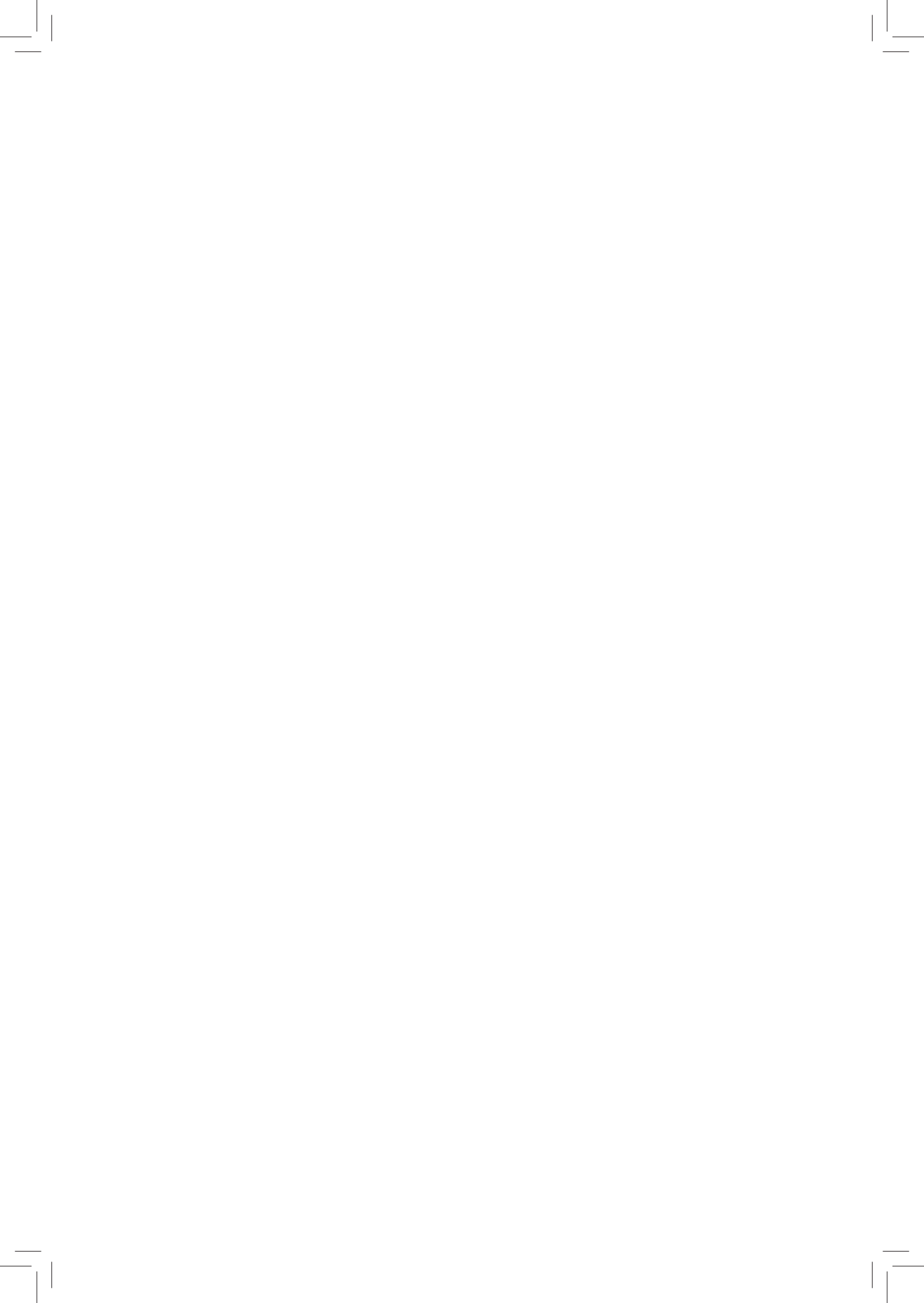




SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

Annual Report

2011





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SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

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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 2011. It is my pleasure to inform that STAC has carried out the planned activities for the year 2011. It would have been impossible to conduct the activities 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 programmes.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to H. E. Secretary General of SAARC, and Mr. Ibrahim Zuhree, Director, SAARC Secretariat for their generous support, guidance and full cooperation to implement the activities effectively. I would also like to thank all WHO, UNAIDS and other partners working in the field of TB & HIV/AIDS for their cooperation.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Governments of SAARC Member States for their cooperation and support for successful organization of STAC activities in the respective Member States 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kashi Kant Jha', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha

Director

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre/National TB Control Programme, Nepal



SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

Introduction

The Heads of State or Government of South Asian Nations - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka established the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) on the 8th day of December 1985. The seven countries were the founder members of the Regional Association. Afghanistan joined the SAARC as eighth member in 2007. The SAARC has its Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The SAARC Secretariat coordinates and monitors implementation of activities, prepares for meetings and serves as a channel for communication between the Association and its Member States as well as other Regional organizations. The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary General.

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) has been working with a mandate for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB Control Programmes (NTPs) and National AIDS Control Programmes (NACPs) of SAARC Member States. The vision of the Centre is to be the leading institute to support and guide SAARC Member States to make the Region free of TB and HIV/AIDS. Simultaneously, the Centre has its mission to support the efforts of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme through evidence based policy guidance, coordination and technical support.

Goal & Objective

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 a major public health problem in the SAARC Region. The objective of the Centre is 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.

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.

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:

Programmes for the year 2011

1. SAARC Regional Sensitization Meeting for Social Determinants of Health in relation to TB and HIV/AIDS, Bangladesh.
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, Bhutan and India.
3. SAARC Regional Training of Microbiologists for Sputum culture and Drug Susceptibility Test, India.
4. SAARC Regional Training for delivering of ART to HIV infected, India.
5. SAARC Regional Training of Trainers on Leadership & Strategic Management for National/Provincial/Regional level Managers of National Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes, India.
6. SAARC Regional Meeting of Managers of TB and HIV/AIDS of Member States, cross border issues on TB and HIV/AIDS, Maldives.
7. SAARC Training on Computer based Data Management on TB and HIV/AIDS, Nepal.
8. Meeting of the Directors/Chiefs of all National TB Reference Laboratories in Member States (10 labs), Nepal.
9. SAARC Training of Trainers on Leadership & Strategic Management for National, Provincial & District level Managers of National Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes, Pakistan.
10. SAARC Training of Trainers on Management of Drug Resistant TB (MDR TB), Sri Lanka.
11. Participation of STAC officials in Review of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of SAARC Member States.
12. Meetings with Collaborating Institutions for Strengthening Networking – WHO / UNAIDS / UNFPA & other collaborating Institutes.
13. Conferment of SAARC Award on TB and HIV/AIDS (TB and HIV/AIDS).
14. Preparatory works for SAARC Third Conference on TB HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases (2012).
15. Programme for SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS.
16. Presentation & Dissemination of Research findings TB & HIV/AIDS through participation in International Conferences.
 - 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.

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

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.
35. Annual Report of STAC-2010.
36. Printing of Report of Eighth Round Proficiency Testing of NRLs of SAARC Member States.
37. Publication of STAC's Vision Document.
38. Publication of SAARC Regional Strategy on TB/ HIV Co-infection.
39. Printing of Technical Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Sputum Smear Microscopy.
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.

Twenty-first Meeting of the Governing Board

On the invitation of SAARC Secretariat and SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), the Twenty-first Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC was held on 21st to 22nd September 2011 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Governing Board members from the Government of India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka along with representatives of SAARC Secretary-General and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal participated in the Meeting.



Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC extended a warm welcome to all the Board Members in the Meeting. Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Director, Social Affairs Division, SAARC Secretariat gave his remarks. He mentioned in his remarks that the Regional Centres of SAARC are functioning in the Region in identified priority areas. He also highlighted on strengthening and upgrading of SAARC National TB Reference Laboratory at STAC.

