

Profile

The TECHNET Internet Forum

Technet is a group of more than 200 experts and partner-supporting organizations working in logistics for health. Technet provides technical and policy guidance based on consensus, and promotes the development and operation of effective and safe primary health care logistics throughout the world. Much of the focus of the Technet has been on the management and operational logistics of national immunization programmes and the integration of other logistics elements into primary health service delivery in developing countries. In recent years, injection safety, the introduction of vaccine vial monitors, the introduction of new vaccines, polio eradication activities, the introduction of chlorofluorocarbon-free equipment, and the vaccine cold chain of the future have become key areas of interest.

The TECHNET Internet Forum began on 1 February 1998 as a communications initiative by the Technet Secretariat, based in the WHO Global Programme for Vaccines and Immunization (now the WHO Department of Vaccines and Biologicals), and BASICS (Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival), a global project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The TECHNET Forum is a moderated Forum to facilitate focused discussions while protecting subscribers from inappropriate e-mail and unwanted messages. The objectives for the TECHNET Forum are as follows:

- To continue and maintain a moderated and directed discussion for individuals, worldwide, responsible for immunization and primary health care logistics;
- To provide a Forum for the concise and facilitated exchange of information, knowledge and experience in implementing immunization programmes and public health care logistics;
- To contribute to the development of actions leading to improved and effective immunization programmes and public health care logistics. The TECHNET Forum is of interest to managers of immunization and primary health care programmes, professionals involved in health care logistics, and epidemiologists with an interest in vaccine-preventable disease-control programmes, and manufacturers of vaccine and medical equipment used in primary health care in developing and other countries. Discussions range from technical, managerial, and operational issues to policy development and consensus formation, and advocacy.

All members of the TECHNET Forum are invited to send messages to the subscribers of the list, to comment on any posting, or to use the Forum to request technical information in relation to expanded programmes on immunization and logistics for health. The Forum welcomes contributions in French for which translation and bilingual posting services are provided.

The moderator may edit subscriber messages for conciseness and English usage before posting to the Forum. In addition, the TECHNET Internet Forum maintains a key document resource of more than 300 files on a wide range of TECHNET topics. These files may be downloaded using a web browser or are available by e-mail upon request.

Since the first Technet posting in February 1998, there have been over 200 postings. Postings are threaded chronologically by subject. The moderator introduces all messages with contextual information and editorial comment. Each TECHNET Forum posting is approximately 4 to 7 pages of text. Subscribers are based in more than 59 countries in Africa, Asia, South America, Oceania, Europe, and North America. 27% of subscribers are based in developing countries, 64% in developed countries, with about 10% of subscriber locations uncertain. In November 1999 there were 354 Technet subscribers.

The TECHNET Forum welcomes new subscribers who are involved in logistics for health.

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Participation : Requests to subscribe or contributions may be made by sending an e-mail to technet@acithn.uq.edu.au. More details on how to participate are available at <http://www.acithn.uq.edu.au/Technet/>.

TECHNET Moderator

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<http://www.acithn.uq.edu.au/Technet/>

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