August 12, 2014  
Project: International Consultant for Technical Assistance for the Philippine Health Information Exchange as an Integration Mechanism for the DOH Emergency Operations Center  
Deliverable: (2) Completion of July Training – Trip Report

**Philippines Trip Report**  
26-Jul-2014 – 30-Jul-2014  
Dr. Shaun Grannis

From 26-July-2014 to 30-July-2014 Dr. Shaun Grannis, Biomedical Informatics Research Scientist from Regenstrief Institute, conducted formal meetings and unstructured interviews with key stakeholders in the Philippines. These meetings included discussions with stakeholders such as the members of the Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology and PhilHealth. The purpose of the meetings was to gather initial information to help the Philippines assess their progress in implementing a Health Information Exchange and to provide guidance regarding next steps. At the conclusion of his 5-day assessment, Dr. Grannis provided an initial assessment. This report is a summary of key interactions and the high-level recommendations that resulted from the trip.

**Key Interactions:**

Formal meetings and unstructured interviews with key stakeholders included:
- 7/26/2014 PM DOH (Ms. Aragona, Dir Valdez)
- 7/28/2014 AM DOH (Usec Herbosa, J Aragona, Ms. Charity, DOH NHFR team, DOH NHDD team)
- 7/28/2014 PM DOST (Mr. D. Villorente, Paul Soreno, Jeff, Elmer, Mark Logic team)
- 7/29/2014 Information review and synthesis
- 7/30/2014 AM PhilHealth
- 7/30/2014 PM DOST National Data Center

Several strategic and detailed documents were provided to Dr. Grannis as a part of the visit. In addition to meetings with key stakeholders, the following are documents that were reviewed and considered as a part of the assessment.
- National eHealth Strategic Framework
- DOH Enterprise Architecture
- KP Dashboard Indicators
- FHSIS ver2012

**Summary of Initial Recommendations:**
This is a summary of the high-level recommendations based upon the formal discussions, informal discussions and initial document review. These recommendations were shared via a presentation at the end of the visit.
Strategic Vision Recommendations

1. To ensure broad stakeholder buy-in, consider revising the Philippines e-Health vision for clarity and impact.
2. Ensure that all key stakeholders can articulate the vision.
3. Focus efforts on initial high priority activities, and map Milestones to Key initiatives to identify gaps/overlap.

Governance Recommendations

1. Structure: Ensure that clinical and business process expertise (e.g., providers, midwives, registration clerks, epidemiology/statistics, etc.) is available to inform design of e-Health workflows by incorporating a “Clinical/Business Process Working Group.”
3. Structure: In addition to Advisory Group, ensure public/private representation in all components, where feasible. Private service providers play a key role in implementing the Philippines eHealth strategy.
5. Structure: Develop clear, succinct descriptive roles and responsibilities for each component within the e-Health Governance structure.
6. Process: To effectively and efficiently manage and incorporate new use cases/priorities into the PHIE, there must be common understanding and buy-in from diverse set of governance stakeholders regarding the governance process. To ensure common understanding and buy-in, develop and vet guidelines for governance processes, including specific exemplars.

Architecture Recommendations

1. Clarify architecture – explicitly specify PHIE components, define scope within e-Health cluster and within eGov initiate.
2. Clarify key dimensions of stakeholder roles and responsibilities for each HIE component. (What technology? Who hosts? Who manages? Etc.)
3. Work with standards/interoperability/architecture work group to establish process for selecting standards and establish agreed upon architectural principles.
4. Ensure that key HIE component stakeholders have representation within the e-Health governance process.
5. Establish resource provisioning process with DOST data center.

6. Establish a change management governance process.

Based upon the initial assessment conducted, the following next steps were proposed:

- A review of initial recommendation with Philippines DOH PMO to identify opportunities to evolve the initial recommendations.
- Continued conversations with the PMO to refine recommendations and develop more granular tactics.
- Review of ongoing PHIE process artifacts (meeting minutes, etc.) as requested by PMO.
- Continued discussion with PHIE personnel and SME assistance as needed.
- Continued work with the Philippines DOH PMO to formally document the assessment recommendations.

Summary:
A broad spectrum of PHIE stakeholders were actively engaged in the assessment process which appeared to be well received as a catalyst for additional conversations and activities regarding the Philippines. In subsequent email conversations with the Philippines MOH Project Management team, it is evident that many of the concepts recommendations that were socialized as a part of the visit are being evaluated and/or implemented.