GS1 Malaysia e-Newsletter

April – June 2016

HEALTHCARE

ISQua and GS1 join forces to improve the quality of care in hospitals around the world

ISQua, The International Society for Quality in Health Care, and GS1, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote and enhance quality of care and patient safety on a global scale.

The collaboration between ISQua and GS1 will support and encourage the link between hospital accreditation and implementation of harmonised standards for automatic identification of patients, caregivers and products in hospitals.

Providing high quality care is vital for hospitals but can be challenging when facing evermore complex demands through growing workload, new regulations, changing demographics and pathologies and rising costs. **This is why hospital accreditors around the world increasingly rely on the use of the ISQua accreditation standards, and the power of the GS1 standards to improve patient safety and address possible process inefficiencies.**

Miguel Lopera, GS1 CEO and President stated "engaging in this collaboration is testament to the growing role GS1 standards play in ensuring and maintaining quality within hospitals, by helping to safeguard against errors and create process efficiencies, enabling hospital staff to focus on patient care."

ISQua is the global leader responsible for assessing the standards of national, regional and global agencies. These accreditation agencies in turn set the benchmarks in healthcare safety and quality for hospitals, and strive to be accredited by ISQua. Local hospitals then proactively choose to work with an ISQua accredited agency to gain the status that provides assurance to their patients and other stakeholders that services offered are to the highest standard of safety and quality.

ISQua CEO, Peter Carter said "a global approach to quality improvement in healthcare is essential in the interests of patients and their families and a partnership between ISQua and GS1 will bring us closer to achieving this vitally important goal."

Regulatory agencies and jurisdictions in more than 65 countries acknowledge GS1 standards for medicine and medical device identification. GS1 standards are also the key to patient and caregiver identification, and recognised by ISO and CEN standards (CEN/ISO TS 18530).

New Global Collaboration between GS1 and IHTSDO

GS1 and the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO) announced the signing of a new collaborative agreement that supports interoperability in health information systems globally.

GS1's global trade item numbers (GTIN) are global standards for automatic product identification (through barcodes), used for patient safety and traceability. IHTSDO's SNOMED CT is a global standard that ensures semantically accurate clinical terminology for consistent use across health systems and services. **Ensuring that these two standards can work together will facilitate the link between clinical information in the patient record and the correct product administered to the patient at point of care, enabled by barcode scanning.**

"We are excited about building on our previous collaborative efforts with GS1 through this new work." said IHTSDO CEO Don Sweete. "This new agreement focuses on concrete projects for linking GTINs and SNOMED CT further supports those in the delivery of care to patients and start to demonstrate benefits as early as next year".

There are four main areas of collaboration specified in the new global agreement:

1. Develop guidance/principles for linking SNOMED CT and GTINs that can be applied at the national/local level
2. Explore options, feasibility and benefits for a technical solution/model at the international level to support local/national linkage between SNOMED CT and GTINs
3. Conduct joint communications about IHTSDO and GS1 standards working together
4. Explore options for education across healthcare communities based on feedback from subject matter experts, but likely focused on GS1 and IHTSDO products and services and collaborative activities

Miguel Lopera, GS1 CEO and President, commented "the use of GS1 global standards for product identification and data exchange is critical in addressing today's issues in healthcare systems and will help ensure patient safety by appropriately linking patient information with accurate product information in all Electronic Health Records".

New Guidelines for Iran

Iran, Ministry of Health and Medical Education, release a new Food and Drug Organization Guideline on Tracking, Tracing and Coding.

The guideline states that all agents and companies holding licenses of drugs supplements who are prepared to implement the tracking and tracing system, are required to have such information in the form of a 2D bar code:

- Tracking code
- Global Trade Item Number (GS1 identification number)
- Manufacture series number (Lot number)
- Expiry date

The codes will be activated by the pharmacist in-charge when the product is released. The companies must determine and declare the place of the codes in their artwork of the box design at the time of registration. The responsibility for the printing of codes and the codes accuracy will lie with the companies.

In the case, the codes are applied as a attachment, the attachments must have the same quality as the labels that are inseparable from the packaging. The products will be regarded as illegal in the market without these labels and will not be permitted for distribution.

Packaging Design Does Matter

2016 celebrates the 10th year of the Packaging Design Does Matter project that GS1 Malaysia organized with First City University (formerly KBU International College).

The project offered GS1 Malaysia member companies, the opportunity to enhance their packaging designs through the creativity of the university's final year design students. The programme was carried out with success from April 25-29, 2016.

Companies that are interested to join the following year are encouraged to contact GS1 Malaysia.

