



First Session for the Installation of the Scientific Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME)

**BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Knowledge Management and Communication Department – KMC**

The First Session for the Installation of the Scientific Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME) was held in BIREME headquarters, in São Paulo, Brazil, on July 25th, 2013. The meeting was held in compliance to the Resolution 5th of the 49th Directing Council (CD49.R5) of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in which the Statute of BIREME was approved, in effect since the year 2010, which defines its new institutionality.

The Scientific Committee as approved during the third session of the Advisory Committee of BIREME in December 5th 2012 is formed by specialist members indicated by 4 (four) PAHO/WHO Member States and by PAHO/WHO: Brazil and Canada over a period of 2 (two) years, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago and the National Library of Medicine of the United States of America (NLM/USA), over a period of 3 (three) years.

The Session had the participation of the specialist members of Brazil, Honduras and Trinidad and Tobago. The specialist members of Canada and the representative of the NLM/USA participated remotely.

FINAL REPORT

São Paulo (SP), August 16th, 2013

FINAL REPORT

OPENING SESSION

- 1) On 25th of July 2013, in BIREME, in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, took place the first session for the installation of the Scientific Committee, which fulfills advisory functions to the Advisory Committee of the Center and to the Director of PAHO/WHO. The Session had as leader of the Secretariat, Adalberto O. Tardelli, Director of BIREME, and *ex officio* Secretary, supported subsequently by the elected Chair, Luiz Augusto Facchini, Advisor of *Associação Brasileira de Pós-Graduação em Saúde Coletiva* (Abrasco). In addition to the Chair, Americo Reyes Ticas, Member of the Research Committee of Honduras was elected rapporteur of the session.

- 2) Adalberto O. Tardelli acknowledged the presence and participation of the specialist members of the Scientific Committee of BIREME and emphasized the importance of the meeting within the framework of the continuous development and strengthening of BIREME. Still during the opening remarks, Guillermo Birmingham, Director of the Administration of PAHO/WHO, acknowledged the opportunity of his participation putting in context BIREME as a Specialized Center of PAHO that is also the Regional Office of WHO for the Americas. He mentioned the institutional reforms that PAHO/WHO are going through, however, emphasized the central role of BIREME in the field of scientific information which is addressed in one of the six main strategic objectives of the Organization that are being implemented in conjunction with its member states. Also, Eliane Pereira dos Santos, representing Marcelo José D'Agostino, Director of the Department of Knowledge Management and Communications (KMC) of PAHO/WHO highlighted the approval of the new Statute of BIREME and the insertion of that Center and the Virtual Health Library (VHL) in the Regional Strategies and Plan of Actions approved by the Member States: the eHealth and the Knowledge Management and Communications. The issues under discussion on the agenda of the Session were reviewed and the Session started.

- 3) The participants reiterated their support for the continuous development and strengthening of BIREME as regional reference institution in scientific and technical information in health.

Procedural matters

- 4) The following specialists were elected in order to constitute the directing panel of the Scientific Committee of BIREME in its first session:

Chair: Luiz Augusto Facchini, specialist member of Brazil

Rapporteur: Americo Reyes Ticas, specialist member of Honduras

PRESENTATIONS

- 5) The presentations focused on the socialization of information concerning the development of BIREME and the current situation on implementation of its new institutional framework and of its structures of governance (Advisory Committee, Scientific Committee and Secretary) and critical importance as Specialized Center of PAHO/WHO in scientific and technical information consolidated in its 46 years of existence centered on technical cooperation with the countries of the region and outside the region. The installation of the Scientific Committee of BIREME was also focused and contextualized in the presentations.

Comments and Recommendations

- 6) The issued recommendations keep aiming for the continuous development and strengthening of BIREME on the use and access of the available scientific information in its databases and the dissemination of its projects, products and services in the countries of the Region.

The specialist member of Brazil and Chair of the session highlighted that BIREME has been an important enabler of the access of high quality information and knowledge to the health services decision makers. He also highlighted the capacity of Abrasco in the technical cooperation at the national level and that could be extended internationally considering its different forums on graduate courses.

The specialist member of Honduras mentioned the information and communication technology conditions in Honduras and the impact in the research processes in the country.

The **representative of NLM (USA)** suggested presenting the NLM multi-language applications as well as data mining and big data innovation developments in the next presence meeting of the Scientific Committee.

