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Preface

The SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) has been publishing an Annual Report on its activities. This Annual Report is a summary of activities carried out by STAC during the period of January to December 2010. It is my pleasure to inform that STAC has completed most of the assigned activities for the year 2010. It was impossible to complete the given task without support of the National Programme Managers of National TB and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of SAARC Member States. I would like to express my thanks to Programme Managers for their generous cooperation, guidance and support for implementation of activities of STAC.

I believe that the activities performed by STAC have provided support to National Tuberculosis Control Programmes and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of SAARC Member States in the implementation of TB & HIV/AIDS prevention & control activities.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, the Secretary General of SAARC, and Mr. Hassan Shifau, Director, SAARC Secretariat for their generous support, guidance and full cooperation to carry out the activities effectively. I would also like to thank WHO/SEARO for providing technical support for activities of the Centre.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Governments of SAARC Member States for their cooperation and support for successful organization of STAC activities on different aspects of TB and HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region.

We are committed in our endeavour to provide support to SAARC Member States for prevention and control of TB & HIV/AIDS in the SAARC region.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha
Director
SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre/National TB Control Programme, Nepal
SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

Introduction

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) is one of the Regional Centres of SAARC which works for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB Control Programmes (NTPs) and National AIDS Control Programmes (NACPs) of SAARC Member States.

The Centre has a Governing Board comprising of representatives from each Member State, SAARC Secretariat and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal. The Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre serves as Member Secretary.

Vision, Mission, Goal and Objective of STAC

Vision:

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) be the leading institute to support and guide SAARC Member States to make the Region free of TB and HIV/AIDS

Mission:

The Mission of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre is to support the efforts of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme through evidence based policy guidance, coordination and technical support

Goal:

The Goal of the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre is to minimize the mortality and morbidity due to TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region and to minimize the transmission of both infections until TB and HIV/AIDS cease to be major public health problems in the SAARC Region.

Objective:

To work for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB Programmes and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of the SAARC Member States
Nineteenth Meeting of the Governing Board

Nineteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) was held from 28th to 29th October 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Governing Board reviewed the achievements of the Centre & budget for the 2009 & 2010 and discussed programme activities and budget (Institutional & Programme Cost) for the year 2010 submitted by the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and recommended for approval through the Standing Committee of SAARC.

Recommended Programmes for the year 2010:

1. SAARC Training of Trainers on Management of DOTS-plus for National, Provincial & District level Managers of National Tuberculosis Programme, Afghanistan.
2. SAARC Training of Trainers of Programme Managers on DOTS-plus for National, Provincial & District level Managers of National Tuberculosis Programme, Bangladesh.
4. SAARC Regional Training of Trainers (Microbiologists) on Culture & DST of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in India.
5. SAARC Regional Workshop for development of regionally relevant Research Protocols on Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS for SAARC Member States in India.
8. STAC’s Regional TB & HIV/AIDS Research Presentation & Dissemination of findings in International Conferences.
9. SAARC Training of Trainers on Counseling, Care, Support and Treatment for National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme, Pakistan.
13. Strengthening/ Capacity Building of SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Center’s Officials by attending Regional Workshops/Seminars/Trainings.
14. SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS Programme
15. Conferment of SAARC Award on TB and HIV/AIDS (TB or HIV/AIDS)
Regular Activities

16. Public Awareness and Advocacy Programme on TB and HIV/AIDS-Commemoration/Celebration of:
   i. World TB Day,
   ii. World AIDS Day and
   iii. SAARC Charter Day


18. Two Partnership Programme with NGOs / Industry / Medical College / School / Pharmacists / Media / Travel Agencies / Manpower Agencies in Nepal.

19. Printing of STAC Publications
   i. STAC Newsletters (by including News/information/reports of World TB Day, World AIDS Day of member States)-2 issues
   ii. SAARC Journals of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS - 2 issues
   iii. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Reports (Updates) on Tuberculosis - 2010
   iv. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Reports (Updates) on HIV/AIDS including TB/HIV Co-infection-2010
   vi. Print Report of Round V Proficiency Testing
   vii. Wall Calendar/Diary for 2011


22. Strengthening of STAC library.
   i. Purchase / subscription of books and journals
   ii. Library upgrading, Books/journals binding/others
   iii. Library upgrading with Audio Visual Material

23. Dissemination of information of TB & HIV/AIDS by updating STAC Website

24. Procurement of chemicals and other lab materials for regular works at SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Reference Laboratory at STAC

25. Seventh Round External Proficiency Testing in Reference Laboratory

Research Activities

26. Drug Sensitivity Study (DST) of patients failing among CAT I treatment in collaboration with NTI, Bangalore, India

27. HIV prevalence among MDR-TB patients in Bangladesh

28. Pharmacovigilance Study on FDC’s (Anti TB drugs) in Sri-Lanka

29. Survey for Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis in TB/HIV co-infected patients in high HIV settings in India
Twentieth Meeting of the Governing Board

The Twentieth Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC was held in Kathmandu from 23rd to 24th September, 2010. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre extended a warm welcome to all the Board Members in the Meeting. Dr. B. B. Rewari, National Programme Officer (ART), National AIDS Control Organization, India, in his capacity as outgoing Chairperson of the Governing Board of STAC opened the meeting. He expressed his appreciation towards the Member States for their support extended to STAC during his Chairmanship for conducting Centre’s activities. Mr. Hassan Shifau, Director, SAARC Secretariat gave his remarks at the opening of the Meeting.

The meeting was attended by the following Board Members:

Mr. Shafiqul Islam Laskar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh. Dhaka, Bangladesh,

Dr. Ugen Dophu, Director, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Government of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan,

Dr. B. B. Rewari, National Programme Officer (ART), National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), New Delhi, India,

Dr. Senendra Raj Upreti, Chief of Curative Services, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal,

Mr. Tapas Adhikari, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal,

Ms. Indira Gohiwar Aryal, Section Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal,

Dr. A.K. S. B. De Alwis, Director, National Programme for TB Control and Chest Diseases, Government of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri-Lanka, similarly

Mr. Hassan Shifau, Director (Social Affairs Division), SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, and

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu.

Mr. Tapas Adhikari, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal was elected as Chairman of the Governing Board of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre. All Members of the Board congratulated him for selection as Chairman of the Board.

The Board reviewed the activities carried out by the Centre for 2010 pursuant to the Nineteenth meeting of the Board and discussed programme activities and budget (Institutional and Programme Cost) for the year 2011 submitted by the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and recommended the following programmes for 2011 for the approval of Programming and Standing Committee:
Recommended Programmes for the year 2011

1. SAARC Regional Sensitization Meeting for Social Determinants of Health in relation to TB and HIV/AIDS.

2. Meeting of Programme officials on India/Bhutan borders to establish Linkage between VCT's across borders functional on a Pilot basis-Bhutan/India Border city.

3. SAARC Regional Training of Microbiologists for Sputum culture and Drug Susceptibility Test.

4. SAARC Regional Training for delivering of ART to HIV infected

5. SAARC Regional Training of Trainers on Leadership & Strategic Management for National/Provincial/Regional level Managers of National Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes.

6. SAARC Regional Meeting of Managers of TB and HIV/AIDS of Member States, cross border issues on TB and HIV/AIDS.

7. SAARC Training on Computer based Data Management on TB and HIV/AIDS

8. Meeting of the Directors/Chiefs of all National TB Reference Laboratories in Member States (10 labs).


10. SAARC Training of Trainers on Management of Drug Resistant TB (MDR TB).


15. Programme for SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS.

i. 42th Union World Conference on Lung Health (France)

ii. International AIDS Conference on HIV/AIDS (Italy)

**Regular Activities**

Commemoration/Celebration of;

17. **World TB Day**
   - Joint activities with NTP Nepal
   - Partnership Programme with Medical Colleges/ Media/ NGOs/Industry (1)
   - Production of Advocacy materials on TB

18. **World AIDS Day**
   - Partnership Programme with Schools/Medical College/Media/NGOs (1)
   - Preparation and Publication of booklet

19. **SAARC Charter Day**
   - Awareness activities in Nepal (one interaction programme)
   - Awareness material (Printing of Booklet)

20. Eighth Round Proficiency Testing of NRLs of SAARC Member States.


22. Review of Articles of SAARC Journals of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS (maximum 25 articles for two issues)

23. Dissemination of information of TB & HIV/AIDS by updating STAC Website and strengthening of Linkage among STAC and NTP, NACP & Medical Colleges in Member States.

24. Procurement of chemicals and other lab materials for regular works at SAARC TB and HIV/ AIDS Reference Laboratory at STAC

**Strengthening of STAC library**

25. Purchase / subscription of books and journals

26. Library upgrading, Books/journals binding/others

27. Compilation of electronic versions of all publications of STAC since beginning to 2010 by converting hard copies into Electronic copies and strengthening of audio visual section at the Library.

28. Creating a link of the library resources in the STAC website

29. Workshop between STAC Library and Library of Kathmandu valley based hospitals and Medical Colleges in Nepal.

30. Linkage development with the Central Libraries of NTPs & NASPs in Member States
Printing of STAC Publications

31. STAC Newsletters (by including News/information of regular activities in Member States, reports of World TB Day, World AIDS Day of member States)-2 issues

32. SAARC Journals of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS- 2 issues

33. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Reports (Updates) on Tuberculosis-2011

34. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Reports (Updates) on HIV/AIDS including TB/HIV Co-infection-2011.


38. Publication of SAARC Regional Strategy on TB/ HIV Co-infection.


40. SAARC Training Module for Quality Assurance of Sputum Smear Microscopy.

41. Compilation and printing of Reports of Research activities conducted by the Centre since beginning to 2009.

42. Hiring of Consultant for;
   i) Preparation of SAARC Regional Strategy on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization for TB & HIV/AIDS.
   ii) Preparation of Long Term Strategic Plan of STAC as per Vision & Mission of STAC.

