

World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission Taskforce on Mission Information Sharing and Media Collaboration

SA06 Track report, 18-24 June 2006

The Joint Information Management Initiative

1) Introduction

Many people in the global mission community are struggling with the question of how to improve the linking of resources with needs, so that people's lives can be improved physically, emotionally and spiritually. Despite the abundance of resources, resources have been wasted and many needs in communities remain unmet. During the past 2 years, the Joint Information Management Initiative (JIMI) evolved from an idea to a taskforce of the World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission (WEA MC). The taskforce had its first official meeting during the WEA MC Consultation in South Africa. During these discussions, it became much clearer what JIMI is and where it fits into the global mission movement.

2) What is JIMI?

JIMI is a global information collaboration forum to help the church advance as an effective global missionary community within a globalized world. JIMI's vision is to be a network of inter-connected communities of believers in Jesus Christ who share resources with one another.

3) Needs expressed during JIMI discussions

The following were expressed by participants as major needs that could be addressed through a forum such as JIMI:



- a. Bridge the divide between linking resources and needs in and between national and regional mission movements as well as within the WEA MC, and connect people and groups to avoid duplication;
- b. Provide information on donors and verification of funding recipients;
- c. Link mission databases and mission research networks;
- d. Gather and distribute information on resources that will enable local churches in reaching communities;
- e. Bridge the digital divide in the global mission community;

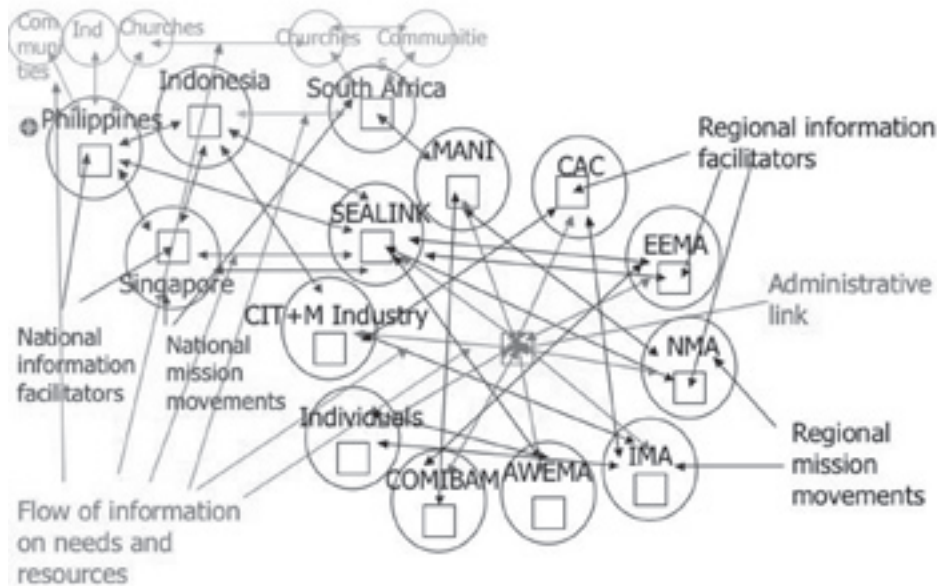
- f. Find and distribute secure information systems and find solutions to protect against hackers, protect privacy and prevent liability action;
- g. Provide practical infrastructure that gives technical assistance to reporting, evaluation, etc.,—perhaps templates for reporting, etc.;
- h. Encourage and equip information facilitators that will improve the flow of information between communities and between national and regional mission movements.

4) Examples of collaboration in information management

Collaboration in information management that links resources with needs already exists. The function of the JIMI taskforce could be to be a catalyst for the expansion of these initiatives:

- a. A Christian orientated local radio station broadcasting 18 hours a day in a Tsunami affected area links communities with resources and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with listeners.
- b. Linkserve is a database of people who are interested in humanitarian and secular activities;
- c. Computer Centers in various countries that provide computer and theological training and could be used as community information base. The Association of Christian Community Computers Centers (AC4 with website www.techmission.org) provides a global network for these Centers.

The WEA MC JIMI Taskforce



5) JIMI mission

Participants decided the JIMI mission is to find ways to bridge the gap between resources and needs in local communities and as a result, improve linking global resources with global needs so that more people can be transformed through the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God expressed in communities.

6) Key networking groups

To achieve this mission, JIMI would provide a networking forum to link key groups and information facilitators within national and regional mission movements. Networking groups will include:

- Information facilitators who know the resources and needs within their movements. See the graph of the envisaged network.
- Researchers, analysts who make information applicable to communities;
- Technicians who can create the infrastructure for effective information management and missional collaboration;
- People who can verify information and research;
- Christians in various media sectors who can relay information;

7) What does JIMI do?

JIMI as WEA MC taskforce could engage in the following activities:

- Discussion and linking forum for Christian IT and Media Industry in WEA MC.
- Encourage Christian IT and Media Industry in becoming more mission orientated.
- Facilitate strategic initiatives in areas such as donor linking initiative (provide a connection point between donors and mission initiatives), mission resource linking systems, and community information management systems.
- Support national and regional mission movements in improving information management and information usage.

8) Pilot initiatives

As a first step towards facilitating cooperation in information management initiatives and linking resources with needs within the global mission movement, participants in the JIMI discussions decided upon the following pilot initiatives:

- A resource and needs inventory of participants in the SA06 Consultation and WEA MC Associates through a survey.
- A monthly WEA MC electronic information bulletin on resources and needs within the global mission community and especially the regional and national mission movements.
- An information management system that will enable local churches in building capacity to respond to Jesus' Great Invitation to: a) witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth; b) disciple local believers; c) engage in

holistic and integral mission. This will be done through the Global Share System developed by xGlobal Mission Innovation that will provide a technical platform for linking resources with needs. Develop a model of such a system focusing on South Africa during the next 12 months and expand after evaluation.

9) JIMI taskforce steering committee

A steering committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Sas Conradie was appointed to provide leadership to the JIMI taskforce. For further information contact Dr. Conradie at +44 1825 768252; jhcgenevag@yahoo.co.uk, or via Skype at sas.conradie. <<

REFLECTIONS

24. Sylvia Soon, WEA International Service Centre, Canada

One of my impressions and lesson learned was simple: It gets cold in South Africa. Seriously now.....

I appreciated the warm fellowship with brothers and sister who are serving the Lord all around the world. It is a blessed and rare encounter for someone like me who serves from a static location. It was extremely encouraging to hear first hand of the incredible things that our God is doing in every corner of the world, especially for one like me who lives a secular country (Canada) where churches are a dying breed and religion is frowned upon. The updates on missions in Islamic countries and the presentation on China were particularly eye opening. But it was the Bishop's daily devotionals that really struck a chord with me. The conference was superbly organized and programs were well executed. I would appreciate a warmer location for future consultations—spoken like a true “woose” (Canadian word for “wimp”).