

Report on
The RC53, WHO/EMRO-EMHGBN –Side meeting
EMRO-Isfahan-Iran Sept 9-12, 2006

Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran
Sep. 11, 2006



EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN HEALTH GENOMICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY NETWORK
EMHGBN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A side meeting was held in the RC53, WHO/EMRO Meeting, Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran, on Monday, 11th of September 2006, (first coffee break), 10:00 to 10:30 with presence of his Excellency Dr. Bagheri Lankarani, Minister of Health and Medical Education on the critical situation of the EMHGBN network.

The main purpose of the side meeting was the introduction of the regional network and the efforts for the enhancement of collaboration **in production, training, research & development** in the countries that are covered by WHO/EMRO.

Delegates from Bahrain, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Oman, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, Health Minister of Syrian Arab Republic GCC office and WR attended the meeting.

At first, the meeting started by inaugural speech of Dr. Rouholamini Najafabadi, the Director of Pasteur Institute of Iran on the situation of research and development in Pasteur Institute and the networks activities in Iran. Then a short history of the national and regional networks was presented by Dr. Zeinali, Associate Director for Research at Pasteur Institute of Iran. Afterwards, Dr. Sardari, Director of EMHGBN office presented the situation of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Genomics and Biotechnology Network (EMHGBN) and its activities in detail.

The participants agreed on the need to:

- Making aware the Health Ministers of EMRO by letter concerning the establishment of this network and its activities in the direction of distribution of the networking culture in the region.
- Collaborative workshops in order to mutual exchange to focal persons to gather and make the activities more focused in the coming 14 months before the First International Congress on Health Genomics and Biotechnology to be held in 2007 by Pasteur Institute of Iran.
- Enhancement of the communication among the regional countries to facilitate the achievement for objectives of the regional network.
- Support the creation of national networks to formulate policies to support health genomics and biotechnology and its application in public health in the Member States.

- Mutual information exchange via the website portal.

Presentation of the side meeting and list of participants are included as Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

Discussion:

The delegate of Saudi Arabia acknowledged the establishment of regional network as an important initial step towards advancement of biotechnology and genomics in the region and also counted the established national committee in Saudi Arabia as a result of initiated progress in this field. It was emphasized to have other countries on the board. They requested the EMHGBN office at Pasteur Institute of Iran to send them a letter for reminder and mention to expand, and share their activities with others. As a suggestion, there can be workshops for preparation and mutual exchange to focal persons gather and make the activities more focused in the coming 14 months before the international meeting of Health Genomics and Biotechnology in Iran in Nov 2007.

Iranian delegate added the importance of high-tech initiatives and its impact on developing countries, and to reach the target points desired in the regional network, more communication is needed. The development of state-of-the-art production facility in Karaj site of Pasteur Institute was looked as a good example in high-tech priority setting for developing countries.

The honorable Syrian health minister agreed to the need for knowing each others, activities and welcomed the idea of collaborative workshops and to have plan for countries to finally reach what is desired.

Iranian delegate asked the present countries to nominate one or more individuals for the network activities.

The delegate from Bahrain mentioned about the specialization of such representatives to cover the task and best reach the goals.

Oman delegate added the needs that ministry of health of the respected countries are to be informed of such activities or be the party for nominating the focal persons.

Pakistan delegate mentioned on the information exchange via websites. The presence of several informative websites belong to Pakistan academia or ministry was highlighted.

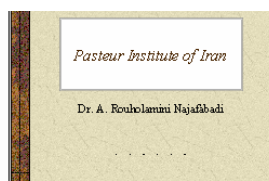
Delegate of Iran added to the previous points that such network and initiative belong to all countries of the region and all have to think of it as theirs. However, to make the forward move easier, it is needed to have the endorsement of national networks and such cannot happen before having the national networks.

The Egyptian delegate thanked the opportunity and to follow the needs asked for the letter of the EMHGBN to be sent out and clearly list the items for action.

At this point, it seemed that all the major issues were raised by respected parties and the meeting was adjourned by honorable health minister of Iran followed by a group photo.