43. Collection of information on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Management and diagnosis and treatment facilities in Member States.

44. Compilation of information of Human Resource Development in the SAARC Member States by collecting Training Manuals, Modules on TB, HIV/AIDS and Laboratory using in different levels for strengthening the Training Activities, by STAC through correspondence.

45. Strengthening and Development of Data Bank at the STAC on TB, HIV/AIDS and Laboratory and related issues/sector (by STAC through correspondence, published documents and official websites etc.).

46. Preparation of list of Experts and Institutions on TB, HIV/AIDS and Laboratory and researchers in the Region (from public/Private sectors)

Research Activities

47. Drug Sensitivity Study (DST) of patients falling among CAT-I treatment – in Afghanistan and Nepal.

48. HIV Prevalence among CAT 1 Failure TB patients in Nepal.

49. HIV Prevalence in TB Patients in Bhutan.
Activities under UNDP and UNAIDS support/involvement

50. Development of Concept Note on efficient and effective resource management on HIV/AIDS in South Asia-UNDP.

51. Conduct study/review on various Trade Agreements related to Anti –Retroviral Drugs and future funding needs for the Region in this area-UNDP.

52. Evaluation of implementation of SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS, with involvement of partner organizations-UNAIDS.

53. Review existing UNGASS indicators in the context of South Asian realities and policy environment around it- UNAIDS.
Reports on Activities Carried out and Achievements of the Centre in 2010

1. Public Awareness and Advocacy Programmes on TB and HIV/AIDS


1.1. World TB Day 2010

The World Tuberculosis Day is commemorated every year on 24th March, when German bacteriologist, Dr. Robert Koch in 1882, announced the discovery of tuberculosis bacilli, the bacteria that cause tuberculosis. 24th March was announced to be commemorated as World TB Day by WHO and IUATLD in 1982. The day is also called as SAARC TB Day.

The theme of the World TB Day 2010 was “Innovation”- and the slogan was “On the move against tuberculosis innovate to accelerate action”. The theme “Innovation” speaks about the need for a new way forward. The slogan reflects the theme through a simple, flexible and easily translatable phrase. The idea is to recognize people who have found out a variety of innovations in a variety of settings. The slogan says the whole world is on the move. The year 2010 marked the halfway point of Global Plan to Stop TB Strategy (2006-2015). It is clearer than ever that we must scale up efforts and continue to seek new and innovative ways to stop TB.

Participation in World TB Day functions

SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) commemorated the World TB Day by participating in a joint function organized by National TB Control Programme (NTP), Ministry of Health & Population, Government of Nepal and other NGOs/INGOs in Kathmandu on 24th March 2010. The function was Chaired by Dr. Sudha Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Population, Government of Nepal.

Mr. Uma Kant Chaudhary, Hon’ble Minister of Health & Population, Government of Nepal graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Mr. Khadga Bahadur Basyal, Hon’ble State Minister of Health and Population,
Government of Nepal graced the occasion as Special Guest. Dr. Chetraj Pant, Hon’ble Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal and Dr. Prabin Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal attended the programme as Guest of Honour. In addition, the programme was attended by large number of National and International dignitaries and community leaders, social workers, health care providers, members of INGOs and NGOs, people living with TB/HIV Co-infection, people living with MDR TB etc.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and National TB Centre welcomed the distinguished guests and participants by offering his welcome remarks. Dr. Jha also presented Achievements made by NTP in the field of TB control in Nepal.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, presented Situation of TB in SAARC Region and progress towards MDGs.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Dr. Chet Raj Pant, Hon’ble Member of National Planning Commission, Nepal by lighting up the traditional oil lamp.

In addition, the following dignitaries delivered their remarks:

Mr. Devendra Bahadur Pradhan, President, Nepal Anti-TB Association, Mr. Deepak Raj Giri and Ms. Deepa Shree Niraula, Goodwill Ambassador, TB Control, Nepal and Dr. Alexander Andjaparidze, WHO Representative and Chief of Mission, Nepal.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. S. S. Jha, Medical Officer, National TB Centre, Nepal.

• **Releasing of Publications:**

  The Chief Guest released Annual Report 2009 of STAC along with other publications.

• **Goodwill Ambassadors for NTP, Nepal:**

  STAC congratulated Ms. Deepashree Niraula and Mr. Deepak Raj Giri for their successful engagement as Goodwill Ambassadors for TB control in Nepal.

• **Message from His Excellency:**

  On this occasion, STAC received a special message from His Excellency Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, Secretary General SAARC which was published in “the Gorkhapatra” a National Daily Newspaper in Nepal.

• **Messages from National Dignitaries:**

  Messages from Rt. Hon’ble Prime Minister, Mr. Madhab Kumar Nepal, Hon’ble Health & Population
Minister Mr. Uma Kant Chaudhari, Hon'ble State Minister for Health & Population Mr. Khadga Bahadur Basyal, Secretaries, Ministry of Health & Population Dr. Prabin Mishra & Dr. Sudha Sharma, Director General, DGHS, Dr. Yashovardhan Pradhan and Director, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, SAARC TB and HIV/ AIDS Centre and National TB Centre were also published in the National Daily, Nepal.

- **Distribution of STAC Publications:**

  On this occasion, STAC distributed brochure *Tuberculosis: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* especially published for World TB Day 2010 in English and Nepali languages along with the other publications related to awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS.

- **Displaying of STAC Banners:**

  Banners displaying different slogans relating to TB and HIV were displayed in the premises of programme venue.

- **Exhibition:**

  A number of flex posters with information on STAC and its activities for TB and HIV/AIDS prevention and control in Member States were developed and displayed in the exhibition hall at the entrance of venue of main function. At the end of function, Mr. Uma Kant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Population, and Dr. Sudha Sharma and Dr. Prabin Mishra, Secretaries, Ministry of Health & Population, Nepal, along with the visitors of joint function observed the exhibition.

- **Publication of Special Articles:**

  Special articles were published in REPUBLICA, 24th March 2010, Nepal, a National daily Newspaper. 1) Article titled “DEADLY DUO: TB/HIV Co-infection” was jointly written by Dr. K. K. Jha, Dr. V. S. Salhotra and Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal and 2) Article titled “Tuberculosis in Different Forms” published by the editor, Republica.

### Commemoration of World TB Day 2010 in Member States

World TB Day 2010 was commemorated in all the SAARC Member States by conducting awareness programmes on TB and its control. Activities organized to commemorate the World TB Day in addition to Nepal are given below:

**Pakistan:**

National TB Control Programme of Pakistan commemorated World TB Day 2010 by organizing the following activities:

**Consultative Meetings with Partners:** In order to develop a National plan to implement special
activities to commemorate World TB Day, a consultative meeting with partners including Bridge, ACD, I H S, Aga Khan Foundation, ASD, BDN, and Provincial TB Control Programs was organized.

**Musical Gala:** In line with the Regional theme of this year’s world TB Day, i.e. Singing the Song of Stop TB, a musical evening “Ghazla-e-Hoye Rehna” was organized by National TB Control Programme, in collaboration with ATV.

**MoU Signing Ceremony between the National TB Control Programme and McDonald’s:**

An MoU signing ceremony was organized to establish a long term partnership between NTP and McDonalds. The MD McDonald’s ensured the full support in helping the program in their fight against TB.

**Fund Raising Qawali Night for Stop TB Partnership:**

As a part of Stop TB Partnership, Pakistan’s efforts to improve the quality of life of people suffering from TB, a fund raising Qawali Night with “Amjad Sabri” was organized in collaboration with Kay & A (Pvt.) Limited, Zong and Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce. The National TB Control Program provided technical support in this regard.

**Fund Raising Movie Show:**

A Fund Raising Movie show was organized by Stop TB Partnership Pakistan in collaboration with National TB Control Programme in Shifa College of Medicines & Nursing.

**Traffic Police as Partner in the Fight Against TB:**

Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) as partner with National TB Control Programme (NTP) in the fight against TB extended full support for the cause of TB awareness during the World TB Day Campaign.

**NTP & Media as Partner:**

Keeping in view the importance of Media, different TV channels and magazine were included as partners in the World TB Day Campaign as follows.
• SAMAA TV
• Pakistan Television Network
• DAWN TV, ATV, CNBC, Mehran TV
• Medical Review (Monthly)
• Ghazi Magazine and Shifa Magazine

Cricket for a Cause:

The global experience of using sports as a development tool has illustrated that sports can offer venue for expression and chance to spend free time in positive ways. It also provides a platform in getting valuable information on different issues including TB.

Empowering TB Patients: A National Symposium:

For the first time ever the participants as well as speakers included the cured TB Patients in a symposium with objective to ensure TB patients engagement and empowerment. Dr. Rahid Jooma, DG Health was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Dr. Noor Ahmad Baloch, National Manager, National TB Control Programme, Dr. Muhamamd Khilif Bile, Country Representative WHO, Mr. Behroz Sazwari, Stop TB Ambassador Pakistan, Dr. Islam Hamid, General Secretary, Stop TB Partnership Pakistan, Ms. Kanwal Naseer – media partner of the programme were also present on the occasion. The following events were held in the symposium
Sri Lanka:

Commemoration of World TB Day 2010

“On the move against TB, Innovate to accelerate action”

On the move against TB, Innovate to accelerate action, the theme of 2010 World TB Day was selected to remind everybody’s responsibility & emphasize the role of a person and support to prevent spreading TB. The campaign aims to enhance awareness of the impact of TB on the World population. It is a health issue that affects the entire community and therefore, commitment of every person in the community is essential to control this disease.

World TB Day is a best day to remind and educate people about TB, to ask for the decision makers to make TB a priority and to encourage politicians and public figures to include combating TB in their programs, to put forward doctors and other health providers to stop TB by staying alert to the symptoms of the disease and providing diagnosis & treatment by implementing DOTS appropriately. Finally to remind everybody that stopping TB needs maximum support from the whole community.