All the specialist members agreed that considering the experience of the specialist members, they should formulate recommendations on the ICT area, taking into account the technologies developed and used by BIREME also as way to contribute to the preparation and implementation of the biennium working plans of BIREME. The adoption of international alliances to promote

scientific communication in health should be a strategic approach to strengthen BIREME mission and objectives.

Presentation of the Proposal of the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee of BIREME

- 7) Adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee of BIREME. Silvia Almeida de Valentin, Manager of Administration and Planning of BIREME presented in detail the proposed regulation framing definitions for its interpretation (PAHO, BIREME, Statute, Committee, Scientific Committee, Members and Secretariat) in the context of the new institutional framework of BIREME. Furthermore, the Rules of Procedure are characterized by the following structure: I) Nature, II) Functions, III) Sessions, VI) Agenda and documentation; V) Meetings, VI) Directing Panel; VII) Discussion; VIII) Procedures, IX) Working languages; X) Final Report; XI) Functions of the Secretariat, and XII) Changes in the Rules.

Observations and Recommendations

All the specialist members approved without modification the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee.

PROPOSALS ON THE NEXT MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- 8) The participants proposed that the next two meetings of the Scientific Committee should occur as follows:
- a. 7th November 2013 – 11h00 a.m. Washington D.C. time. One hour virtual meeting. Subject to confirmation considering the agenda of the members. Objective: to discuss and share any doubts or particular issue on the objective and results of the Scientific Committee of BIREME as the members will access the online collaborative space to revisit all the documents shared during the First Session for the Installation of the Scientific Committee; and
 - b. 14th August 2014 – One day meeting. At BIREME. Subject to confirmation considering the agenda of the members. Objective: Second Session of the Scientific Committee of BIREME whose working agenda will be aligned to the objectives of the Committee as stated in the Statute of BIREME.

FINAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The specialist member of Brazil and the Chair of the Session, contextualizing the purpose of the Scientific Committee as one of the governance structures of BIREME recommended the highlighting of BIREME's technical cooperation activities in Brazil, like the distance courses and the development of technologies to access scientific and technical information and knowledge transfer so that they can be applied in the development of less favored regions. Also, recommended the submission of project proposals to Funding Agencies as an approach to mobilize funds to subsidize BIREME's working plan. The Chair recognized the organization of the meeting and in particular the completion of the installation of the Scientific Committee, emphasizing the public nature of the session. He also recommended the publication of the documents generated for the access to the institutional partners, users and the actors of the national and international scientific community that support BIREME.

The specialist member of Honduras agreed with the comments of the Chair of the Session and emphasized the organization of the meeting and the importance of the documents shared mentioning the need to spend more time to absorb the correspondent information and knowledge that were made available to the members of the Scientific Committee.

The specialist member of NLM (USA) agreed with the comments of the Chair of the session, thanked for the communication infrastructure that allowed the remote participation and reiterated her availability to share information on NLM innovations and developments and to foster further collaboration with BIREME. She also pointed out the importance to have access to the strategic plan and other documents looking forward to work in this Committee.

The specialist member of Trinidad and Tobago agreed with the comments of the Chair of the Session and the other specialist members and emphasized the organization of the meeting, the infrastructure available and the importance of the information and documents shared that she should analyze in order to make connections on BIREME and Trinidad and Tobago needs

All the specialist members agreed to organize their presentations and discussions during the next presence meeting in alignment with the functions described in the terms of reference of the Scientific Committee. They also agreed on the need to develop a permanent communication process between the members in order to better be aligned with the functions of the Scientific Committee of BIREME.

OTHER TOPICS

- 9) The presence of the specialist members was acknowledged, being pointed out the discussions carried out and the results reached by the meeting as well as to BIREME's team by its performance considering the trajectory of the Center in the area of the scientific information in health.

- 10) It was informed to all participants that the working documents are available in the Online Collaborative Space of the Advisory Committee of BIREME:
<http://comites.bireme.org>
Login: comitecientifico
Password: comite@cientifico

- 11) Besides, the details of the discussions which took place during the meeting can be accessed via <http://goo.gl/awY6xk>.

SESSION CLOSURE

After the exchange of recognition and expressions of courtesy, the main objectives reached towards the new institutional positioning of the Center were pointed out and the first session was closed.

In witness whereof, the first session for the installation of the Scientific Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME) was ended, the President of the Meeting and specialist of Brazil, as well as the Director of BIREME and *ex officio* Secretary, signed this final report in its original language, English.