Annex 1

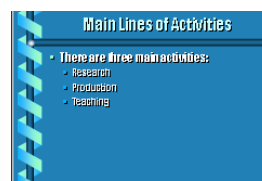
Presentation of the side meeting



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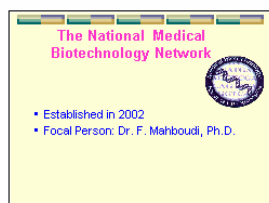
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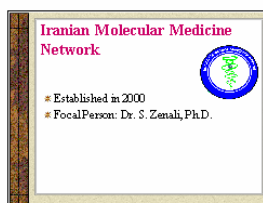
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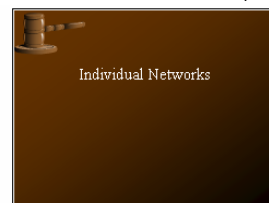
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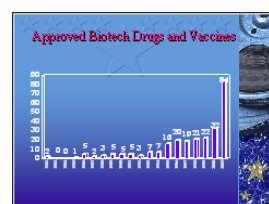
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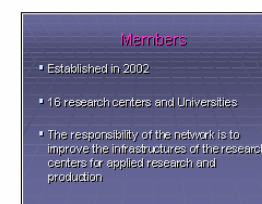
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Recombinant Protein Market in Pharmaceutical Companies

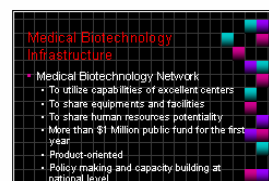
Year	Total Sales	Top 10 in Recombinant	Top 100 in Recombinant
1999	30.95	1.70	1.70
2000	41.95	6.00	6.59
2001	116.95	5.40	5.40

* More Than 200 Recombinant Proteins Have Been Used in Pharmaceutical/Health Care Market
 * More Than 700 in Different Phases of Clinical Trial

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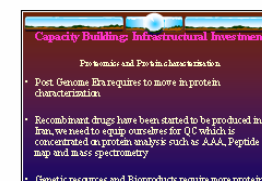
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Infrastructural Priorities: Gene Bank

- Gene Bank: Prokaryotic and eukaryotic gene expression vectors and hosts (Plasmids, bacterial strains, yeast)
- More than 50 recombinant expression vectors and hosts have been deposited so far

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Infrastructural Investment

Human Resources: E- Workshops

- Industrial Protein Purification
 - 300 Participants, Online for one month
 - 40 Experimental training for one week
- Amino Acid Analysis
 - 200 Online participants for one month
- Cloning and Hybridization
 - 450 Participants
- Monoclonal Antibody

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Achievements

- Approval of H₂O₂ peroxidase kit based on ELISA technique
- Final form of HTLV-1 (leading to National Reference Laboratory)
- Final form of Ferretin (leading to National Reference Laboratory)
- Establishing gene bank for recombinant DNA technology

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Future plans

- To define a biopharmaceutical project so that the majority of the members will participate
- A project that helps the technology development and capacity building
- A project that will be considered as the priority in the area of health

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Future Plans

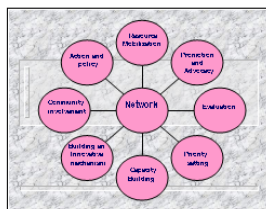
- t-PA and t-PA anti coagulant factor are the candidates that can be split to different centers
 - Expression in transgenic animals
 - Expression in transgenic plants
 - Expression in *P. pastoris*
 - Expression in *E. coli*
 - Expression in *L. lactis*

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Iranian Molecular Medicine Network

Dr. S. Zeinali

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Introduction

Iranian Molecular Medicine Network is a virtual network which has gathered different research centres under a unique umbrella. The network was formed in order to define and coordinate major policies and activities in the field of Molecular Medicine. The aims are promoting status of health level in Iran through prevention, diagnosis, treatment and eradication of diseases.

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Mission

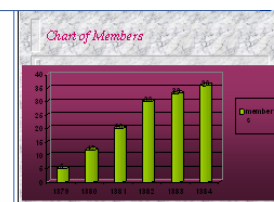
Organization and Capacity Building in the field of applied research mostly in Molecular Medicine. Through this we are trying to promote level of health in Iran and to obtain the final goals.

