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SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre [STAC]
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Preface

The Annual Report of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre is being presented indicating the programmes, activities and achievements for the year 2014.

This is the Nineteenth consecutive comprehensive Annual Report of the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC). This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Centre for the year 2014. It also gives the summary of introduction, goals, objectives, vision, mission and achievements of the Centre.

STAC implemented most of the programmes assigned for the period of January to December 2014. The support provided by the National Managers of the NTPs and NACPs are highly appreciable as the implementation of the activities would not be possible without their active support.

Besides the regular activities, the Centre has performed remarkable progress in publishing the strategies, for the control of TB and prevention of HIV/AIDS in the Member States. The Centre is in the process of publishing the training manuals and guidelines as well as upgrading the SAARC TB Reference Laboratory as SAARC Supra-national Reference Laboratory.

Let me take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Governments of SAARC Member States for their generous support. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the dignitaries of Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the SAARC Member States, His Excellency Secretary General of SAARC and respected Members of the Governing Board of STAC. I would also like to offer my special thanks to Ms. Fathimath Najwa, Director, Social Affairs Division, SAARC Secretariat for her continued support and guidance to implement the programmes.

The Centre continues to look forward to receive suggestions, guidance and comments on our activities, publications, website etc. so we can improve our activities as per the need of the people of the SAARC Region.

I wish to thank the staff of the Centre for their hard work in the completion of the programmes successfully.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma
Director
Executive Summary

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) is one of the Regional Centres of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) working for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National Tuberculosis Control Programmes (NTPs) and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes (NACPs) of SAARC Member States (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). The Centre initiates, undertakes and coordinates the research, training, workshops, meeting activities in technical, bio-medical, operational and other aspects related to Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes to support SAARC Member States to control TB and HIV/AIDS. STAC carried out most of the major activities assigned for the year 2014.

Human Resource Development (HRD) is one of the key issues in overall health system development at SAARC Region. In this regard STAC organized two training for HRD this year.

SAARC Regional Training on Leadership and Strategic Management for TB & HIV/AIDS Control was organized in Maldives to enhance the existing understanding, knowledge & skills on leadership & strategic management among National/Regional/District level programme Managers of NTPs and NACPs. SAARC Regional Training on MDR & XDR TB on Clinical & Programmatic Management was organized in Bangladesh with the objectives to update global/regional MDR/XDR principles and advances.

In this year, STAC organized a workshop - SAARC Workshop on Experiences and the Best Practice on Pediatric TB/TB-diabetes in Sri Lanka with objective to discuss/share the information and data on child TB and TB-diabetics in SAARC Member States as well as to discuss on the best practices of NTPs for management of diseases & its challenges.

STAC also organized a meeting, SAARC Regional Meeting of the Programme Managers of National TB and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of Member States in Bhutan. The objective of the meeting was to discuss/share the achievements, experiences, innovation and challenges in NTPs and NACPs in the SAARC Member States and the recommendations to address relevant issues.

The research on a) Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) regarding household infection control practices among DR and X-DR patients in the SAARC Region, is under progress in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, b) Prevalence and Behavioral Survey of Most at Risk Population at HIV/AIDS is under progress in Maldives and c) Situation Assessment of Women and Children Affected by HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region is under progress in Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

The laboratory has always played a critical role in diagnosis of tuberculosis and monitoring of treatment. The basic aim in tuberculosis laboratory is to generate accurate and reliable test results. The one of the components of quality assurance is proficiency testing of Sputum Smear Microscopy (SSM). STAC conducted its eleventh round of proficiency testing of SSM for National Reference Laboratories of SAARC Member States. Feedback has already been given to the participating laboratories to ensure their quality.
For the purpose of disseminating the information regarding TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States, STAC has prepared different documents such as, Newsletter, Journal, Epidemiological Reports on TB and HIV/AIDS, and TB Control Strategies and Strategy for HIV/AIDS prevention.

A website has been maintained by uploading information related to TB and HIV/AIDS, as well as publications and information on activities of the Centre.

Under the country level programme; sensitization, advocacy and social mobilization on HIV/AIDS in India, Shree Ajay Devgan as SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS, involved in National Youth Day programme jointly organized by SAARC Secretariat, SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre and Department of AIDS Control, Government of India in Mumbai.

Training Manuals for ART, Programme Management of DR TB and Infection Control at Health Facilities are under the process of completion.

STAC Library has been set up as SAARC Resource Centre for TB and HIV/AIDS. The library is in the process of being developed as e-library.
SAARC and
SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was founded by seven states, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 1985. Afghanistan joined SAARC as its eighth Member State in April 2007. This association also has the observer states which include Australia, China, the European Union, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea and the United States. The Secretariat of the association is in Kathmandu, Nepal.

SAARC provides a platform for the people of South Asia to work together in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding. It aims to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life through accelerated economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region.

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

Introduction

SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC) was established by SAARC in 1992 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Appreciating the efforts of the centre on TB/HIV Co-infection and other works related to HIV/AIDS discipline the SAARC Member States approved the renaming of the Centre as SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) with additional mandates in 2005. The STAC had been supporting the National TB Control Programme (NTPs) and National HIV and AIDS Control Programmes (NACPs) of the SAARC Member States.

The Centre has developed its Vision Document to go long ahead in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS control activities in the Member States. The Centre has developed SAARC Regional Strategy on TB/HIV Co-infection 2011 to 2015, SAARC Regional Strategy for Control/Elimination of Tuberculosis 2013 to 2017, SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS 2013 to 2017 and SAARC Regional Strategy on Advocacy, Communication & Social Mobilization for TB and HIV/AIDS 2011 - 2015 were developed and disseminated to SAARC Member States for implementation.

Goal & Objectives

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. 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.
Vision and Mission

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.

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

Twenty-third Meeting of the Governing Board

The Twenty-third meeting of the Governing Board of STAC was held in Kathmandu from 7th to 8th November 2013. The Board reviewed the activities carried out by the Centre in 2013 and recommended the programmes and budget (Institutional as well as Programme Cost) for the year 2014 submitted by the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre to Programming/Standing Committee of SAARC for approval.

