INTRODUCTION

Members of the pharmaceutical supply chain have various global requirements to meet during storage, transportation and handling of time and temperature sensitive products. The common key challenges that must be duly addressed throughout the entire process include changing the product portfolios, fulfilling the requirements for good storage and distribution practices, following the regulatory trends, ensuring quality management, defining the risk assessment factors.

WHO's purpose in developing and sponsoring this course is to provide the key players of the pharmaceutical cold chain with a comprehensive insight into an efficient cold chain operation as well as an analytical oversight of the process from product manufacture (or arrival in a country) to its administration to the patient.

The course brings together a group of participants from the national immunization programmes, national regulatory authorities and pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical and vaccine industry, involved in the supply, packaging, distribution, logistics and cold chain management areas, as well as industry members of immunization related equipment and device manufacturers.

e-Pharmaceutical Cold Chain Management is a learning event aimed at developing an enhanced, robust mental model of an efficient pharmaceutical cold chain. The learning journey, as we may call it, is carefully planned to enhance an informative decision-making through :

- Encouraging critical observation related to time-temperature sensitive pharmaceutical products
- Trouble-shooting a problem related to time-temperature sensitive pharmaceutical products, and
- Creating and evaluating a solution to an actual problem related to an operation of time and temperature sensitive pharmaceutical products

As you virtually travel with mentors down the length of the supply chain, we encourage you to make attentive observations at the storage, distribution and health care facilities .

We'll demonstrate how the theoretical background of pharmaceutical cold chain management is applied in a variety of storage and health care facilities. Our course is a practical application of experiential learning theory.

Throughout the course, we shall virtually travel along the different levels of the supply chain.

We'll visit a storage facility of a manufacturer , a private warehouse, an intermediate storage and distribution facility… We'll visit a hospital pharma store and examine its operations with time and temperature sensitive pharmaceutical products… We shall also visit a retail pharmacy and a primary health care centre…

In addition to the virtual visits to facilities, we offer short illustrated video-lectures on particular topics along with some critical reference articles.
There will be times when you will work individually, but many at a time, you will work in groups…

This site is equipped with tools that will help you to easily get together with other participants, discuss and produce as a team.

Mentors will provide timely feedback to you whenever necessary, and be there to assist you. After you have completed the virtual visits of the sites, you will be introduced, as a group, to a real client. Together you will be able to analyze the client's operations of time-temperature sensitive pharmaceutical products and prepare a group report on your analysis and recommendations.

We look forward seeing you on board.