



REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT

November 2019

Name of the Region: Eastern Mediterranean

Name of the Regional Director: Hussein AlBishi

IFHIMA member countries in this region: 1
Saudi Arabia

Number of Associate Members in this region: 36

Number of Corporate Members in this region: 1

Number of Educational Institution Members in this region: 0

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE REGION 2016-2019:

1. Summary of activities e.g. National/Regional Conferences

❖ **SHIMA Hosting IFHIMA 2019 Congress**

On 17-21 November 2019, SHIMA was honored to host the 19th IFHIMA International Congress, at Intercontinental Festival City Convention Dubai, with over 350 Delegates from around the world. The theme of the congress “Empowering HIM Professionals through a Global Voice” served to connect the professional with the ever changing and evolving technological changes and challenges of the healthcare field. We had speakers and VIP Guests from all around the Globe who had come to Dubai to experience one of its kind and the very first HIM Congress in the Middle East. Having 3 years’ worth of hard work unfold so magnificently was an experience. The presence of the IFHIMA Board, the opening and closing ceremonies and the many activities in between the abstract and panel presentations were welcomed and enjoyed by all. We had abstract presentations from 99 speakers from different parts of the world, truly making it International platform of knowledge sharing and networking. The presence of WHO members was an added value to shed light on ICD 11 for the future of coding. The discussions and presentations covered a vast array of topics from HIM, CDI and Clinical Coding being the main topics. 30 Credit Hours were accredited by The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS) for this congress. SHIMA in collaboration with a sponsor was able to Host 2 students from UK & Kuwait, to attend this congress as part of scholarship program. We had 10 Keynote speakers from different regions covering different topics of HIM to Workforce development. SHIMA had 3 committee’s that overlook the smooth functioning of the Congress, The Scientific Committee, the Steering Committee and the Organizing Committee. The congress was divided in 8 themes. Our sponsors and exhibitors consisted of delegates from Australia, local and Ministries of Saudi Arabia and UAE. SHIMA through this Congress served to Celebrate the 50 Year Anniversary of IFHIMA with the best of its capabilities. There were many activities and heritage tours organized along with Hospital visit to bring the perfect balance and essence of

this diverse region. The purpose of having this congress in Dubai was to enable the many delegates enjoy the multicultural, fun loving and traditional ambience of the Middle East. This being the biggest achievement for SHIMA for the year 2019, a journey that started from Tokyo in 2016. For more information kindly visit our website <https://ifhima2019.com/index.php>

❖ **ICHI Brainstorming session – December 2019**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean organized a consultation meeting on the Implementation of the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) in EMR, held in Cairo (WHO Premises) Egypt from 10 – 12 December 2019. The Objectives of the consultation was to discuss how best to implement ICHI in the region and to draft a strategic plan of action accordingly.

❖ **ICD-11 Capacity Building – EMRO – WHO**

- 3 Workshops – 2019
 - Egypt
 - Kuwait
 - Oman
 - **Iran**
 - **Bahrain**

❖ **The 4th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety, March 2019**

- SHIMA president participated in conducting ICD-11 workshop conducted by in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)
- The Jeddah Declaration on Patient Safety in 2019 sets recommendations for international standards, guidelines and actions that aim to address patient safety issues on global significance, with a strong emphasis on Low- and Middle- income countries (LMIC).
- The Summit is thus establishing patient safety as a crucial principle integrated on the efforts to achieve universal health coverage (UHC).
- The Key points included:
 - Promote patient safety in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC)
 - Utilize digital health to support patient safety across the globe
 - Promote patient empowerment & community engagement for patient safety
 - **Leverage the ICD through the creation of ICAE for Patient Safety to improve our understanding of the magnitude of Adverse Events (AEs), and to promote better International Classification of Diseases (ICD) - implemented globally, we recommend leveraging ICD development process to establish the ICAE (International Classification of Adverse Events) which would help with standardization of the taxonomy of adverse events.**
 - Implement and sustain National Reporting & Learning Systems for Patient Safety
 - Invest on workforce knowledge and safety as the drivers for patient safety