1.2. World AIDS Day 2010

Awareness Programme on HIV/AIDS & TB for School Students and Teacher

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) commemorated the World AIDS Day 2010 with the slogan “Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise” and theme “Universal Access & Human Rights” by organizing an “Awareness Programme on HIV/AIDS and TB for School Students and Teachers” at Banepa, Kavrepalanchowk district, Nepal on 30th November 2010.
The **objective** of the programme was to enhance awareness on important aspects of HIV/AIDS and TB among school students and teachers.

Dr. Surendra Kumar Chaurasia, District Health Officer, Government of Nepal, Kavrepalanchowk district Chaired the function. Mr. Sudhir Kumar Shah, Chief District Officer (CDO), Kavaerepalanchowk district, Government of Nepal graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Mr. K. B. Karki, Training Officer, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre extended welcome to the dignitaries, participating students and teachers on behalf of STAC.

Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS), STAC explained the importance of slogan and theme of World AIDs Day 2010 and made a presentation on “General Information & Control Strategy for HIV Infection”.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC gave a presentation on “General Information on Tuberculosis & its Control”.

Dr. Surendra Kumar Chaurasia, District Health Officer, Kavrepalanchowk district presented HIV/AIDS and Control efforts in Kavre district.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre delivered his presentation on “Introduction of STAC & Role of School Students and Teachers in Prevention and Control of HIV/Aids and TB”.

Discussion session was allocated after the presentation of Director, STAC. Different questions were asked by participants about HIV/AIDS, TB and their prevention and control in the community and role of students and teachers in these activities. The queries were answered by the experts.

Mr. Samundra Lal Shrestha, President, Nepal Red Cross Society, Kaverepalanchowk district, Mr. Bed Prasad Koju, Vice President, Nepal Anti-TB Association, Kathmandu and Mr. Mahesh Kumar Baral, Executive Officer, Banepa Municipality delivered their remarks on the occasion.

Mr. Sudhir Kumar Shah, Chief District Officer (CDO) delivered his remarks as Chief Guest.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre distributed badges of AIDS Logo (Red Ribbon) to participating students for their schools.

Dr. Surendra Kumar Chaurasia, District Health Officer, Kavrepalanchowk district delivered closing remarks in the programme.

Mr. K. B. Basnet, Administrative Officer, STAC delivered vote of thanks.

**Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2010 in SAARC Member States:**

The day was commemorated in SAARC Member State by organizing different activities for spreading the messages to create awareness in the community on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.
Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, a rally was organized along with other activities to commemorate the World AIDS Day 2010

Pakistan

In Pakistan, the National AIDS Control Programme, Ministry of Health organized a Seminar to commemorate World AIDS Day 2010 in Islamabad on 1st December 2010. The seminar was chaired by Mr. Makhdoom Shahab ud Din, Federal Minister for Health, Ministry of Health. The Seminar was attended by senior officials from government, UN system, civil society and representatives from media.

The Hon’ble Minister for Health appreciated the efforts of National AIDS Control Programme in creating awareness amongst masses on HIV & AIDS. He highlighted that Ministry of Health through the NACP is utilizing all channels and vehicles of communications for creating awareness on HIV/AIDS throughout the country for prevention and control HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Sajid Ahmad, National Programme Manager, NACP welcomed the participants to the event. He apprised the participants that despite many efforts, the HIV infection rate has increased significantly over the past few years and the country has moved from a low prevalence situation to concentrated epidemic with HIV prevalence of more than 5% among injecting drug users (IDUs) in at least eight major cities. However, the country still has a window of opportunity as the current estimates using different prevalence estimation models indicate that the HIV prevalence among general adult population is still below 0.1%. The commemoration of World AIDS Day and a month long campaign for awareness raising and advocacy activities throughout Pakistan is also a part of this response. Mr. Donglin Li, Country Director, ILO, Dr. Guido Sabatenelli, Country Head, WHO also addressed on the occasion.

A short play was performed as part of this mega event. The play highlighted the common ways of HIV transmission and its prevention among high risk groups and general population. An HIV positive person shared experiences of stigma and discrimination in the society to HIV positive people and how to overcome such discrimination. Hon’ble Minister highly appreciated the support regarding care and support, including provision of free diagnosis, treatment and medicine for the HIV positive individuals throughout the country provided by the Government of Pakistan through National AIDS Control Programme.
Dr. Sajid Ahmed, the National Programme Manager, concluded the session by thanking the Chair and all the participants. He particularly mentioned the support provided by partners for celebrating this year’s World AIDS Day.

**Advocacy Session on HIV & AIDS with Health and Education Reporters**

The National AIDS Control Programme, Pakistan launched a campaign to commemorate this year’s World AIDS Day i.e. 1st December 2010. The campaign covered diverse range of audience including youth in and out of school/universities, general public and advocacy at various levels. In connection with the activities during this campaign, an advocacy session on HIV & AIDS with health and education reporters from both print and electronic media was held on 29th of November 2010.

1.3. **Celebration of SAARC Charter Day**

**Celebration of Twenty fifth Anniversary of Establishment of SAARC**

South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was established twenty five years ago when its Charter was signed by the Heads of State or Government of seven South Asian countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Later, Afghanistan joined the association in 2007 as eighth member state of SAARC.

**Interaction Programme with Journalists and Students**

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) in collaboration with the SAARC Information Centre (SIC) jointly celebrated the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the establishment of SAARC by organizing an Interaction Programme with Teachers, Students and Media People in Kathmandu on 8th December 2010.

Hon’ble Mr. Shankar Pokharel, Minister for Information and Communication, Government of Nepal graced the programme as Chief Guest.

The **Objectives** of the programme were to engage media attention on regular basis towards the activities of SAARC as well as to spread widely the information regarding SAARC among the high school teachers and students.
Mr. Shreedhar Gautam, Director, SAARC Information Centre (SIC) welcomed the participants and the guests in the programme. He highlighted the functioning of the SIC along with its introduction and activities.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) welcomed the participants and guests in the programme on behalf of STAC and made a presentation on "Introduction of STAC and Situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region".

Mr. Azizuddin Ahmadzada, Director, SAARC Secretariat, delivered his remarks. He highlighted the establishment of SAARC and its establishment & functioning. He also explained the activities and progress made by the SAARC for all-round development of the people of the Region.

On behalf of the participants, a Teacher delivered his remarks. He thanked SAARC for inviting them in the programme. He also thanked for the useful information regarding TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

Speaking at the function Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Shankar Pokharel, Minister for Information and Communication, Government of Nepal said that “it is our duty and obligation to reaffirm our commitment to pursue more vigorously the path that we have collectively charted for all of us, as there is no alternative to the regional cooperation in today's integrated and competitive world".

Hon'ble Minister concluded his remarks by paying tribute to the founding fathers of SAARC and their avid desire to see a more prosperous South Asia, and rapid progress of the association.

The function was chaired by Mr. Narayan Prasad Sharma, Chairman, Press Council, Nepal. The function was also attended by the high level officials from Government of Nepal and staff from SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu & from SAARC Information Centre, Kathmandu.
2. SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS Programme

Visit of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS
Ms. Shabana Azmi in Bhutan

On the invitation of SAARC Secretariat and SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Ms. Shabana Azmi, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS visited Thimphu, Bhutan from 25th- 26th August, 2010. Dr. Ugen Dophu, Director, DoPH, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Kathmandu and other representatives from Department of Public Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and Indian Embassy, welcomed her at the Airport.

Consequently, a Sensitization meeting was jointly organized by the Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan and SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre for the SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS.

The overall objective of the meeting was to sensitize SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS for the need of strengthening of National and regional response to HIV/AIDS and to appraise her on the situation of TB & HIV/AIDS in Bhutan.

In the sensitization meeting, Dr. Ugen Dophu on behalf of Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan, extended a warm welcome to Ms. Shabana Azmi, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC also welcomed her and described the Global and Regional (SAARC) situation of TB & HIV/AIDS. Dr. V.S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC made a presentation about “SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) & Regional issues and challenges in relation to HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis”. Mr. Sonam Wangdi, Programme Officer, HIV/AIDS, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan made a presentation on “Situation of HIV/AIDS in Bhutan” and Mr. Chewang Rinzin, Sr. Programme Officer, Tuberculosis, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan made a presentation on “Situation of Tuberculosis in Bhutan”.

Many issues on Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS were discussed in detail. Ms. Shabana Azmi mainly focused on the situation of TB & HIV/AIDS in Bhutan and about available services for control HIV/AIDS and TB. She desired to know about the Public Health services, participation of civil society and response of the Government on TB & HIV/AIDS. She praised the Government effort on the both diseases in spite of low numbers of estimated HIV infected.
Ms. Shabana Azmi, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS made a courtesy call on the Honorable officiating Minister and Secretary (Health), Dr. Gado Tshering and Dr. Dorji Wangchuk, Director General, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health. She also made a courtesy call on Mr. Daw Penjo, Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan, She had discussions on various issues on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, health, gender inequality and SAARC regional mechanisms strengthening with officials of Foreign & Health Ministries of Royal Government of Bhutan.

Ms. Shabana Azmi during her visit made a call on Honorable Prime Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan, Mr. Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley, in his office. Ms. Shabana Azmi expressed her happiness to Honorable Prime Minister on the fact that the State is taking responsibility of the health needs of all the citizens irrespective of their social class. She also said that it is very heartening to see the passion and care with which Health staff of Bhutan dedicates themselves to the health of the people of the country. She expressed her heartiest congratulations to the Honorable, Prime Minister for launching the unique Gross National Happiness Index. Honorable Prime Minister congratulated her on taking up the responsibility of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS and expressed his happiness on the fact that the SAARC Goodwill Ambassador is a female. Honorable Prime Minister and Ms. Shabana Azmi had detailed discussion on the issues and challenges for HIV/AIDS. Honorable Prime
Minister suggested her to have a meeting with Motion Pictures Association to motivate them to prepare features containing socially relevant messages.