Recommended Programmes of the Centre for the year 2014

1. SAARC Regional Training on MDR and XDR TB on Clinical and Programmatic Management

2. The SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes.

3. SAARC Regional Training for Microbiologist on culture, DST & Xpert.


5. SAARC Regional Meeting to finalize ‘advocacy packs on HIV/AIDS’ for countries and Goodwill Ambassadors.

6. SAARC Workshop on Experiences and Best Practices on paediatric TB/TB-Diabetes.

Research

6. Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) regarding household infection control practices among DR and X-DR patients in the SAARC Region, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.


Programmes for SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS

10. Programme for Country level Sensitization, Advocacy and Social Mobilization on HIV/AIDS and TB in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan

11. Hiring the services of consultants to develop advocacy packs on HIV & AIDS for SAARC Member States
12. Broadcasting of documentary/advocacy pack through the National Television of SAARC Member States

13. Conferment of SAARC Award on Tuberculosis – 2014

14. Assessment of health planning and implementation to integrate mobile technology into health programming on TB and HIV/AIDS by Consultant

15. Technical assistant support to the NTP/NACP, of Member States and STAC by providing/hiring short term consultancy, utilizing the expertise from the Region without financial liability to respective programmes of Member States

**Activities for producing informative documents related to TB, HIV & AIDS**

16. Study and documentation on progress, achievement on MDG indicators on TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region

17. Compilation of information and statistics of MDR and XDR TB in SAARC Region and develop a Regional Report

18. Documentation on implementation status of existing SAARC Regional Strategies in the Member States; a. TB-HIV Co-infection, b. ACSM

19. Collection & sharing of all existing guidelines and frameworks on HIV/AIDS those are relevant to the work of the Member Countries

20. Identification and documentation and sharing of best practices in the region in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS.

21. Strengthen regional data base on TB, HIV/AIDS, and TB/HIV co-infection

22. Participation in the Review of activities NTPs and NACPs/ in the SAARC Member States.

23. Hiring the experts for technically refining of SAARC Regional Training Manuals for ART, Programme Management of Drug Resistance TB and Infection Control at Health Facilities, separately.

24. Presentation & dissemination of research findings on TB, HIV & AIDS through participation: International and Regional (Member States) Conferences.

25. Meetings with collaborative institutions for strengthening of networking- WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other collaborative institutions.

26. Eleventh round proficiency testing of Sputum Smear Microscopy for NRLs of SAARC Members States.

**Programme on Public Awareness & Advocacy on TB, HIV, AIDS and SAARC**

27. Commemoration of World TB Day and

28. Commemoration of World AIDS Day

29. Celebration of SAARC Charter Day
Preparation of publications and its distribution

30. STAC Newsletters
31. STAC Journals of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS
32. SAARC Epidemiological Response on Tuberculosis & TB/HIV Co-infection
33. SAARC Epidemiological Response on HIV/AIDS Control
34. Annual Report – 2013
35. SAARC Regional Strategy on Control/Elimination of Tuberculosis in the Region
37. Preparation of compiled report of training activities
38. Report of Eleventh Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Members States
39. Wall Calendar- 2015
40. Reports on Epidemiological Trend on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/ HIV-co-infection of SAARC Member States
41. Reports on situation analysis of mechanism for migration of diagnosed HIV infected persons who need to continue their care, support & treatment for HIV/AIDS
42. Reports on documentation of the best practices on treatment, care and support on HIV/ AIDS in the Member States
43. Review of articles of SAARC Journals of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS
44. Dissemination of information on TB, HIV & AIDS by updating STAC Website

Strengthening of STAC library

45. Collection of scientific books and journals on TB and HIV/AIDS
46. Strengthening & maintaining of audio visual section at the library
47. Collection, compilation and circulation of published scientific articles and important news related to TB, HIV & AIDS in the National daily news papers/journals
48. Prepare SAARC technical bulletin on TB, HIV & AIDS epidemic

Activities related to SAARC TB Reference Laboratory
Twenty Fourth Meeting of the Governing Board

Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) was organized under the chairpersonship of Dr. K. N. Gamini Seneviratne on 23rd and 24th September 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Governing Board Members Mr. Md. Abdur Rahim from Bangladesh, Dr. Dorji Wangchuk from Bhutan, Dr. Neeraj Dhingra from India, Dr. Abdul Azeez Yoosuf from Maldives, Dr. Bimal Prasad Dhakal & Mr. Mani Ratna Sharma from Nepal, Dr K. N. Gamini Seneviratne from Sri Lanka and Ms. Fathimath Najwa, from SAARC Secretariat participated in the Meeting.

The Meeting was opened by the Chairperson Dr. Seneviratne and the Director, STAC delivered the welcome speech in the meeting. Ms. Fathimath Najwa, Representative, SAARC Secretariat highlighted the role & responsibilities of STAC and urged the need to further strengthen the Centre in spite of constraints & challenges. She also appealed for the cooperation and support of Board Members and National Focal Points which are very crucial to ensure effective implementation of the programmes of the Centre.

The Board reviewed the current year’s activities and recommended the Programme & Budget of the Centre for the year 2015.
Recommended Programmes of the Centre for 2015

1. SAARC Regional Training on Risk Communication on DR-TB and Parents to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS
2. SAARC Regional TOT on Line Probe Assay and Genexpert for diagnosis of patients at risk of MDR-TB
3. SAARC Regional Parliamentarian’s Meet on MDG -6 (Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS)
4. Building SAARC Regional Capacity on Epidemiology and Surveillance on DR-TB
5. The SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control and Heads of National TB Reference Laboratories
6. Visit of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador/s in Pakistan/Maldives and in Sri-Lanka/Nepal

Research

7. STAC Regional Grant Integrated Biological and Behavioral Survey (IBBS) of Most at Risk Population at HIV/AIDS in Maldives
8. Research on support to diagnostic and management service in difficult to reach population in Afghanistan and Bhutan/Nepal
9. Research Grant to support National TB and HIV/AIDS in priority areas:

Regular Activities under Programme Cost Budget

10. Presentation & Dissemination of Research findings on TB & HIV/AIDS through participation in International Conferences as well as in Regional Conferences (in Member States)
11. Meetings with Collaborating Institutions for Strengthening of Networking
12. Participation in the Review of activities NTPs and NACPs/ in the SAARC Member States.
13. Technical Assistant support to the NTP/NACP, of Member States and STAC by providing/ hiring short term consultancy, utilizing the Expertise from the Region without financial liability to respective programmes of Member States.
14. Twelfth Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Members States
15. Conferment of SAARC Award on Tuberculosis - 2015

Advocacy and Awareness Activities

17. Distribution of STAC publications and related documents
19. Dissemination of information of TB & HIV/AIDS by updating STAC Website
20. Maintenance of the STAC laboratory
21. Updating existing Documentary on TB and HIV/AIDS and documenting Goodwill Ambassador’s Programme and others activities.

