

## **ISfTeH 12th International Conference – Chennai (India)**

*(In conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of the Telemedicine Society of India)*

**Chennai (Tamil Nadu)**

**2-3 November 2007**

### **REPORT**

#### ***DESCRIPTION***

The 3rd National Conference of the Telemedicine Society of India (TSI) was organized with the 12th International Conference of the International Society for Telemedicine and e-Health (ISfTeH) at Chennai from 1st -3rd November 2007. The Telemedicine Society of India consists of doctors, engineers, technologists and administrators including 50 officers of the Armed Forces. The ISfTeH consists of 26 member countries including India.. ISfTeH facilitates the international dissemination of knowledge and experience in Telemedicine and eHealth and provides access to recognized experts in the field worldwide. **This is the first time that ISfTeH, held a conference in South Asia.**

The conference was organized by Apollo Hospitals, Apollo Telemedicine Networking Foundation, Sri Ramachandra Medical University and Shankar Nethralaya, The major sponsors included ISRO, Dept of Science and Technology and Dept of Information Technology Govt of India. World Health Organization. UNOOSA.

#### ***BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES***

The ISfTeH, since its “re-creation” in 2003 adopted a strategy for the continuation of its International Conferences which would bring it, year after year, to another continent. After Europe (Norway), Oceania (Australia), South America (Brazil), Africa (South Africa), the conference was organized this year in Asia (India), in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of the Telemedicine Society of India (T.S.I.).

The objectives, as for every ISfTeH International Conference so far, were to allow its “National” member in the given region/continent to take advantage of an “International” umbrella for their “National” conference and at the same time to confront the our worldwide members and contacts to discover the advances and realities in the given country and continent. Creating major networking opportunities is also part of the Mission of the ISfTeH :

**facilitate the international dissemination of knowledge and experience in Telemedicine and eHealth and to provide access to recognized experts in the field worldwide!**

## ***ATTENDANCE***

Number of Participants : 300

Amount of Countries Represented : 22

Countries :

01. Algeria
02. Australia
03. Bangladesh
04. Belgium
05. Bosnia & Herzegovina
06. Brazil
07. Canada
08. France
09. Germany
10. Hungary
11. Italy
12. Malaysia
13. Maldives
14. Myanmar
15. Philipines
16. South Africa
17. Spain
18. Sri Lanka
19. Switzerland
20. United Kingdom
21. United States of America
22. Zimbabwe

## ***PROGRAMME***

- **Pre-Conference Workshop at IIT Madras on Thursday 1st November 2007**

Chief Guest **Dr. T. Ramasami** Secretary Dept of Science and Technology Govt of India, Presided by **Dr. M.S. Ananth**, Director, IIT Madras.

**10 Didactic lectures** including Organization & Management of Telemedicine, Tele-Radiology, Tele-Cardiology Tele-Ophthalmology, Critical Evaluation & Auditing of a Telemedicine Unit , Standardization issues, Legal aspects etc. were delivered by a national faculty (details given in programme booklet).

There was a live hands-on demonstration of teleradiology and teleconsultation to villages using low cost indigenous equipment. VSAT enabled vans of Shankar Nethralaya and Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Research Center was made available for participants to see mobile teleconsultation from a Hospital on Wheels. A UK based company demonstrated a unique " Map of Medicine" programme being used by the National Health service UK.

175 delegates from all over India participated in the workshop.

◦ **Conference - 2nd & 3rd November 2007- Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai**

Special address by **Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Hon'ble Dr. M. Karunanidhi.**

Key Note Addresses by **Dr. Yunkap Kwankam, WHO Geneva, Prof Michael Nerlich, President ISfTeH Germany, Prof Ricky Richardson, Chairman, Commonwealth eHealth Association, UK.**

3 Video conferencing sessions from USA.

83 papers from all over the world covering topics ranging from presentations depicting telehealth across India, teleeducation, rural telehealth. Lectures on the use of dedicated VSAT enabled teleophthalmology vans from Sankara Nethralaya Chennai and Aravind Eye Hospital Madurai were well received.

Apollo Telemedicine Networking Foundation shared its experience of overseeing more than 25,000 teleconsultations and of introducing formal courses on telehealth technology.

See also attached pdf files for the more detailed program – Day 1 and Day 2

Also see : <http://www.isft.net/cms/index.php?chennai-2007>

***SUMMARY of PRESENTATIONS***

Abstracts and Powerpoint Presentations will be posted on the ISfTeH website under [http://www.isft.net/cms/index.php?isfteh\\_conferences](http://www.isft.net/cms/index.php?isfteh_conferences), as soon as received from the Indian organizers.

## ***CONCLUSIONS***

The conference helped create awareness among the stakeholders about the benefits of this technology of Telemedicine/e-Health for the remote and rural population of India.

This was also highlighted in the extensive media coverage.

It was also an eye-opener of the achievements and goals regarding Telemedicine/eHealth in India for the international attendance.

Networking allowed many new contacts between participants.

The ISfTeH also recruited new members.