**Participation in Leadership & Strategic Management Training**

Ms. Azmi was briefed about the ongoing Leadership & Strategic Management Training organized by STAC and Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan. She expressed her desired to meet the participants. She visited the training venue and was introduced to the participants and Resource Persons from Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR). The participants and the Resource Persons also gave an introduction of themselves to Ms. Azmi, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS. She addressed the participants and told them about the virtues of leadership, management and good communication skills for delivering effective healthcare.

**Field Visit**

Ms. Azmi visited Gidakom Hospital where she observed the general healthcare services and Tuberculosis health services being provided in the hospital and also met and interacted with a few admitted patients and officials working in the hospital.

**Press Conference**

Ms. Shabana Azmi held a Press Conference with journalists from print and mass media. During the Press Conference, she stressed on the need for shedding hesitation and reluctance to come forward for HIV infected and utilization of services by them, need for taking care of the local sensitivities, need for robust sex education in schools and removal of stigma and discrimination for HIV infected. She appealed through media for all the women of Bhutan to come forward to access health and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services being provided free of cost by Government of Bhutan. After, her address to media, she interacted with the journalists. She also met with representatives from the film industry in Bhutan, the President & Vice-President of Motion Pictures Association, producers, directors and actors. She applauded Miss Bhutan’s efforts of social sensitization through the medium of films and re-iterated to all that Art should be used as an instrument for social change. She got a wide coverage in the print and mass media of Bhutan for her visit.

**Visit to Queen Mother**

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck gave a private audience to Ms. Shabana Azmi and her companion Ms. Tanvi Azmi at the Ministers Enclave, Motithang. Her Majesty, the Queen Mother also took Ms. Azmi for a private tour of the Textile Museum and hosted a dinner in honor of Ms. Shabana Azmi, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS.
3. SAARC Training of Trainers on Leadership & Strategic Management for National, Regional & District Level Managers of National Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Programmes, Nepal


The objectives of the training programme were as follows:

**General Objective:**

To enhance the knowledge and skills on Leadership and Strategic Management of Managers and to scale-up and strengthen the TB and HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities in the Country.

**Specific Objectives:**

- To strengthen the understanding of importance of management & leadership skills among Programme Managers for TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes.
- To strengthen knowledge on managerial skills to tackle the current issues on management among Programme Managers.
- To strengthen leadership skills among Programme Managers for successful implementation of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and achieve the desired goals.
- To strengthen the collaboration and coordination among TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes.

**Participation:**

This five day training programme was attended by Programme Managers at different levels of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes from Nepal. Twenty participants, ten each from TB and HIV/AIDS attended the training.

Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director and Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur, India facilitated the programme as Resource Persons.
Proceeding of the Programme:

Opening Session:

Dr. Y. B. Pradhan, Director General, Department of Health Services, Government of Nepal graced the opening ceremony as Chief Guest.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC welcomed the distinguished dignitaries resource persons and the participants in the opening ceremony by delivering the welcome address. In his address he emphasized the "Burden of Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region Including Nepal". Dr. Jha highlighted the importance of leadership & strategic management training for National and regional level Programme Managers in order to manage the dual epidemics of TB and HIV/AIDS effectively. He also acknowledged the cooperation rendered by government of Nepal for organizing the training in Nepal.

Dr. Krishna Kumar Rai, Director, National Centre for AIDS & STD Control, Government of Nepal delivered his remarks and stated that all the risk factors for the spread of HIV are existing in Nepal. He highlighted the efforts and major activities being carried out by the Centre for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in Nepal. Dr. Rai stressed that there should be collaborating approach in between TB and HIV/AIDS programmes to cut the co-infection. He pointed out that cross-border issues are also responsible for spreading HIV/AIDS and TB in Nepal.

Dr. S. D. Gupta, the Director of Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur, India addressed the programme on behalf of Resource Persons.

Dr. Y. B. Pradhan, Director General, Department of Health Services, Government of Nepal and Chief Guest of the programme highlighted the achievements of TB programme in Nepal. He mentioned that the NTP is one of the successful programmes in Nepal, however, number of challenges are ahead to be addressed like TB and HIV Co-infection, MDR-TB and sustaining of DOTS. He emphasized that this is the timely opportunity for Nepal to build a team of skilled Managers with leadership qualities to successfully consolidate the control activities planned. He thanked the STAC officials for their hard work exerted in organizing this training programme.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC delivered the vote of thanks.

Technical Sessions

Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director from Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) and Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain (IIHMR) facilitated as expert resource persons for the training programme.

The Methodology adopted for the training were as follows:

1. *Referral of eight Modules*
   i. Module 1 – Introduction
   ii. Module 2 – Managerial Styles
   iii. Module 3 – Leadership and Leadership Styles
   iv. Module 4 – Personal Effectiveness
   v. Module 5 – Role Efficacy
vi. Module 6 – Interpersonal Communication
vii. Module 7 – Team Building
viii. Module 8 – Building Partnership

2. Individual exercises and questionnaires
3. Group work with interactive sessions and discussions
4. Brainstorming
5. Case studies
6. Role plays
7. Games
8. Presentations by Facilitators and Participants
9. Plenary discussions

Outcome:

The participants updated their knowledge on managerial styles, leadership and leadership styles, personal effectiveness, role, efficacy, interpersonal, communications, team building and building partnership. The training equipped Programme Managers with improved managerial skills and leadership qualities.

4. SAARC Training of Trainers on Management of MDR-TB patients for National, Provincial & District level Managers of National Tuberculosis Programme, Bangladesh

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre organized SAARC Training of Trainers on Management of MDR-TB patients for National, Provincial & District level Managers of National Tuberculosis Programme, Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 9th to 13th May 2010.

The objective of this training was to strengthen the capacity of the participants in managing MDR tuberculosis and imparting trainings to health care providers in this respect.

Participation

Twenty participants as well as eight observers (National/District level) from Bangladesh (both public and NGO sector) attended this training.

The training was facilitated with the help of Regional and local resource persons and other technical people.
Opening Session:

Following Dignitaries attended the opening session of the programme:

1. Prof. A. K. M. Mohibullah, Additional Director General, DGHS, Dhaka, People’s Republic of Bangladesh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

2. Prof. Pravat Chandra Barua, Director, MBDC & Line Director, TB-Leprosy Control, Bangladesh, attended as the Chairperson.

3. Dr. D. Behera, Director, LRS Institute of TB & Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, India

4. Dr. Rohit Sarin, AMS & HoD TB Control, LRS Institute of TB & Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, India.

5. Dr Md. Nazrul Islam-Deputy Director-MBDC & Programme Manager, National TB Programme, DGHS, Dhaka, Bangladesh

6. Dr. Ajith Weerakoon Research Officer, STAC representing the Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal

7. Prof Mirza Md. Hiron, Director, NIDCH, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Deputy Director, MBDC & Programme Manager, National TB Programme delivered the welcome address. He welcomed all the dignitaries, distinguished invitees and the participants cordially.

Prof. A. K. M. Mohibullah, Additional Director General, DGHS, Dhaka, People’s Republic of Bangladesh delivered his remarks and stated that all the predisposing factors for the spread of TB are existing in Bangladesh. He stressed that there is an alarming increase of Multi-Drug Resistant TB in Bangladesh. He concluded his remarks by thanking the STAC officials and wished the STAC as well as participants for a successful accomplishment of their objectives of the training programme.

Dr. D. Behera, Director, LRS Institute of TB & Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, India and Resource Person for the training and Prof. Mirza Md. Hiron, Director, NIDCH, Dhaka, Bangladesh also delivered their remarks during the inaugural session.

Prof. (Dr.) Pravat Chandra Barua, Director, MBDC & Line Director, TB-Leprosy Control, Bangladesh graced the occasion as the Chairperson. He delivered his remarks by stating the importance of training the National and Regional level Programme Managers in National TB Control Programme. He stated the global and local burden of TB epidemic and emphasized that almost all the risk factors are prevailing in Bangladesh to fuel the exponential spread of TB in the society. He concluded his remarks by thanking the STAC Officials for organizing the training programme in Bangladesh.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Shamim Sultana, Deputy Program Manager, NTP, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Technical sessions:

This was a modular training consisted of following methodology:
- Plenary session & reading of manual
- Power Point presentations
- Discussions & exercises
- Sharing of experiences

Dr. D. Behera, Director, LRS Institute of TB & Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, India and Dr. Rohit Sarin, AMS & HoD TB Control, LRS Institute of TB & Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, India facilitated as expert Resource Persons for the training programme.

Dr. Ajith Weerakoon, Research Officer of the STAC, Kathmandu, Nepal welcomed the participants for the technical sessions. He initiated the technical session by a presentation on emphasizing the role of STAC in prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS.

Mr P. Bhandari, Computer Technician of the STAC, Kathmandu, Nepal elaborated on the objectives of the training programme, expected outcomes, resource materials and the methodologies planned to be used in the training.

Dr. Ajith Weerakoon, Research Officer of the STAC, Kathmandu, Nepal delivered his presentation on Global and SAARC Region Situation of TB/MDR-TB.

The training was conducted through presentations, discussion, modular reading facilitated by Resource Persons and Plenary Sessions.

**Field Visit**

All the participants and facilitators visited NIDCH, Dhaka, Bangladesh Dr. Asif Mujtaba Mahmud Coordinator, DOTS-Plus, Associate Professor, Respiratory Medicine National Institute of Diseases of the Chest & Hospital (NIDC&H), facilitated the field visit. Participants and resource persons observed the DOTS and DOTS Plus clinics, MDR –TB Wards and National Reference Laboratory.

**Closing Session**

Prof. (Dr.) Pravat Chandra Barua, Director, MBDC & Line Director, TB-Leprosy Control, Bangladesh, attended the Closing Ceremony as the Chief Guest.

Dr Md. Nazrul Islam, Deputy Director, MBDC & Programme Manager, National TB Control Programme graced the closing ceremony as Chairperson.