Dr. Bal Krishna Suvedi, Chief, Policy Planning and International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal, as Chairperson of the Board, declared the meeting open.

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

The meeting was attended by the following Board Members:

Dr. Mohammed Shaukat Usta, Assistant Director General, Department of AIDS Control, National AIDS Control Organization, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, India

Dr Bal Krishna Suvedi, Chief, Policy, Planning and International Co-operation Division, Ministry of Health and Population, Ramshah path, Kathmandu, Nepal

Ms. Lalita Silwal, Section Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SAARC Division, Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Mr. Ahmar Ismail, Charge d' Affaires, Pakistan Embassy, Kathmandu

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

Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Director, Social Affairs Division, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu.

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

Recommended Programmes for the year 2012

1. SAARC Regional Training on Tuberculosis Infection Control
2. Experience sharing by Regional Experts through observation of National TB Control programme implementation and best practices, Bangladesh
3. SAARC Regional Training on “Research Methodology for Protocol Development” (TB and HIV/AIDS Programme)
4. SAARC Regional TOT for Microbiologist for culture and DST of M. tuberculosis
5. Experience sharing by Regional Experts through observation of the National HIV/AIDS control Programme implementation and best practice, India
6. SAARC Training on Management Information for Action (MIFA) on TB and HIV/AIDS Programmes
7. The SAARC Regional Meeting of Managers of National TB Control Programmes for Programme review and Management of Cross Border issues
8. SAARC Regional Expert Group Meeting of TB Programme Managers to finalize the draft SAARC Regional Strategy for the control / Elimination of Tuberculosis
9. SAARC Consultative Meeting of Programme Managers of HIV/AIDS to revise the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2012-2016)
10. Expert Group Meeting on HIV/AIDS; special session to finalize the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2012-2016)
11. The SAARC Regional Meeting of Managers of National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes for Programme review
12. Situation Analysis of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme and Observation of best practices in Sri-Lanka
13. Preparation of draft SAARC Regional Strategy for the Control/Elimination of Tuberculosis in the Region (by hiring a Consultant)
14. Conferment of SAARC Prize on HIV/AIDS
15. Programmes for SAARC Goodwill Ambassador/s for HIV/AIDS
16. Meetings with Collaborating Institutions for Strengthening Networking – WHO / UNAIDS / UNFPA & other collaborating Institutes
17. Presentation & Dissemination of Research findings on TB & HIV/AIDS through participation in International Conferences
 - iii. 43rd Union World Conference on Lung Health OR
 - ii. International AIDS Conference on HIV/AIDS

18. Participation in Regional Conferences in the Member States, (two conferences-two persons in each conference)
19. 9th Round Proficiency Testing of NRLs in SAARC Member States

Research

20. Genotyping of Multi-drug Resistant Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Strains in SAARC Region at STAC
21. Study to determine the causes related to sub-optimal participation of private practitioners in National TB Program in Nepal
22. Study of factors associated with development of MDR in TB patients on DOTS-Bhutan
23. HIV Prevalence among TB patients by visiting National Tuberculosis Centre, Nepal and drug susceptibility pattern M. Tuberculosis Isolated from TB patients with or without HIV infection, Nepal
24. The Pharmacovigilance Study on FDCs (Anti TB drugs) in Sri-Lanka

Regular Activities

Commemoration/Celebration of

25. World TB Day
26. World AIDS Day
27. SAARC Charter Day
28. Distribution of STAC publications, related documents and other materials
29. Review of Articles of SAARC Journals of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS
30. Dissemination of information of TB & HIV/AIDS by updating STAC Website
31. Procurement of chemicals and other lab materials for regular works at SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Reference Laboratory at STAC
32. Purchase/subscription of books and journals for STAC Library

Printing of STAC Publications

33. STAC Newsletters
34. SAARC Journals of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS
35. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Reports (Updates) on Tuberculosis-2012
36. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Reports (Updates) on HIV/AIDS including TB/HIV Co-infection-2012
37. Annual Report of STAC-2011
38. Printing of Report of 9th Round Proficiency Testing of NRLs of SAARC Member States
39. Printing of Report on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Management and diagnosis and treatment facilities in Member States
40. Printing of SAARC Regional Strategy on Advocacy, Communication & Social Mobilization for TB and HIV/AIDS
41. Printing of SAARC Regional Directory of Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Laboratory Institutions and Experts
42. Wall Calendar 2013
43. Participation of STAC officials in Review of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme of SAARC Member States

Reports on Activities Carried out and Achievements of the Centre in 2011

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

- Commemoration of World TB Day, World AIDS Day and
- Celebration of SAARC Charter Day

1.1. World TB Day 2011

World TB Day commemorated on 24 March every year is geared to step up global awareness about the epidemic of tuberculosis and to renew efforts to eliminate the disease. Although factors like growing drug resistance and dual epidemic of TB and HIV are posing a great challenge to the treatment of tuberculosis, it is preventable and curable if necessary precautions are taken and patients adheres to the drug regimen.

This year's World TB Day entered into the second year of the two year campaign, "On the move against tuberculosis" focusing on innovation in TB research and care. Accelerating the campaign, are fresh objectives and targets from the Global Plan to Stop TB 2011-2015: "Transforming the Fight—Towards Elimination of TB", launched in October 2010 by the Stop TB partnership.

The theme of the World TB Day 2011 was set up as "On the move against tuberculosis; Transforming the Fight Towards Elimination".

SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) organized different activities to observe the Day:

A. Partnership Programme with KIST Medical College & Teaching Hospital

Introduction

A partnership programme with Medical College was organized by SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) at KIST Medical College & Teaching Hospital (KMCTH), Lalitpur, Nepal on 22nd March 2011.

Dr. (Prof.) Trilok Pati Thapa, Principal, KMCTH chaired the programme. Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Director, SAARC Secretariat graced the programme as Guest of Honour.



Objectives

Following were the objectives of the programme:

- to discuss the roles of Medical Colleges in capacity building, service delivery and research in relation to National TB Control Programme (NTP) and
- to disseminate updated information on TB control programme for seeking coordination and cooperation in control efforts on TB.

Participation

The programme was attended by more than 100 medical students and staff of the college.

Proceeding

Welcoming the participants and guests, Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC made a presentation on "Introduction of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and Role of Medical College in Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis". Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Senior Consultant Chest Physician, National TB Centre, Nepal made a presentation on "Managing TB and DR-TB in NTP Nepal". Dr. V. S. Salhotra made a presentation on "Global & SAARC Regional burden of Tuberculosis & New Drugs and Diagnostics on Tuberculosis".

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani Associate Prof. Department of Internal Medicine, KMCTH, Lalitpur made a presentation on "Linkages between National TB Centre, SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre & KIST Medical College" and Dr. Miles Jung Sijapati, Lecturer, Department of Internal Medicine, In-Charge, DOTS Clinic, Facilitator for PAL Activities, KMCTH Lalitpur made presentation on "Efforts of KMCTH in Prevention & Control of TB/HIV & AIDS".

Discussion and participatory interaction programme were held after completion of above mentioned presentations.

In the programme, remarks were given by Dr. Mohammad Akhtar, Medical Officer, WHO/NTP, Nepal and Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Director, SAARC Secretariat.

Dr. Trilok Pati Thapa, Chairperson of the programme delivered closing remarks and vote of thanks was given by Mr. K. B. Karki, Training Officer, STAC.

Outcome

The outcome of the programme was the enhancement of involvement of Medical College in Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

B. Interaction Programme with Journalists

On the occasion of World TB Day 2011, an interaction programme with Journalist was organized on 20th March 2011 by National TB Centre. The programme was organized under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and National TB Centre. Dr. Jha read out a Press Release published on the occasion of World TB Day and Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC made presentation on “Status of TB in SAARC Region”.

C. Main Programme

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre commemorated the day by participating in a main event which was jointly organized by National TB Control Programme (NTP), Ministry of Health & Population, Government of Nepal and NGOs/INGOs in Kathmandu on 24th March 2011. The function was chaired by Dr. Sudha Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal.



Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Information & Communications, Health & Population and Land Reform & Management Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Representative of H. E. Secretary General, SAARC graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Mr. Deepak Raj Giri and Ms. Deepashree Niraula, Goodwill Ambassadors for TB control, Nepal also attended the programme as Guest of Honour. In addition, the programme was attended by Dr. Yashovardhan Pradhan, Director General, Department of Health Services, Mr. Devendra Bahadur Pradhan, President, Nepal Anti-TB Association and Dr. Lin Aung, WHO Representative to Nepal.

Dr. Pradhan, Director General, Department of Health Services welcomed the distinguished guests and participants by offering welcome remarks which was followed by a welcome song sung by different artists about the awareness on TB diseases.

Inauguration of Programme

The programme was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Information & Communications, Health & Population and Land Reform & Management by lighting the traditional oil lamp.

Presentations

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC presented, Situation of Tuberculosis in SAARC Region and Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, then Acting Director, National TB Centre made a presentation on achievements of NTP, Nepal.

Remarks

Remarks were delivered by President, NATA, Cured TB Patient, WHO Representative to Nepal, Representative of H. E., Secretary General SAARC and the Chief Guest. The closing remark was delivered by the Chairperson and vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. B. K. Lal, Medical Officer, NTC.

Releasing of Publications

The Chief Guest released Annual Report 2010 of STAC along with other publications.

Message from Her Excellency

On this occasion of World TB Day, special message of Her Excellency Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed, Secretary-General, SAARC was published. This message was sent to all NTPs of Member States of SAARC for media coverage, which was covered by the media



Messages from National/International Dignitaries

Messages from Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Jhalanath Khana, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Information & Communications, Health & Population and Land Reform & Management Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, H. E. Secretary General of SAARC, Secretaries, Ministry of Health & Population, Govt. of Nepal Dr. Prabin Mishra and Dr. Shudha Sharma, Director General, Department of Health Services, Govt. of Nepal Dr. Yashovardhan Pradhan and Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and National TB Centre Dr. Kashi Kant Jha were published in the National Daily of Nepal on 24th March 2011.

Distribution of STAC Publications

On this occasion, STAC distributed brochure "General Information on Tuberculosis" specially published for World TB Day 2011 along with other publications related to awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS.

Display of Banners/ Flexes

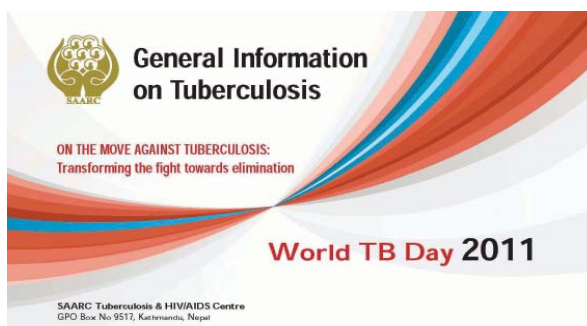
Banners displaying different slogans relating to TB and HIV/AIDS were displayed in the premises of joint function and main programme venue.

Exhibition

Number of flex posters with information on STAC and the activities for TB and HIV/AIDS prevention and control in Member States were developed and displayed in the exhibition hall. At the end of the function the Chief Guest along with the other dignitaries and visitors observed the exhibition.

Publication of Special Article

Special article titled “**Are we doing enough for TB control?**” – Time to introspect on World TB Day 2011, written by Dr. Kashi Kant Jha & Dr. V. S. Salhotra was published in REPUBLICA a National Daily Newspaper of Nepal on 24 March 2011.



Publication of brochure

A brochure titled “General Information on Tuberculosis” was published on the occasion of World TB Day 2011, which was distributed to general people at the premises of joint programme.

1.2. World AIDS Day 2011

World AIDS Day is celebrated around the world including SAARC Member States on December 1st each year. It has become one of the most recognized international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS, show their support for people living with HIV/AIDS, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories, such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.

This day brings people together from all over the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity in the face of the pandemic. The day is an opportunity for public and private partners to spread awareness about the status of the pandemic and encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention treatment and care in high prevalence countries and around the world. The theme of the World AIDS Day 2011 was “**Getting to zero: zero new HIV infection, zero discrimination, zero AIDS related deaths**” backed by the United Nations the “Getting to zero” campaign runs until 2015 and builds on last year’s successful World AIDS Day.

Activity organized to observe the Day

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

Introduction

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) commemorated the World AIDS Day 2011 by organizing an awareness programme on HIV/AIDS & TB for school students and teachers at Training Building, NTC/STAC Hall, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal on 1st December 2011.

Objective

The objective of the programme was to enhance awareness on important aspects of HIV/AIDS and TB among school students and teachers.



Participation

The programme was attended by more than 80 participants from Bode Higher Secondary School, Modern College, Jana Adarsha College, S. S. College, and Adarsha Higher Secondary School of Bhaktapur district.

Opening Session

The programme started with the registration of participants. Document prepared on Basic Information on HIV/AIDS in TB/HIV Co-infection was distributed to the participants.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC started programme by delivering welcome address. He highlighted the importance of the day for the enhancing knowledge of students and teachers regarding the fact on HIV/AIDS. Dr. N. K. Afridi, Epidemiologist, STAC gave a presentation on "Introduction of the theme of World AIDS Day 2011, General Information on HIV/AIDS & control strategy for HIV infection". Dr. Badri Thapa, Microbiologist, STAC gave a presentation on "General Information on TB/HIV Co-infection and its Control". Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC gave a presentation on "Introduction of STAC, Role of School Students & Teachers in prevention and control of HIV/AIDS".

The presentations were followed by discussions. Participating students and teachers raised different questions regarding HIV/AIDS and TB, its control strategy in Nepal as well as the availability of services in the community. Simultaneously, participants showed their enthusiasm to play the role in the community against HIV/AIDS and TB.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director and other experts from STAC/NTC clarified the issues raised by the participants and shared the experiences with them regarding the discrimination and stigmatization caused by HIV/AIDS & TB prevailing in the community. Dr. Jha explained the role of students and teachers in prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and TB in the community and also urged the students to play the role of **Child Ambassadors** for spreading awareness on HIV/AIDS and TB in the society. He gave the example of Ms. Shabana Azmi and Mr. Sanat Jayasuria as SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS and Ms. Deepa Shree Niraula and Mr. Deepak Raj Giri, Goodwill Ambassador for TB control in Nepal.

Dr. S. C. Verma, Senior Consultant, Chest Physician, National TB Centre, Government of Nepal gave remarks on importance of spreading of awareness to control HIV/AIDS and TB in the community through friend circle of the students.

Mr. Ramesh Poudel, Teacher, Modern College, Thimi, Bhaktapur and Ms. Sapana Rajthala, Teacher, Adarsha Higher Secondary School, Thimi, Bhaktapur gave their remarks on behalf of participants.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, delivered vote of thank.

1.3. SAARC Charter Day

Introduction

South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was established in 1985 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. Celebration of SAARC Charter Day (8th December) is taken as an opportunity to spread awareness to the general people on SAARC, TB and HIV/AIDS. Every year, on this occasion different activities are organized to celebrate the day.

This year STAC and SIC jointly celebrated the Day by organizing the following activities:

Quiz Contest and Painting Competition were organized with an objective to sensitize the students of various schools about the SAARC. The quiz contest was based on the SAARC related information/knowledge and painting competition was organized with the title of **“Building Bridges”**.

Painting competition

The participating students prepared their paintings as per the given title “Building Bridges”, which was the theme of 17th SAARC Summit. All the participants completed their painting in given period of time. The painting, drawn by Mr. Safal Lama from Kailash Bodhi School, Kathmandu was selected as the best and declared as First Prize winner. The paintings drawn



by Mr. Sonam from DENE International School, Kathmandu declared as Second Prize winner, Mr. Khaba Hang Rai from Care English Boarding School, Kathmandu declared as Third Prize winner and Miss. Sudheekshya K. Shah, Care English Boarding School, Kathmandu declared as consolation prize winner. The painting competition was judged by two eminent professionals from Nepal Art Council.