22. Update regional data on TB, HIV/AIDS, and TB/HIV co-infection and analysis to generate evidence to the region

**Development of Manual, Guidelines**

23. SAARC Regional Programme Guidelines on Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric TB

24. Training of Trainers (TOT) Manual on Pediatric Tuberculosis and piloting

**Printings and E-circulation**

25. STAC Newsletters

26. STAC Journals of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS-Issues:

27. SAARC Epidemiological Response on Tuberculosis & TB/HIV Co-infection

28. SAARC Epidemiological Response on HIV/AIDS Control

29. Annual Report

30. Report of Twelfth Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Members States

31. Wall Calendar/promotional materials

32. A Hand Book of Abbreviations/Acronyms used in TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes

33. Additional documents/publications related to TB and HIV/AIDS; if required

34. Collection, compile and e-circulation of published scientific articles and important news related to TB and HIV/AIDS in the National daily news papers/journals

**Strengthening of STAC Library (Resource Centre)**

35. Acquisition & subscription of scientific books and journals on TB and HIV/AIDS

36. Strengthening of audio visual, digital system library service and maintenance of data base

37. Establishment of e-library facilities with maintenance of library software
1. **SAARC Workshop on Experiences and Best Practices on Pediatric TB/TB-Diabetes, Sri Lanka**

Upon the recommendation of Twenty-third meeting of the Governing board of STAC and approval of the 44th session of Programming Committee (9th to 11th December 2013, Kathmandu), SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre and National Tuberculosis Control Programme of Sri Lanka jointly organized “SAARC Workshop on Experiences and Best Practices in Pediatric TB/TB-Diabetes” in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 14th to 16th July 2014.

The objectives of the workshop were to discuss/share the information and data on Child TB and TB-diabetes in the Member States as well as to discuss on the best practices of NTPs for management of diseases & its challenges.

A total 15 participants from Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the workshop and was facilitated by the experts from Sri Lanka and STAC. (Annex I)

Mrs. Nirmala Paranavithana, Director, South Asia and SAARC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka inaugurated the workshop as Chairperson. Dr. Lakshmi Somatunga, Deputy Director General, Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Government of Sri Lanka graced the inaugural session, as the Chief Guest.
Dr. Gamini Senevirathne, Director, NPTCCD welcomed all delegates & participants from Member States. He mentioned that the workshop is an evidence of SAARC commitment towards reaching its goal of reducing morbidity and mortality due to tuberculosis in the region.

Dr Ghanshyam Bhatta, on behalf of STAC, delivered welcome address and read the message from the Director of STAC.

Dr. Laxmi Somathunga, DDG of Medical Services explained the objectives of the workshop which can be adopted and implemented to reduce the burden of pediatric tuberculosis and TB-diabetes co-morbidity.

Dr. Thushara Abbagahage delivered vote of thanks.

**Technical Sessions**

Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC highlighted the vision, mission and goal of STAC along with its annual activities. He explained research priorities in pediatric TB in Member States, such as operational research. He also explained the global and regional situation of TB/Pediatric TB the role STAC in this juncture.

Dr. Gajananda Prakash Bhandari, Epidemiologist, STAC presented on principles of best practices, emphasizing the process of documenting the best practices as well as the guidelines to document the best practices.

Dr. Anoma Siribaddana, Senior Consultant Respiratory Physician, Teaching Hospital, Kandy, Sri Lanka, as an expert/resource person of this workshop delivered a lecture on the current situation of pediatric TB and best practices.

Dr. Ahmed Hussain Khan, Programme Manager, NTP, Bangladesh presented a child tuberculosis situation in Bangladesh.

Dr. Ahmed Saeed, Pediatrician, Maldives presented a child tuberculosis situation and health system in the Maldives. He mentioned that there is no as such problem of pediatric TB, however it may rise due to the high burden of TB among the adult population and increased density of population.

Dr. Muhammad Aamir Safdar, TB/HIV Coordinator, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, Government of Pakistan presented situation of TB in Pakistan. He further explained the structure and management of NTP and focused briefly on pediatric TB.

Dr. Neeranjan Dissanayeke, Consultant Respiratory Physician, District General Hospital, Sri Lanka presented the current situation of TB control in Sri Lanka focusing on challenges of pediatric TB.

Dr. Shakil Ahmed, Assistant Professor of Paediatrics, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College
and Project Coordinator, BPA TB CARE II Project presented a specific session on "A new approach for case Detection of Childhood TB in Bangladesh".

Dr. Charles Antonypillai, Consultant Endocrinologist, Teaching Hospital, Kandy, Sri Lanka focusing basically on the co-morbid condition of tuberculosis and diabetes and the effects of each condition on each other.

Dr. Ahmed Hussain Khan, Programme Manager, NTP, Bangladesh presented situation of TB and diabetes in Bangladesh.

Participants identified following best practices in the region:
1. All patients diagnosed as DM should be screened for TB (Bangladesh)
2. Draft Training Manual for Management of TB in DM (Bangladesh)
3. Guidelines and training modules for pediatric TB (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Pakistan)
4. Pharmacovigilence survey (Sri Lanka)
5. IPT practices (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Maldives)

Outcome
1. Documented the regional situation of Pediatric TB and TB & Diabetes of the SAARC Member States.
2. Documented the best practices on Pediatric TB and TB & Diabetes in the SAARC Member States.
3. Reviewed the challenges on Pediatric TB and TB & Diabetes in the SAARC Member States.
4. Adopted the recommendation of delegates from Member States.

