures, delegates were able to choose from a wide range of workshops and training sessions.

'Health Care on our Doorstep', allowed delegates to hear from local doctors about providing equitable health services for the homeless in Leeds. Isabelle Raymond from Medecins du Monde talked about a project in East London which aims to improve access to services for the homeless, asylum seekers and sex workers.

The "Pharmagood or Pharmabad?" called for doctors to address the ethical issues of accepting gifts from pharmaceutical industry. The plenary was followed by a heated debate in which delegates challenged the morality of the 'obscene' profit margins of the industry, and called for better training in medical schools to critically appraise drug company-sponsored clinical trials.

In 'Medical Tourism or a Helping Hand' students were urged to make an honest assessment of what they hope to gain during electives abroad, to be aware of their own limitations and ensure that those they will be working with are aware of the experience they possess.

The "G8 and the Future of Health" session looked at current barriers to poverty reduction, focusing on the problems of aid and trade. The current problems of the aid regime were outlined, including the concept of 'phantom aid' where much of what is donated finds its way back into the donor country as payment for advisory services.

The weekend provided a great deal of food for thought, both about some of the key issues in global health and about the local actions that students can take.

Katie Garman and Flora Ogilvie

THE INSIDER

EBM 2 would be held in Lebanon(28-31 December), deadline to send input to EBM agenda is December 1st. The EB sent another call for NMOs to host EBM 4.Send to president@ifmsa.org for more details.

Call for Travel Assistance Fund TAF has been announced for NMOs member to attend the next General Assembly, the March Meeting in Chile. Application deadline is December 1st.Send to treasurer@ifmsa.org for more details.

The IFMSA Structure Taskforce has been launched with members from NMOs presidents, alumni & officials. There is still need for a representative from Asia!

The EB has called for applicants for the IFMSA Global Health Coordinator & IFMSA Focal Point for Ageing. Application deadline is November 15th. Send to president@ifmsa.org for more details.

New EBs have been taking over in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BoHeMSA), Brazil (IFLMS), Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Ivory Coast ,Lebanon, Norway, Quebec, Spain, Sudan and Turkey all over the last month.

Call for Editorial Board members of the next MSI on MDG1 has been sent out. Application deadline is November 21st. Send to publications@ifmsa.org for more details.

The early registration of IFMSA March Meeting would start on November 14th and end by December 15th.Late registration is from December 15th to January 15th.Check www.ifmsa.cl/mm2006.

The registration of the 12th PAMSA Regional Meeting to be held in Brazil (4-10 January) has started. It would last until December 6th. Check www.pamsa2006.com.br.

The appointment of the IFMSA Liaison Officers 2005 –2006 have been made finally by the EB as follows;

- * Liaison Officer to the WHO: Serini Murugasen, South Africa
- * Liaison Officer to the UNESCO: Laura Hirvensalo, Finland
- * Liaison Officer on Medical Education issues: Hans Jacob Westbye, Norway
- * Liaison Officer on Human Rights and Peace issues: Jonathan Mamo, Malta
- * Liaison Officer for Reproductive Health issues, incl. HIV/AIDS: Aditi Joshi, United States
- * Liaison Officer for Public Health issues: Ahmed Ibrahim, Egypt
- * Liaison Officer to Student Organizations: Claire Procter, United Kingdom
- * Liaison Officer to the WMA: Jana Kammeyer, Slovakia

mark your AGENDA on

***February 12-15, 2006:** 14th Annual International Ain Shams Medical Students' Congress - www.ausss.com

***April 1-2, 2006:** Conference at Yale University "Empowering Communities to Bridge Health Divides"
www.uniteforsight.org/2006_annual_conference.php

***April 27-30, 2006:** 1st Seminar on organ donation and transplantation for medical students in Split, Croatia.
donation.seminar@gmail.com

***May 30-June 2, 2006:** Global Health Council's 33rd Annual Conference www.globalhealth.org/conference

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