

MINUTES OF MEETING
ON
STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR
THE STUDY
ON
IMPROVEMENT
OF
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS
IN
HEALTH SECTOR
IN
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

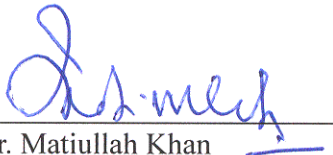
AGREED UPON BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

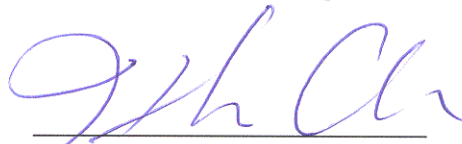
AND

THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY STUDY TEAM

Islamabad, October 15, 2004



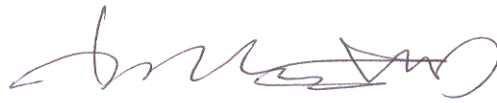
Mr. Matiullah Khan
Senior Joint Secretary
Ministry of Health
The Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Mr. Hiroshi Abo
Team Leader
JICA Study Team



Mr. Muhammad Ashraf Khan
Joint Secretary
(Economic Affairs Division)
The Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Dr. Dairiku Hozumi
Member
JICA Advisory Committee

In accordance with the Scope of Work (hereinafter referred to as 'S/W') as well as the Minutes of Meeting on the S/W signed between the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan (hereinafter referred to as 'the Government of Pakistan') and Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as 'JICA') on 7 August 2003, for the Study on Improvement of Management Information Systems in Health Sector in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (hereinafter referred to as 'the Study'), JICA dispatched a study team (hereinafter referred to as 'JICA Study Team') to Pakistan on 21 January 2004.

The JICA Study Team conducted a situation analysis of the existing health information systems in the public health sector from February to August 2004. Based on the findings of the situation analysis, a number of intervention options were outlined by the Study Team. The situation analysis findings and options were reviewed in-depth in the context of their desirability and feasibility during Provincial Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings. The results of the TAG meetings were discussed at Federal counterpart and donor meetings. Through these meetings broad outlines of interventions were agreed upon; at the same time, need for detailed design of the interventions for further discussions was strongly expressed.

With this backdrop, the meeting of the Steering Committee for the Study was held on 14th October 2004, in order to finalize and approve results of the counterpart meeting. The meeting was chaired by Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health, Mr. Matiullah Khan in the absence of Dr. Abdul Majid Rajput, Director General Health, chairman of Steering Committee and was attended by representatives from Federal Ministries, PIMS, Provincial Health Secretaries and Director Generals, JICA/Japan and JICA/Pakistan, and the JICA Study Team. (List of participants attached).

1. Consensus reached:

During the meeting, consensus was reached on the following points:

- a. Vision and strategic approach for realization of the vision:
 - The vision is to improve health status of the population through improving evidence-based health service delivery management.
 - The information system for that is a comprehensive district HIS that is based and managed at the district and meets the district's health information needs. At the same time it provides relevant data catering to federal and provincial planning and policy roles.
- b. Staged approach
- c. Provision of strategic plan and detailed design within two months
- d. Next steering committee in two months to review and approve strategic plan and detailed design

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2. Other comments

The provincial senior managers commented on the following:

- Modernization of Health Information System is essential
- Study's strategic plan accounts for differing regulatory climates

In addition, various participants expressed different priorities regarding information system for tertiary hospitals. The study team's strategic plan should take into account these different priorities.

3. Vision of Ministry of Health

Dr. Mursalin, national Health Information System (HMIS) officer presented the Ministry's vision of HMIS development and recommended further activities for HMIS promotion within the framework of government's newly approved National Health Information Resource Center (NHIRC).

4. Views expressed by Dr. Shafiquddin, Chief (Health), Planning

Dr Shafiquddin supported the recommendations of the study team and emphasized ICT at all levels, and behavioral and organizational interventions at district to federal levels. He emphasized a step wise approach for the development of national plan of action on HMIS which is simpler and practicable (implementable) during the next Medium Term Development Framework 2005-2010.