Quiz Contest

Seven groups of the students (five students from each school) participated. Everest Higher Secondary School, DENE International School, and Nobel Academy, stood first, second and third respectively in the Quiz Contest.

SAARC Charter Day Celebration Ceremony

A special programme was organized to celebrate the 26th SAARC Charter Day in Kathmandu on 8th Dec. 2011. The programme was Chaired by Dr. Niranjana Man Singh Basnyat, Director, SAARC Secretariat. Mr. Narayan Prasad Sharma, Chairperson, Press Council Nepal attended the programme as Chief Guest.



Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC delivered welcome address. He extended a warm welcome to the participants of the competition, guests and officials in the special programme. On behalf of the participating students from Societal Higher Secondary School, Kathmandu and DENE International School, Kathmandu gave remarks. Simultaneously, on behalf of the participating schools, teacher from DENE International School, Kathmandu gave remarks.

Dr. Nirajan Man Singh Basnyat, Director, SAARC Secretariat delivered his remarks as chairperson of the function.

The Chief Guest awarded certificates and distributed the prizes to the winners of the competitions and delivered his remarks. Mr. Laxmi Bilas Koirala, Director, SIC was also present during the ceremony.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Pankaj Pandey, Senior Programme Manager, SIC.

Dr. Badri Thapa, Microbiologist, STAC conducted the programme as Master of Ceremony.

2. SAARC Training on Computer-based Data Management on TB & HIV/AIDS, 21st -25th April 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal

Background

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Kathmandu and Government of Nepal jointly organized SAARC Training on Computer-based Data Management on TB and HIV/AIDS for persons working on data in National TB Control and National AIDS Control Programmes in Nepal. The training was held on 21st - 25th April 2011 in Kathmandu.



Objectives

The objectives of the activity were to strengthen the skills of participants in effective data management using analytical software programmes and to improve the knowledge and skills of participants in scientific report writing.

Participation

The training was attended by 26 participants from National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of Nepal. Participants were provided with desktop computer and necessary training handouts. Resource persons from Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur, India, experts from NTP Nepal and STAC facilitated the programme.

Opening Session

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC delivered welcome address in the opening session of the training. On behalf of Director, STAC, Dr. Salhotra made a presentation on "Introduction of STAC along with Objective and Methodology of the training.

In the opening session remarks were given by Dr. S. C. Verma, Senior Consultant Chest Physician, National TB Centre (NTC), Government of Nepal, Dr. M. Akhtar, WHO Medical Officer, NTP, Nepal Dr. Ramesh Kumar Kharel, Officiating Director, National Centre for HIV & STD Control, Government of Nepal and Dr. Anoop Khanna, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur, India as Facilitator.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC and NTC, delivered opening remarks for the programme. Dr. Badri Thapa, Microbiologist, STAC delivered vote of thanks.

Technical Session

The session started with the introduction of data software, over view of MS Office and use of software for data management were discussed. In this session participants were acquainted with Data Entry, Calculation of Variance, Sorting of Data, Freezing Panels, Use of Fitness, If commands, Data Validations, etc.

The other technical sessions were concentrated into different assignments, exercises, data management and analysis.

Outcome

The outcome of the training was the enhancement of NTP/NACP data management to produce accurate information which will ultimately facilitate the preparation of updated National and Regional reports.

Closing Session

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC welcomed the participants in the session and highlighted the importance of training. He thanked participants, resource persons, facilitators and officials for supporting the programme. He also presented pre & post test results.

On behalf of Participants, Mr. Daya Krishna Pant, FWRHD, Dipayal, Ms. Bhim Kumari Pariyar, NCASC, Kathmandu and Mr. Dharmendra Prasad Lekhak, NCASC, Kathmandu gave their remarks and thanked the Director, STAC and Resource Persons for their cooperation and support.

The training was facilitated by Dr. Anoop Khanna, Associate Professor, Indian Institute for Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur, India and supported by local facilitators.

Dr. Kashi kant Jha, Director, STAC and NTC, Nepal delivered closing remarks. He extended thanks to Resource Persons, Facilitators, Participants and supporting staff from STAC and NTC. Dr. Badri thapa, Microbiologist, STAC delivered vote of thanks.

The certificates were distributed to participants and facilitators.

3. SAARC Regional Training of Microbiologists for Sputum Culture and Drug Susceptibility Test for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis, 1st – 7th September, 2001, Bangalore, India

Background

SAARC Regional Training of Microbiologists for Sputum Culture & Drug Susceptibility Test for M. tuberculosis was organized jointly by the STAC and Revised National TB Control Programme, Government of India at National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI) Bangalore, India from 1st to 7th September, 2011.



Objectives

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

Participation

The participants from Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri-Lanka attended the Training Course.

Opening Session

Dr. Prahlad Kumar, Director, National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI), Bangalore, Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS (STAC), Dr. K.M. Shivakumar Additional Director, NTI, Dr. Badri Thapa, Microbiologist, STAC and Dr. Ranjani Ramachanran, Resource Person from Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC), Chennai, India jointly opened the training by lighting the traditional lamp.

The Director, NTI welcomed the participants and resource persons delivering his remarks. He thanked the STAC for selecting NTI as training venue and appreciated the role played by the Centre for management of MDR-TB in the region. Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC conveyed the best wishes of Director, STAC and readout the message of the Director. Dr. Salhotra also highlighted the importance of the Training Course and appreciated the

support rendered by the RNTCP, Government of India and excellent arrangement made by the NTI, Bangalore for the Course.

Dr. Ranjani Ramachanran, Resource Person from Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC), Chennai, India and Dr. Preetish S. Vaidyanathan, NTI, Bangalore also spoke at the Session.

Dr. Badri Thapa, Microbiologist, STAC delivered the vote of thanks.

Technical Session

The technical session started with the pre-test followed by the presentations from Mr. S. Anand & Mrs. Hema Sundaram, Microbiologists, NTI, Dr. Badri Thapa, Microbiologist, STAC and Dr. Ranjani Ramachandran, Microbiologist, TRC, Chennai, India. The presentations were based on the following topics:

- i. STAC and its laboratory related activities & future plan
- ii. Overview of MTB, Conventional Culture and DST
- iii. Laboratory standards for culture and DST
- iv. Bio-safety in laboratory
- v. Personal protective equipments
- vi. Laboratory safety
- vii. Sputum collection, packaging and transportation
- viii. WHO policy and guidelines in using diagnostic tests
- ix. Xpert MTB/Rif system
- x. Waste management
- xi. Newer methods in TB diagnosis

The participants were also taken to the laboratory and showed the infrastructure for specimen collection, processing, culture, DST, reporting & recording, sterilization, disinfection, cold room, walk in incubator, layout of the equipment and care and maintenance of the equipment. The participants also observed the sterilization and disinfection process by using horizontal and vertical autoclaves. The use of 5% phenol for disinfection of laboratory, floor instruments and the management of major and minor spills were mentioned. Participants were also acquainted with the sputum collection system at microscopy centre and three layer packaging system for transportation of sputum and culture of specimens. The use of CPC method of sputum transportation was also briefed. The participants were also acquainted with the solid plain and drug containing LJ media used for culture and DST. Presentation on newer methods of culture and DST was also explained along with the WHO policy guidelines on new diagnostic tools.

Presentation on Xpert MTB/RIF, a cutting edge technology for diagnosing MTB and Rifampicin resistance was made. Xpert MTB/RIF is recommended as the primary diagnostic test where available, including in persons living with HIV, or as a follow-on test (at higher

level of the health service) after screening by sputum smear microscopy (at lower level of the health service) or after screening by chest radiography. It was also mentioned that these are WHO policies but the decision depends upon the country.

