



National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science



Health Life Horizon (HLH) Project Funded By National ICT R&D Funds

MEETING MINUTES Held on 10th July, 2009 NUST SEECS Conference Room

NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECS) is one of the few institutions with a dynamic and progressive vision to transform the culture of engineering and computer education/research in Pakistan. NUST also stands out amongst the national seats of higher learning because of the rich diversity of its academic programs embracing a variety of disciplines from engineering and IT to Health and Medical Sciences. At NUST SEECS, we have initiated a project titled “Health Life Horizon (HLH): Design & Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Open Source Application for Interoperable e-Health Services”. The project is sponsored by National ICT R&D Funds. Under this project, we are developing an open source tool to facilitate HL7 Version 3 compliant interfaces for health information systems interoperability.

To promote the HLH efforts nationally and internationally through affiliation of Pakistan to HL7, a meeting titled “**A Roadmap of Interoperable Healthcare Information Systems for Pakistan**” is held at NUST SEECS on 10th July, 2009. The objective of this meeting is to bring together various stakeholders (researchers, medical professionals, IT specialists and policy makers) at national level to highlight the recent developments and challenges in designing a nation-wide policy for futuristic e-Health services such as national Electronic Health Record (EHR). The meeting is attended by the dignitaries related to healthcare, funding agencies and information technology. The details of the meeting are discussed in the following section:

General: The meeting started with Tilawat at 1530 hrs in NUST SEECS conference room and then was formally started by Dr. Hafiz Farooq Ahmad (Associate Professor, Project Director, HLH Project at NUST SEECS).

1. The initial address was delivered by the Dean, SEECS Dr. S.M Hassan Zaidi. He shared the splendid progress made by NUST schools nationally and internationally. He explained in detail different projects that are either running or accomplished and the collaborations with world in different areas of IT.
2. Mr. Muhammad Afzal (Team Lead, HLH Project) explained in detail Health Life Horizon Project and the need of “**Interoperability in the Healthcare Standards**” and “**Process of HL7 Affiliation**”.

3. Mr. Arif Aslam Kundi (Director IT, Ministry of IT) gave presentation on behalf of the Ministry of IT. He highlighted different initiatives taken by Ministry of IT regarding ICT diffusion in the healthcare. He shared that the true essence of ICT is not being practically used in Pakistan healthcare industry. He appraised the HLH efforts and vision, and showed his willingness to support the futuristic activities regarding affiliation and endeavors towards national EHR.
4. Dr Bader-i-Alam (CITI Lab) explained the current status of the deployment of “HL7 Messaging System” at CITI Lab. He acknowledged the role of HLH Project Team for their utmost efforts in deploying the system at CITI Lab. He shared with the participants that the deployed system will solve current issues regarding time delays and ambiguities in the process of test ordering and test results.
5. Dr. Hafiz Farooq (Associate Professor, SEECS), presented the latest trends of healthcare in the world and the role of Electronic Health Record (EHR) more specifically. He also threw light on the tremendous achievements of HLH Project in the span of less than a year. Finally the theme of the meeting i.e. “Affiliation of Pakistan to HL7”, was discussed for the global recognition and use of the efforts.

Last but not the least the house was invited for open discussion to share their opinions and how they can contribute in making Pakistan an HL7 affiliate.

Open Discussion

1. Mr. Muhammad Sibtain (Senior Software Engineer, MIS Deptt, Shaukat Khaum Hospital) started the discussion by throwing light on the healthcare system that has been used at the Shaukat Khanum Hospital currently and also the international standards that they are following. He also showed his willingness of working in collaboration with the HLH project at SEECS. He suggested having a technical meeting where HLH Team will discuss the technical details of their project. Also he invited Dr. Farooq along with Team Leads of HLH Project to visit Shaukat Khanum Hospital Lahore.
2. Dr. Qasim Sheikh (CEO National ICT R&D Funds) added to the discussion by stressing the need of focusing on using the international standards only so that the whole healthcare community of world can take advantage of it. He also suggested to the healthcare professionals in the audience to work out on the latest and most widely used healthcare projects related to EHR. He proposed
 - To write a paper on current state of the art EHR Standards.
 - To organize meeting at NUST Institute in Karachi if possible.He suggested to the HLH team to create a proper section for the outputs of project like CITI Lab Deployment on the HLH website.
3. Mr. Khurram Idrees (ST Ventures, NUST) inquired about the cost of shifting from using HL7 V2 to HL7 V3 as most of the healthcare organizations are using HL7 V2. Dr Hafiz Farooq clarified that HL7 V2 to HL7 V3 convertor is part of HLH project and once the convertor is available then the healthcare organizations don't need to completely switch from HL7 V2 to V3 rather only use convertor for messages communication hence very minimum cost.
4. Dean Army Medical College (AMC) Dr. Naveed showed his enthusiasm in becoming the part of this project by providing funding to the resources and in return using their service of the HLH system in army medical colleges.
5. Ajay Kumar Tanwani (Senior Software Engineer, FAST uni) was in favor of working in collaboration for developing national EHR in Pakistan.

