

Highlights of the INCLLEN BOT Manila Meeting

The Board of the INCLLEN Trust Board met for the first time at the new INCLLEN Trust Executive Office in Manila last March 12-14, 2001. Nine of 11 board members attended: Drs. R. Chaudhury (co-opted), P. Clark, S. Fletcher, W. Jialiang, W. Macharia, S. Muñoz, M. Narendranathan, M. Tanner and P. Tatsanavivat and three members of the secretariat. Dr. Marcel Tanner, Chair of the Board, presided over the meeting.

Foremost on the agenda was INCLLEN's continuing mission for capacity building. A Task Force on Quality Assurance for CERTC Training was created consisting of Doctors Fletcher, Muñoz and Tatsanavivat. The group will be responsible for developing and proposing guidelines for self-assessment of CERTCs and developing a minimum set of indicators for competency. The Board, which is intent on maintaining the quality of training of the CERTCs, also delineated the criteria for admitting new CERTCs and CEUs (see Box).

The Board unanimously approved the CERTC applications of the Harvard Medical School (HMS) and Harvard School of Public Health, and the University of Ottawa. The Harvard CERTC will be based at the Dept. of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, HMS with Dr. Robert Fletcher as CERTC Director. The University of Ottawa's CERTC is based at the Loeb Health Research Institute, with Dr. Peter Tugwell as Director. Both institutions are known for their strong training programs and faculty and were strongly endorsed by CanUSACLEN's Executive Committee. (See page 7 for related story)

The Board also unanimously approved the request of Dr. Pyatat Tatsanavivat for the admission of the University of Newcastle's CERTC to INCLLEN-SEA. Although the Center for Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics (CCEB) of Newcastle is already a recognized CERTC, it was invited by INCLLEN-SEA during the INCLLEN Global Meeting in Bangkok last October 2000 to be part of its regional network, in line with INCLLEN's re organization. Dr. Julie Byles, CCEB director, accepted the invitation on behalf of the CCEB.

The Trust By-Laws were reviewed and unanimously approved by all the Trustees present. In addition, a Nominating Committee, composed of Drs. Mathew Cherian, Antonio da Cunha, Amr Hassan, Visanu Thamlikitkul and Laura Sadowski was formed. The Board approved the nominations of the committee members. Dr. Sadowski was subsequently elected by the Nominating Committee members as chair. The committee is tasked to: (1) develop criteria for nominating Associate Founders; (2) develop criteria or desirable qualities for nominating additional members to the Board of Trustees; (3) disseminate the criteria to the Board of Governors; and (4) consolidate the nominations in preparation for the next Board of Governors meeting.

Despite the resource constraints, the Board unanimously agreed to push through with the next INCLLEN Global Meeting, recognizing that the regular interaction of its members is one of the strengths of the INCLLEN. INCLLEN Global Meeting XVIII, will be held February 2002 in Sharm El-Sheikh Cairo, Egypt with the Suez Canal University CEU as host. (See page 17 for related article).

Most of the board members present opted to stay an extra day to participate in the development of the Leadership and Management Program that INCLLEN Trust is preparing with the assistance of Dr. Vic Neufeld (see related article). The consensus at the end of the three days was that this had been a fruitful and inspiring meeting auguring well for INCLLEN Trust's maiden year.