Recommendations

Participants finally adopted following specific recommendations to the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre and Member Countries:

Recommendations to STAC:
1. Compile segregated data on Pediatric Tuberculosis sent by the member states and share the segregated information on Pediatric Tuberculosis to the member states.
2. Initiate Advocacy on Pediatric Tuberculosis through publishing a special STAC journal issue on Pediatric Tuberculosis
3. Initiate Advocacy on Tuberculosis through Goodwill Ambassador as in HIV/AIDS
4. Develop a regional strategy and program guidelines to address pediatric TB for the member states in the SAARC Region
5. Develop SAARC Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) manual on Pediatric Tuberculosis
6. Advocacy at regional level and development of strategy to develop guidelines on TB-DM

Recommendations to Member States;
1. To segregate the data on Pediatric Tuberculosis from age 0-5 and 6-14 years children and to be sent to SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre.
2. Start awareness program on Pediatric Tuberculosis at national level and below by National Tuberculosis Control Program of each Member States.
3. Training at country level on Pediatric Tuberculosis on the basis of country requirement using the SAARC Regional TOT on pediatric tuberculosis
4. Start advocacy by NTP at country level by each member states to screen DM in NTP

Closing Session

Dr. Sishira Liyanage, Director, NSAP, Sri Lanka expressed his happiness to be in such a grand regional workshop to discuss on a very important issue of pediatric tuberculosis and diabetes and tuberculosis. He said that the experiences in each Member States can be shared with each other so that the best practices can be implemented on context basis as the SAARC region has similar socio-cultural status. He emphasized on strengthening and expansion of the activities of STAC.

Dr. G. Wijesuriya, Director, National Hospital of Respiratory Diseases, Sri Lanka mentioned the existence of high prevalence of tuberculosis and diabetes in the region along with challenges of pediatric tuberculosis. However, there is still no policy in the Member States and in the region as a whole to address the burden of pediatric TB and TB and diabetes together. Sharing of experiences through such kind of workshop with the support of STAC would be fruitful to the Member States.

Ms. Dilini Legagala, Deputy Director General of SAARC Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed her happiness and thanked STAC for organizing such an important workshop in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Sudath Smaraweera, Deputy Director, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka expressed that it is their pleasure to organize the workshop in Sri Lanka. He further mentioned that the pediatric tuberculosis and TB and Diabetes are most important issues that need to be addressed promptly.

Dr. Ahmed Hussain Khan, Programme Manager, NTP, Bangladesh delivered closing remarks. He thanked Sri Lanka for a good hospitality and ensured that Bangladesh will extend its cooperation to STAC and all Member States in any relevant issues.

Dr. Gamini Senevirathne, Director, NPTCCD thanked all to make the workshop a success. He specifically thanked Director, STAC and his team for continuous efforts to reduce the burden of tuberculosis in the region.
2. SAARC Regional Training on Leadership & Strategic Management for Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes, Maldives

Introduction

In compliance with the decision of Twenty-third Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) “SAARC Regional Training on Leadership & Strategic Management for Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programme,” was organized jointly by SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal and National Tuberculosis Control Programme and National HIV/AIDS Control Programme of Government of Maldives from 6th to 10th November 2014 in Male.

Objectives

The Objectives of the Training were 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 and to scale-up and strengthen the TB & HIV/AIDS prevention & control activities.

Participation

A total of 13 participants (2 each from Afghanistan and Bhutan, 7 from Maldives and 2 from Sri Lanka) participated in the training. The training was facilitated by the experts from STAC,
WHO, IIHMR. The list of participants and Resource Persons and organizers are attached in Annex II.

**Opening Session**

Dr. Aishath Rameela, Hon’ble Minister of State for Health, Government of Maldives graced the occasion as a Chief Guest in the opening ceremony. She welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation for the work being done by the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre for the control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region. She stated the global burden of TB and HIV/AIDS. She emphasized that this is the timely opportunity to train a team of managers on leadership and managerial skills to launch the control activities and accomplish successfully. She thanked the STAC for organizing such useful training and wished for a fruitful outcome of the programme with positive impact on TB and HIV/AIDS control activities in the Region. Hon’ble Deputy Minister of Health along with Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives attended the inaugural session of the Training Programme. Ms. Maimoona Aboobakuru, Director, Health Protection Agency, Government of Republic of Maldives delivered introductory remarks in the inaugural session.

Dr. G. P. Bhandari, Epidemiologist, SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal delivered the welcome remarks. He highlighted the importance of the training and thanked the Government of Maldives for warm hospitality and excellent arrangement made for the Training Programme. He conveyed the greetings and best wishes from H. E. Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, the Secretary General of SAARC for the success of this training programme.

Dr. B. B. Rewari, NPO (HIV/AIDS), WHO, India delivered his remarks. He anticipated that the training will certainly be fruitful to enhance the leadership and management knowledge skills of the programme managers working for TB and HIV/AIDS control and prevention in the region and highlighted the urgency of the availability of quality of leadership in the changing scenario in the region.

Ms. Meena Dhakal, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal delivered vote of thanks.

**Technical Session**

Dr. G. P. Bhandari, Epidemiologist, STAC highlighted the objectives and methodology of the training before starting of the modular training. Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain, IIHMR, Jaipur, India, as a Resource Person, administered the pre-test questionnaire. She gave the brief introduction of training modules which were as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Managerial Styles
3. Leadership and Leadership Styles
4. Personal Effectiveness
5. Role Efficacy
6. Interpersonal Communication  
7. Team Building  
8. Building Partnership

Dr. B. B. Rewari, NPO, WHO-India made a presentation on "Overview of Leadership and Strategic Management in TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme".

A field visit programme was arranged to visit Hulhumale Hospital, Male to know the real situation and how the Hospital are managing the program in Island area.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC made a presentation on Global Situation of Tuberculosis. He pointed out that SAARC Region is steadily making progress in decreasing the incidence and mortality of TB.

Mr. Abdul Hameed, Senior Public Health Programme Officer, National TB-HIV Control Unit, Communicable Disease Division, Health Protection Agency, Government of Maldives made a presentation on situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in Maldives.

Post-test assessment was conducted after completion of four days training course.

**Closing Session**

Hon’ble Minister Mr. Mohamed Nazim, Ministery of Health, Government of Maldives graced the closing ceremony as Chief Guest. Hon’ble Mr. Mohamed Rafeeq Hassan, Deputy Minister of Health, Government of Maldives, Dr. Abdul Azeez, Governing Board Member of STAC, Ms. Maimoona Aboobakuru, Director, Health Protection Agency, MoH, Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC, Nepal, Mr. Abdul Hameed, Senior Public Health Programme Officer, TB-HIV Control Programme, CCHDC, Ministry of Health Government of Maldives, Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain, Professor, IIHMR, India and Dr. B. B. Rewari, NPO (HIV/AIDS) WHO, India were attended the closing ceremony.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC, Nepal expressed a warm welcome to all the delegates and dignitaries assembled for the closing session of this training Programme. He thanked Government of Maldives for hospitality extended and excellent arrangement made for this Programme. He thanked to the NTPs and NACPs of SAARC Member States for timely the nomination the participants. He concluded his remarks by offering special thanks to all for the successful completion of the training and wished the Participants and Resource Persons for a safe journey.