Action Items

S#	Action Item	Main Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
1.	HL7 Pakistan Domain Registration	HLH Team SEECS	Within a week	Done
2.	Sharing Affiliation Process of Pakistan to HL7 with different stakeholders	Initiated by HLH Team SEECS		In Progress
3.	Writing report on current state of the art EHR (Electronic Health Record) Systems and open standards.	Dr. Hafiz Farooq Ahmad with HLH Team from SEECS	Within two months	In progress
4.	EHR report sharing with different stakeholders mainly Ministry of IT and ICT R&D.	Dr. Hafiz Farooq Ahmad	After completion	
5.	Creating a section on HLH project to include the outputs of project.	HLH Team SEECS	Within a week	In progress (Hopefully by the end of today)
6.	Visit of to Shaukat Khanum Memorial Lahore for Technical Meeting	HLH Team Leads	Within a month	Decided in next week
7.	Suggestion from Dr. Qasim to arrange meeting at Karachi.	HLH Team SEECS		Under consideration
8.	Mr. Arif Aslam Kundi suggested to invite representative from Health Ministry	SEECS or any stakeholder arranges health informatics related meeting or activity.	Next Meetings	

In Attendance:

S#	Name	Association	Email	Contact No
1.	Dr. Hassan Zaidi	DEAN SEECS		
2.	Dr. Farooq Ahmad	PD HLH SEECS	farooq.ahmad@seecs.edu.pk	
3.	Mr. Muhammad Afzal	Team Lead HLH SEECS	muhammad.afzal@seecs.edu.pk	03005661036
4.	Mr. Maqbool Hussain	Team Lead HLH SEECS	maqbool.hussain@seecs.edu.pk	03452656208
5.	Ms. Humaira Nisar	SEECS	humaira.nisar@seecs.edu.pk	
6.	Ms. Shagufta Umer	SEECS	shagufta.umer@seecs.edu.pk	
7.	Ms. Mehtab Alam	SEECS	mehtab.alam@seecs.edu.pk	
8.	Mr. Wajahat Ali Khan	SEECS	wajahat.alikhan@seecs.edu.pk	
9.	Mr. Hasan Ali Khattak	SEECS	hasan.alikhattak@seecs.edu.pk	
10.	Mrs. Abida Nouman	SEECS	abidarashid@hotmail.com	
11.	Mr. Khuram Idrees	ST Ventures NUST	khuram.idrees@nust.edu.pk	03018509944
12.	Ms. Saba Khan	ST Ventures NUST	saba.khan@stventures.net	03005195987
13.	Mr. Ajay Kumar Tanwani	FAST University	ajay.tanwani@nexginrc.org	03335210577
14.	Ms. Momina Tabish	FAST University		
15.	Dr. Qasim Sheikh	National ICT R&D Funds	qasim.sheikh@ictrdf.org.pk	03008540838
16.	Mr. Fawad Younus	National ICT R&D Funds	fawad.younus@ictrdf.org.pk	03028559472
17.	Mr. Ibrar ahmad	Telesehat	ibrar.ahmed@telesehat.com	
18.	Mr. Muhammad Sibtain	Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital	msibtain@skm.org.pk	03334398152
19.	Maj General Muhammad Naeem Khan (HIM)	Army Medical College (AMC)		

20.	Dr. Bader-i-Alam	CITI Lab		03215181280
21.	Mr. Syed Mubasher Hussain	Elixir Technologies Pakistan	syed.mubasher@hotmail.com	03015468750
22.	Mr. M. Shahid	Elixir Technologies	mshahidaltaf@gmail.com	
23.	Mr. Arif Aslam Kundi	Ministry of IT	akundi@moitt.gov.pk	0519213173

Pics of Meeting