He referred to the background of the approved Study which is to be completed in thirty months time by the JICA Study Team. He also referred to the project titled NHIRC being implemented by the Ministry of Health to develop comprehensive national HMIS during next five years.

5. JICA's comments

JICA stated their views as following:

- a. The Study is following the agreed work plan endorsed by the Steering Committee. The purpose of this meeting was to agree on the broader framework of the Health Management Information Systems specified in the S/W.
- b. A few issues need to be solved to finalize the overall framework of future plan.
- c. Full establishment of NHIRC by the Ministry would be beneficial for the study.
- d. Further collaboration by the steering committee members is indispensable for finalization of the overall framework of future plan.

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Dr

Dr

6. Closing remarks

While closing the meeting, Mr. Matiullah Khan, the chairman of the meeting, stressed the desire for establishment of standardized Management Information Systems (MISs) for hospitals and private sectors along with strengthening of other MISs in the health sector. The developmental activities of the JICA Study Team may complement NHIRC activities and there should be no duplication.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the chair.



List of Participants of the Steering Committee Meeting

Pakistani Side

Ministry of Health

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Matiullah Khan | Senior Joint Secretary |
| 2. Dr. Fahim A. Malik | Deputy DG Health |
| 3. Dr. Fazle Hadi | Executive Director, PIMS |
| 4. Dr. Jalil Kamran | In charge Epidemic Investigation Cell, NIH |
| 5. Dr. Naqeebullah | Epidemiologist, GIDSAS, NIH |
| 6. Dr. Haroon Rashid Khan | Head of HMIS, PIMS |
| 7. Dr. S. M. Mursalin | NHMIS Coordinator |
| 8. Mr. Jamil Arshad | Research Officer |
| 9. Mr. Sharif Ahmad Khan | Consultant Epidemiologist, Malaria Control Program |

Ministry of Planning

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. Shaifquddin | Chief (Health), Planning & Development Division |
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PMDC

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Dr. Sohail Kareem Hashmi | Secretary, PMDC |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|

Ministry of Population & Welfare

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Saeed A. Khan | Director General, (M&E) |
| 2. Dr. Razaq Rukanuddin | Free-lancer consultant, Population Council |

Donor

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Dr. Faizullah Kakar | WHO Epidemiologist |
|------------------------|--------------------|

Provincial Health Department

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. Noshad A. Sheikh | Secretary Sindh |
| 2. Dr. Shafi Mohammad Zari | Secretary Balochistan |
| 3. Mr. Ahmad kamal Khan | Additonal Secretary Health, Punjab |
| 4. Dr. Hussain Bux Memon | Director General Health Services, Sindh |
| 5. Dr. Pir Mohammad Khawaja Khail | Director General Health Services, Balochistan |
| 6. Dr. Ahmad Afifi | Director General (Admin), Punjab |
| 7. Dr. Mohammad Aftab Khan | Director Legislation, Punjab |
| 8. Dr. Iqbal Memon | Provincial HMIS Coordinator, DGHS, Sindh |
| 9. Dr. Mohammad Zaheen | Deputy Director, Public Health, NWFP |
| 10. Dr. Farooq Azam Jan | Provincial HMIS Coordinator, Quetta |
| 11. Dr. Pervaiz Akhtar | Economist Health Department, NWFP |
| 12. Dr. Basit Saleem | Assistant Director Public Health, NWFP |

Japanese Side

JICA Advisory Committee

1. Dr. Dai Hozumi Health Information and Policy

JICA Headquarters

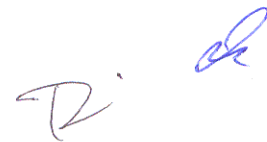
1. Ms. Katsura Miyazaki Team Leader
2. Mr. Tatsuya Ashida Staff

JICA Pakistan Office

1. Mr. Mitsunobu Inaba Deputy Resident Representative
2. Dr. Akihiro Yomo Project formulation Advisor, Health
3. Mr. Sohail Ahmad Senior program officer
4. Dr. Ajmal Hamid Advisor on Health

