



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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November 2, 2016

RE: Debriefing Note on Presentations and Discussions at the 11th Caribbean Conference on National Health Financing Initiatives (CCNHFI'11) held at Captain Don's Habitat, Bonaire, October 25—27, 2016.

1. Background:--

Heads of Caribbean Social Security Organizations, meeting in Belize City in 2005 decided to establish a Conference or forum for activities to build capacity in designing, strengthening and managing national health financing initiatives (NHFI).

Following previous Conferences in Turks and Caicos Islands (2006); Aruba (2007); Trinidad and Tobago (2008); St. Maarten (2009); Belize (2010), Bermuda (2011); Curacao (2012); Jamaica (2013); Trinidad and Tobago (2014) and Turks and Caicos Islands (2015), the 11th Conference was convened at The Captain Don's Habitat in Bonaire from October 25—27, 2016.

2. Objectives:--

The overall objectives of these Conferences are to share knowledge, increase understanding, test ideas, enhance national expertise and deepen regional collaboration in designing and managing national health financing initiatives. In keeping with previous Conferences which selected specific issues for deeper analysis, the 11th Conference focused attention on "Health Financing—Strategic Planning, Spending Wisely".

3. Host:--

The Conference was hosted by the Zorgverzekeringskantoor (ZVK) or Medical Insurance Office of Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba in collaboration with the HEU, Centre for Health Economics, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago.

4. Planning Team:--

The Conference planning team included Dr. Stanley Lalta and team from the HEU, Centre for Health Economics and Mr. Bob Harms and team from the ZVK.

5. Participation:--

The meeting attracted more than 110 full-time participants from 24 countries and 14 organizations. Participants included:--

- Minister of Health;
- senior officers in Caribbean Social Security Organizations;
- senior managers from Ministries of Health;
- senior officers from national/social health financing plans;
- representatives of local and international organizations in financing, health insurance, actuarial science and health services management;
- representatives of universities, hospitals and health consulting firms;
- representatives of ICT firms.

6. Program Content:--

a) Opening Session

Chaired by Mr. Bob Harms, Senior Communications Manager of the ZVK, , the Opening Session was attended by more than 100 persons including participants and specially invited guests from the government, public and private sectors in Bonaire.

Speakers at the Opening Ceremony included Dr Arnoud Boesten, Chairman of the ZVK, and Professor Karl Theodore, Director of the HEU, Centre for Health Economics who brought greetings to participants on behalf of their organisations and outlined their expectations for a productive and fruitful Conference.

Dr Stanley Lalta, Conference Program Coordinator, brought greetings on behalf of Ms Zaneta Adderley, CEO of the National Health Insurance Plan of Turks and Caicos Islands which hosted the previous year's Conference. Dr Lalta also drew attention to the theme of the Conference –

“Health Financing: Strategic Planning, Spending Wisely”—and provided an overview of the Conference program and presentations.

The formal address was delivered by The Honorable Mr Gilbert Isabella, Kingdom Representative for Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba. He emphasized the importance of the ZVK in financing health services given the major political and organizational changes affecting the Kingdom’s territories since October 2010. He pointed to key global and regional developments affecting health decisions and called for closer collaboration among countries as they grapple with common health challenges. He then formally declared the Conference open.

The Vote of Thanks was offered by Mr Bob Harms as Chairman of the Opening Session and Coordinator of Conference activities in Bonaire.

b) Conference Feature Papers

These included:--

- National Health Insurance in The Netherlands: A 100 Year History by Professor Emeritus Wynand van de Ven (Erasmus University, The Netherlands);
- Increasing Collaboration in Health Services Management and Delivery in the Dutch Caribbean by Professor Ashley J. Duits (University Medical Center, Groningen);
- Performance, Expectations and Planning for the Future: The ZVK Experience, 2011-2016 by Dr Arnoud Boesten (ZVK, BES).

c) Conference Sessional Thematic Papers

These included:-

- Efficiency in the Context of Universal Health by Ms. Claudia Pescetto (Pan American Health Organisation);
- Overview of the Burden of Disease in the Caribbean and the Extent to which These are Affected by Socio-economic Determinants by Dr Anton Cumberbatch (HEU, Centre for Health Economics, UWI);
- Investing Wisely in Health by Professor Emeritus Karl Theodore (HEU, Centre for Health Economics);
- COOMEVA’s Medical Auditing Model by Dr Mauricio Castillo (COOMEVA);
- Data Warehousing: A Solution for the Caribbean by Mr Raphael Barrett (Health Management Consultant);
- Lessons from Case Studies in Value-based Healthcare by Dr Javier Asin (International Health Consultant).

d) Panel Discussion Papers

There were six (6) Panels discussing the following matters:--

i) Panels 1 and 2: Renewing Policy Attention and Action in National Health Financing:-

- The New NHI Plan: Design, Implementation and Performance by Mr Roy Barry (NHI and Social Security Board) and Mr Clifford Barnes (EBG Advisors Inc.);
- The Transition from Partial to National Health Insurance in Surinam, 1980—2015 by Dr Javier Asin (Health Consultant) and Mr Rick Kromodihardjo (State Health Foundation);
- The Basic Health Insurance Plan: Review of Implementation by the Social Insurance Bank (SVB), 2013—2016 by Mr Gerbert Spijker (Social Insurance Bank);
- NHI Bahamas: Modern, Affordable, Accessible by Dr Delon Brennen (NHI Secretariat);
- National Health Insurance (AZV): What About Financial Sustainability? By Dr Anco Ringeling (General Health Insurance—AZV);
- St Maarten: Optimising Value for Money in Contracting Health Services by Dr Javier Asin (Health Consultant).