Participants observed the procedures of modified Petroff's method for decontamination and digestion of sputum and shared their own experiences regarding the technique. A brief lecture was also given regarding the processing and culture of extra pulmonary samples.

Culture reading and interpretation on how to read the primary culture and interpret the results, identification of contaminated cultures and troubleshooting on common problems associated with the culture reading were thought through.

The colony morphology, rate of growth and biochemical tests for identification of positive culture for identifying MTB and Non-MTB tests like, Niacin, Nitrate, and colony morphology were demonstrated.

The procedure to prepare Mc Farland 1 Standard was presented to compare the inoculums with this standard. The inoculation of the drug containing media is only done with a calibrated loop (3mm) which holds 10^6 to 10^8 CFU/ml of MTB. The method of calibration using filter paper technique was demonstrated.

Reading and Interpretation of 1st and 2nd line DST, Recording and Reporting, Preservation of *M. tuberculosis*, Standard and Wild Strain Preservation, Lab Performance Indicators, Trouble Shooting on Laboratory Procedures, Use of Fluorescent Microscope, Fluorescent Staining and Observation, EQA of Fluorescent Microscope, Overview on MGIT 960, System Overview etc. were explained.

Outcomes

- i. The participants learned minimum laboratory standards required for TB culture and DST for 1st and 2nd line drugs using solid (LJ) and liquid culture systems (MGIT 960)
- ii. The participants knowledge on WHO policy and guidelines on TB diagnosis (conventional to state of art technology; Line probe Assay, Capilia TB and Xpert MTB/RIF) was enhanced
- iii. The participants learned infection control and prevention standards and practices on MTB infection prevention and control in TB laboratory
- iv. The participants learned sterilization and disinfection techniques applicable for TB laboratory
- v. Participants were able to identify the problems in culture and DST and solve the problems

- vi. The participants learned FM microscopy technique (reagent preparation, staining and observation) and External Quality Assurance System.
- vii. The participants were able to assess the performance of their TB laboratory. The technical session was concluded with the Post Test.

Closing

Dr. P. Kumar, Director, NTI and Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC awarded the certificates to the participants and Resource Persons. The participants and resource persons gave their remarks. Dr. Bardi Thapa, Microbiologist, STAC thanked to the participants, resource persons and NTI team for successful completion of the training.

4. SAARC Regional Training on Leadership and Strategic Management for National/Regional level TB and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Programme Managers in Jaipur, India, 21st – 25th November 2011

Background

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Kathmandu organized a five-day programme on “SAARC Training on Leadership and Strategic Management for Programme Managers of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes at Jaipur, India. The programme was held with the coordination of Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur and Government of India from 21st to 25th of November 2011.



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 SAARC Region.

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.
- 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 the Region in order to achieve the desired goals.
- To scale-up the existing collaboration & coordination among Programme Managers of the SAARC Region.
- To train the participants as trainers for further training of the staff in leadership and strategic management in their respective countries.

Participation

Twelve participants from Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka nominated by respective SAARC Member States attended the training. They were from National TB Control Programme and from National HIV/AIDS Control Programme.

Opening Session

Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director, IIMR, Jaipur, welcomed the participants, resource persons and officials in the programme. In his opening remarks Dr. Gupta elaborated the importance of leadership training programme and its effectiveness. He also thanked the STAC officials and wished the participants for a successful accomplishment of the objectives of the training programme.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC, Nepal delivered opening remarks by thanking the SAARC Member States, Government of India and IIMR for providing concurrence to organize the training programme in Jaipur. He also thanked the resource persons and participants. He concluded his remarks by wishing for a successful completion of training programme and a pleasant stay of participants in Jaipur.

Dr. Virender Singh Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC, delivered vote of thanks.

Technical sessions

The technical session was started with the introduction of resource materials to be used in the training. The eight modules developed by WHO/SEARO in association with IIMR, Jaipur for leadership & Strategic Management were used.

Dr. S. D. Gupta, Dr. V. K. Arora and Dr. Nutan Jain from IIMR, Jaipur participated as expert resource persons for the training programme. Dr. K. K. Jha, Director, Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director and Dr. N. K. Afridi, Epidemiologist, STAC, Nepal facilitated the training programme.

The following training methodologies were adopted:

1. Presentations
2. Individual exercises
3. Group work
4. Discussion
5. Brainstorming
6. Case studies
7. Role plays
8. Plenary discussions

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC started the training by giving a presentation on "Contribution of STAC to TB & HIV/AIDS Control in the SAARC Member States". Dr. Virender S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC also elaborated on objectives and methodology of training.

Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain, Resource Person/Coordinator administered the pre-test questionnaire to the participants. Later on Dr. Jain made a presentation on organizational behavior and explained the three managerial modes.

Dr. S.D. Gupta, Director, IHMR started the training session from module -1. He elaborated on qualities and differences between leaders and managers. He also explained how to prepare vision document.

Dr. V. K. Arora consequently elaborated on module regarding managerial styles and role efficacy and discussed on personal effectiveness scale. He explained the Johari window and discussed about arena, blind, closed and dark dimensions of personal effectiveness.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC gave a detail presentation on TB and HIV/AIDS situation in SAARC region.

Dr. Salhotra also told that to make a difference in program it is necessary that there should be openness to feedback and feedback should never be taken in negative perception but rather improvement in program. In the mean time, the approval of IPT from World Health Organization was also discussed along with the role of IPT in HIV positive cases.

A test on “measure of detection: communication” A role play of four participants was performed on communication message. It demonstrated that verbal message got altered when it was transmitted from one to another participant. It was explained that 15-20% of the time is spent on speaking, reading and writing but almost 45% of the time is spent on listening. So proper and appropriate listening is a key to successful learning. Asufa inventory (TBC) was also discussed during the training.

Post-test was conducted for the purpose of evaluating the successfulness of training. This was followed by the series of reflections presented by the participants on all the modules covered during the training period.

Outcomes

- Development of a group of motivated Programme Managers equipped with updated knowledge on managerial styles, leadership styles etc.
- Strengthened liaison & collaboration between National TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes among SAARC Region.
- Prepared a group of motivated Programme Managers equipped with improved managerial skills and leadership qualities to achieve the time bound pledges of the Millennium Development Goals and to scale up the prevention and control activities further.

Closing Session

Dr. K. K. Jha, Director, STAC welcomed Dr. S. K. Puri, Dean, IIHMR Jaipur as a Chief Guest in the session. Dr. Jha thanked SAARC Member States for sending participants for the programme and IIHMR for providing concurrence to organize the training programme in Jaipur. In his remarks he extended best wishes for the success in all future endeavors to all.

Dr. S. K. Puri Dean, IIHMR, India in his remarks offered tribute of thanks to all the resource persons and all the participants. He admired the role of STAC in organizing this leadership training programme in Jaipur, India. He concluded his speech by offering special thanks to Director, Deputy Director and other officials of STAC, resource persons and facilitators who attended the training programme and made it successful.

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

5. Workshop between STAC Library and Library of Kathmandu Valley based Hospitals and Medical Colleges in Nepal, 12th Dec. 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal

Background

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Kathmandu organized a workshop for STAC library and libraries of Kathmandu valley based hospitals and Medical Colleges at Thimi, Bhaktapur on 12th Dec. 2011.



General Objective

The objective of the workshop was to share resources between STAC library and other medical libraries located in Kathmandu valley.

Specific Objectives:

- To find the possible methods in sharing the library resources and establish networking among medical libraries in Kathmandu Valley to share information.
- To reach an agreement in creating a link of the STAC Library resources with other medical libraries.
- Developing an understanding to disseminate information to the library users about each others resources

Participation

The workshop was attended by the participants from different Medical Colleges located in Kathmandu valley, Nepal.

