The German Institute for Standardization and Documentation in Laboratory Medicine in Duesseldorf, Germany

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE

1- The German Society for Promotion of Quality Assurance in Medical Laboratories (INSTAND e.V.-Düsseldorf) continues to contribute to the activities of ICBS by conducting, at no cost to ICBS, the regular INSTAND/ICBS/WHO training course on quality assurance. A lot of highly appreciated generous support has been provided by Prof. Dr. Hans Reinauer, President of INSTAND, and INSTAND Board members. The following are among the numerous generous support provided by Prof. Dr. Hans Reinauer and INSTAND team:

a. INSTAND and ICBS signed an agreement in which INSTAND concurs to provide, free of charge, the location/office for ICBS-Europe within the premises of INSTAND in Düsseldorf, Germany; and INSTAND is the management arm of the Consortium and carries on the Consortium’s routine administrative functions.

b. Professor Dr. Hans Reinauer, President of INSTAND, with the help of Professor Dr. Claus Heuck have kindly assisted with the preparation of all documents necessary for the establishment and registration of ICBS-Europe in Germany as a legal non-profit entity. On February 2006, ICBS Europe submitted its application to the court for registration. After a lengthy processing and difficulties related to certain German regulation faced by the President of INSTAND and his lawyer, on March 2008 the Court of Düsseldorf, Germany, notified the Notary Public in charge of registering ICBS-Europe, telling him that ICBS-Europe has been officially registered as a legal non-profit entity.

c. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Patrick Schwarz (INSTAND), who is a member of ICBS-Europe, the ICBS website domain/IP address has been successfully transferred to the server used for INSTAND website (during the first week of January 2008) after allocating the needed larger space on the server at no cost to ICBS.

d. Recent INSTAND Training activities:
   i. Trained two specialists from Egypt in Laboratory Management- 2008.
   ii. Trained one specialist from Egypt in Infection Control- 2008.
   iii. Seminar for experts on laboratory standardisation and quality assurance at the Ministry of Research and higher Education, Egypt. 2009.

e. Collaboration agreements and technical assistance:
   i. Had an agreement for collaboration with the National Public Health Laboratory, Khartoum, and the University of Khartoum, Sudan, in the promotion of laboratory standardisation and quality assurance.
   ii. Continued financial and technical support to the project with Al Azhar University, Cairo, for a laboratory quality assurance programme, for the
prevention of viral nosocomial infections and the establishment of national reference intervals of common laboratory indicators for Egypt.

iii. Field visit to Egypt, 2008, for the establishment of cooperation between INSTAND, Düsseldorf and Egyptian Medical Institutions and Laboratories in the Field of External Quality Assessment for Medical Laboratories.

iv. At the request of WHO-EMRO, INSTAND agreed to one of its experts to undertake a consultancy assignment to audit of the national public health laboratory network of Sudan.

v. Upon the request of Professor Dr. Mohamed El-Nageh (during the period he was serving With WHO/EMRO as Senior Advisor on Laboratory Services in Emergencies in 2008), INSTAND submitted a 4-years proposal of cooperation for collaboration between INSTAND and the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Office (EMRO) for capacity building, in order to support health laboratory and blood safety facilities in EMR countries were facing complex emergencies or were in a recovery phase. A favourable response was received from Assistant Regional Director/EMRO. INSTAND is still awaiting WHO/EMRO arrangements to start implementation.

f. INSTAND International EQA schemes & Development of reference measurement procedure
   i. INSTAND continues to organizes the WHO international EQA scheme with the analytes for HIV 1 / 2, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.
   ii. Improved reference measurement procedure for the measurement of haemoglobin A1c