

8th Caribbean
Conference
**HEALTH FINANCING
INITIATIVES**

2013 - MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA

**Debriefing Note on Presentations and
Discussions at 8th Caribbean Conference on
National Health Financing Initiatives
(CCNHFI'13) held at Hilton Rose Hall Resort
and Spa, Montego Bay, Jamaica,
November 12-14, 2013**

HOST BY





NATIONAL HEALTH FUND

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November 15, 2013

Debriefing Note on Presentations and Discussions at 8th Caribbean Conference on National Health Financing Initiatives (CCNHFI'13) held at Hilton Rose Hall Resort and Spa, Montego Bay, Jamaica, November 12-14, 2013

1. **Background:**--Following the decision of Heads of Caribbean Social Security Organisations (Belize City, 2005) to establish a forum for discussing approaches, challenges and lessons learnt in national health financing, the 8th Conference was convened at the Hilton Rose Hall Resort and Spa in Montego Bay from November 12-14, 2013. This followed similar meetings in Turks and Caicos Is (2006); Aruba (2007); Trinidad and Tobago (2008); St Maarten (2009); Belize (2010), Bermuda (2011) and Curacao (2012).
2. **Objectives:**--The overall objectives of the Conferences are to share information, increase understanding, test ideas and enhance national expertise in designing and managing national health financing initiatives. In keeping with previous conferences which selected some specific issues for deeper analysis, the 8th Conference considered Information and Communications Technology (ICT), health (financing) impact of aging Caribbean populations, state of the art and opportunities in medical tourism and economic impact of chronic diseases.
3. **Host:**--The Conference was hosted by the National Health Fund (NHF) of Jamaica which was also celebrating its tenth anniversary (2003—2013).
4. **Planning Team:**--The Conference planning team included senior officials from the National Health Fund headed by Dr Cecil White (Senior Vice-President for Operations). They were supported by Dr Stanley Lalta (Conference Program Coordinator) of the HEU/Centre for Health Economics, University of the West Indies.
5. **Participation:**--The meeting attracted more than 100 full time participants from 18 countries and 27 organizations. Participants included:--
 - Minister of Home Affairs of Anguilla;
 - Senior Officers in Caribbean Social Security Organisations;
 - Senior Managers from Ministries of Health;
 - Senior Officers from national/social health financing plans;



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- Representatives of local and international organizations in financing, health insurance, actuarial science and health services management;
- Representatives of universities and health consulting firms;
- Representatives of ICT firms.

6. Programme Content:

- a) **Opening Ceremony**—Chaired by Dr Cecil White, Senior Vice-President for Operations at the NHF, the Opening Ceremony was attended by the Honorable Minister of Health of Jamaica and Minister of Home Affairs of Anguilla. Following an invocation by Rev. Everton Jackson of the Calgary Baptist Church, participants were welcomed by Mr. Everton W. Anderson, CEO of the National Health Fund.

Ms Marisella Smith-Petronella, Manager of the Social Insurance Bank of Curacao brought remarks on behalf of the previous host and Dr Stanley Lalta provided an overview of the contents and procedures of the Conference.

Mr. Sterling Soares, Chairman of the Board of the NHF introduced the Honorable Minister of Health who delivered the feature address and formally declared the Conference open.

- b) **Overview Papers and Thematic Presentations:**-These included-

- International developments in health systems and health financing—Dr Ruben Suarez, (International Health Consultant);
- Ten (10) Years of the NHF: Performance, Challenges and Lessons—Dr Cecil White (Senior Vice-President of Operations at NHF);
- The Universal Health Coverage Agenda for the Region—Dr Cristian Morales (Head of Health Economics and Financing, PAHO)
- State of the Art and Lessons of Experience on Medical Tourism—Dr James Cercone (President, Sanigest Consulting Inc.);
- Economic Costs of Chronic Diseases—Dr Shiyao Chao (Senior Economist at the World Bank);

- c) **Panel Discussions:**-There were seven (7) Panels discussing the following matters:-