JICA Study Team

1. Mr. Hiroshi Abo Team Leader
2. Dr. Anwar Aqil Member
3. Dr. Tariq Azim Member
4. Mr. Masashi Akiho Member
5. Dr. Ghayur Ahmad Member
6. Mr. Sadatoshi Matsuoka Member
7. Ms. Marry Church Consultant
8. Dr. Sohail Amjad Consultant



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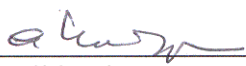
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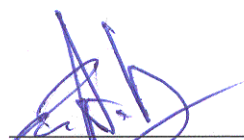
Islamabad, December 18, 2004



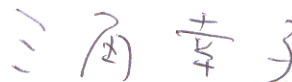
Dr. Abdul Majid Rajput
Director General Health
Ministry of Health
Government of Pakistan



Mr. Hiroshi Abo
Team Leader
JICA Study Team



Mr. Muhammad Ashraf Khan
Joint Secretary
(Economic Affairs Division)
Government of Pakistan



Ms. Sachiko Misumi
Sr. Deputy Resident Representative
JICA Pakistan Office

On October 14, 2004 a meeting of the Steering Committee for the Study on Improvement of Management Information Systems in Health Sector in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (hereinafter referred to as 'the Study') was held in Islamabad, chaired by Mr. Matiullah Khan, Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health (MOH), and participants included the provincial Health Secretaries, Directors General (Health), JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) officials from Japan headquarters and Pakistan office, and the JICA Study Team. During the meeting consensus was reached on the following points:

- a. Vision and strategic approach for realization of the vision:
 - The vision is to improve health status of the population through improving evidence-based health service delivery management.
 - The information system for that is a comprehensive district Health Information System (HIS) that is based and managed at the district and meets the district's health information needs. At the same time it provides relevant data catering to federal and provincial planning and policy roles.
- b. Staged approach
- c. Provision of strategic plan and detailed design within two months
- d. Next steering committee in two months to review and approve strategic plan and detailed design

In accordance with the agreement reached during that Steering Committee meeting, the Study Team, with the guidance of JICA, developed the details of the Strategic Approaches, the Steps of Implementation and the Implementation Responsibilities for achieving the Management Information System (MIS) vision for the health sector in Pakistan (MIS vision is shown in Annex 1). In this regard, as part of the wider consensus building process, meetings were held with the four Provincial Health Departments of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and NWFP during 1st – 8th December 2004. In each province, a technical consultative meeting with the Provincial Health Department was followed by a consensus building meeting with the respective Secretaries (Health) who also chaired the meeting. Broadly, the Provincial Governments endorsed the details of the Strategic Approaches, Implementation Stages and Responsibilities, and the interventions for short, mid and long term stages. Recommendation/request to JICA for providing technical assistance for the expansion/replication of the MIS model was also made by the provincial governments in these meetings.

In this context, the second meeting of the Steering Committee for the Study was held in Islamabad on December 17, 2004. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Abdul Majid Rajput, Director General Health, Chairman of Steering Committee, and was attended by Mr. Matiullah Khan, Senior Joint Secretary, MOH, representatives from Federal Ministries, Provincial Governments, PIMS, NIH, officials from JICA Pakistan office, and the JICA Study Team (List of participants attached Annex 2).

1. Consensus Reached

- i. There was agreement on the (1) Strategic Approaches, (2) Stages of Implementation, and (3) Implementation Responsibilities as detailed out in the Vision paper (Annex 1).

- ii. The Steering Committee, thereby, endorsed the agreements reached at the Provincial Consensus Building meetings held during 1st-8th December 2004.
- iii. There was a consensus on the importance of initially pilot testing the MIS model. On the basis of the results of the pilot testing, a national plan of action will be developed for implementation of the MIS model in all the districts of Pakistan.
- iv. The number of districts to be included in the pilot testing may be increased without making any major amendments in the scope of JICA's assistance for the Study and of the already approved PC-2 on the Study.
- v. The next phase of the Study activities would be detailed designing of the interventions listed under the short-term stage (see Annex 1).
- vi. In order to facilitate wider representation of in-country technical experts and ensure ownership of the MIS design by the provincial and district governments, active participation of provincial and district governments, especially involvement of Nazims will be ensured.