ii) Panel 3: Strategic Management and Spending Wisely--Health Services

- Prioritising Public Health Spending: Lessons from Belize's Challenges with Vector-borne Diseases by Dr Ramon Figueroa (Ministry of Health);
- A Hospital in Transition: The St Elisabeth Hospital in Curacao by Dr Franke Scheper (St Elisabeth Hospital);
- Balancing Quality Care and Financial Sustainability: The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados by Dr Dexter James (Queen Elizabeth Hospital).

iii) Panel 4: Strategic Management and Spending Wisely—MIS/IT Choices

- The National Health Fund (NHF): Value for Money in its MIS-IT Choices and Applications by Mr Granville Gayle (National Health Fund);
- Belize NHIP Experience: Strategic Management and Spending Wisely on MIS-IT Choices and Applications by Dr Natalia Rodriguez (NHIP, Belize);
- The AZV: Strategic Management and Wisely on MIS IT Choices and Applications by Dr Lex de Jong (AZV, Aruba).

iv) Panels 5 and 6: New Directions in National Health Financing

- Optimising Use of National Health Accounts in Health Decision-making by Ms Roxanne Brizan (HEU, Centre for Health Economics);
- Financial and Medical Aspects of Home Care and Pharmaceuticals for the Elderly in Belize by Dr George Gough (NHIP, Belize);
- Health Spending Analysis in Jamaica: Pattern and Projections, 1962—2030 by Mr Jasper Barnett (Ministry of Health);
- Bermuda: Translating Health Data into Community Change by Dr Ricky Braithwaite (Bermuda Health Council);
- Investing in Primary Care for Diabetic Patients in Aruba by Mr Martijn Roos (True Care Inc);
- Mental Health: A Critical Component of Caribbean Health Strategies by Ms Paula Allen (Morneau Shepell).

e) Expert Review and Commentary on Presentations at Conference—

- Mr Emil Lee (Minister of Public Health, St Maarten);
- Ms Jeannine Constansiakook (Ministry of Public Health, Curacao);
- Professor Wynand van de Ven (Erasmus University).

f) Overall Progress since First Meeting:--

Dr Stanley Lalta, Program Coordinator, presented a review of activities and progress over the eleven (11) Conferences (Turks and Caicos Islands, 2006; Aruba, 2007; Trinidad and Tobago, 2008; St Maarten, 2009; Belize, 2010; Bermuda, 2011; Curacao, 2012; Jamaica, 2013; Trinidad and Tobago, 2014; Turks and Caicos Islands, 2015; Bonaire, 2016).

Based on the perspective of the overall objectives outlined by heads of SSO's in Belize in 2005, Dr Lalta highlighted matters pertaining to participation, key topics covered, expertise identified and issues identified by participants for further consideration.

7. Decisions:--

The Conference agreed:

- a) To broaden participation by including representatives of Ministries of Finance and the medical community (rather than only speaking to the 'converted') as well as from the French- and Spanish-speaking Caribbean;
- b) To give attention to 'fiscal space'; 'data analytics'; 'value-based healthcare'; 'illness prevention' and 'economics of pharmaceuticals' in subsequent Conferences;

- c) To consider preparation and circulation of a communications document highlighting key findings and recommendations from discussions at the Conference;
- d) To introduce some dedicated discussion workshops for addressing particular issues confronting national health financing systems;
- e) To accept the offer of the Social Security Board of Anguilla to host the 12th Conference.

8. Acknowledgements:--

The Conference thanked the hosts—the Director and staff of the ZVK—for their careful attention to details and excellence in all arrangements for the Conference.

Special tribute was also paid to Dr. Stanley Lalta and team from the HEU as well as to Mr Bob Harms, Ms Wendy van de Vries and team of the ZVK for their dedicated efforts towards ensuring the smooth and efficient functioning of all Conference activities.

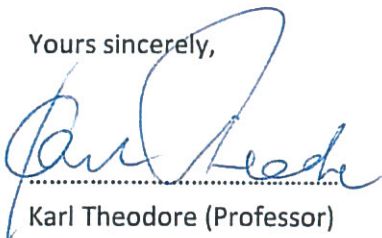
9. Access to Documents:--

Presentations made at the Conference may be accessed by downloads from the Conference website (www.sta.uwi.edu/conferences/16/healthfinancing/).

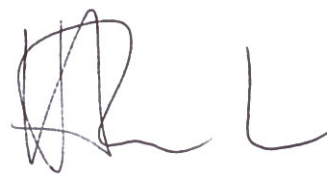
10. Queries and Recommendations for Future Action:--

Queries on information pertaining to previous conferences and recommendations for future action may be directed to the Program Coordinator, Dr. Stanley Lalta (Stanley.lalta@sta.uwi.edu or stanleylalta@gmail.com) or to Ms Charmaine Metivier (charmaine.metivier@sta.uwi.edu) or the HEU, Centre for Health Economics Office (Phone 1 868 662 9459 or 1 868 645 7351).

Yours sincerely,



Karl Theodore (Professor)
Director, HEU



Arnoud Boesten (Dr.)
Director, ZVK