



### Meeting tomorrow's health challenges through workforce excellence in supply chain management



## Professionalizing Health Logistics in Benin and West Africa: Association des Logisticiens Béninois (AsLoB)



AsLoB (Association des Logisticiens Béninois) is a non-profit organization established in 2007 by the first graduating class of students with a degree in transportation and logistics from ENEAM (Benin's National University). AsLoB's philosophy is that excellence in logistics is a key organizational function that can contribute to the development of the economy. AsLoB is taking the following concrete actions in Benin and the sub-region to strengthen health systems through competent human resources:

- working to fill the gap in Benin with the creation of a new professional status - the health logistician
- advocating for a sub-regional network of professional logistician associations in West Africa
- ensuring that a pool of professionals is prepared and ready to be functional

In early 2016 with the support of AMP (Agence de Médecine Préventive) and other stakeholders, the Ministry of Health of Benin created a new professional status for health logisticians. The process of professionalization of the health logistics function is not complete without a professional logistician association. It has a major role to play up front – in between and after the process of creating the profession. AsLoB has engaged with Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire, and is also interested in engaging with Mali, Senegal and Togo. Moreover, AsLoB hopes to witness before the end of the year the creation of two or three professional logistician associations in West Africa. A strong network is key to making consistent changes in health systems through projects and programs being launched and implemented by international organizations. AsLoB's final battle for 2020 is to become an accredited Pan African Center for Research in Logistics!

[More on the PtD website](#)

## Certification Program for Humanitarian Logisticians: 10th Anniversary

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) is the leading professional body for people working in supply chain, logistics and transport. CILT has a membership of 33,000 members and is based in over 30 countries worldwide. CILT is a non-profit organization which **aims** to facilitate the development of personal and professional excellence, to encourage the development of leading-edge thinking and best practice in logistics, supply chains and to provide relevant and valued services to members and employers.



In 2005, CILT (UK) was commissioned by Fritz Institute in the US, to develop the first in a series of online certification programs for those working in humanitarian logistics. Working closely with Fritz Institute and an advisory group of senior logisticians from the humanitarian sector, CILT developed the Certification in Humanitarian Logistics (CHL) and launched it in September 2006. CHL teaches the basic principles of logistics and supply chain operations in the humanitarian context for those working at an operational level.

A key strength of the program comes from the partnership between the Fritz Institute, the Certification Advisory Group, CILT and Logistics Learning Alliance, an approved delivery center which provides one-to-one coaching for students.

Two other programs are in the suite - Certification of Humanitarian Supply Chain Management (CHSCM) and Certification in Humanitarian Medical Logistics Practices (MedLog).

[More on the PtD website](#)

---

## International Pharmacy Federation (FIP) Board of Pharmaceutical practice: “FIP working group on pharmacists in supply chain”



The role of pharmacists in health supply chain management has been a hot topic in recent years. There is no doubt that pharmacists are medicines experts. The issue for discussion is where are they best utilized in the health supply system of a particular country. In high income countries pharmacists are most notably deployed in community pharmacies (drug stores), hospitals and other clinical service areas including aged care facilities and doctor's surgeries. In highly developed health supply chain systems, the supply to health facilities are managed by supply chain professionals with no clinical skills. This is in contrast to many health supply systems in low and middle income countries which were initially developed by clinical cadres (mainly pharmacists), as the only human resources available. Clinical cadres usually have very limited supply chain education as part of their undergraduate degree, but will

often be asked to take on significant supply chain responsibilities.

It is clear that each country needs to determine which cadres they will use for all of their health system needs. When it comes to health supply chains PtD has established the '[PtD Health Supply Chain Competency Framework for Managers and Leaders](#)' as a guide to the competencies required to run effective and sustainable systems. For which of these competencies is the pharmacist the most suitable professional?

To help provide some professional guidance on this question the International Pharmacy Federation (FIP) Board of Pharmaceutical Practice established the “FIP working group on pharmacists in supply chain” to look at how pharmacists can best be utilized in health supply chains. This technical working group has members from a variety of sectors and is using current literature, case studies and survey techniques to prepare a technical report on this issue. The report is due for publication in early 2017.

Findings from a survey that is currently being conducted will be included in the publication. This survey aims to determine **pharmacist only** competencies and behaviors needed in the health supply chain. Understanding such competencies can maximize supply chain efficiency and highlight gaps in personnel, education, and/or training. This evidence may also support the best utilization of existing pharmacists, especially where pharmacists are few, potentially enabling them to utilize their skills in more clinical roles.

We would like to ask for your participation in this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FIP2016PSCM>

---

People that Deliver is on LinkedIn!  
Share PtD's page with colleagues and friends. Follow us on LinkedIn for updates and news.



## Upcoming Conferences/Events

[CILT International Convention](#), May 8-11, 2016  
Montreal, Canada

[Women Deliver 2016](#), May 16-19, 2016 Copenhagen,  
Denmark

[SAPICS Annual Conference](#), June 12-14, 2016  
Sun City, South Africa

[PtD Board Meeting](#), June 15-16, 2016  
Pretoria, South

[International AIDS Conference 2016](#), July 18-22, 2016,  
D urban, South Africa

People that Deliver | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

STAY CONNECTED