- Learn from other industries to encourage countries to learn from best practices in safety from other industries (Aviation, Nuclear, Oil / Gas, Aerospace, Auto). Hence, the Saudi Patient Safety Center (SPSC) is launching a safety collaborative program, which includes safety experts from various industries (healthcare + others) to work on mutual collaborations for collective safety improvement in all sectors
- Promote medication safety in community pharmacies
- Consider medical devices and human interface as crucial factor for patient safety
- Enforce Infection Prevention Control (IPC) & Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) strategies for patient safety
- To reduce the 2nd Translational Gap by supporting implementation and sustainable scale-up of patient safety interventions of known efficacy/effectiveness at national and global level

For more information:

<https://www.spsc.gov.sa/English/Summit/Documents/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%88%D9%82%D8%B9.pdf>

❖ **Roadmap to Value Based Healthcare Conference, April 2019**

- SHIMA Board of Directors have participated in developing the VBHC scientific program and in the scientific committee, speakers invitations and setting workshops. The conference on Roadmap to Value Based Healthcare emphasized to improve the quality and capability of health services; focused on
 - Health Data
 - Develop Competencies in Clinical Coding and HIM
 - Implementation plans and standardization mechanisms
 - Technology and enablers

❖ **GCC Health Information Management Associate (GHIMA) 2019**

- With the support of SHIMA, GHIMA brings together committed members to volunteer from GCC countries, intending to strengthen the health information management professionals and be an advocate for the profession in the region.

❖ **UAE Health Information Management Club 2019**

- Emirates Health Informatics Society (EHIS)
 - Emirates Health Information Management (EHIM) Club
 - In process to be IFHIMA National Member

2. Achievements

- The Saudi Health Information Management Association is now registered as a professional body under the umbrella of the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS).
- SHIMA is actively enhancing the IFHIMA membership by outreaching to medical records and coding professionals in the region. SHIMA continues to increase individual and corporate memberships from all over the region.
- The newest member to the EMR being from Oman, while we continue to target most of GCC countries through their local organizations.
- SHIMA is looking for developing Member HIM organizations within the GCC and wider EMR and supporting them to join IFHIMA.
- During the Saudi International Health Informatics Conference, March, 2017, and the Saudi Health Informatics Society conference in Riyadh, SHIMA has encouraged professionals to join the IFHIMA and prepare to attend the 19th IFHIMA Congress in Dubai.
- The Emirates Health Informatics Society (EHIS), has collaborated with the HIMSS in organizing the UAE e-Health week in Dubai and Abu Dhabi in October 2016. SHIMA was a knowledge partner and publicly announced the winning of the bid to host the 19th IFHIMA Congress. Audience were introduced to the IFHIMA and encouraged to become members.
- The HIM Middle East Conference also took place in Abu Dhabi in October 2016, SHIMA President has presented about the HIM roles in Healthcare Transformation and announced the IFHIMA Congress in Dubai.
- The GCC HIM Task Force was formed and working together towards supporting the IFHIMA presence in the region.
- SHIMA and EHIS are enhancing the membership options and have so far got many memberships from all over the region.
- The newest member being from Oman and targeting most of GCC. Looking for developing Member organizations to join IFHIMA as corporate members.

3. Input to IFHIMA's Strategic Initiatives (Advocacy, Knowledge Domain & Membership)

Advocacy:

- Winning the bid to host the IFHIMA 19th Congress has positively reflected on SHIMA and the regional societies, His Excellency the Minister of Health has extended his congratulations for this achievement and promised continuous support to SHIMA and to make this event a successful one. Also, the Dubai Health Authority senior officials have extended their best wishes for a successful congress and promised to support it by all means.
- The GCC Health Council has been re-formed recently, with a new website and new logo. SHIMA is contacting the new administration of the GCC Health Council to present the IFHIMA 19th Congress and other regional activities.
- The Emirates Health Information Management Club has been established recently and will be the basis for a future HIM association for the UAE, to become an IFHIMA member.
- Bahrain is also seeking advice on establishing a professional body that will become an IFHIMA member.
- We have been creating an Eastern Mediterranean data base where we will identify HIM's and Coding professionals and call up for a regional meeting by the end of June in Dubai.