On behalf of participants Dr. M. Yasin Ali, Life Member, NATAB, Dhaka, Bangladesh delivered his remarks. He admired the role of STAC in organizing this training programme in Bangladesh.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director of the STAC, Nepal delivered his remarks. He presented the results of the pre-test and post-test assessments to highlight the effectiveness of the training programme. He thanked the two expert Resource Persons from LRS New Delhi, all the high level officials of the National TB Programmes, all the participants, and the staff of the STAC for their untiring contribution till the conclusion of the programme. He expressed gratitude on behalf of STAC to the Government Bangladesh, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for valuable contribution for the completion of this training successfully.
Resource persons of the programme Dr. D. Behera, Director, LRS Institute of TB & Respiratory Diseases, and Dr. Rohit Sarin, AMS & HoD TB Control, LRS Institute of TB & Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, India gave their remarks and appreciated for excellent arrangements of the training by STAC and National TB Control Programme Bangladesh.

Prof. (Dr.) Pravat Chandra Barua, Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam and Dr. D. Behera, awarded Certificates and Resource Materials to the Participants and Resource Persons.

Prof. (Dr.) Barua, delivered his remarks by stating the importance of training for the National and Regional level Programme Managers in National TB Control Programme. He offered tribute of thanks to all the dignitaries, and all the participants of National TB Control Programme. He concluded his speech by offering special thanks to Director, STAC and all the Officials of the STAC and expert resource persons from India who attended the Bangladesh training Programme to make it a success.

The vote of thanks was delivered by the Dr Ajith P. Weerakoon Research Officer STAC, Nepal

Outcome

Outcome of the training was assessed by Pre/Post Test Evaluation. The mean knowledge score of the Pre Test was 58.8 with the range of 15 and 75, in Post Test mean was 90.8 with minimum 65 to maximum 100. During Post Test Evaluation out of 19 participants, 7 participants scored 100%.

Conclusion

Participants were successfully trained on management of MDR-TB patients.

5. SAARC Regional Training of Trainers (Microbiologist) on Culture and Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST) of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis
Bangalore, India

Background

SAARC Regional Training of Trainers (Microbiologist) on Culture and DST of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis was organized jointly by the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre STAC and Revised National TB Control Programme, Government of India at National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI) Bangalore, India on 22-28 June, 2010.
The objectives of the training were

- to enhance the knowledge and skills of the Microbiologists in diagnosing and monitoring of the treatment efficacies of TB/MDR-TB and imparting training to health care providers in this respect and
- to improve the status of the NRLs to provide TB culture and DST services and participate in DRS activities.

**Participation**

The participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri-Lanka attended the Training.

**Opening Session**

The programme was inaugurated jointly by Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC and Dr. Prahlad Kumar, Director, NTI by lighting the traditional lamp.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC, in his welcome address, offered his sincere gratitude to the SAARC Member Countries and Government of India. He thanked NTI family for their generous support and excellent arrangements made for the training.

Dr. Prahlad Kumar, Director, NTI welcomed the participants in the training.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra highlighted objectives, methodology and importance of the training. He also delivered Vote of Thanks. Dr. Ranjani Ramachandran from WHO/SEARO and Dr. V. Challu from NTI gave their remarks as Resource Persons.

The training was based on WHO/IUATLD Guidelines on Culture and Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST), Drug Resistance Surveillance (DRS) based on country specific protocol, NTI Training Curriculum for Culture and DST, different PowerPoint presentations, observation of different sections of NRL, practical session discussion, exercises and sharing of experiences. Prior to the training a PRE TEST was held.

**Technical Session**

The Technical Session started with the technical presentations by Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC on Introduction and activities of STAC and Ms. Reena K. Consultant Microbiologist, NTI on technique and importance of culture and DST. These presentations were followed by manual reading session.

The participants observed National TB Reference laboratory at NTI, and they observed proper way of samples collection from patients and transported samples from peripheral laboratory to reference lab and registration of samples.

Ms. Ranjani Ramachandran, Medical Officer (TB Labs), WHO/SEARO, New Delhi made a presentation on Biomedical Waste Management.

Ms. Hema Sundaram, Consultant Microbiologist, NTI made a presentation on selection and use of appropriate personal protective equipment. She highlighted for using of mask, goggles, apron and respirator for self protection and technique of reuse.
Dr. Ranjani Ramachandran presented a presentation on the uptake of new diagnostics in TB control programme in resource limited settings. She highlighted on new diagnostic tools for early detection and drug susceptible testing e.g. Bactec 360, MGIT 960, LAMP and PCR. The training was continued with presentations, modular reading and practical work.

**Closing session**

Subsequently, a POST TEST was held and the results were presented. The Directors, STAC and NTI awarded certificates to the participants as well as to the Resource Persons.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC thanked Dr. P. Kumar, Director and his team at NTI for their cooperation and support to organize the training effectively and successfully. He thanked Governments of India and SAARC Member Countries for providing support. He also thanked WHO/SEARO for cooperation and support in this regard. Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC delivered vote of thanks

**6. SAARC Meeting of National TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programme Managers and Mechanism to Tackle Cross Border Collaboration, Sri Lanka**


Following were the **Objectives** of the meeting:

1. To share the programme achievements, experiences and innovations made by the member states and learn from best practices.
2. To identify the regional activities of STAC according to the felt needs of the region.
3. To discuss, issues and challenges faced by the member states in order to suggest possible solutions.
4. To share the achievements and experiences of the member countries in TB/HIV collaboration

**Participation**

The meeting was attended by the participants from Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka and representatives from WHO/SEARO, attended the meeting as observers and resource persons.
Proceeding of the Meeting

Opening Session

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director of SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal delivered the welcome address. He elaborated on the role of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in TB and HIV/AIDS prevention and control in the Region.

Mr. Deepak Gupta, Technical Officer, WHO/SEARO addressed the meeting. He described the importance of preparing a blue print of Road Map to solve the burning issues in relation to cross border migration. He emphasized the viewing of control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS in the context of protecting rights of the clients seeking the services in order to achieve the success. In addition, he highlighted importance of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) as a regional coordinating body and thanked the STAC for the services imparted so far.

Dr. Sunil Khaparde, Deputy Director General, NACO, India also addressed the gathering at the inaugural session and highlighted the HIV/AIDS epidemiological situation in India and the progress made in universal access to prevention, care and support services in India. He stressed that the universal testing of TB patients for HIV is a great step in service provision. Hence, he stressed the importance of strengthening the coordination and collaboration between TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programms of SAARC Member States. He concluded his inaugural address by thanking STAC for organizing the Meeting.

Mr. Kencho Wangdi, Assistant Programme Officer, National AIDS Control Programme, Bhutan addressed the gathering. He emphasized the importance of tackling cross-border issues in control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS. He concluded his remarks by thanking STAC for organizing the Programme Managers Meeting.

Dr. Sunil de Alwis, Director, NPTCCD, Sri-Lanka also addressed the participants and thanked the STAC for organizing this meeting in Sri Lanka. He stressed that although, Sri-Lanka has no existing geographical borders with other countries in the region, the importance of tackling the problems emerging on HIV/AIDS and TB prevention and control in relation to the migration to Middle Eastern countries is enormous. He concluded his remarks by requesting STAC to find out a mechanism to deal with above mentioned migration issue.

Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS), STAC, Nepal delivered the vote of thanks.

Technical session

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal made a presentation on Global and regional situation of TB and STAC initiative on prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS. He described the objective of the Centre, elaborated the activities carried out by the centre in relation to TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection prevention and control and emphasized the major achievements of the STAC. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of monitoring of MDR TB and XDR TB in the region. He concluded his presentation by stating the objectives and expected outcome of the meeting.

Country presentations

Mr. Kencho Wangdi, Assistant Programme Officer of National HIV/AIDS Control Programme, Bhutan presented on HIV/AIDS Situation in Bhutan and the National response of National AIDS Control Programme, Bhutan.

Dr. Sunil Khaparde, Deputy Director General, NACO, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India delivered his presentation on HIV/AIDS situation in India and the National response of National AIDS Control Organization in India.

Mr. T. Dendup, Assistant Programme Officer of National TB control Programme, Bhutan delivered his presentation on situation of TB in Bhutan, National response and challenges faced by National TB Control programme of Bhutan.

Dr. (Mrs.) G. W. K. Jayakody, Medical Officer/Training, National TB Control Programme delivered a presentation on behalf of Dr. A. K. S. B. Alwis, Programme Manager, National TB Control Programme, Sri Lanka.

At the end of the presentation session, there was an interactive discussion among participants and the resource persons from STAC and WHO/SEARO on issues related to prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Member States.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra thanked the group for their active participation and for their invaluable contributions during the technical session.

Dr. Salhotra requested to commence the discussion on future plans on TB and HIV/AIDS collaboration and need based activities of both TB and HIV/AIDS Programmes. The participants also considered and discussed the recommendations made in the last Programme Managers meeting held in Male, Maldives.

At the end of three days meeting, recommendations were made for collaboration on tackling the cross border issues on TB & HIV/AIDS.

In the closing session, Dr. V. S. Salhotra formally gave his closing remarks and expressed his gratitude to all participants, respective Member States, WHO/SEARO experts and STAC Officials who contributed for the successful achievements of the three day Programme Managers Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Dr. A.K.S.B. Alwis gave his concluding remarks and expressed his thanks to the participants and STAC for successful outcome of the meeting.
SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Kathmandu, organized a five-day training programme on “SAARC Regional Training on Leadership and Strategic Management for National/ Regional level TB and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Programme Managers” in Male, Maldives. The programme was held with the coordination of National Tuberculosis Control Programme and National HIV/AIDS Control Programme of Maldives from 2nd to 6th August 2010 in Male.

Following were the objectives of the training:

**General Objective**

To enhance the existing understanding, knowledge & skills on Leadership & strategic management among National/Regional/District level Programme Managers of National TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes to scale-up and strengthen the TB & HIV/AIDS prevention & control activities in Maldives.