It took place in São Paulo, Brazil, in the twenty-fifth day of the month of July of the year two thousand and thirteen. The original signed document will be deposited in the files of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Luiz Augusto Facchini
Specialist Member of Brazil
President of the first session for the installation of the
Scientific Committee of BIREME

Adalberto Otranto Tardelli
Director of BIREME
Secretary *ex officio* of the first session for the installation of the
Scientific Committee of BIREME

Annexes

Annex A

Agenda

Opening of the Session

Presentations on the new institutional framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO), its context in PAHO/WHO, its work plan, the state of its technical cooperation program:

1. BIREME in the context of PAHO/WHO and the new institutionality of the Center. Adalberto Otranto Tardelli, Director of BIREME, and *ex-officio* Secretary of the Scientific Committee; and
2. Current situation of the Technical Cooperation Program of BIREME. Adalberto Otranto Tardelli, Director of BIREME, and *ex-officio* Secretary of the Scientific Committee.

Debate, questions and answers

Presentation on the Proposal of the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee of BIREME aligned to the procedures of PAHO/WHO, based on the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Committee of BIREME.

3. Terms of Reference and Proposal of the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee aiming its approval by the specialist members. Silvia Almeida de Valentin, Manager of Administration Management and Planning (GA) of BIREME.

Debate, questions and answers

Calendar meetings of the members of the Scientific Committee

4. Next virtual and/or presence meetings of the Scientific Committee of BIREME

Annex B

LISTS OF DOCUMENTS

Working documents

1. Meeting Agenda of the 1st Session for the Installation of the Scientific Committee of BIREME
2. List of Participants
3. Executive Report of BIREME
4. Statute “Establishment of a New Institutional Framework for the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME), CD49.R5
5. Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committee
6. Proposal on the Internal Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee
7. Working Plan of BIREME for the current biennium 2012-2013
8. Strategy and Plan of Action on eHealth (CD51.R5)
9. Strategy and Plan of Action on Knowledge Management and Communications (CSP28.R2)

Note: all the working documents are available to the members of the Scientific Committee at the Online Collaborative Space: <http://comites.bireme.org>

Information documents

File with dissemination material (folder) of BIREME/PAHO/WHO, its new institutional framework, and its products, services and events that characterize the technical cooperation program by means of the Virtual Health Library (VHL) and its associated networks.

Annex C

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Members indicated by PAHO Member States

BRAZIL

Luiz Augusto Facchini

Advisor

Associação Brasileira de Pós-Graduação em Saúde Coletiva (Abrasco)

CANADA

Sharon E. Straus

Scientist

Keenan Research Centre of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge

Institute St. Michael's Hospital

HONDURAS

Americo Reyes Ticas

Member of the Research Committee

Research Committee of Honduras

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Leela Sawh Phekoo

Medical Librarian

Port of Spain General Hospital

Member indicated by PAHO

National Library of Medicine (NLM) of United States of America

Dianne Babski

Deputy Associate Director of Library Operations

NLM, EUA

PAHO/WHO, HQ

Guillermo Birmingham
Director of Administration

Eliane Pereira dos Santos
Unit Chief, Scientific Communication
Knowledge Management and Communications Department (KMC)

BIREME

Adalberto O. Tardelli
Director of BIREME

Silvia Almeida de Valentin
Manager of Administration Management and Planning (GA)

Renato Murasaki
Manager of Information Methodologies and Technologies (MTI) and Acting Manager
of Administration of Sources of Information (AFI)

Carmen Verônica Mendes Abdala
Manager of Evidence and Information Cooperative Services (SCI) and Acting Manager
of Production of Sources of Information (PFI)

Marcia Ymanaka Barretto
Supervisor of Information Technologies Infrastructure (ITI/GA)

Fabício Lima
Supervisor of Controllership and Processes (CPP/GA)

Annex D

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

BIREME - Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information

CD49 – Session 49th of the PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CD49.R5 – Resolution 5 of the 49th PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CD49.R6 – Resolution 6 of the 49th PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CD50 – Session 50st of the PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CD51 – Session 51st of the PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CD51.R5 – Resolution 5 of the 51st PAHO/WHO Directing Council

CSP28 – 28th PAHO/WHO Pan American Sanitary Conference

CSP28.R2 – Resolution 2 of the 28th PAHO/WHO Pan American Sanitary Conference

eHealth– Electronic Health

LILACS – Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature, main regional bibliographic database of BIREME

NLM – USA National Library of Medicine