



Health Care in Rural Areas

Eurasia-Pacific Uninet medicine and health projects

During the International Network Meeting of the Member Institutions in the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet in Beijing in 2004, the network members agreed on organizing a conference in the field of health care in rural areas. In addition, the Austrian Federal Minister of Education, Elisabeth Gehrler, provided information on this topic to the Chinese Ministries of Health and Education during her visit to Beijing in May 2006. The Chinese government encouraged Eurasia-Pacific Uninet to pay attention to this matter, asking them to concentrate particularly on the western Chinese provinces. Therefore Eurasia-Pacific Uninet and Shihezi University, strongly supported by the University of Vienna, organized an international conference on Health Care in Rural Areas in September, 2006. The conference focused on general issues such as the situation of health care in rural China, infectious diseases like hepatitis, Japanese encephalitis and tuberculosis, and the question of providing health care for rural areas through the employment of telemedicine.

The conference served as a platform for international participants to discuss state of the art scientific research and practical experience gained in this field. The conference was the first international meeting at Shihezi University and brought together experts from various fields relating to health care in rural areas.

As a result of the conference, a telemedicine platform was set up. The members of this platform are the Medical University of Vienna, the Medical University of Innsbruck, the Health Sciences University of Mongolia, Fudan University and Siemens Ltd. China.

Eurasia-Pacific Uninet is convinced that the conference was a successful first step in establishing cooperation in the field of health care in rural areas. Eurasia-Pacific Uninet also supports the project of Vienna University and Shihezi University called Capacity Building for Health Care in North-East Asia: Perspectives for Rural Hospitals in Xinjiang China.