TRAININGS

GS1 Malaysia conducted training on Unique Device Identification (UDI) for Perusahaan Getah Asas Sdn Bhd. The training covered the GS1 standards and how to create the UDI from GS1 identification keys to comply with the United States Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) UDI new regulations. A total of 20 staff was trained.

On May 31st, 2016, Prominent Image Sdn Bhd was given an in-house training on GS1 identification and bar coding for retail and non-retail. Prominent Image deals with plastic household products and is looking into implementation of GS1 bar codes onto their finished products that are sold in the retail stores. The company would like to use the GS1 codes for inventory control as well.

SEMINARS

Improve Marketability of Your Products through Better Packaging and Labelling

GS1 Malaysia organized a Packaging and Labelling seminar on May 24, 2016. The seminar provided its participants information about the regulations and compliance for labelling. Other topics also covered the latest trends and technical requirements for production of a quality retail packaging.

The seminar ended with technical specifications about how to print a GS1 bar code that can be scan. Over 40 participants attended the seminar.

Digital Business Transformation Seminar

GS1 Malaysia organised the Digital Business Transformation Seminar on 1ˢᵗ June 2016. The seminar focused mainly on the e-commerce platform and digital trend to expose the audience and GS1 members to the new way of conducting business by getting their conventional business into the digital space.

The speakers from AladdinStreet.com.my, OpenText and MyWave delivered the concept and the advantages of the digital platform towards the business enhancement. E-Commerce is not only a platform to make products to be more visible in the digital space but it could provide potential businesses by expanding worldwide. Companies can also implement the full traceability of products and business processes with the adoption of GS1 standard. Advanced analysis and statistics of the users' trends that can be easily plot into readable infographics to facilitate more effective and efficient business decision were also shown and explained.

There was a small exhibition held during the seminar where companies can meet and find out more about the digital platform and solutions provided by the exhibitors. About 70 participants attended the seminar.

Supply Chain Excellence Seminar

A Supply Chain Excellence seminar was held on June 2, 2016, to share best practices, strategic processes and innovative business improvements as well as providing networking opportunities.

The seminar provided innovative solutions for secure & visibility of goods transportation, Supply Chain efficiency through collaboration among manufacturers, suppliers & retailers, insight into protecting the brands using authentication solutions on the packaging and sustainability programme to bring the SMEs to the required level of food safety requirement.

Experienced speakers from GCH Retail, OpenText, Cold Chain Network, Malaysia Durian Exporter Association (MDEA) and AEON shared their experiences and recommendations for better enhancement and effective practices from various aspects.

APEC Global Data Standard (GDS) Pilot Project Meeting

APEC GDS Pilot Project Meeting was held on April 26, 2016. The meeting was held to enable all the relevant stakeholders to provide updates on their core areas and status of the pilot projects, to address any key business issue, to brief on the proposed KPIs and to update on the next shipments for the Durian export to China and Hong Kong.

Dr. Akhmad Bayhaqi, Senior Analyst, Policy Support Unit, APEC, briefed all the stakeholders on the APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Framework and the goals to be achieved for the GDS pilot projects. The use of interoperable GDS can benefit the supply chains by enhancing the efficiency, integrity, visibility as well as promoting innovation.

The meeting also highlighted that the Malaysian project on Durian is on track in terms of system readiness and timeline.

The GS1 Keys used are Global Trade Item Number (GTIN), Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC), Global Location Number (GLN), Global Shipment Identification Number (GSIN) and Global Individual Asset Identifier (GIAI).

Addressing Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in Asia-Pacific Food Markets

ABAC is undertaking a research study on non-tariff barriers and impediments to agriculture and food trade. ABAC has engaged University of Southern California (USC) to undertake this study across all the APEC economies on the impact of these barriers and solutions for the businesses and food security.

The researcher, Ms Carlie Carpio conducted interviews with GS1 Malaysia, the Malaysian Durian Exporters Association and MIMOS to find out what were the challenges and issues faced when exporting the produce to China and other APEC countries.

GS1 Annual Supply Chain Summit 2016

"Enriching Consumer Lifestyles"

10 November 2016 @ Concorde Hotel, Shah Alam

Supply Chain Summit 2016 will focus on 3 important areas which are Food Safety, Healthcare and Omni-Channel.

The Summit will bring together key industry players and professionals from the manufacturers, suppliers, retailers and service providers to create greater awareness on current supply chain challenges and to share best practices in the distributive trade and retail sectors.

The Summit will emphasise innovative supply chain strategies and new technology that support global business growth that will provide more information to consumers, improve efficiency, increase supply chain visibility, reduce cost of doing business and protect brands.

Healthcare Solutions   **Omni-Channel**   **Food Safety & Services**

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