Health Level Seven Announces Newest Affiliate—HL7 Hong Kong

Affiliate launch affirms Hong Kong’s commitment to advancing the e-health movement and electronic health records

ANN ARBOR, Mich., USA — October 8, 2009 — Health Level Seven® (HL7®), the global authority on standards for interoperability of health information technology with members in 57 countries, today announced the addition of HL7 Hong Kong to its growing number of more than 30 affiliates. HL7 affiliates are a critical component of the increasing global scope and orientation of the HL7 family of standards. HL7 Hong Kong was officially launched today in front of 600 attendees during the opening ceremony of the eHealth Forum 2009 at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.

“The success of Health Level Seven and the extensive global implementation of its standards are due in large part to the significant contributions from our affiliate members around the world,” said HL7 CEO Dr. Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD. “The skills of many individuals in Hong Kong will bring an invaluable addition to HL7. We welcome HL7 Hong Kong to the organization and look forward to them promoting greater adoption of health informatics standards in Asia and participating in the development of HL7 standards.”

HL7 Hong Kong is chaired by Dr. Chun-Por Wong, MD, chairman of Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics and co-chairman of the Executive Committee of the eHealth Consortium in Hong Kong. Dr. Wong also serves as the chairman of the Clinical Informatics Program Executive Group of the Hong Kong Hospital Authority and is a clinician currently appointed as the consultant geriatrician and chief of integrated medical services at Ruttonjee HL7 Hong Kong
and Tang Shiu Kin Hospitals in Hong Kong. Instrumental in the development of medical informatics in Hong Kong, Dr. Wong founded the Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics in 1986, is the immediate past president of the Asia Pacific Association for Medical Informatics (APAMI), co-founded the eHealth Consortium in Hong Kong, and has been active in the International Medical Informatics Association since 1989. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Medical Informatics and the Asia Pacific electronic Journal of Health Informatics.

Hong Kong is developing a territory-wide, patient-oriented electronic health record (EHR). “Adopting relevant standards to optimize workflow, reduce ambiguity and enhance knowledge transfer among all stakeholders, including healthcare providers, government agencies, the vendor community and patients is crucial to the EHR development. Establishing HL7 Hong Kong is an important milestone in unifying the e-health development in Hong Kong and will enable the e-health community to accomplish this target,” said Dr. Wong. “We will engage our partners from the healthcare and information technology sectors to adopt a set of standards that can meet local needs for supporting a truly interoperable system where all records can be shared across all sectors.”

Like HL7, Inc., HL7 Hong Kong is an open, not-for-profit and consensus-based organization. Each affiliate contributes to the development of core HL7 standards through participation in HL7 work groups and the standards voting process and then localizes the standards to its specific requirements. Affiliates also support and distribute the HL7 standards in their country, produce translations and implementation guides for their users, and participate in HL7 work groups.

HL7 Hong Kong’s immediate activities and goals will be directed at the following areas:

1. Providing an international standard for the forthcoming territory-wide electronic health record establishment in Hong Kong
2. Promoting and helping implement the standard to support the development of the electronic health record in Hong Kong
3. Providing input to HL7 about the specific needs in Hong Kong to complement the comprehensiveness of existing HL7 standards
4. Providing education and training to the Hong Kong healthcare community and information system developers
5. Enhancing the network of exchange in scientific vigor and expertise through partnerships with stakeholders and HL7 affiliates

“The adoption of HL7 in Hong Kong will accelerate the formation of the EHR sharing platform to become an interoperable system able to share information throughout Hong Kong,” said Dr. Wong. “It is our hope that patients will ultimately enjoy the benefits of accurate and complete information that can be quickly accessed for the betterment of their healthcare.”

Immediately preceding the eHealth Forum 2009, an inaugural symposium on HL7 and health data standards was held on October 7 at the Ruttonjee Hospital in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The event covered HL7’s global strategy, the importance of international standards and the use of standards in Hong Kong. Presentations were given by the HL7 Board Chair, W. Ed Hammond, PhD, and HL7 CEO, Dr. Charles Jaffe.

About HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. is the leading global authority for healthcare Information interoperability and standards with members in 57 countries. HL7 is a non-profit, ANSI accredited standards development organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services. HL7’s more than 2,300 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, which include more than 90 percent of the information systems vendors serving healthcare. HL7 collaborates with other standards developers and provider, payer, philanthropic and government agencies at the highest levels to ensure the development of comprehensive and reliable standards and successful interoperability efforts.

HL7’s endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Accenture; Booz Allen Hamilton; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI); Eclipsys Corporation; Eli Lilly & Company; Epic Systems Corporation; European Medicines Agency; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; Lockheed Martin; McKesson Provider Technology; Microsoft Corporation; NHS
Connecting for Health; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Novartis; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Healthcare; QuadraMed Corporation; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Siemens Healthcare; St. Jude Medical; Thomson Reuters; the U.S. Department of Defense, Military Health System; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Numerous HL7 Affiliates have been established around the globe including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

For more information, please visit: [www.HL7.org](http://www.HL7.org).


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