**Specific Objectives**

- To strengthen the existing **understanding of the importance of management & leadership skills** among Programme Managers for prevention and control of both TB & HIV/AIDS in Maldives
- To strengthen the existing **knowledge on the managerial skills** to handle the issues in relation to programme management among Programme Managers
- To strengthen the existing **leadership skills** among Programme Managers for successful implementation of TB & HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities in Maldives in order to achieve the desired goals
- To scale-up the existing **collaboration & coordination** among Programme Managers of National TB & National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes in Maldives.

**Participation**

Twenty four participants from National TB and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes, Government of Maldives attended the training.
Opening Session

Mr. Ibrahim Shaheem, Former Director General, Centre for Community Health and Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family, Government of Republic of Maldives graced the programme as the Chief Guest of the opening session.

Dr. Ahamed Jamsheed Mohamed, Director General, Centre for Community Health and Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family, Government of Republic of Maldives attended the inaugural session of the programme.

Mr. Abdul Hasan Hameed, Senior Programme Officer for TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme, Ministry of Health and family, Government of Republic of Maldives attended the inaugural session of the programme.

Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS), SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal welcomed the Chief Guest on behalf of Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre.

Dr. Ahamed Jamsheed Mohamed, delivered the welcome address. In his address, he highlighted the burden of TB and HIV/AIDS in Maldives and emphasized the importance of leadership and managerial skills training for National and Regional level Programme Manager in order to contain the dual epidemics successfully. He thanked SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre for organizing this training programme in Maldives for the Programme Managers. He also thanked the Resource Persons from IIHMR for their endeavor to make the training interesting and successful.

Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director, Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), India delivered opening remarks and expressed his wish for a successful accomplishment of objectives of the training programme.

Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS) delivered remarks on behalf of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre. She read out the remarks sent by Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre for the successful completion of the programme and expressed good wishes to the participants and resource persons.

Chief Guest of the Programme Mr. Ibrahim Shaheem, former Director General, Centre for Community Health and Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family, Government of Republic of Maldives delivered his address. He stated the global burden of the TB and HIV/AIDS in Maldives. He emphasized that this is an opportunity for Maldives to train team of Programme Managers with leadership and managerial skills to successfully launch the control activities planned. He thanked Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC and his team for continuing support extended to SAARC Region including Maldives in capacity building of Health Care Workers.

Technical Session

Dr. S. D. Gupta and Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain from Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) and Mr. B. N. Gyawali, National TB Control Programme, Nepal participated as expert resource persons for the training programme.
Methodology adopted for the training is given below:

1. Group reading of eight Modules
   i. Module 1 – Introduction
   ii. Module 2 – Managerial Styles
   iii. Module 3 – Leadership and Leadership Styles
   iv. Module 4 – Personal Effectiveness
   v. Module 5 – Role Efficacy
   vi. Module 6 – Interpersonal Communication
   vii. Module 7 – Team Building
   viii. Module 8 – Building Partnership
2. Individual exercises and questionnaires
3. Group work with interactive sessions and discussions
4. Brainstorming
5. Case studies
6. Role plays
7. Games
8. Presentations by Facilitators and Participants
9. Plenary discussions

Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS) STAC, Kathmandu, welcomed the participants for the technical sessions and elaborated on the objectives of the training, expected outcomes, resource materials and the methodologies planned to be used. She presented presentation on role of STAC in prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, TB and TB/HIV Co-infection.

Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain commenced technical session as a resource person from Indian Institute Health Management Research, Jaipur, India. Dr. Jain requested the participants to write their expectations of the training programme and categorized them in order to get the measures to fulfill them.

The first technical presentation on the Leadership and Strategic Management training programme was delivered by Dr. S. D. Gupta. In this session the introductory module on Leadership Training was used as the guide. He delivered the presentation on TB, DOTS and Stop TB Strategy. He explained the words incidence and prevalence to the participants. He elaborated the importance of Leadership, qualities of a leader and the difference between leader and a manager etc.

On each day, the training was started by reflecting the previous day’s training programme.

The Closing Session of the programme was organized in the presence of Mr. Abdul Hameed Hasan, Programme Manager, National TB Control Programme and National AIDS Control Programme.

Outcome

The participants updated their knowledge on managerial styles, leadership and leadership styles, personal effectiveness, role, efficacy interpersonal communications, team building and building partnership. The training equipped Programme Managers with improved managerial skills and leadership qualities.

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Kathmandu, organized a five-day training programme on “SAARC Regional Training on Leadership and Strategic Management for National/District level TB and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Programme Managers” in Thimphu, Bhutan. The programme was held with the coordination of National Tuberculosis Control Programme and National HIV/AIDS Control Programme of Royal Government of Bhutan in Thimphu from 23rd to 27th August 2010.

Following were the objectives of the training:

**General Objective**

To enhance the existing understanding, knowledge & skills on leadership & strategic management among National/District level Programme Managers of National TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes to scale-up and strengthen the TB & HIV/AIDS prevention & control activities in Bhutan.

**Specific Objectives**

- To strengthen the existing understanding of the importance of management & leadership skills among Programme Managers for prevention and control of both TB & HIV/AIDS in Bhutan
- To strengthen the existing knowledge on the managerial skills to handle the issues in relation to programme management among Programme Managers
- To strengthen the existing leadership skills among Programme Managers for successful implementation of TB & HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities in Bhutan in order to achieve the desired goals
- To scale-up the existing collaboration & coordination among Programme Managers of National TB & National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes in Bhutan.

**Participation**

Twenty three participants from National TB Control Programme and National HIV/AIDS Control Programme were nominated by the Royal Government of Bhutan attended the training.
Opening Session

Dr. Ugyen Dophu, Director, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan, graced the programme as the Chief Guest of the opening ceremony. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and Director NTP, Nepal welcomed Dr. Dophu and other dignitaries in the programme.

Mr. Tandin Dorji, Chief Programme Officer, Communicable Diseases Division, Ministry of Health the Royal Government of Bhutan delivered the welcome address. He emphasized the burden of TB and HIV/AIDS in Bhutan and stressed the importance of leadership and managerial skills training for National and Regional level Programme Managers in order to contain the dual epidemics successfully. He praised the Director, STAC for organizing this training programme in Bhutan and warmly welcomed the STAC officials and the Resource Persons from IIHMR, India. He concluded his speech by wishing for a successful completion of training programme.

Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director, Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), India and Resource Person of the training programme, delivered opening remarks.

Dr. Ugyen Dophu, Director, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, the Royal Government of Bhutan, addressed the participants and other dignitaries and stated the global burden of the TB and HIV/AIDS. He pointed out that Bhutan has to improve the quality of TB and HIV/AIDS control in district level in Bhutan. He offered his deep appreciation to Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal and his team for continuing support extended to SAARC Region including Bhutan.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, delivered his remarks by thanking the Department of Public Health, Royal Government of Bhutan and both National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes for their support to organize the training in Thimphu. He thanked the Resource Persons for participation in this programme. He adjourned his remarks by wishing for a successful training programme Dr. Jha extended good wishes for successful completion of the programme.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu delivered vote of thanks.

Technical Session

Dr. S. D. Gupta and Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain from Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) participated as expert resource persons for the training programme. Dr. K. K. Jha, Director, STAC, Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC and Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS), STAC facilitated the training programme. Dr. Neetu Purohit from IIHMR, India also facilitated the technical sessions.

Resource Materials used were eight Modules developed by South East Asian Regional Office of World Health Organization, in 2006.

Methodology adopted were as follows

1. Group reading of eight Modules
   i. Module 1 – Introduction
   ii. Module 2 – Managerial Styles
iii. Module 3 – Leadership and Leadership Styles
iv. Module 4 – Personal Effectiveness
v. Module 5 – Role Efficacy
vi. Module 6 – Interpersonal Communication
vii. Module 7 – Team Building
viii. Module 8 – Building Partnership

2. Individual exercises and questionnaires
3. Group work with interactive sessions and discussions
4. Brainstorming
5. Case studies
6. Role plays
7. Games
8. Presentations by Facilitators and Participants
9. Plenary discussions

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director of the STAC, Kathmandu, Nepal welcomed the participants for the technical sessions and elaborated the objectives, expected outcomes, resource materials and the methodologies planned to be used in the training. At the end he made a presentation on global and regional situation of TB.

Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS), STAC, Nepal presented global and SAARC regional situation of HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection particularly that of Bhutan.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC and NTP, Nepal delivered a presentation on role and responsibilities of the STAC in prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region. He emphasized the importance of capacity building of human resources in the health sector in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. He adjourned his presentation by elaborating the laboratory services provided by the SAARC Reference Laboratory, STAC to the SAARC Region.

Dr. S. D. Gupta delivered his presentation on the Leadership and Strategic Management training programme. He delivered the presentation on TB, DOTS and Stop TB Strategy and Leadership and emphasized the five key points of strategic thinking. He explained the concepts of Grand Strategy (vision), Strategic Level (policy), Operational Level programme strategy and Tactical Level (campaign strategy). He concluded his presentation by elaborating the “shared Vision” and stressing the importance of self development by the means of analyzing the self.

Each day of training started by reflecting the previous day’s training programme.

Mrs. Shabana Azmi, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS visited the training venue on 4th day and discussed the prevailing issues in relation to control and prevention of HIV/AIDS and TB in Bhutan with the participants and resource persons from IIHMR, India and STAC, Nepal.
Concluding Session

The training programme was concluded with the gracious presence of Hon’ble Dr. Gado Tshering, Officiating Minister, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan as the Chief Guest. Dr. Tshering thanked Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director, and Dr. Nutan Jain, Associate Professor, IIHMR, Jaipur, India for their role and contribution as Resource Persons and he also thanked Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and his team for their hard work to make the programme successful.

Dr. Nado Dupka, Officiating Director, Department of Public Health, Bhutan, Mr. Tandin Dorji, Chief Programme Officer, Communicable Diseases Division, Ministry of Health, Bhutan were also presented in the programme.