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Objectives (Goals)

- Establishing a Data Bank of Research Centres, scientists, etc.
- Capacity Building
 - Supporting and enforcement of team working
 - Development of internal and external communications
 - Promoting the utilization to research results
 - Promotion of research topics
 - Qualitative and quantitative development of related resources
 - Assignment of research priorities
 - Collection of ethical codes based on international standards, with an emphasis on human cultural and legal standards

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Activities

- Strategic Planning (Revision every year during annual meetings)
- Priority settings
- Putting regular meetings in each centre now and then
- Evaluating each centre's activities
- Research Capacity Building
- Project evaluation before, during and after
- Training workshops, and support of congress and workshops in molecular medicine

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Microarray & Cytogenetics (ESGM, Nov. 2005)

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Advanced Molecular Genetics Course June 2006

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Some Achievements in Biotechnology and Genetics

- National Banks
 - National Cell Bank
 - National DNA Repository (Genetic disorder DNA banks)
 - National HLA Bank (bone marrow donor bank)
 - National Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank
 - Initiation of several new projects in Gene Therapy, Transgenics, Stem Cell Therapy

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Towards the Future

- Gene Therapy
- Transgenic
- Stem Cell Research
- Proteomics
- Disease Gene Identification
- Monoclonal Antibodies
- Genome Based Research
- Genotyping Genetic Disorders
- Molecular Microbiology including Drug Resistance
- Genotyping

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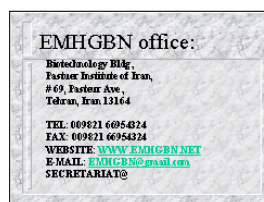
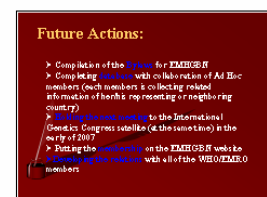
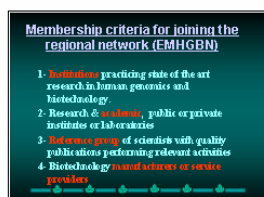
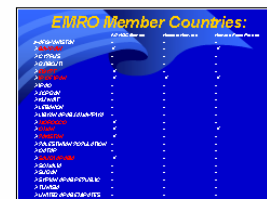
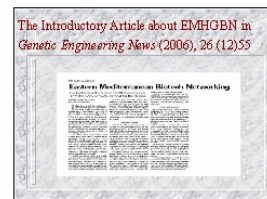
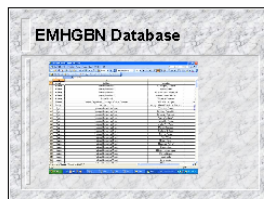
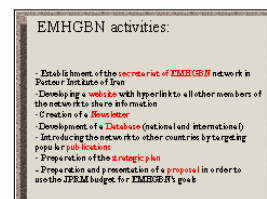
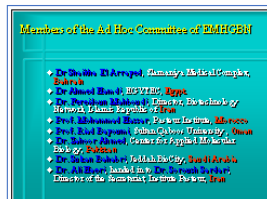
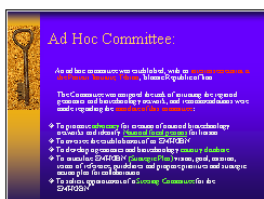
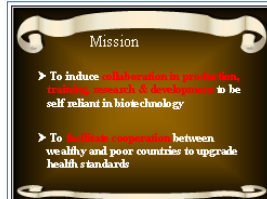
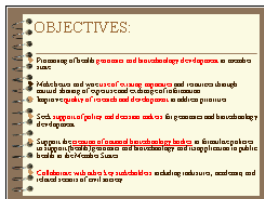
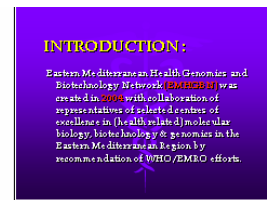
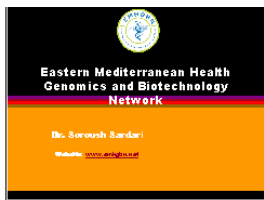
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Annex 2

List of participants

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Egypt

Dr. Mohamed Omar Gad

Islamic Republic of Iran

Dr. Bagheri Lankarani (Minister of Health)

Dr. Rasoul Dinarvand

Dr. Ali Haeri

Dr. M. Rouholamini-Najafabadi (Pasteur Institute of Iran)

Dr. Sirous Zeinali (Pasteur Institute of Iran)

Dr. Soroush Sardari (EMHGBN and Pasteur Institute of Iran)

Dr. Shahram Talebian

Oman

Dr. Anna Rajal

Pakistan

Dr. Ashfeq Ahmed

Saudi Arabia

Dr. Yagob Y. Al Mazrou

Syrian Arab Republic

Dr. Al-Housami Maher

GCC Office

Dr. Tawfik A.M. Khota

WHO/Iran

Dr. Arezoo Ibn Ahmady