Dr. Mohammad Younas Bargami, Technical Coordinator, Afghanistan on behalf of participants, expressed his happiness and reiterate the knowledge gained from the training.

Mr. Kencho Wangdi, District Health Officer, Bhutan expressed his views that as a District Health Manager. He thanked to the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre for organizing such useful training in Male.
Ms. Mariyam Shabeen, Senior Registered Nurse, Hulhumale’ Hospital, Male expressed her happiness for getting opportunity to take part in such an important training from Maldives.

Dr. Thushara Ambagahage, Medical Officer, Sri Lanka appreciated the training and explained that a broad knowledge gained from this training might be useful for tackling the situation and solve the problem as a Manager.

Dr. G. P. Bhandari, Epidemiologist, STAC, Nepal delivered vote of thanks.

Outcome

The participants updated their knowledge on Managerial Styles, Leadership and Leadership Styles, Personal Effectiveness, Role Efficacy, Interpersonal Communication, Team Building and Building Partnership. Strengthening of collaboration between National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and the participants equipped with improved managerial skills and leadership qualities to achieve the time bound pledge; universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to scale-up the control activities further.
3. **SAARC Regional Meeting of the Programme Managers of NTPs and NACPs of Member States, Bhutan**

![Image of the meeting](image_url)

*(Hon’ble Secretary Dr. Dorji Wangchuk, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan, Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC and other dignitaries along with the officials)*

**Introduction**


**Objectives**

The objectives of the meeting were to share the achievements, experiences and challenges and to discuss the progress on TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States.

**Participation**

The meeting was participated by the Programme Managers of National TB Control Programme and National HIV/AIDS Control Programme of Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The list of the participants is attached in Annex III.
Opening Session

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC in his remarks, welcomed the delegates in the programme managers' meeting and conveyed the good wishes of the His Excellency, the Secretary General of SAARC Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa for successful outcome of the meeting. In his remarks he mentioned the importance of addressing wo important issues of TB and HIV/AIDS as a major public health problems in the region and highlighted the necessity of strong collaboration to achieve the stated goal of zero infection, discrimination and death.

Dr. Dorji Wangchuk, Hon’ble Secretary, Ministry of Health, Bhutan as a Chief Guest, welcomed all delegates from Member States. He appreciated the new leadership of Dr. Verma as a Director of STAC and congratulated for assuming this post and expected for his active role in combating the disease in the region. He further mentioned that the two diseases (TB and HIV) are diseases of poverty and the region is hardly hit by these two and expected that the shifting economy of the region may affect the burden of disease. At the end he wished successful completion of the meeting and showed his willingness to support any activities related to SAARC.

Technical session

The session was chaired by Mr. Chewang Rinjin, Deputy Chief, Programme Officer, NTP, Bhutan. Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC started the technical session and made a presentation on the objective and 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 DR TB in the region. He concluded his presentation by stating the objectives and expected outcome of the programme.

Dr. Gajananda Prakash Bhandari presented on the Global and regional situation of TB and HIV/AIDS. He highlighted the global and the SAARC regional situation of HIV/AIDS and TB/ HIV Co-infection, the progress achieved by the Member States in prevention and control, treatment, care and support during the past few years. He concluded his presentation by elaborating the role of STAC in prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the region.

County Presentations

The country presentation was focused on achievement and progress on MDGs, National Policy and Strategy of NTP and NACP, country progress on implementation of SAARC strategy on TB and HIV/AIDS. It was stared with presentation from Bhutan which was followed by India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
Review on Implementation of Recommendations adopted by the Previous Programme Managers’ Meetings

This meeting reviewed the recommendations of the previous meeting of the Programme Managers held in Sri-Lanka from 6th to 8th July 2010 with a focus on cross boarder issues. This meeting decided to continue the same theme of cross boarder issue to discuss in this meeting.

Finalization of the Recommendations

1. This meeting reviewed the recommendations of the last Programme Managers meeting held in Sri Lanka from 6th to 8th July 2010 and the action taken there upon. The recommendations were on cross border issues and on account of very limited actions taken there upon, considering their high importance it was reiterated to follow all those recommendations on cross border issues with the amendment on recommendation number 3 which be replaced by the following:

   STAC will explore to organize a three day workshop by July 2015 to develop Strategy, Guidelines, SOPs and formats, etc. to address the cross border issues for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the region with the outcome to bring out the mentioned documents in 2015. This workshop is recommended to include at least a group of three participants from each Member States, who include the two programme managers (TB and HIV/AIDS) and an expert; besides the international experts and STAC.

2. Assuming the importance in information related to TB and HIV/AIDS in the region, STAC will explore and initiate digital networking of data related to TB and HIV/AIDS as a part of the Epidemiological Networking among the Member States in the region.

3. Observing that the Programme Managers meeting of the STAC relating to TB and HIV/AIDS are not regular on account of Member States not being able to depute the representatives, hence, Member States and STAC should prioritize to ensure full participation.

4. STAC to compile recommendations and best practices made in the past and share them with all Member States for their practice.

5. Considering the global health goals such as MDG and beyond 2015 as a baseline, the SAARC and its Member States to continue to be in line with the global strategy for control of TB and HIV/AIDS.

Closing of the Meeting

On behalf of the delegations Dr. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Director General, NACO, proposed vote of thanks. He conveyed appreciations to the STAC for the best hospitality extended and for making good arrangements for the meeting. He commended the Chairperson for the efficient manner in which guided the deliberation of the meeting to a successful conclusion.