Honorable Dr. Tshering distributed the certificates to participants. Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS), SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre delivered the vote of thanks.

Outcome

The participants updated their knowledge on managerial styles, leadership and leadership styles, personal effectiveness, role, efficacy interpersonal communications, team building and building partnership. The training equipped Programme Managers with improved managerial skills and leadership qualities.

9. SAARC Regional Workshop for Development of Regionally Relevant Research Protocol on TB & HIV/AIDS for SAARC Member States

Jaipur, India


The objectives of the workshop were:

- To enhance the capacity of programme managers of TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and relevant staff of Member States to identify priority research areas, development of research protocols and their implementation.
- To promote utilization of research results at all decision making levels of both TB and HIV/AIDS Programmes in SAARC Member States

- To identify the priority areas of research on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection

- To develop Research Protocol on identified areas of research on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection

Participation

A total of 8 participants, two from Bhutan, one each from Sri Lanka and Nepal and four participants from India participated in this program.

Opening Session

The programme was inaugurated on 20th December 2010 in the presence of Dr. M. L. Jain, Director, Reproductive Child Health, State Government of Rajasthan as Chief Guest, Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director, Director, IIHMR, Dr. P. R. Sodani, Dean, IIHMR, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal and Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal also attended the opening session.

Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director, IIHMR, Jaipur welcomed the participants and dignitaries in the meeting. In his address Dr. Gupta congratulated the Director, STAC for organizing this workshop in Jaipur and expressed his good wishes for success of the programme.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC delivered key note address. He thanked IIHMR for giving consent to organize this workshop in Jaipur, India. He explained about problem of TB and HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region and emphasized the role of STAC in prevention and control of TB & HIV/AIDS in the Region. Dr. Jha stressed the role of Operational Research in the control programme.

Dr. M. L. Jain, Director, Reproductive Child Health, State Government of Rajasthan explained the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in Rajasthan State. He expressed the importance of conducting relevant research studies in order to improve the quality of the services. He concluded his remarks by thanking the IIHMR and STAC officials and wished for successful accomplishment of the objectives of the workshop.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC delivered Vote of Thanks in the session.

Technical Session

The Technical Sessions was started by a presentation on Introduction of STAC by Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC. Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS), STAC made a presentation on role of the STAC in TB and HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

Dr. S.D. Gupta, Director, IIHMR presented the overview of Operational Research.

All participants were divided into 2 groups to work on at least four identified issues in relation to TB and HIV/AIDS. This session was facilitated by Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Dr. Anoop Khanna and Dr. J. P. Singh.
On the second day Dr. Jambay Dorji presented two research protocols on TB which were prepared by group-1. Thereafter interactive session was started on the presented research protocols and amended accordingly. Dr. Sriyakanthi Beneragama presented two research protocols on HIV/AIDS. Dr. Upasna Agrawal presented six research protocols prepared by the working group two.

Dr. Vivek Lal, Assistant Professor, IIHMR, India delivered a presentation on Research Study Designs.

Dr. J. P. Singh delivered a presentation on sampling and sample size calculations.

The workshop on the third day was started with group work for preparation of research protocols according to the format provided by the STAC. Then the working groups conducted a literature survey for the prepared protocols.

Dr. Anoop Khanna delivered a presentation on data collection methods and data entry.

Dr. J. P. Singh delivered a presentation on Data Types. Further he elaborated on the way of analysis of data by using descriptive statistic, by exploring an association, by inferring and by multivariate analysis. He further explained cause and effect relationship.

The morning session of the fourth day of the workshop was started with the group work which was continued to prepare research protocols according to the format provided.

Dr. L. P. Singh, Dean, (Research) delivered a presentation on scientific report writing. He explained all the important components of report writing and elaborated the importance of the executive summary.

The Group work was continued after briefing about report writing. Dr. Prahlad Kumar, Dr. P Dorji and Dr. Upasna Agrawal presented three protocols prepared. Resource persons from IIHMR and STAC and participants actively participated in the plenary session and suggested the amendments to be done.

The training programme of the fifth day was commenced with presentation of the research protocols prepared. Dr. Prahlad Kumar, Dr. Upasna Agrawal, Dr. P. Dorji and Dr. S. Beneragama presented seven research protocols prepared. Resource persons and participants actively participated in the plenary session and suggested some modifications.

Dr. Nutan Jain delivered a presentation on Ethics involved in research on human subjects. She explained that ethics are norms or standards of behavior that guide moral choices about our behavior and our relationship with others. Further she elaborated on ethical principles for research.

The two groups had completed ten Research Protocols. The presentations on finalized protocols by each group presented in front of the panel of resource persons. Dr. Anoop Khanna concluded the last technical session by thanking the participants and resource persons for their hard work to achieve the objective of the workshop.
Concluding Session

On the last day, the two groups of participants had completed 10 Research Protocols and presented the final protocols developed by each group. Dr. Upasana Agrawal, Medical Officer, LRS Institute, New Delhi and Dr. Sriyakanthi Beneregama from Sri Lanka made the presentations for the two groups.

In the Closing Ceremony Dr. L. P. Singh, Dean (Research), IIHMR, India delivered the key note address as Chief Guest. He stressed the importance of Operational Research studies and thanked STAC and IIHMR for organizing this important workshop.

Dr. P. Kumar, Director, NTI, Bangalore, India delivered his remarks on behalf of participants.

Prof. Dr. Nilambar Jha delivered his remarks on behalf of Resource Persons.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC delivered Closing Remarks and thanked NTP, Government of India and IIHMR for giving consent to organize this programme in Jaipur, India. Dr. Jha thanked all participants, resource persons and guests for their remarkable contribution for the success of the workshop.

Dr Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC and Dr. L. P. Singh, Dean, IIHMR, awarded certificates to participants and resource persons.

Dr. Anoop Khanna, Associate Professor, IIHMR delivered Vote of Thanks.

Outcome

Finalized ten research protocols submitted to STAC were as follows:

Protocol 1  Low acceptability of the services provided by the national TB control programme in the state of UP, India
Protocol 2  A study to assess the challenges in the Mx of MDR TB
Protocol 3  A exploratory study to assess the family planning practices among HIV positive women in Sri Lanka
Protocol 4  To study the magnitude of HIV infection among TB patients
Protocol 5  Study of the reasons related to sub-optimal participation of private practitioners in National TB program in Nepal.
Protocol 6  To find the prevalence of TB in HIV infected people accessing ART in India.
Protocol 7  To compare between the passive case finding and the active case finding of TB in Nepal
Protocol 8  To find the prevalence of MDR TB in HIV infected People in India.
Protocol 9  To study the factors associated with development of MDR in TB patients on DOTS in Bhutan.
Protocol 10  To assess the treatment adherence amongst HIV infected people at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months of ART treatment in India.
10. STAC’s Regional TB & HIV/AIDS Research Presentation & Dissemination of findings in International Conferences

XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010), Austria

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC participated in XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010) organized by International AIDS Society (IAS) held in Vienna, Austria from 18th to 23rd July 2010. Following posters were presented from SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in the Conference:

- HIV Prevalence Among Diagnosed TB Patients in Bangladesh
- HIV Related Knowledge Among Women in Nepal
- Epidemiology of TB/HIV Co-infection in SAARC Region and Regional Efforts to Contain it

41st IUATLD Conference

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC participated in 41st Union World Conference on Lung Health held from 11th to 15th November 2010 in Berlin, Germany. In the Conference following two posters were presented:

- Barriers to directly observed treatment for MDR TB Patients in Nepal: A Qualitative Study

11. Meeting with Strengthening Networking with Collaborating Institutions – WHO / UNAIDS / UNFPA /NTI / TRC/ Green Light Committee / DOTS Plus Committee & other collaborating institutes

- Participation in WHO/SEARO Meeting
  Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC participated in Regional Meeting of the WHO Collaborating Centres on Communicable Diseases, held at WHO/SEARO, New Delhi from 2nd to 4th June 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various technical and administrative matters.

- Participation in SAARC Study Visit
  Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC participated in SAARC Study visit to selected ASEAN Member Countries to share experiences on HIV and AIDS prevention and control. The meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 2nd to 5th June 2010.

- Meeting of SEAR Technical Working Group on TB
  Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC participated in Meeting of SEAR Technical Working Group on TB held in New Delhi, India organized by WHO/SEARO from 22nd to 23rd April 2010.

- Regional Workshop on ACSM for TB control
  Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC participated in Regional Workshop on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM) for TB Control, organized by WHO/SEARO held in Colombo Sri Lanka from 14 to 17 September 2010.

Brochure on General Information on TB and HIV/AIDS 2010 had been prepared and published for the distribution to the general people. This publication has been distributed to the participants of World TB Day 2010, World AIDS Day 2010 and SAARC Charter Day 2010.

For the general information on TB and HIV/AIDS, badges with SAARC logo and red ribbon logo were prepared and distributed to the participants of awareness and advocacy programme.

13. Printing of STAC Publications

STAC printed the following publications in 2010:

1. STAC Newsletters (both the issues, Vol. XX No. 1 and 2)
3. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Report (Update) on Tuberculosis 2010
4. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Report (Update) on HIV/AIDS including TB/HIV Co-infection 2010
5. Printing report of round V proficiency testing
6. Annual Report of STAC 2010
7. Wall Calendar 2011
8. Brochure on General Information on TB and HIV/AIDS 2010
10. Badge with Logo for HIV
11. Badge with Logo for SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre

14. Distribution of STAC Publications, related documents and other materials

All the publications, documents and related materials were distributed to the relevant individuals and organizations. Publications were also distributed to the people who requested to get the STAC publications through STAC library.


