

EDITORIAL

Health Level Seven Brazil

Marivan Santiago Abrahão
Diretor Executivo
Instituto HL7 Brasil

When Latin America was considered, for the first time in Vancouver, to host a HL7 Working Group Meeting, due to an Ed Hammond's suggestion on an Affiliate Chair Meeting, I figured out an excellent opportunity to promote HL7 in the South Hemisphere. Buenos Aires, the first choice, has gained the representative support from all HL7 Latin Americans boards, that later was extended to HL7 Brazil.

A successful story of 20 years on the development of medical informatics in Brazil has faced this challenge notwithstanding its idiosyncrasy, an enormous chance for HL7 standards spread out consistently.

Nevertheless, a new story was written in a bright manner and a pleasant fulfillment while organizing the Rio 2010 Working Group Meeting. A huge responsibility has been assumed by a courageous team from HL7 Argentina, HL7 Uruguay, HL7 Chile, HL7 Colombia and HL7 Mexico and a strong support from HL7 International Affiliate Board and HL7 Executive Board has made this challenge a feasible reality.

Brazil was still a territory to be conquered by HL7, as opposed to HL7 Argentina and HL7 Uruguay, where HL7 standards has been established professionally ahead of time.

Latin American medical assistance provider's market is far ahead at the development of systemic applications for the health chain. This market, just at the hospital share, is larger than Germany, France, Spain, Portugal and Western Europe, all together. So, we should focus to incentive them to participate (and understand its value) at the IT Health market, extending it to HL7 realm. These incentives may not be considered philanthropies, but prospective investments.

On a period of 15 days, members from the ISO TC-215 Meeting, the IHIC - International HL7 Interoperability Conference, the IHE Conference and the International HL7 Working Group Meeting have experienced a very professional venue organization, with neat meeting rooms, a great lodging facilities and a superb food service.

Not surprisingly, the astonished and unforgettable beauty of the City of Rio de Janeiro has made them reach a realm of joy and pleasure.

It is difficult to express the feeling of pleasure and satisfaction noticed throughout the meeting, but the overall opinion was very positive, and, as Catherine Chronaki has sincerely expressed, "creating a legacy that will be hard to match".

It is hard to forget that, the unfaltering dedication and professional experience of Lillian Bigham, Director of Meetings, has given the necessary balance and support to face and win this challenge.

I am very pleased and proud for the HL7 Brazil commitment to make this event a cornerstone on the promotion of HL7 standards in South America.