The chairperson declared the meeting closed.
4. SAARC Regional Training on MDR & XDR TB on Clinical and Programmatic Management, Bangladesh

Introduction

SAARC Regional Training on MDR & XDR TB on Clinical and Programmatic Management was jointly organized by the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal and National TB Control Programme, Government of Bangladesh from 11th to 15th December 2014 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Objectives

The Objectives of the Training were:

- To update global/regional MDR/XDR and principles of MDR TB control Programme
- To discuss evidence based management of MDR/XDR
- To update recent advances in rapid diagnosis of Drug Resistance
- To Introduce programmatic Management of MDR-XDR TB in resource limited settings
- To describe current global and regional epidemiology of TB, DR and XDR-TB
- To describe the *M. tuberculosis* and new developments in laboratory aspects.
- To foresee the strengths and weakness of diagnosis approach to DR-TB

Participation

A total 13 participants (9 from Bangladesh, 1 from Bhutan, 1 from Nepal, 1 from Pakistan and 1 from Sri-Lanka) were participated in the Training. The programme was facilitated by
the resource persons from Bangladesh. The list of the Participants and Resource Persons is enclosed at ANNEX III.

Opening Session

Dr. Md. Ahmed Hussain Khan, Deputy Director, MBDC as well as Programme Manager of National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Government of Bangladesh chaired the opening session of the programme. Professor Dr. Deen Mohd. Noorul Huq, Director General, Directorate General of Health Services, Government of Bangladesh graced the session as Chief Guest. In his address the Chief Guest thanked STAC for organizing this important training in Bangladesh. He expressed his happiness on significant progress made by the SAARC Member States towards the TB related MDGs. The estimates of incidence, prevalence and mortality of all forms of TB continue to showing a downward trend, however, MDR-TB and XDR-TB is still remaining as a big challenge.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC welcomed all participants, resource persons and guests by delivering welcome address. He thanked to Professor Dr. Deen Mohd Noorul Huq for his presence in opening session as the Chief Guest. He also thanked the Director, MBDC & Manager National TB Control Programme for warm hospitality extended and excellent arrangements made for this training.

Dr. Md. Ahmed Hussain Khan delivered his concluding remarks as a chairperson of the session. He elaborated the importance of the training related to very important issues of TB control programme, i.e. MDR & XDR TB.

Dr. Gajananda Prakash Bhandari, Epidemiologist, STAC delivered the vote of Thanks. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh for accepting the request of STAC to organize this training in Dhaka. He thanked Governments of SAARC Member States for sending the participants to make the programme success. He also thanked Director General and Deputy Director, MBDC/Programme Manager, NTP for their support and cooperation to make the programme fruitful.

Technical Sessions

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director and Dr. G. P. Bhandari, Epidemiologist from STAC presented Introduction & objective of STAC along with the Methodology of Training and Over View of Management of MDR-XDR TB. The pretest was conducted before starting the training course.

The Director, STAC presented Global and SAARC Situation of TB, MDR/XDR TB. Dr. Md. Mojibur Rahman presented NTP Bangladesh.

Dr. M. A. Hamid Salim, GF Advisor, NTP, Bangladesh presented MDR/XDR TB and its prevention & control. He started with the basic epidemiology of tuberculosis and the dynamics of MDR transmission.
Dr. S.M. Mostofa Kamal, Associate Professor & Acting Head, Department of Pathology & Microbiology, National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital (NIDCH) and Coordinator, NTRL, NIDCH, Mohakhali, Dhaka presented the presentations related to the laboratory aspects.

The participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka presented the country presentations on Progress and Challenges on MDRT TB and current status of PMDT in the respective countries.

Dr. MA Hamid Salim, MDR TB /GF Advisor, NTP Bangladesh made a presentation on the mechanism of drug resistance and factors related to drug resistance. He described the mechanisms of emergence of drug resistance along with the primary and secondary drug resistance. Further, he clarified the basic principles for designing a regimen for DR TB and prophylactic treatment of MDR.

Dr. Md. Wahiduzzaman Akhanda, Assistant Professor, Respiratory Medicine and PMDT Coordinator, Dhaka presented the paper on Management of MDR-TB.

Dr. Shakil Ahamed presented the paper on MDR-TB in Children.

Dr. Asif Mujtaba Mahmud, DTCD, PhD Associate Professor, Respiratory Medicine, IEDCR Member, WHO South East-Asia Regional Advisory Committee for MDR-TB (r-glc) presented the paper on Case Finding and Case Holding of MDR/ XDR-TB.

Dr. Manjurul Alam, NTP, MOHFW &TB Care II Project, University Research Corporation presented the paper on Community Based Programmatic Management of Drug Resistance TB.

**Field Visit**

Participants visited National Institute for Disease of Chest and Health (NIDCH) which is one of the MDR Treatment Centres in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr. Rashidul Hasan, Director, NIDCH, described the training participants about the functioning of the hospital and its role on MDR TB.

The participants visited an MDR / XDR ward of NIDCH where Dr. Md. Wahiduzzaman Akhanda, Assistant Professor, Respiratory Medicine and PMDT Co-coordinator explained the practical aspects of the programme.

Participants visited the National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory and observed the physical and functional structure of the laboratory.

Dr. Md. Wahiduzzaman Akhanda Assistant Professor, Respiratory Medicine and PMDT Coordinator presented monitoring treatment and adherence where he described about the baseline screening and monitoring evaluation through clinical and laboratory assessment. He further described the importance of patient education, treatment delivery settings, DOT,
socioeconomic intervention and social and emotional support for the adherence in MDR TB management.

Dr. Asif Mujtaba Mahmud, DTCD, PhD Associate Professor, Respiratory Medicine, IEDCR Member, WHO South East-Asia Regional Advisory Committee for MDR-TB (r-glc) presented the paper on Management of MDR TB in special situations such as pregnancy, breast feeding, liver disease, seizure disorders, psychiatric illness and renal diseases.

Dr. Mahmud, Bangladesh presented the paper on TB Infection control- An overview. In his presentation, he focused on the definition of infection control and its rationale, persons responsible for infection control, etc. He basically elaborated on the principles of infection control.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC made a special presentation on treatment delivery and adherence, which is an important aspect of the PMDT program. He also explained the determinants of non-adherent among the TB and MDR-TB patients along with the social context related to the MDR. The strength and weakness of the ambulatory DOTS plus in Nepal were also presented.

**Outcomes**

- Participants acquainted with the problem of MDR- XDR TB and its consequences in the region.
- Participants trained for "Management of MDR- XDR TB Patients" and its implementation and evaluation.
- Participants act the role of trainer for training of health staff

**Closing Session**

Dr. Md. Quamrul Islam, Director MBDC & Line Director, TB & Leprosy, Bangladesh chaired the closing session. Ms. Roxana Quader, Additional Secretary (Public Health & WHO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

The Chief Guest awarded certificates to the participants & facilitators and delivered her remarks. She thanked STAC for organizing training in Dhaka.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC, thanked the Ministry of Health, National TB Control Programme and team for their hard works and excellent arrangement of the Training and continued support of the Government of Bangladesh for STAC activities. The programme concluded with the closing remarks of the Chairman.