- The Director and Deputy Director of EMR had the opportunity to attend the IFHIMA Congress in Japan 2016.
- The 18th IFHIMA Congress was held in Tokyo Japan - Wednesday, October 12 - Friday, October 14, 2016. The theme of the Congress was ***A New Chapter in Global HIM Begins: Application, Implementation and Dissemination.***
- SHIMA President had presented on Education day about the HIM & Coding development in Saudi Arabia.
- SHIMA President and Ms Marci Macdonald presented in the Tokyo. Conference about the GHWC activities.
- The GCC health council is looking for creating a task force to add strengths to HIM region and to spread to EMR its knowledge as it is underdeveloped in the region.
- IFHIMA President & Vice President were invited by SHIMA & sponsored by Dubai Tourism for a site inspection of the upcoming IFHIMA 2019 Congress to be held in Dubai. A separate report and presentation will be delivered in the face to face meeting in Valencia, Spain.
- Visit to World Trade Centre Convention Hall
- Meeting with Dubai Tourism
- Meeting with the Event Organizers
- Meeting with the SHIMA Board of Directors & Team
- Discussion around the early preparations of the Congress

Knowledge

- SHIMA have signed and collaborated with regional and international professional organizations in terms of MOU and as knowledge partner including the HIMSS, HIMAA, SAHI, EHIS and CBAHI.
- SHIMA has participated in the 4th GCC health Innovation Congress in Dubai, in May 2017 as a knowledge partner. SHIMA has extended an invitation to the Health Information Management Association of Australia (HIMAA) to be part of this annual GCC event and exchange knowledge and share experiences.
- SHIMA has participated in the HIMSS UAE E Health Week in Dubai & Abu Dhabi in the month of October 2016 and the HIMSS e-Health and Beyond Conference in Riyadh in the month of April 2017 as a knowledge partner.
- HIM & Coding activities were the focus of SHIMA during the above-mentioned activities.
- The World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO-EMRO), the World Bank, and the United Nations have been approached through the Ministry of Health Vision Realization Office (VRO) and activities related to the Mortality & Morbidity coding, Underlined Cause of Death, Death Certificates Completion processes have been investigated and pointed out to as a collaboration themes.
- SHIMA has signed an MOU with HIMAA Australia to enhance HIM and Coding competencies & Skills in the region.
- SHIMA is working on establishing an annual HIM conference for Saudi Arabia and the region.
- The EHIS, SHIMA and professionals from: Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have successfully formed a taskforce that focuses on developing workforce in digital healthcare transformation:

VISION

- To create a professional employment future for the GCC countries' population and a sustainable health informatics ecosystem

MISSION

- Enhance the skills and competencies of national human resources in the field of healthcare information technology, so they are qualified to enter the Digital Health Transformation market.
- The workforce development in digital health first conference is to be held in March 2018.
- Terminology Standards – ISO/ TC215 Working Group 3: SHIMA President was approached by Mrs. Kelly Abrams, Ph.D., CHIMA Vice President, Canadian College of Health Information Management CHIMA Following the public review period for the Canadian Terminology Standards Curricular Competencies document, considerable interest within the International Standards Organization (ISO) community was expressed including the decision to proceed with the development of an international credential in Terminology Standards. Given Canada's leading experience, Kelly Abrams and Beverly Knight (co-leads of the project) were invited to lead the ISO/TC215 Working Group 3 item, ISO/PWI Health informatics, Workforce Tasks and Capability Specification for Semantic and Functional Interoperability (Term Workers) Semantic Content Workforce Roles Capabilities and Specifications (Term Skills). SHIMA is coordinating with the SASO in this regard.

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LOOKING FORWARD FOR 2019-2022

1. Key Priorities

- SHIMA aims to increase the number of countries to become national member nations of the IFHIMA before 2022:
 1. Bahrain
 2. Kuwait
 3. Iran
 4. Pakistan
 5. Egypt
 6. Jordan
 7. Palestine
 8. Sudan
 9. And more ...
- Create more education and corporate collaboration opportunities with the IFHIMA from the region and conduct more HIM and Coding conferences and workshops.
- Kick off the SHIMA first Annual Conference during the International HIM week in March, 2020 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- **Strengthen the relationship between the IFHIMA EM Regional Office with the WHO Regional Office in the areas of ICD-10, ICD-11 and HIM/HIS country assessments.**

2. Challenges

- To maintain the momenta of the IFHIMA 2019 Congress that has positively impacted on the HIM awareness levels of healthcare key decision makers in the region. A standardized IFHIMA communication strategy is vital for strengthening the

relationship between the IFHIMA and the WHO to support Universal Health Coverage and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

- HIM survival in a speedy Health Technology Adoption and Big Data trends.
- To prepare the region for the ICD 11 transition and testing the ICHI.

For more information kindly visit the website <https://icd.who.int/en>