All articles published in SAARC Journal of TB, Lung Diseases, and HIV/AIDS were reviewed by peer reviewers.
### 16. Strengthening of STAC Library

#### i. Purchase / Subscription of books and Journals

The STAC Library has purchased the following new books in 2010:

1. AIDS and the lung, 1997
2. A Textbook of Community Health Diagnosis, 2010
3. A Textbook of First Aid & Basic medical procedure, 2010
4. A Textbook of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, 2065
5. A Textbook of Primary Health Care and Family Health, 2010
6. Biostatistics For Medical, Nursing and Pharmacy Students,
7. Biostatistics With Latest M C Q’s 2/e, 2008
8. Biostatistics, 2011
9. Clinical Pharmacology , 10/e, 2008
10. Community Medicine with Recent Advance, 2/e
11. Differential Diagnosis in laboratory Medicine, 2003
12. District Laboratory Practice in Tropical Countries, 2/e: Part 1
13. Epidemiology made Easy, 2009
14. Evidence-Based Infectious Diseases, 2/e, 2008
15. First Aid Handbook, 2006
16. Foundations of Community Medicine, 2/e, 2008
17. HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment, 2008
18. Handbook of Tuberculosis: Set of 3 Volumes
19. Infectious Diseases (Nepali)
20. Diagnostic Tests, 8/e, 2009
21. Kun Rog Ma Key Khaney? Key Na Khaney?
22. Manual of Practical Medicine, 4/e, 2011
23. Medical: Pharmacology and Pharmacy, 2009
24. Pran Ghatak Rog Haru Bat Bachney Upayaharu, 2067
25. Principles of Microbiology , 1/e
27. Saral Prathamik Upachar, 2066
29. Textbook of Bynaeology Contraception & Demography, 14th
31. The Short Textbook of Medical Microbiology, 10/e, 2010
32. Vaccines: Preventing Disease & protecting Health
33. AIDS, Pathology, Diagnosis, Treatment & Prevention, 3/e
34. A Textbook of Pharmacy & Pharmacology, 2065 (Nepali)
35. A Textbook of Public Health Administration and Management
37 Allergy & Immunology Secrets, 2/e
38 Clinical Tuberculosis, 4/e
39 Combating AIDS, 2003
40 District Laboratory Practice in Tropical Countries, 2/e: Part 2,
41 Doctor NDTV:HIV and AIDS, 2008
42 Encyclopedia of AIDS: Volume I & II, 2010
43 Essentials of Epidemiology, 2009
44 HIV/AIDS Health Care & Human Rights, 2010
45 HIV/AIDS and you, 2006
46 Handbook of Media for Clinical Microbiology, 2/e
47 Handbook of Preventive and Social Medicine, 2007
48 Health Education: A New Approach, 2007
49 Laboratory Manual, 2005
50 Management of Infectious Diseases, 1/e
51 Manual for Primary Health Care in The District, 2008
52 Manual of Chest Radiology, 1/e
53 Public Health Response to Biological ..Weapons, 2006
54 Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS, 2/e, 2009
55 Short Review of HIV/AIDS, 2007
56 Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary
57 Tuberculosis
58 Tuberculosis of the Skeletal System, 4/e
59 A History of Afghanistan: Set of 2 Volumes
60 A History of India 2003
61 Administrative System in Bhutan, 2002
62 Ajanta's Learner's Nep-English Dictionary
63 Bhutan: Kingdom of The Dragon, 1999
64 Bhutan And its Natural Resources, 1991
65 Bhutan, Decentralization & Good Governance, 2001
66 Culture Shock! Pakistan
67 Drugs Production and Trafficking in Afghanistan, 2007
68 Handbook of Foreign Affairs & Diplomacy of SAARC
69 Human Security in South Asia, 2003
70 India and Nepal: Treaties Agreements Understanding, 2009
71 Lonely Planet: Bangladesh
72 Lonely Planet: Bhutan (1)
73 Machination of Raw in South Asia, 2005
74 Nepalese Economy and India, 1997
75 Populations of The SAARC Countries, 2004
76 SAARC and its Future, 1989
77 Spirit of India: An Exotic Land of History..Colour, 2009
ii. Library upgrading, books/journals binding /other

Binding of all important books/journals has been done. Every year this work is carried out as regular activities of the Centre.

iii. Library upgrading with Audio Visual Materials

A 25 minutes duration, English language documentary under the title of “SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), An Introductory Documentary” has been produced to inform the people about the activities of the Centre.

17. Dissemination of information of TB & HIV/AIDS by updating SATC website:

STAC website has been updated with new looking of Home Page. Publications of the Centre have been uploaded on website along with information on TB & HIV/AIDS.

18. Procurement of chemicals and other lab materials for regular works at SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Reference Laboratory at STAC

Chemicals and materials have been procured as per the need of the laboratory.


SAAC TB Reference Laboratory supports National TB Reference Laboratories by coordinating and conducting many lab activities such as: Quality Assurance of sputum smear microscopy, culture and Drug
Susceptibility Testing, surveillance of drug resistance and TB/HIV co-infection and laboratory Bio-safety. The seventh round proficiency testing of sputum microscopy for National TB Ref. Laboratories is one of such kind. SAARC TB Reference laboratory has conducted the following rounds of QA activities:

1. First Round in 2003
2. Second Round in 2004
3. Third Round in 2005
4. Fourth Round in 2007
5. Fifth Round in 2008
6. Sixth Round in 2009
7. Seventh Round in 2010

The objective of the activity was to implement an ongoing proficiency testing Programme for sputum microscopy within the Network of National TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Region.

Methods

A panel of 10 slides (5 stained with ZN staining technique and 5 unstained smears) was prepared & validated at SAARC Regional TB Ref. Lab according to WHO/IUATLD guidelines and sent to 10 NTRLs of the Region were requested to examine the panel of slides by any two or more lab staff, who are responsible for the regular sputum smears microscopy and send back report (individual results separately without sharing each other and one institutional result as their team report) along with slides within one month. The reports were analyzed after receiving the results and examined slides from all National TB Ref. Labs.

Results

The results revealed that four out of ten National TB Reference Laboratories reported minor errors (4 LFN and 1 LFP) and major error (1 HFN) and achieved 85-95 percent score. Rest of the six laboratories reported no error of any type and achieved 100% score.

Conclusions

It is concluded that the performance of majority of the Ref. Labs was excellent and the participating labs showing minor errors also showed satisfactory performance as the results were within the limit of acceptance. The NTRL Network showed similar performance in previous six rounds of proficiency testing. It is hoped that all the NTRLs will sustain their satisfactory performance.

20. Research activity

1. HIV prevalence among MDR-TB patients in Bangladesh – The study is under process of completion.
21. Other activities carried out

- **STAC re-designated as WHO Collaborating Centre**: STAC was WHO Collaborating Centre since March 2002 for TB, TB/HIV, Research and Training. The Centre’s designation as WHO collaborating Centre has been extended for TB, HIV/AIDS, TB/HIV, Research and Training till July, 2014.

- **Participation in Expert Group Meeting**: On the invitation of SAARC Secretariat, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director and Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS) participated in the Expert Group Meeting held at SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu from 25th to 26th February 2010. Dr. Jha presented “HIV/AIDS and TB Scenario in SAARC Region”.

- **Deputy Director, STAC nominated in the Panel of Expert**: Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC has been included in the Panel of Experts for TB/HIV co-infection in the TBTEAM of Stop TB Partnership.

- **Audit of Accounts of STAC for the year 2009**: A Joint Audit Team for the year 2009 (JAT 09) comprising auditors Mr. Tempa Gyeltshen, Assistant Auditor General, Royal Government of Bhutan and Mr. Mohamed Zaeem, Assistant Director General, Auditor General’s Office, Republic of Maldives carried out the audit of the accounts and related activities of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre for the year 2009 from 21st to 22nd June, 2010.

22. Visit of STAC by National and International dignitaries

- Mr. Kazuyuki Uji and Ms. Nashida Sattar from UNDP visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS centre on 7th Sept. 2010 and observed the functioning of the Centre and expressed their happiness regarding the progress of the Centre


- A team consisting Mr. Ugen Dorji and Mr. Tenzin Dorji from Department of SAARC & Regional Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan and Ms. Roshan Khanal, Central Pass Port Office and Ms. Indira Gohiwar Aryal, SAARC Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal visited SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre on 18th October 2010 and observed the functioning of the Centre and discussed about the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region

- A team consisting Ms. Sayeda Jesmin Sultana Milky, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Reyad Hossain, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh and Mr. Christy Ruban, Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre on 23 Dec. 2010. A brief introduction of the Centre was given. The team observed the functioning of the Centre and expressed their satisfaction towards the progress and achievement of the Centre.
The following activities could not be carried out in the year 2010

1. SAARC Training of Trainers on Management of DOTS-plus for National, Provincial & District level Managers of National Tuberculosis Programme, Afghanistan.

2. SAARC Training of Trainers on Counseling, Care, Support and Treatment for National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme, Pakistan.


4. Strengthening/Capacity Building of SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Center’s Officials by attending Regional Workshops/Seminars/Trainings.

5. Two Partnership Programme with NGOs / Industry / Medical College / School / Pharmacists / Media / Travel Agencies / Manpower Agencies in Nepal.

6. Conferment of SAARC Award on TB and HIV/AIDS (TB or HIV/AIDS)

7. Drug Sensitivity Study (DST) of patients failing among CAT I treatment in collaboration with NTI, Bangalore, India.


9. Survey for Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis in TB/HIV co-infected patients in high HIV settings in India.
Annexures
Annex- I

SAARC Training of Trainers on Leadership & Strategic Management for National, Regional & District Level Managers of National TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programme

Jointly organized by:
SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), National TB Control Programme (NTC) and National Centre for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC), Nepal.
5th to 9th April 2010, Kathmandu, Nepal

List of Participants/ Resource Persons/Facilitators

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11. Mr. Lokesh Shah  
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SAARC Training of Trainers on Management of MDR-TB patients for National, Provincial & District level Managers of National Tuberculosis Programme, Bangladesh, 9th – 13th May 2010, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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3. Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana, Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS)  
4. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Jha, Statistician
Progress in TB Control in SAARC Member States

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