Establishing a Standardized Travelers' Electronic Health Summary Template for the Asia Pacific Region

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Chinese Taipei would like to propose to initiate on the discussion of a standardized Travelers' Electronic Health Summary Template (TET) which can be incorporated into the APEC business travel card or other portable digital medium like a USB disk, smart card or CD-ROM. This TET will be designed with the involvement of all participating APEC economies in a way that it is interoperable from one economy to another.

A panel of experts from the APEC member economies will be assembled to discuss on the initial format of TET. The first iteration is likely to be a summary of basic personal data, recent travel history, recent medication history and current medical conditions. It will contain around 50~100 data items with standard coding schemes on medication, medical conditions and other related personal histories. Chinese Taipei, USA, Canada, Japan and others have started to establish standardized Electronic Health Record templates using HL7 CDA (Health Level 7 Clinical Document Architecture) respectively. This project will capitalize on all the current developments and establish a TET that can be useful across all the APEC member economies.

From the personal perspective, a frequent traveler carrying his or her own TET will be a good safety measure for own benefit in case medical aid is called for. On the other hand, should there be a new epidemic in this region; the collective data from travelers' TETs will enable all the involved member economies to have better information on containment and response against the threat.

The kick-off meeting, the APEC EHR Summit, will be held on October 27, 2006. We welcome delegates from APEC member economies to attend this meeting. Following the summit, the standard workshop will discuss experiences to applying medical informatics standards in their healthcare system. Your support and participation to this project will be highly appreciated.

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