Evaluation of the Training (results of pretest and posttest) was presented by Dr. Md. Mojibur Rahman, National Programme Consultant, NTP Bangladesh at the closing session. Dr. G.P. Bhandari, Epidemiologist, STAC delivered the vote of thanks.
5. Commemoration of World TB Day/SAARC TB Day 2014

World TB Day/SAARC TB Day falling on March 24 each year is designed to build advocacy to policy makers and to create awareness to general public. The Government of SAARC Member States decided in 1997 to commemorate World TB Day and SAARC TB Day on the same day with the same theme. It commemorates the day in 1882, when Dr. Robert Koch astounded the scientific community by announcing the discovery of tuberculosis bacilli. Dr. Robert Koch's discovery opened the way towards diagnosing and treating TB. The theme for this year (2014) is “Reach the three million”, A TB test, treatment and cure for all. The TB programme is required to ensure access and coverage for all to reach the unreached three millions. No one should be left behind in getting TB services so as to move towards a ZERO TB death globally and in the region.

Every year SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) commemorates World TB Day/SAARC TB Day by organizing different activities. The day is taken as an opportunity to advocate for mobilizing support from policy makers, National & International organizations, women groups and community at large, in order to implement NTP successfully. This year, STAC organized the following activities to commemorate the World TB Day/SAARC TB Day which supports in spreading awareness messages among the people in the community.

- Interaction Programme with Nursing Students on Tuberculosis Control and its Preventive Strategy
- Circulation of message of His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General of SAARC released on the occasion of World TB Day to the Member States and publication of the message of the Director, STAC on STAC website.
• Participated in World TB Day celebrated by NTP, Nepal.

**Interaction Programme with Nursing Students on Tuberculosis Control and its Preventive Strategy**

On the occasion, an interaction programme with Nursing Students on TB control and its preventive strategy was organized on 21st March 2014 at Thimi, Bhaktapur. Nursing Colleges can play an important role in the National efforts for control and prevention of tuberculosis. They are in a unique position to reach various levels of health care providers. They have the potential to create a new generation of health professionals who have updated knowledge about priority communicable diseases such as Tuberculosis. However, their active participation in control programmes has so far been inadequate. The academia and practitioners lack consensus on the rationale and practices of National TB control programmes largely on account of an absence of information and adequate involvement in these programmes.

The **objectives** of the programme were to discuss the role of Nursing Colleges in building capacity, service delivery in relation to TB control programme, to disseminate updated information on TB and to seek coordination and cooperation for control efforts on TB.

Over 100 Nursing Students from Dr. Iwamura College of Health Science, Bhaktapur and Shraddha Nursing College, Thimi, Bhaktapur including faculty teachers participated in the programme. The programme was facilitated by Experts from WHO/NTP Nepal, Professionals from STAC and Officials.

The methodology used by the facilitators were PowerPoint Presentations, Discussion and Participatory Interaction.

The Director, STAC, welcomed all the dignitaries & participants and highlighted objectives of commemoration of the World TB day/SAARC TB Day. Introduction of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre along with the TB burden in SAARC Region were presented. The Director also highlighted the ways how to reach to un-reached and marginalized population. He also addressed the social determinants for effectiveness of TB control. He briefed about the history of tuberculosis, its symptoms, preventive strategy and role to be played by Nursing Students in the community for controlling the disease. At the end the Director appealed to convey TB awareness message to their nearer and dearer in the community.

Dr. Giam Paolo Mezzabotta, Medical Officer, WHO/NTP, Nepal presented a paper on Global & National scenario of Tuberculosis and beyond 2015 target.

On behalf of the participants Ms. Archana Adhikari, Teacher, Shraddha Institute of Health Sciences, Thimi & Ms. Sanumaiya Khadka, Nursing Director, Dr. Iwamura Memorial Hospital & Research Centre, Bhaktapur expressed their views about the programme.

At the conclusion, certificates were awarded to the participating colleges. At the end participants expressed their solidarity to spread the awareness messages to the general people in the community as they realized their role in the control of Tuberculosis.
Releasing of Messages of His Excellency Secretary General, SAARC

On the occasion of World TB Day/SAARC TB Day 2014, SAARC Secretariat released a message of His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General of SAARC which was conveyed to National TB Control Programmes of SAARC Member States to publish on National daily Newspapers on 24th March. SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre published the messages of His Excellency on its website.

Participation in World TB Day celebrated by NTP, Nepal

On 24th March 2014, NTP, Nepal in collaboration with its partners organized a stage programme at Nepal Academy Hall, Kathmandu. Hon'ble Mr. Khagaraj Adhikari, Minister for Health and Population, Government of Nepal graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Mr. Prasanna Gamage, Director, SAARC Secretariat, attended the programme and quoted the message of H.E. the Secretary General.

Displaying of Flex

STAC prepared number of flex with information about STAC and its activities for TB and HIV/AIDS control in SAARC Member States which were displayed at the entrance of venue of the stage programme which was observed by the Chief Guest, guest and visitors.

Commemoration of World TB Day in Member States

NTPs and NGOs/INGOs working for the control of TB in the Member States commemorated the day by organizing different activities.
6. **Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2014**

A hoarding board banner with information on HIV/AIDS has been prepared and displayed at the premises of STAC at Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal for purpose of advocacy & awareness on prevention of HIV/AIDS.

STAC also prepared badges as awareness materials for distribution in HIV/AIDS programmes to be held in SAARC Member States.

7. **Celebration of SAARC Charter Day**

(Hon’ble Minister Mr. Khagaraj Adhikari, Ministry of Health & Population, Government of Nepal addressing at the programme organized to celebrate 30th SAARC Charter Day at Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal)

**Introduction**

SAARC Charter Day is observed annually on 8th December. This day marks the signing of the SAARC Charter in 1985 by the Leaders of SAARC Countries at the First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka.
SAARC embodies the desire of the peoples and governments of South Asia to work collectively to promote mutual understanding, good neighbourly relations and meaningful cooperation among the Member States. The main objectives of SAARC are to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural and technical and scientific fields on the basis of respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other. This year the occasion is of special significance, as SAARC completes 30 years as a regional organization.

