

# Healthcare Experts Forum

On 26 January 2004, SANC organised a Healthcare Experts Forum and invited two leading experts in healthcare management from Europe: Mr Christian Hay, a specialist in healthcare in Europe, based in Switzerland and Mr John Lingg, Director of the University Hospital of Geneva, to share their experiences in the management of healthcare services in Europe using EAN.UCC system.

Participants in this Forum included representatives from Health Sciences Board, Singapore General Hospital, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, National University Hospital, National Skin Centre as well as senior officials from IDA.

This Forum is made up of two parts. For the first part, Mr. Tan Jin Soon, the

hospitals wards in the event the patients in a particular ward have been identified to be a SARS patient.

In the presentations by Mr Christian Hay and Mr John Lingg, they shared with participants the followings:

1. The EAN.UCC System and its adoption in Europe by the healthcare industry, including bar coding of products, bar coding of wards/hospital beds and patients.
2. The capability of EAN128 coding system to implement tracking and tracing system for hospital administration of patient care and surgical in plants.
3. The international healthcare industry



Mr Christian Hay, European Healthcare Initiative introducing the usage of RFID in hospitals to senior officials from the hospitals, IDA representatives and SANC.

applications of EAN Global Location Numbers (GLN) for hospital wards identifications, e-procurement.

Mr Christian Hay and Mr John Lingg also showed 3 documentary films on how hospitals in Japan, Colombia, Brazil and Europe use handheld computers/ PDA combined with EAN.UCC bar coding system to manage patients care and patient administration by hospitals. Participants were especially interested in the film on a Japanese hospital in which the nurses are using PDAs to record patients' temperatures and also the medicines administered to the patients. Besides, the whole hospital's IT system has been fully integrated to allow doctors and nurses to assess patients full record including x-ray film/reports, blood test results at the patients bedside on demand.

At the end of the presentation, there was an open discussion session on the adoption of the EAN.UCC System for healthcare sector. All the participants expressed their interests and exchanged views on possible solutions that would solve existing problems for hospitals including rising healthcare costs, errors in patient treatments and real time easy access of hospital records.

SANC would like to thank Mr Christian Hay and Mr John Lingg who gave so generously of their time and knowledge at this interesting forum.



Senior representatives from the hospitals gained a better understanding in the management of healthcare services in Europe using EAN.UCC system.

Executive Director of SANC, shared with the above-mentioned two European experts the current status of applications of Automatic Data Capture technologies in the healthcare industry in Singapore, ranging from (a) applications of bar codes using EAN13 for medical supplies and OTC products and EAN128 for medical devices made in Japan, Europe and Singapore; (b) applications of radio frequency identification (RFID) for the tracking of visitors to hospitals in Singapore during the outbreak of SARS in early 2003. This is to facilitate the quarantine of visitors to

trends in the coding of medical and surgical products with actual cases implemented in Europe. These applications have successfully cut administrative costs, healthcare costs and improved the efficiency and quality services in the hospitals.

4. The applications of EAN.UCC system have also resulted in the elimination of errors in medical and surgical treatment of patients.
5. Other topics covered were the