



# Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> semester 2009

Health and Solidarity

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*Picture p.1: the West Africa Section in Abidjan during the training to the software package. The Section's manager, Sister Michèle Mauras, the management team and Mr. Bignon, computer analyst of the Head Office in Paris.*

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- ▶ Regional meetings
- ▶ New Section in Brazil

## summary



## editorial

The West Africa Section has been organizing group managers' meetings for years. The General Section did not, as far as I know. It is now the case as meetings have been organized in France since last year. I had the privilege and the joy to attend one of them. My first reaction was to strongly wonder: "why haven't we done this before?" It is an extraordinary way to meet for all of the IMS' managers whatever their levels.

Those meetings are a means to get to know one another more easily and in a less formal way than during the General Assemblies. I even realized that friendships arise during these meetings. It is a time when discussions and exchanges allow group managers to get better acquainted with the IMS: its way of functioning, its procedures, etc. ...

Those meetings are necessary to truly experience, in every aspect, the fraternal solidarity that brings us all together. In fact, they are moments of sharing during which needs and possibilities are laid out and when propositions and suggestions are made. They are moments of great intensity when the attendees, whatever their responsibilities, become aware of the fact that the IMS is a lively association animated by them and which goal does not confine to mere healthcare reimbursements.

I make a wish: that meetings keep on taking place in the various sections and that as many group managers as possible may attend them for the members to be the great beneficiaries of those meetings.

*Father Michel Menard,  
President of the IMS*

## News from the Sections

Focus

### the Madagascar Section

On February 12th 2009, the Section met with the Permanent Council of the Episcopal Conference of Madagascar. Member bishops of the Permanent Council urged us to send an informative note on health and solidarity in Church to raise larger awareness of the issue.

They are convinced of the necessity for a healthcare coverage closer to their needs and to their financial means.

They showed great incentive to invite all dioceses to reflect on the advantages the IMS offers, Option 4 to be specific with a special rate for Madagascar and Option 5 which, as we told them, has been created thanks to the Madagascar Section's propositions.

Finally, it is impossible not to mention political events that have shaken our nation since mid-January 2009. The country is still currently going through a transitional period. The future remains uncertain for the Madagascar people.

We are hoping for a sure and enduring outcome that will lead to the exit of the crisis.

*Mr. Lucien Randriambololona, secretary and Father Krzysztof Pawlukiewicz, manager of the Madagascar Section in Antananarivo, Madagascar Republic.*



## In short...

### General Section

> New department manager Mr. Michaël Colasse as a replacement for Mrs. Gavard since the beginning of 2009.

two weeks at the end of April and beginning of May.

### Central Africa Section

> Section's training to the new software in Paris during

### West Africa Section

A lot of work for the setting up of the software package with the support of the Head Office teams!

### Kenya Section

> Creation of the 50th group!

# Development of the SN Santé system

We are listening to you!

- ▶ Answering your expectations
- ▶ Considering your needs
- ▶ Guiding the changes

Feel free to contact the Development department:  
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Your opinion matters to us!

You are the recipient of the IMS newsletter, share your thoughts and suggestions with us!

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IMS Newsletter  
Published at  
3 rue Duguay-Trouin,  
75280 PARIS CEDEX 06.  
Managing editor :  
J.M. GUÉRIN.  
Designed, made and  
written by :  
Union Saint-Martin.

## The changeover to the new computer system within the Africa Sections is in process.

Following the East Africa Section and the Madagascar Section, it is now the turn of the West Africa Section to join the new SN Santé system.

The development of the system is a difficult task. Each section has its specificities. They have to be taken into account while preserving the logic of standardization of the system and the principle of secured exchanged data.

### In Abidjan

Following a successful data transfer from the old system to the new one, we are able to start training the entire section's payroll.

After an increase of the internet connection's speed, the section was able to join the new system.

The installation is supervised daily by the Head Office. We have fixed a few computer anomalies in order to incorporate the cultural specificities. The work on the contributions is currently in process (as is the case with Madagascar).

Next semester the system will be fully operational.

In addition, the data gathering allowed us to fix some anomalies such as double-occurrences of member registrations.

The Cameroon Section will join the system mid-June and benefit



Sister Michèle Mauras, manager of the West Africa Section in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

from the experience acquired by all the sections.

Mathieu BREMOND  
Senior Consultant KADRIS

## France : regional meetings

This year the General Section has organized regional meetings in order to make communication between groups easier and to better meet their needs and expectations.

After a first successful experience in Lyon in 2008, this year we are offering 6 meetings to the French Group Managers of the General Section.

These meetings are a means to meet the managers and to exchange on the functioning of the services and on the management (how to become a member, Eurocross procedures, options and reminder of the covers, presentation of the Sections, life of the association, management forms ...).

The order of the day of these meetings is as follow:

- Update on the groups' situation: their needs and expectations.
- Exchange on the IMS' range of benefits and management matters.
- Exchange on the international dynamic and on the possibilities of development for the IMS around the world

6 locations and dates are offered:

- Thursday, March 5th at Montpellier
- Thursday, April 2nd at Strasbourg
- Tuesday, April 28th at Angers
- Tuesday, May 5th at Lyon
- Tuesday, June 16th at Paris
- Tuesday, September 29th at Paris

The first meetings all around France were well received and those constructive exchanges met the attendees' satisfaction.

It also allowed the Sections' managers to get better grasp of the IMS' values and of its management.



Meeting in Strasbourg.  
Mrs. Denise Gavard, former retired manager of the General Section and Mr. Michaël Colasse, new manager.

## Bem-vindos à Seção do Brasil !\*

\*Welcome to the Brazil Section!

The Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul are established in 92 countries.

Social protection often lacking in some countries, the Daughters of Charity chose to turn to the IMS for a great number of sisters for different options according to their needs. Some of the sisters were already affiliated to option 4 via Paris or the sections on location such as in Cameroon.

The Daughters wanted to affiliate the sisters from South America starting with Brazil. This big country is for us divided into 6 "provinces" with about 1600 affiliated sisters.

The IMS offered us a partnership with a view to set up a section in Brazil under the management of the Daughters of Charity. Several meetings took place and resulted in the training of a Brazilian sister at the Head Office during three weeks. She has recently returned in order to prepare the opening of the section on July the 1st 2009.

This experience has for mission to better answer the needs of the members by being closer to them geographically speaking (thus avoiding always having to refer to Paris) but also to make those provinces more autonomous in the managing of their social cover.

After the opening of this new section, we will be able, enriched by the experience, to turn to other countries in Latin America in order to create other sections and give other congregations the opportunity to join and become members of the IMS, that we wish to thank for their very positive cooperation.

Opening of the Brazil Section in Fortaleza on July 1st 2009 with Sister Maria Nubia Ribeiro as manager.