



## COMING EVENT

### Equip'aid. Sharing for better healthcare

November 19 & 20 2013, Chamonix Mont-Blanc, France

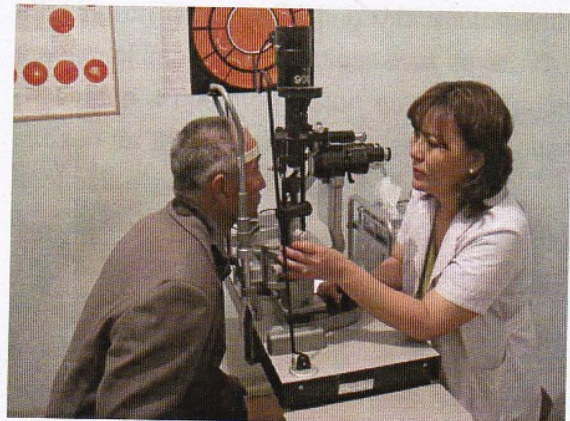


The non-profit organisation HUMATEM, the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE) and the French Hospital Federation (FHF), supported by the World Health Organisation (WHO) are organising **Equip'aid, an international conference devoted to the improvement of medical equipment support projects for healthcare facilities in the field of international aid.** The conference will be held on 19th and 20th November 2013 in Chamonix Mont-Blanc, in France and will be followed by the Second WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices from 22nd to 24th November 2013, in Geneva.

The Equip'aid conference comes at the end of a three year programme driven by HUMATEM and co-financed by the European Union "Strengthening cooperation tools and structuring dialogue between donation stakeholders in the provision of medical equipment" (DCI-NSA/2009/205-811), and will unite 250 participants from northern countries, countries in transition and developing countries.

Access to healthcare technologies in devel-

oping countries through medical equipment donation and support projects, is a key contributor to improving world health issues. The acquisition, management and use of medical equipment which is of good quality, safe and compatible with the environment in which it is used, are of prime importance to all stakeholders in this field. Given that the majority of donated medical devices installed in developing countries are not in working order (source



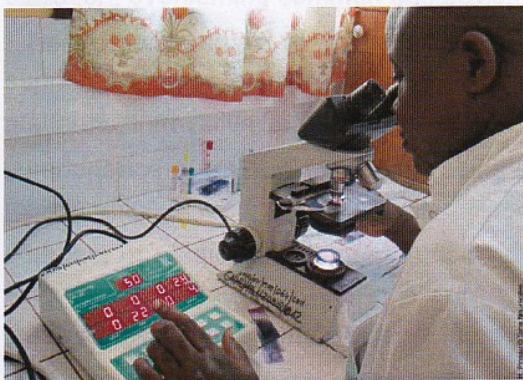
Equal access to health technologies is fundamental for improving world health

WHO) there is great potential for improvement in the overall approach and quality processes involved in medical equipment donation programmes.

For over 14 years, HUMATEM, committed to enhancing the practices of healthcare groups and international aid organisations, has provided services and tools to assist stakehold-



ers in medical equipment support projects across various domains such as: donating and receiving equipment with a specific focus on improving the match between supply and demand, ensuring its proper working order, and training teams from international aid or-



Ensuring that equipment is adapted and functions correctly is crucial

ganisations on the methodology for medical equipment support projects. This can include topics such as carrying out a preliminary assessment, planning, project implementation and evaluation, as well as highlighting the difficulties or issues they are likely to face. HUMATEM provides an exchange platform based on three complementary services:

- 1) Coordination of medical device donation and receipt with access to an extensive database,
- 2) A resource centre for donors and receivers, offering tools, aids, and access to workshops and training, and
- 3) A collaborative biomedical network BIOMEDON, for uninstalation/removal of medical equipment, including performance controls, recalibration, minor repairs and ordering accessories or spare parts, etc.

In line with this goal of improving medical equipment support projects, the Equip'aid conference will provide a platform for exchange, discussion and best practice share. In more detail, the objectives of this first international meeting of reference are to:

- Share information and experience, by promoting dialogue between all stakeholders involved in medical equipment support projects;
- Identify synergies by examining the various practices and policies involved in the transfer and set-up of medical equipment;
- Facilitate research work and transversal thinking on issues affecting this sector, with the aim of improving practices over time;
- Develop a common vision around the axis chosen for this first edition "Sharing for better healthcare".

The two-day conference will offer various formats for exchange and project advancement, through plenary sessions, round tables, themed workshops, poster presentations and documentary screenings, as well as a networking zone and resource area.

The topics covered during the two-day conference will include:

- Different forms of cooperation in medical equipment support projects (bilateral, between territorial authorities, hospitals, associations...);
- Varying contexts of intervention (emergency, post-emergency and development, rural and urban, public and private...);



- Importance of medical equipment donations within the framework of the WHO Global Initiative on Health Technologies;
- Legal aspects affecting transfers (directives, laws, regulations...);
- Good practice for successful transfer & installation, overcoming common obstacles;
- Best-practice share for medical equipment support projects (tools, resources, exchange platforms, innovative solutions);
- Importance of training for optimum use and maintenance of medical equipment;
- Impact of medical equipment support projects on the management of healthcare facilities (financial impact, costs, maintenance policies, biomedical waste management...);
- Particular needs and constraints of specific medical fields: surgery, anaesthesia/intensive care, laboratory, dialysis, ophthalmology, oral healthcare, technical aids for disabled people, hospital furniture, etc.

All biomedical engineers and technicians interested in by any of these topics are welcome to attend the conference.

The Equip'aid conference intends to bring together for the first time, all parties involved in medical equipment support projects within the scope of international aid:

- Civil society organisations from the Northern countries, countries in transition and developing countries (associations, International Aid Organisations, International Migrant Aid Organisations, NGOs, etc.);

- Territorial authorities engaged in cooperation programs;
- Healthcare facilities involved in hospital cooperation programs and/or donors or beneficiaries/recipients of medical equipment;
- Companies in the healthcare sector;
- Organisations and their resource teams & experts (support networks, biomedical technicians and engineers, medical and paramedical personnel, researchers, economists, consultants, etc.);
- Training institutes and students;
- International Institutions (WHO, European Commission, etc.);
- Funding agencies;
- Government representatives;
- State representatives.



Sharing for better healthcare

The conference will be held in English and French, with simultaneous translation of most sessions.

More information and registration details are available on: [www.equipped.org](http://www.equipped.org)