2. Other Comments/Recommendations

- i. The members of the Steering Committee, especially those representing the four Provincial Governments, reiterated their support for the Study and ownership of the MIS design.
- ii. Representatives of the Provincial Governments and from federal Ministry of Health requested continuation of JICA's support for the expansion and replication of the pilot-tested MIS to other districts in the mid-term stage.
- iii. There should be thorough evaluation of the Study for proper understanding of pilot design and addressing its strengths and weaknesses before it is replicated.

3. Comments by Mr. Matiullah Khan, Senior Joint Secretary, MOH

- a. Mr. Matiullah Khan expressed that the Government of Pakistan is grateful to JICA, and through it to Government of Japan, for their generous assistance for the improvement of health information system in Pakistan, and appreciated the work successfully completed by the Study Team.
- b. He supported the stage-wise approach adopted for the health information system vision as logical, and appreciated that districts' management system has been rightly focused.
- c. He also hoped that the model would be able to meet the requisite information needs of provincial and federal levels, and underscored the importance of including private sector in the information system.
- d. Mr. Matiullah Khan expressed the government's expectation that JICA would remain as partner in the later stages also for the realization of the national action plan formulated through the Study.

4. Comments by Dr. Shafiquddin, Chief (Health), P&D Division

Dr. Shafiquddin commented that the present PC-II is not a project but a feasibility study which will provide the Government of Pakistan with a national plan of action (NPA) on health information system that would be commensurate with the next Five-Year Plan of Government of Pakistan. He explained that the Planning & Development Division is

looking forward to the successful completion of this feasibility study (the JICA Study) and hoped that in the light of the national plan of action (NPA) formulated through this Study, federal and provincial governments would prepare comprehensive PC-Is for implementation of a workable countrywide Health Information System. He also pointed out the need for including the private health sector in the NPA.

5. Comments by Dr. Qazi Saboor, ED NHIRC

Dr. Saboor appreciated the work done by the Study Team through bringing the provincial health departments on board and building consensus on the MIS concept design. He also expressed the view that the private sector would be taken on board through some appropriate mechanism at a later stage.

6. Comments by Dr. Mursalin, National HMIS Officer

Dr. Mursalin said that NHIRC is quite comfortable with the vision generated by Study Team through Inter-Provincial Consensus. He reiterated the opinion expressed by Director General (Health) regarding the construction of the building of NHIRC, even though he admitted this may not fall within the parameters of JICA Study. While commenting on the proposed interventions he recommended building on what has already been done for development of MIS for the secondary hospitals. Similarly parastatal institutions could conveniently be included in the first pilot testing phase of the modified FLCF/HMIS.

7. Comments by Senior Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Paksitan

Ms. Misumi, the Senior Deputy Resident Representative of JICA Pakistan expressed her sincere thanks to all four provinces for already endorsing the proposed MIS vision. On behalf of JICA, she expressed her satisfaction on reaching concrete agreements on the suggestions for the future of the health information system in Pakistan, and appreciated the active participation of the Steering Committee members, their support of the Study and the commitment especially expressed from all four provinces. She elaborated that JICA would sincerely request further collaboration from the members of the Steering Committee in finalizing the conceptual framework of the health information system, conducting the pilot test smoothly and eventually formulating the national plan for expanding the tested MIS model nationwide.

8. Remarks by the Chair

Dr. Majid Rajput, Director General, Ministry of Health, expressed his enthusiasm that the Study will pay attention to improving the health information system at district level and work on capacity building of the health staff at all the levels of district and provincial departments. He also stressed the importance of orientation and capacity building of Nazims and DCOs for promoting use of information for decision making. He also requested JICA's support for the construction of building for NHIRC.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the chair.