APPENDIX 13

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL INFORMATICS

HAVANA. FEBRAURY 15-24 1988

INTRODUCTION

After great efforts, that started in 1984 by iniciative of Dr. David Shires, we can now announce that the conference on Administrative aspects of Medical Informatics will take place in Havana in Febraury 1988. Many were the obstacles that we had to overcome, specially the finantial aspects. At the beginning we assume that PAHO may help us in this intention but unfortunately it was not possible for this organization although they were willing to help. The solution we found, that was consulted with the chairman of Working Group 9, Dr. Rienhoff was to celebrate the conference as part of a bigger one that was going to be held in Havana. This was not new. Few years before, in Brazil, something similar was made inside SUCESU. Maybe in the economic crisis that the world now has, specially acute for the developing countries, this is the solution for future conferences or workshops to be held in these countries.

ORGANIZATION

The Conference INFORMATICS 88 sponsored by IBI, Regional Center of Informatics Studies (CREI), IMIA, and UNESCO in Havana has four conferences together.

- Conference on Informatics
- Conference on Medical Informatics
- Conference on Informatics for Education
- Exposition
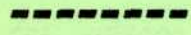
The finantial support is given by IBI, UNESCO, CREI and the Cuban Government. The possibilities of IMIA were discussed with Dr. Kaihara and we proposed that this organization send one representative covering the travel, hotel and food expenses. We also made the proposition that this representative should be Dr. Otto Rienhoff as Chairman of WG-9. The most important help that we agreed with the IMIA Board, in personal discussion in Berlin (May, 1987), was the distribution of the announcements and the sponsorship of the Conference. As a fact, Dr. Kaihara is member of the International Committee as President of IMIA and guest of honor with all expenses covered. We have the possibility to invite other personalities of Medical Informatics and a list has been given to the Organizing Committee for that purpose. Unfortunately, we can not afford to cover travel expenses for the whole list, but living and hotel expenses would be covered.

To all IMIA representatives Dr. Morales sent a letter enclosing an exemplar of the first announcement and the Congress Palace of Havana should have sent a group of brochures to each one of them. We don't know if all received these letter and package, but we confirmed that some received them.

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

Each conference has independance inside INFORMATICS 88. Medical Informatics will have its own program, and the rooms that may need for reading the papers presented. The program is scheduled in such a way that general topics of Informatics, of interest for everyone, no matter the field of application, would not interfere with the sessions of each particular conference.

Up to now we have received 176 intentions of submitting papers. Of those, 85 are of medical informatics. Already 23 countries had said that they want to participate in the field of Medical Informatics. They are: Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Argentine, Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, Venezuela, Canada, Italy, FRG, GDR, France, Spain, USSR, Bulgary, Checoslovaquie, Hungary, Poland, Japan, Angola and of course, Cuba.

DEADLINE

The Organizing Committee decided to pospone up to November 30, 1987 the date of receiving abstracts, so there is still time to distribute the second announcement and increase the participation.

PROCEEDING PUBLICATION

As usual we hope that North Holland may publish the Proceedings of this IMIA Conference. In Lisbon we agreed that Bud Abbot and Emilio Morales would be the editors. We must know if Mr. Abbot is still aware of this and may help in this affair. If he could not we propose that the editors be Emilio Morales, Antonio Fernandez Perez de Talens and Otto Rienhoff.

Any way, it is imperative that the North Holland Publishing Co. get inmediately in contact with Dr. Morales, so to arrange this matter and receive the list of participants for sending them the pauted paper for printing.

OTHER ASPECTS

During the last day of the Conference it has been organize visits to several institutions so to get acquainted with the work that in informatics has been done in Havana. Among these institutions are Hospitals, Superior Medical Sciences Institutes and Research Centers of the Ministry of Health.

A social program has also been stablished for all participants.

In the exposition, Medical Informatics has a relevant part, and several software and hardware manufacturers have already asked for participation.

The Cuban Pavillion will show the applications that have been made specially in microcomputers in Medical Informatics.

For more details, to this Annual General Meeting is attending Mr. Arcadio Castillo, Vicepresident of the Organizing Committee, who may answer to any question.

To finish my report, allow me to suggest that as a good quantity of Latinamerican Countries are attending, it is a very good opportunity to increase the membership of IMIA-LAC and of course, of IMIA. As you all know to belong to IMIA-LAC, first it is necessary to be an IMIA member.

Hoping to meet you in Havana, receive my best regards,

Dr. Emilio Morales
Cuban Representative to IMIA
Vicepresident Organizing Committee
INFORMATICS 88