

CHI/SCNHP/Meeting/2013/004
Centre for Health Informatics, NIHF

19th April, 2013

Subject: Minutes of the fifth meeting of Steering Committee for the National Health Portal held on 18th April, 2013 at NIHF

The fifth meeting of Steering Committee for National Health Portal (SCNHP) was held at National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHF) on 18th April 2013.

The minutes of the meeting are attached. All concerned are requested to kindly initiate necessary actions for decisions indicated in the minutes.

This has approval of the Chairperson, SCNHP.

Sarbadhikari

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To:

Chairperson / Co-Chairperson / Members / Special Invitees of SCNHP

Copy for information to:

1. PPS / PS to Secretary (H & FW) / SS (H / A) / AS & FA / AS & DG (CGHS) / AS & MD (NRHM)
2. Deputy Director (Admin), National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Munirka, New Delhi – 110 067
3. Dr Sanjay Gupta, Associate Professor, Deptt of Community Health Administration and faculty Incharge, Computer Centre, National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Munirka, New Delhi - who has been nominated as nodal officer to co-ordinate activities of NHP with the request to take expeditious action on para 8 of the minutes
4. Dr J P Shivdesani, Research Officer, National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi - who has been nominated as assistant nodal officer to co-ordinate activities of NHP

Subject: Minutes of the fifth meeting of Steering Committee for the National Health Portal held on 18th April, 2013 at NIHFW

The fifth meeting of Steering Committee for National Health Portal (SCNHP) was held at NIHFW on 18th April 2013. Members who attended are mentioned in the Annexure-I. Special Invitees who attended were from SJRI, Bengaluru; C-DAC, Mohali and Media Lab Asia.

1. Prof. J K Das, Director, NIHFW formally welcomed all and briefed on the progress of the NHP activities. One felt constraint was that of no explicit budgetary allocation for internal modification and furnishing of the allotted space. After discussions, the SCNHP authorized the Director, NIHFW to spend up to Rs. one crore, from the NHP Project Funds, for these activities, in accordance with the GFR rules as applicable.

2. Then Prof. Das handed over the proceedings to Prof. N K Ganguly, the Chairman of the SCNHP. Prof. Ganguly expressed satisfaction that the activities for NHP have been proceeding as planned. However, as there was problem in screening and short listing candidates to be called for interviews to the various posts for NHP, the SCNHP recommended that some of the following SCNHP members and special invitees may be empanelled for possible inclusion in the selection committee for the subsequent interviews for the various posts of CHI:

1. Mr. P C Cyriac, MoHFW
2. Prof. L M Nath, former Director, AIIMS
3. Dr. Shatrunjay Rawat, IIIT, Hyderabad
4. Mr. B S Bedi, Advisor, C-DAC
5. Mr. S Ramakrishnan, Advisor, NISG
6. Mr. J S Bhatia, ED, C-DAC, Mohali

3. Considering that aggregation of contents was an important and difficult job, it was considered prudent to invite many organizations and groups who have the relevant background and interest in partaking in the exercise and support NHP to present their background, work done in this respect and their planned work. Apart from C-DAC, Mohali who had earlier been recommended during the joint meeting of CAC / TAC on 02/4/13, for building Platform and providing the Technical Support services, St. Johns, Bangalore, and Media Lab Asia had been invited for making presentations. After a brief discussion, Chairman ruled that the idea of partnership for contents aggregation was a sound idea and NHP may work with all three and more institutions, with the caveat that contents for the benefit of larger public (which NHP was dedicated to serve) should be obtained free without any strings – if required by paying for data entry services. Co-Chairman Prof. Nath endorsed the view and noted that contents must be obtained from a large number of sources, including academia (like AIIMS, NIHFW), NGOs (like 'Sewa') and multilateral agencies (like WHO). There was some discussion on the guidelines to be followed while acting as a clearing-house for contents – such as laying down some methods or procedures for ensuring that the verifiability of statements or advisories in the contents are subject to fair interpretation which do not misguide public, as the latter are likely to treat NHP as the point of most authentic reference. The SCNHP felt that initially content may be collected from the public domain and from voluntary sources. For the time spent in developing, standardizing and validating content, some mechanisms for compensation to the (external) content providers may be worked out by the PD, CHI in consultation with the CAC.

Dr. Kedar from St. John's Research Institute, Bengaluru – who has been one of the principal authors of the DPR, presented their vision for content development and validation. Prof. J K Das volunteered to offer content from the NDC at NIHFW and Prof. S K Mishra volunteered to offer content from SGPGI, Lucknow. All these can be integrated through the CHI (in consultation with the CAC) to form the Central Content Development Centre (CCDC), as envisaged in the DPR. Dr. Meera Singh expressed her concerns regarding the standard formatting for the content and said that the platform developers have to ensure those templates.

4. The Media Lab Asia team presented their concept of crowd-sourcing content from the community and validating them through appropriate peer-review. Prof. Nath mentioned that only Indian faces and only figures that are liable to be properly understood in Indian context should figure in the presentation and portal pages. He again referred to the complex issue of verifiability and noted that doctors' words and points of view cannot be held as the ultimate truth in all circumstances. Other stake-holders should also be consulted in matters of truth and interpretation. He appreciated the idea of self-correction through the process of empowering a large number of on-line readers (who are encouraged to contribute updates, corrections and references) to ensure quality and dynamic updates. He felt the model patterned after the widely used 'Wikipedia' was a sound and interesting idea and also noted that Media Lab Asia had volunteered to contribute contents voluntarily at this stage and wished it well for active momentum.

5. C-DAC, Mohali presented their solution of developing and maintaining the platform for the NHP in such a manner that state of the art features can be incorporated in a time bound manner. They also offered to provide the PMT (Project Management Team) and TDT (Technology Development Team), as envisaged in the DPR. The SCNHP agreed, in principle, to consider C-DAC, Mohali as a solution provider. The PD, CHI was authorized to explore further details, in consultation with the TAC so that the full proposal and Service Level Agreement (SLA) with C-DAC, Mohali could be finalized at the earliest possible time to ensure the launch of the NHP on 16th August 2013.

6. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-I

List of Participants

1. Prof. N. K. Ganguly, Chairman
2. Prof. L M Nath, Co-Chair
3. Prof. J. K. Das, Director, NIHFW
4. Prof. S N Sarbadhikari, Member-Secretary, SCNHP; PD, CHI
5. Prof. S K Mishra, SGPGI, Lucknow
6. Mr. PC Cyriac, MoHFW
7. Dr. B V Adkoli
8. Dr. Meera Singh, ICMR
9. Dr. Suresh Kochattil, Apollo, Hyderabad
10. Dr. Shatrunjay Rawat, IIIT, Hyderabad
11. Dr. S K Srivastava, MCIT, DeITy
12. Mr. Sunil Kumar, NIC
13. Mr. B S Bedi
14. Dr. Kedar, SJRI, Bengaluru
15. Mr. J S Bhatia , Mr. Saurav Gupta and team, C-DAC, Mohali
16. Mr. S Ramakrishnan and Mr. Vishal Mane, Media Lab Asia
17. Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Nodal Officer, CHI