Opening Session

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) welcomed the participants, resource persons and officials in the workshop by delivering welcome speech. In his welcome address Dr. Jha requested the participants to accomplish the workshop as per the given objectives.

Mrs. Gita Thapa, gave her remarks by thanking the Director, STAC for providing such an opportunity to share ideas. She also mentioned the importance of resource sharing among medical libraries for maximum utilization of the available resources.

Dr. Naseem Khan Afridi, Epidemiologist, STAC made a presentation on the Introduction of STAC & the Library. Dr. Badri Thapa, Microbiologist, STAC facilitated the workshop.

Technical Session

Mr. Uttam Ratna Shakya, thanked STAC and the Director for giving opportunity to facilitate the workshop as a resource person. He made his presentation on need of resource sharing among the hospitals and medical libraries. He presented his view on the various methods and technologies available. He highlighted the main objectives and the advantages of resource sharing. He described that the present situation on sharing resources is not functional among the medical and hospitals' libraries. This may be due to lack of knowledge of the libraries and the financial support from the host organization. He made his conclusion by strongly emphasizing on the need of resource sharing among the libraries as no single library could hold all the information published and make them available to the users.

Outcomes

- Consensus has been established in sharing of resources between medical libraries located in Kathmandu valley.
- Development of networking for sharing the library resources and finding out the possible methodology in this aspect.
- Establishment of linkages among the participatory libraries
- Development of understanding to disseminated information

Recommendations

- Establish coordinating body
- Conduct regular meetings at least once in a year
- Web based software
- Public IP, High Bandwidth facility
- Need of MOU for linkage development

Closing Session

On the behalf of the participants, Mr. Chandra Bhusan Yadav made a presentation of recommendations. He highlighted on the infrastructure requirement in a library. He emphasized the need of powerful IP address for online access, strong bandwidth and the willingness among the libraries to share the resources. He also discussed the main constrains of such work. He informed all the participants for development of linkages among the libraries, a coordinating body should be formed. All the libraries should use common library software which is compatible for all.

6. Printing of STAC Publications

STAC published the following publications in 2011:

1. STAC Newsletters (both the issues, Vol. XXI No. 1 and 2)
2. SAARC Journal of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS – (both the issues Vol. VIII No. 1 and 2)
3. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Report (Update) on Tuberculosis 2011
4. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Report (Update) on HIV/AIDS including TB/HIV Co-infection 2011
5. Annual Report 2010
6. STAC Vision Document
7. SAARC Regional Strategy on TB/HIV co-infection
8. SAARC Training Module for AFB Smear Microscopy and Quality Assurance in AFB Smear Microscopy:
 - i. Participant's Manual
 - ii. Trainer's Manual
9. Compiled Reports of Research Activities conducted by the Centre since beginning to 2009
10. Brochure on General Information on TB and HIV/AIDS 2011
11. Report on Eighth Round Proficiency Testing of Sputum Smear Microscopy
12. Compiled Report on Situation Analysis of NTPs and NACPs of Member Countries conducted by the Centre (2004 to 2009)

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

Publications, documents and related materials have been distributed through postal services and also distributed to the people who requested to get the STAC publications through STAC library.

8. Review of Articles of SAARC Journal of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS

All articles published in SAARC Journal of TB, Lung Diseases, and HIV/AIDS have been reviewed by peer reviewers. The articles published in two issues of the journal were as follows:

1. Study on the prevalence of pulmonary tuberculosis among HIV positive attending HIV clinics in eastern Nepal
2. Behavior and HIV/STI sero-prevalence survey among migrant labors, their wives and other women with STI syndromes in Kanchanpur
3. A widening gap in economic crisis and opportunities: a perspective of migration and HIV from Dadelhdhura, far-west of Nepal
4. Prioritization of research under national aids control programme in India using nominal group technique
5. Panel testing of sputum smear microscopy of national tuberculosis reference laboratories in SAARC region 2003:2010
6. Treatment seeking behaviour for pulmonary tuberculosis among chest symptomatics in Bhutan
7. Tuberculosis of larynx – a case study, India
8. Do doctors know enough on tuberculosis? A survey among government medical officers in the curative health sector
9. Drug susceptibility profile of *M. tuberculosis* among category – ii failure patients under RNTCP drug susceptibility of *M. Tuberculosis*
10. A profile of patients registered at art centre at Surat municipal institute of medical education & research in Surat city, Gujarat, India
11. Molecular characterization and comparison of multi drug resistant strains of mycobacterium tuberculosis by phenotypic and genotypic method
12. National external quality assurance scheme for HIV testing using dried blood spot: a feasibility study
13. A comparison of three versus two sputum smear microscopy in a government medical college, Patiala, India
14. Ocular manifestations in HIV positive patients attending Khyber teaching hospital Peshawar
15. Awareness regarding HIV/AIDS among college students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
16. Distribution of ABO and RH blood groups in HIV sero-positives at an integrated counseling and testing centre in Karnataka, India

9. 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

Regular update on recent information of TB & HIV/AIDS is being done. Periodical and timely update for the purpose of giving information has been initiated. Strengthening of linkage among STAC and NTPs, NACPs has been established and linkage among Medical Colleges has been started and will be carried out continuously.

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

As per the need of laboratory, chemicals and materials have been procured.

11. Strengthening of STAC Library

11.1. Purchase / Subscription of books and Journals

Following books have been purchased in 2011

- 1 CD-ROM International pharmacopoeia 4th ed. 2011 including first and second supplements - WHO/SEARO
- 2 Cross border health care in the European Union - WHO/SEARO
- 3 CDROM quality assurance of pharmaceuticals - WHO/SEARO
- 4 Development of National health policy and plan - WHO/SEARO
- 5 Global status report on non-communicable diseases 2010 - WHO/SEARO
- 6 Laboratory quality standards and their implementations -WHO/SEARO
- 7 Health: new horizons for health through mobile technologies - WHO/SEARO
- 8 Social determinants approaches to public health: from concept to practice - WHO/SEARO
- 9 South East Asia regional conference on epidemiology: the proceedings - WHO/SEARO
- 10 MDG6: Six things you need to know about AIDS response today - WHO/SEARO
- 11 Challenge of AIDS 2010
- 12 Microsoft office 2010 bible
- 13 Health economics 2010
- 14 Textbook of preventive and social medicine 2/e 2009
- 15 Microsoft excel 2010 tips & tricks 2011
- 16 Biostatistics 2/e 2009
- 17 Biostatistics 2010

- 18 Medical laboratory technology vol. 1 2/e
- 19 Medical laboratory technology vol. 2 2/e
- 20 A radiologic approach to diseases of the chest 2/e
- 21 Park's textbook of preventive and social medicine - Park
- 22 Chest Roentgenology 2011
- 23 Community medicine with recent advances 2/e
- 24 Oxford textbook of public health 5/e set of 3 volumes
- 25 Tuberculosis 2/e 2009
- 26 Aids the biological basis weeks -Weeks
- 27 A comprehensive clinical research manual - Malhotra
- 28 Biostatistics principals & practices -Antorisamy
- 29 Bioinformatics - Westhead
- 30 Introduction to bioinformatics - Lesk
- 31 Leadership for innovation - Adair
- 32 Team building - Parker
- 33 Leadership training - Christopher
- 34 The training design manual - Bray
- 35 Probability - Lirschultz
- 36 Basic research methods - Gathrie
- 37 Research design - Creswell
- 38 Research methodology - Panner Selvan
- 39 Strategic issues & challenges in health management - Ramani
- 40 Essentials of research methodology & dissertation writing - Yeilkar
- 41 Modern epidemiology - Rothman
- 42 Excel 2010 inside out - Dodge
- 43 Office 2010 inside out - Boitt
- 44 PowerPoint 2010 step by step - Cox

Regular subscriptions of National/International Journals related to TB, Chest diseases and HIV/AIDS have been done.

11.2. 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.

11.3. Compilation of electronic versions of all publications of STAC since beginning to 2010

All published documents/books etc. has been converted into electronic copies.

