At Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Peru (PUCP), the clinical engineering group CENGETS has made progress towards improving medical technology in Peru. Professors Luis Vilcahuamán and Rossana Rivas of PUCP/CENGETS have several active projects with the Ministry of Health including the recently approved development of a National Technology Agency to support healthcare technology management. Currently, there is no “FDA” in Peru responsible for medical devices – only pharmaceuticals, and little technology management.

Professors Vilcahuamán and Rivas will accompany Dr. Hernan Garrido-Lecca, Health Minister, and his team to China representing the healthcare technology sector on an economic mission. Peru recently hosted the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum in Lima with CENGETS as a key participant. Another CENGETS project of great interest to Dr. Garrido-Lecca, an inventor and a graduate of Harvard (MBA) and MIT (MS), is the design of apparatus to assist with vertical birth – the traditional birth position in the Andes and Amazon regions.

CENGETS most recently sponsored workshops on medical device quality assurance in Lima and Cusco. Faculty included Miguel Angel Castro, former biomedical engineering professor and Fluke Biomedical distributor, from Bogota, Colombia, Professors Vilcahuamán and Rivas, and Tobey Clark, University of Vermont (UVM).

This hands-on training on metrology and medical device inspection followed the medical equipment/HTM online course given at PUCP which was developed by PUCP, Universidad CES in Colombia, and UVM.

There has been active communication between CENGETS and ACCE members Antonio Hernandez, Tom Judd, Mario Castanada, Gordon McNamee, and Clark who were faculty for a PAHO workshop in 2007, and most recently by Ismael Cordero, of ORBIS which will be holding a workshop in Trujillo in 2009 and who plans to collaborate by supporting the development of the National Technology Agency.

Activities Ahead

In late October a healthcare technology management workshop focusing on managing and delivering services, acquiring technology and building regional capacity will be held in Bridgetown, Barbados. Elliott Sloane will be the workshop leader with Caroline Campbell of Trimedia, Matt Baretich of Baretich Engineering, Tobey Clark of the University of Vermont and Antonio Hernandez of PAHO.

2009 promises to be a very busy year for ACCE international workshops. In January International Aid will be sponsoring a workshop in Ghana. Jennifer McGill of MedTex Consulting will be the workshop leader and accompanied by ACCE faculty Bill Gentles of Ontario, Canada and Evelyn Fan, clinical engineer at Brigham and Women’s in Boston.

Workshops in Argentina, Panama, Honduras, El Salvador, Peru, Brazil and possibly in Vietnam, Laos or Tanzania are also being contemplated.

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