



Health IT connects on global scale as more nations integrate with 'IHE Inside'

ISTANBUL, Turkey -- 13 May 2013 -- Leaders from electronic health programs in 22 countries attended the first-ever IHE World Summit to take on the challenges of advancing patient care in the digital era.

Ministry of Health representatives, eHealth program directors, hospital managers, consultants, vendors and IHE enthusiasts attended two days of sessions sharing successes and lessons learned implementing interoperability to assure the effective and safe exchange of patient information. Systems that comply with the technical frameworks developed by Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) can exchange data seamlessly with other IHE-compliant systems.

"From every corner of the world we heard how more nations, more regions and more hospitals are building health information systems with IHE inside," said Jürgen Brandstätter, representing the Global Deployment Coordination Committee of IHE International, which coordinated this inaugural event.

Panelists described programs using IHE that are currently underway in Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea and the United States. Europe was well-represented by program leaders from Austria, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

"The fact that today we can hold a successful international congress demonstrates the increasing adoption of IHE interoperability profiles," said Lapo Bertini, Co-Chair of IHE-Europe.

Hosted by IHE-Turkey, the World Summit was sponsored by IHE-Europe and IHE International, a not-for-profit association that coordinates activities for affiliated organizations in Europe, North America, and Asia.

The IHE World Summit was held in parallel with the European Connectathon, a five-day 'connectivity marathon' where this year 330 software engineers tested interoperability for 102 healthcare information systems from 76 organizations.

For more information on the IHE World Summit, please visit IHE International at www.ihe.net/worldsummit.

For more information to the European Connectathon, please visit www.ihe-europe.net. Or follow updates on LinkedIn : <http://www.linkedin.com/company/ihe-europe>.

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About IHE

Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) International is an organization that improves healthcare by providing specifications, tools and services for interoperability. IHE engages clinicians, health authorities, industry, and users to develop, test, and implement standards-based solutions to vital health information needs.



About Connectathon

Connectathon is the healthcare IT industries largest interoperability testing event, the culmination of a detailed development process based on the IHE Technical Frameworks that promote the adoption of standards-based interoperability by vendors and users of healthcare information systems. Once each year Connectathons held in Europe, North America, Australia and Asia provide developers an opportunity to demonstrate conformance to internationally accepted integration profiles that assure any IHE-compliant system can share data and interoperate with any other IHE compliant system.

About IHE-Europe

The mission of IHE-Europe is to improve patient care by advancing the interoperability of healthcare IT systems and the appropriate sharing of relevant information. Toward that end, IHE-Europe conducts education, testing, demonstrations and other activities promoting the deployment within Europe of systems compliant with the IHE Technical Frameworks developed by IHE International. IHE-Europe also recruits healthcare professionals and solution developers to participate in the development of these specifications and promote their appropriate use in Europe. IHE-Europe interacts with relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations in Europe. It also maintains close contacts with similar initiatives around the world.