- **Panels 1:** Updates from countries with fully functional or planned NHFI's—British Virgin Islands (Mr. Roy Barry, Social Security Board); Bahamas (Ms Tami Francis, National Drug Plan); Belize (Dr Natalia Rodriguez, National



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Health Insurance Plan); Bermuda (Mr. Collin Anderson, Health Insurance Department);

- **Panel 2: Further updates from countries with fully functional or planned NHFI's**—Curacao (Ms Marisella Smith-Petronella and Ms Janine Constansia-Kook of the Social Insurance Bank) and Turks and Caicos Islands (Ms Zaneta Adderley-Burton of the National Health Insurance Plan). The Panel also contained a special presentation on health and equity in Jamaica by Mr. Charlton McFarlane (Ministry of Health, Jamaica).
 - **Panel 3: Further updates from countries with fully functional or planned NHFI's**— Aruba (Dr Lex de Jong of the AZV); Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba (Mr. Sean Bennett of the ZVK).
 - **Panel 4: Optimizing the Use of ICT Applications in Health and Patient Care**—Mr. Granville Gayle (National Health Fund); Dr Javier Asin (ACSION Consultant); Professor Winston Davidson (University of Technology); Ms Carole Appleyard (International Consultant);
 - **Panel 5: Further Examination of Optimizing Use of ICT Applications**—Mr. Roger Mahadeo (800STAR Ltd); Mr. Arnold Cooper (Ministry of Health, Jamaica); Mr. Douglas Halsall (Advanced Integrated Systems);
 - **Panel 6: Aging Caribbean Populations and Implications for Health Management and Financing**—Ms Charmaine Metivier, Dr Anton Cumberbatch and Dr Stanley Lalta (HEU/Centre for Health Economics, UWI); Mr. Denzil Thorpe (National Insurance Scheme, Jamaica); Dr Jennifer Attride-Stirling (Bermuda Health Council) and Mr. Collin Anderson (Health Insurance Department, Bermuda).
 - **Panel 7: Expert review and commentary on presentations at Conference**—Professor Karl Theodore (HEU/Centre for Health Economics, UWI) and Mr. Jasper Barnett (Ministry of Health, Jamaica).
- d) **Overall Progress since First Meeting:**-This involved a review of participation, discussions and progress over the 8 Conferences (Turks and Caicos Is, 2006; Aruba, 2007; Trinidad and Tobago, 2008; St Maarten, 2009; Belize, 2010; Bermuda, 2011; Curacao, 2012; Jamaica, 2013) by Program Coordinator, Dr Stanley Lalta from the perspective of the overall objectives outlined by heads of SSO's in Belize in 2005.



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7. Decisions:- The meeting agreed:

- i) To continue the format since the 3rd meeting with broad-based participation from representatives of Social Security Organizations, Ministries of Health and other local and international organizations;
- ii) To consider issues related to efficiency in health systems; regional health insurance, procurement and delivery of health services; quality-based reimbursement options and design of essential health services packages in subsequent meetings;
- iii) To give more emphasis to discussions centered on 'solutions' and 'what else can be done' compared to 'issues' and 'what is the status quo';
- iv) To accept the offer of the HEU/Centre for Health Economics, UWI, Trinidad and Tobago to host the ninth Conference.

8. Acknowledgements:- The meeting thanked the Government of Jamaica, the National Health Fund and the various sponsors for their roles in organizing and supporting the Conference. Special tribute was paid to Dr Cecil White and the dedicated team of officers from the NHF for their professionalism as well as personal touch in handling all Conference arrangements and participants' expectations.

9. Access to Documents:- Presentations made at the conference may be accessed by downloads from a specially designed Conference website by the NHF (www.nhf.org.jm/ccnhfi).

10. Queries and Recommendations for Future Action—Queries on information pertaining to previous conferences and recommendations for future action may be directed to Dr Stanley Lalta (Stanley.lalta@sta.uwi.edu or stanleylalta@gmail.com)

Yours Sincerely,



Everton W. Anderson
Chief Executive Officer