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

The process has been initiated and materials to be placed on the website have been prepared.

11.5. Linkage development with the Central Libraries of NTPs & NACPs in Member States

The process is under completion. NTPs and NACPs of Member States have started to inform about the information on libraries available under the programme.

12. Eighth Round Proficiency Testing of Sputum Smear Microscopy

SAARC 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 eighth 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
8. Eighth Round in 2011

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 applied for Eighth Round

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. Laboratories 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 of Eighth Round

The result revealed that all of ten TB Reference Laboratories reported no error of any types in panel of ten slides. All TB Reference Laboratories scored 100.

Conclusions of Eighth Round

It is concluded that the performance of majority of the Reference Laboratories was excellent. It is hoped that all the National TB Reference Laboratories will sustain their performance.

13. Hiring of consultant for preparation of SAARC Regional Strategy on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization for TB & HIV/AIDS

A draft strategy has been prepared by the contracted consultant.

14. Hiring of consultant for preparation of Long-term Strategic Plan of STAC as per vision & mission of STAC

Process was initiated to hire a consultant to prepare the strategy. However, the activity could not be conducted due to unavoidable reasons.

15. Collection of Information on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Management and Diagnosis and Treatment facilities in Member States

The collection of information has been done and the process for finalization is under process.

16. Compilation of information of human resources development in SAARC Member States by collecting Training Manuals, Modules on TB, HIV/AIDS and Laboratory using in different levels for strengthening the training activities

Compilation of related information has been done and the process of finalizations is under process.

17. Strengthening and development of Data Bank at the STAC on TB, HIV/AIDS and Laboratory and related issues/sectors.

The required formats have been transmitted to Member States for the purpose of collecting information. Member States has started to send the information requested by STAC to develop data bank at STAC.

18. Preparation of List of Experts and Institutions on TB, HIV/AIDS and Laboratory & Researchers in the Region (from public/private sectors).

The collection the detail information to meet the objective of the activity is under process. Some of the Member States has sent the initial information and further request has been sent to provide the more information.

19. Research activity

24.1. Drug Sensitivity Study of patients failing among CAT – I treatment – in Afghanistan and Nepal

The study could not be conducted due to unavoidable reasons.

24.2. HIV Prevalence among CAT – I failure TB patients in Nepal

The study could not be conducted due to unavoidable reasons.

24.3. HIV Prevalence in TB patients in Bhutan

The process has already been initiated and the report of study is awaited.

20. Meetings with Collaborating Institutions for Strengthening Networking - WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other collaborating Institutes

20.1. Participation in Consultation and Pre-consultation Meeting

Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre represented in the Asia and Pacific Regional Consultation on Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support meeting held from 30th to 31st March, 2011 and Pre-consultation Meeting on 29th March, 2011 in Bangkok, jointly organized by UNAIDS and ESCAP

20.2. SAARC Consultative Meeting of Positive Women's Network

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director and Dr. Naseem Khan Afridi, Epidemiologist, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre participated in SAARC Consultative Meeting of Positive Women's Network, organized by SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu from 17th to 18th May 2011. The theme of the meeting was Universal Access for Women and Girls Living with HIV in the SAARC Region - "Enhancing the role of Positive People's Women's Network". In the meeting Dr. Jha made a presentation on SAARC HIV Strategy – Women and Girls. Her Excellency Uz. Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed, Secretary General, SAARC inaugurated the meeting.

The two day meeting was attended by representatives from all the SAARC Member States, SAARC TB and HIV/Centre, UNDP, UNAIDS and APN+.

20.3. SAARC Expert Group on HIV/AIDS, Fifth Meeting

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director and Dr. Naseem Khan Afridi, Epidemiologist, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre participated in Fifth Meeting of SAARC Expert Group on HIV/AIDS held at SAARC Secretariat from 19th to 20th May 2011. In the meeting, Dr. Jha made a presentation on TB and HIV/AIDS scenario in the Region and work of the Centre.

20.4. Participation in Training Planning on HIV/AIDS

Mr. K. B. Karki, Training Officer, STAC participated in National Training Plan on HIV/AIDS organized by National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Teku, Kathmandu on 20th May 2011.

21. Presentation & Dissemination of Research findings TB & HIV/AIDS through participation in International Conferences.

21.1. 42th Union World Conference on Lung Health (France)

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC participated in 42nd Union World Conference on Lung Health held from 26th to 30th October 2011 at the Lille, France. The financial arrangement was made by NTC to participate in the conference. The conference highlighted the vital importance of collaboration in common efforts to address the conditions affecting lung health and HIV/AIDS. In the conference Dr. Jha presented a poster on “An Epidemiological Study to Find-out Risk Factors of Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Nepal – 2008”.

21.2. 6th IAS Conference, Rome, Italy

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC participated in 6th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention held in Rome, Italy from 17th to 20th July 2011 organized by International AIDS Society. The participation of the Centre is taken as an opportunity for disseminating of findings of research conducted by the Centre in the SAARC Member States and forging further networking with international organizations of repute.

22. Activities under UNDP and UNAIDS Support / Involvement (under process):

1. Development of concept note on efficient and effective resource management on HIV/AIDS in South-Asia, UNDP
2. Conduct study/review on various trade agreements related to Anti-Retroviral Drugs and future funding needs for the Region in this area – UNDP
3. Evaluation of implementation of SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS, with involvement of partner organizations – UNAIDS
4. Review existing UNGASS indicators in the contest of South Asian realities and policy environment around it - UNAIDS

23. Other activities carried out

23.1. Signing of Headquarters Agreement

Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Yadav, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal and Her Excellency Uz. Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed, Secretary General, SAARC, signed two Headquarters Agreements between the Government of Nepal and the SAARC Secretariat for the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre and the SAARC

Information Centre on 3rd June 2011 in Kathmandu. The signing ceremony was attended by the Foreign Secretary and other senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal, Directors of both the Regional Centres and the concerned Directors from the SAARC Secretariat.



Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Yadav, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal and Her Excellency Uz. Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed, Secretary General, SAARC

The Agreements will provide an overall framework for the smooth functioning and operation of the Centres as the “Centres of Excellence” in their field of activities and for regulating the relations between the Centres and the Government of Nepal.

23.2. Audit of Accounts of STAC for the year 2010

A joint audit team for the year 2010 (JAT 010) comprising auditors Mr. Mohamed Zaeem, Assistant Director General, Auditor General's Office, Republic of Maldives and Mr. Yeshi Jamtsho, Assistant Auditor General, Royal Audit Authority, Royal Government of Bhutan carried out the audit of the accounts and related activities of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre for the year 2010 from 14th to 15th July 2011.

23.3. STAC shifted in New Building

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre started to work from its new building from 11th November 2011. The building has been constructed by the Government of Nepal for SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC). This new building is located at Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal.



The following activities could not be carried out in the year 2011

1. SAARC Regional Sensitization Meeting for Social Determinants of Health in relation to TB and HIV/AIDS, Bangladesh.
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, Bhutan and India.
3. SAARC Regional Training for delivering of ART to HIV infected, India.

4. SAARC Regional Meeting of Managers of TB and HIV/AIDS of Member States, cross border issues on TB and HIV/AIDS, Maldives.
5. Meeting of the Directors/Chiefs of all National TB Reference Laboratories in Member States (10 labs), Nepal.
6. SAARC Training of Trainers on Leadership & Strategic Management for National, Provincial & District level Managers of National Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes, Pakistan.
7. SAARC Training of Trainers on Management of Drug Resistant TB (MDR TB), Sri Lanka.
10. Participation of STAC officials in Review of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of SAARC Member States.
11. Conferment of SAARC Award on TB and HIV/AIDS (TB and HIV/AIDS).
12. Preparatory works for SAARC Third Conference on TB HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases (2012).
13. Programme for SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS.

Annexure

SAARC Training on Computer-based Data Management on TB and HIV/ AIDS, 21st -25th April 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal

List of Participants & Resource Persons

Resource Persons

1. Dr. Anoop Khanna, Associated Professor, Indian Institute for Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur, India.
2. Dr. Mohan Kumar Prasai, Senior Medical Officer, RTC, Pokhara
3. Mr. Badri Nath Jnawali, Sr. Coordinator, NTP, Nepal
4. Mr. Sita Ram Ghimire, M & E Officer, NTP, Nepal
5. Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Deputy Director, STAC
6. Dr. Badri Thapa, Microbiologist, STAC

Participants

1. Mr. Dhiraj Upadhyay, IT and Database Associate, NCASC
2. Mr. Rajesh Khanal, Programme Officer, NCASC
3. Mr. Dharmendra Lekhak, Data Analyst, NCASC
4. Ms. Bhim Kumari Pariyar, M & E Assistant, NCASC
5. Mr. Madhav Raj Pant, HIV Counselor, TUTH
6. Ms. Purnima Dangol, ART Counselor, Bir Hospital
7. Ms. Beli Paudel, Staff Nurse, Teku Hospital
8. Ms. Jaya Paudel, Maternity Hospital
9. Mr. Santosh Chhetri, Kanti Hospital, Maharajgunj
10. Mr. Prakash Pandey, Programme Officer, NCASC
11. Mr. Bholu Rokka, Statistical Assistant, DPHO, Kathmandu
12. Mr. Indra Mani Bhandari, DPHO, Chitawan
13. Mr. Chedi Yadav, Statistical Officer, DHO, Saptari
14. Mr. Purna Shekhar Shrestha, Statistical Officer, DHO, Dhankuta
15. Mr. Daya Krishna Pant, RTLO, Far Western Region
16. Mr. Khagendra Gaire, RTLO, RHD, Mid-western Region
17. Mr. Laxman Shah, Data Entry Clerk, Far Western Region

18. Mr. Umesh Sharma, NTC, Kathmandu
19. Mr. Krishna Raj Tiwari
20. Mr. Tuk Prasad Pokharel, DHO, Gulmi
21. Mr. Hari Bahadur Kunwar, RTC, Pokhara
22. Mr. Niraj Tuladhar, NTC, Kathmandu
23. Ms. Sandhya Dahal, KC, NTC, Kathmandu
24. Mr. Padam Bahadur Dahal, NTC, Kathmandu
25. Mr. Ratna Bahadur Bhattaria, NTC, Kathmandu
26. Mr. Ram Janam Kurmi, DHO, Palpa

**SAARC Regional Training of Microbiologists for Sputum culture and
Drug Susceptibility Test
1st – 7th September, 2001, Bangalore, India**

List of participants & Resource Persons

Resource Persons

1. Dr. Ranjani Ramachandran
Microbiologist, New Delhi
2. Mr. S. Anand
Consultant Microbiologist
National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore
3. Mrs. Hema Sundaram
Consultant Microbiologist
National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore
4. Mr. George Sebastian
Junior Bacteriologist
National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore

Participants:

1. Ms. Pavitra Bhujel
Senior Medical Laboratory Technician
Public Health Laboratory, Dept. of Public Health,
Ministry of Health, Thimpu, Bhutan
2. Mr. Nima Tshering
Medical Laboratory Technician
JDWN National Referral Hospital, Thimphu,
Bhutan
3. Mr. Alok Mandal
Technical Assistance (Research
RMRC (ICMR), P.B. No-13, Dollygung, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands,
India
4. Dr. Rakesh Kumar
Microbiologist
Intermediate Reference Laboratory,
State Tuberculosis Training & Demonstration Centre,
Agamkuan, Patna, Bihar, India
5. Dr. Subhash Chand Jaryal
Consultant Microbiologist
Dept. of Microbiology, Dr. RP Govt. Medical College,
Kangra at Tanda, Himachal Pradesh, India

6. Dr. Ranjit Prasad
In-charge IRL-cum-Microbiologist
Intermediate Reference Laboratory, Itki Sanatorium Campus,
Itki, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India
7. Dr. Sant Lal Verma
Microbiologist
State Bacteriologist
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8. Dr. Praveen Sanker
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State TB Cell, Trivandrum, Kerala, India
9. Dr. Y Joyshankar
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State Tuberculosis Demonstration Centre, (R&D Wing),
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10. Dr. Jyoti Khurana
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11. Dr. Rupinder Bakshi
Medical Officer
Chest and TB Hospital, Patiala Punjab, India
12. Dr. M Muthuraj
Microbiologist
Intermediate Reference Laboratory, Govt. Hospital for Chest Diseases,
Intermediate Reference Lab, Gorimedu, Puducherry, India
13. Dr. Praveen Kumar Pachouri
Microbiologist
National Jalma Institute for Leprosy and other Mycobacterial Diseases (ICMR),
Dr. M Miyazaki Marg, Tajgany, Agra,
Uttar Pradesh India
14. Mr. Santa Ram Rajauria
Laboratory Technician
National Tuberculosis Centre (NRL) Nepal
15. Ms. Chandanie Vishaka De Silva
Medical Laboratory Technologist
Chest Hospital- Kandy, Sri Lanka
16. Mr. Y.A.S.P. Yapai
Medical Laboratory Technologist
Central Laboratory Chest Hospital Welisare, Sri Lanka

**SAARC Regional Training of Trainers on Leadership and Strategic
Management for National/Provincial/Regional Level Managers of
National Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes
November 21– 25, 2011, Jaipur, India**

List of Participants and Resource Persons

1. Maj. Dr. Pradip Yashawant Gaikwad
Joint Director of Health Services, (Leprosy & TB)
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India.
2. Dr. Asoka Senarath
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Sri Lanka
3. Mr. Rinchen Phuntsho
Clinical Officer
District Hospital, Pemagatshel Hospital,
Bhutan
4. Mr. Neelmani Jaysawal
Technical Officer, (HIV-TB)
National AIDS Control Organization, New Delhi
India.
5. Dr. Sunny Swarnkar
Technical Officer (ART)
National AIDS Control Organization, New Delhi
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6. Mr. Hari Lal Acharya
Senior AHW
Regional TB Centre, Pokhara,
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7. Dr. Phuntsho Dorji
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8. Dr. Rahul Rajaram Dabari
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9. Dr. Ismail Naeem
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Th. Atoll Hospital, Th. Veymandao, Republic of Maldives

10. Mr. Kedar Raj Parajuli
Sr. Public Health Officer, MWRHD,
Nepal
11. Dr. Rakesh SehI
Deputy Director (State TB Officer)
D. G.H.S., Haryana, Swasthya Bhawan, Haryana
India
12. Dr. K. Aruna Giri
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Director of Medical Services, Tenampet, Chennai-6,
India

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Center

Dr. K. K. Jha, Director
Dr. V. S. Salthora, Deputy Director
Dr. N. K. Afridi, Epidemiologist
Mr. G. L. Joshi, Accountant

Institute of Health Management Research (IHMR), Jaipur

Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director

**Workshop between STAC Library and Library of Kathmandu Valley based
Hospitals and Medical Colleges in Nepal
12th Dec. 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal**

List of Participants and Resource Persons

Resource Persons

1. Mr. Uttam Ratna Shakya
Librarian
KIST Medical College, Imadol, Lalitpur
2. Mrs. Gita Thapa
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Nursing Campus, Maharajgunj, Kathmandu

Participants

1. Ms. Kalpana Baral
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2. Mr. Dukahari Niraula
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T.U. Central Library, Kirtipur
3. Mr. Macha B. Shakya
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Patan hospital, Lagankhel, Lalitpur
4. Ms. Neela Malla
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5. Mr. Nirmal Kumar Bista
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6. Mr. Chandra Kant Jha
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7. Ms. Kamala Shrestha
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8. Mr. Chandra Bhusan Yadav
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