**Art Competition**

On the auspicious occasion of 30th SAARC Charter Day, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) organized a fine art competition & exhibition programme at Centre's premises on 8th December 2014. Thirty-five students from Nepal Fine Art Campus, Kathmandu took part in the programme.

The objective of the programme was to celebrate the SAARC Charter Day for promotion and advocacy of the SAARC.

Artists/students were given four topics related to themes of 17th and 18th SAARC Summits; such as Building Bridges and Deeper Integration for Peace and Prosperity, simultaneously slogans of World TB Day & World AIDS Day such as – Reach the three million – A TB Test, Treatment and Cure for All and Getting to Zero - Zero New HIV Infection, Zero Discrimination & Zero AIDS related Deaths. The artist students portrayed the slogans related to SAARC and TB & HIV/AIDS in the canvas.

**Display of Arts**

The fine arts prepared by the students were displayed under the different topics and observed by the Hon'ble Minister, dignitaries, guests, officials and invitees. Hon'ble Minister appreciated the arts and expressed his views that the arts prepared by the students are well enough to highlight the aim and objectives of the SAARC and themes of the World TB Day & World AIDS Day. Among all, 4 (one from each topic) were selected as the best arts by the experts.

**Charter Day Function**

A special programme was organized to celebrate the 30th SAARC Charter Day at STAC, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal on 8th Dec. 2014. Hon'ble Minister Mr. Khagaraj Adhikari, Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Government of Nepal graced the programme as the Chief Guest, Mr. Shanta Bahadur Shrestha, Secretary, MoHP chaired the programme, Ms. Fathimath Najwa, Director, SAARC Secretariat attended the programme as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Bikash Lamichhane, Director, National TB Centre, Government of Nepal, Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director, National Centre for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC), Government of Nepal and Mr. Bipin Ghimire, Campus Chief, Nepal Fine Art Campus, Kathmandu also attended the programme.
Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC welcomed the guests, dignitaries and participants in the programme. He highlighted the objectives of the celebration of SAARC Charter Day, progress of the SAARC and achievement of the STAC.

On behalf of the students/participants Mr. Pradeep Saud gave his remarks and expressed his views.

On behalf of teachers Mr. Lek Bahadur Tamang gave his remarks and thanks on behalf of Nepal Fine Art Campus for inviting them to participate in this special occasion.

His Excellency Secretary General's remark was quoted by Ms. Fathimath Najwa. In his remarks, His Excellency thanked STAC for organizing such an important programme to advocate SAARC on the auspicious occasion of SAARC Charter Day. H.E. expressed his good wishes to the people of all member states of SAARC and importance of the SAARC charter day.

The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Population, Government of Nepal, Mr. Khagaraj Adhikari gave his remarks and highlighted the importance of the SAARC and its Charter. He congratulated the participants for their efforts to highlight the objective of the SAARC and providing different messages related to TB and HIV/AIDS through the eye pleasant fine arts. He thanked SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre for celebrating the SAARC Charter Day by organizing important programme.

The Chief Guest awarded certificates to the participants and released the book “SAARC Regional Strategy for Control/Elimination of Tuberculosis 2013 - 2017” prepared by STAC.

Chairperson, Secretary for Health and Population, Government of Nepal Mr. Shanta Bahadur Shrestha in his concluding remarks highlighted the SAARC, its importance in the region. He expressed his assurance on supporting SAARC Supra-national Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS which is going to be established at STAC very soon.

8. Research Programmes

This year, STAC has initiated the research on three different areas as per the approved programme. All three researches have been under the process of completion which is given below:

- Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) regarding household infection control practices among DR and X-DR patients in the SAARC Region, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.
- Prevalence and Behavioral Survey of Most at Risk Population at HIV/AIDS in Maldives.
9. Programme for SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS

Programme for Country Level Sensitization, Advocacy and Social Mobilization on HIV/AIDS and TB in India

As mandated by the 12th SAARC Summit, SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV and AIDS (2006-2010) formulated. Revised Regional Strategy (2013-17) is finalized and circulated to Member States. The main objective of the strategy is to guide the regional response to HIV epidemics. For effective implementation of the Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS, selection of prominent individuals as SAARC Goodwill Ambassador was proposed.

The SAARC Goodwill Ambassador is an honorary title. The concept has been conceived with the objective of facilitating the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS and its work-plan. Engaging the regional well-known personalities would ensure the message being reached to the community level of the region. The selection committee to select SAARC Goodwill Ambassador meeting was held at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu on 2nd January 2013. The committee decided to confer the honorary title of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador to Ms. Runa Laila, Bangladesh, Shree Ajay Devgan, India and Ms. Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Pakistan.

SAARC Secretariat and SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) are implementing the activities of SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors as per the Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS.

Accordingly, as an approved activity of 2014, on the invitation of SAARC Secretariat, Shree Ajay Devgan, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS involved in National Youth Day Programme in Mumbai, India on 12th January 2015. The programme was coordinated by

SAARC and NACO, India in collaboration with Mumbai District AIDS Control Society organized National Youth Day which was celebrated on 12th January, 2015. The event took place at RangSharda Auditorium, Bandra, Mumbai. National Youth Day is observed annually on 12th January on the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. Every year, National Youth Day offers a special opportunity to the Government of India and its collaborating partners to draw attention to the burning issues confronting the youth of the country today. The youth of today faced with several issues amongst which one of the critical issues is HIV/AIDS and its prevention. The theme that has been specially decided by NACO for this year’s National Youth Day programme is ‘Youngmanch’ with the slogan ‘hum se hai nayi shuruwaat’.

The event was participated by about 100 colleges from Mumbai where more than 1300 students were a part of the celebration.

Smt. Snehal Ambekar, Hon’ble Mayor of Mumbai attended the programme as Chief Guest, Dr. Deepak Sawant, Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Shree Ashish Shelar, President, BJP, Mumbai & MLA and Shree Ajya Devgan, SAARC Goodwill Ambassafor for HIV/AIDS attended as Special Guests. Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC, Nepal, Mr. K. B. Agrawal, Joint Secretary & Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG(LS/IEC) from NACO, India, Mr. Sanjay Deshmukh, Additional Municipal Commissioner (WS), Mr. Khushal Singh Pardeshi, Project Director, MSACS, and Mrs. Dr. Padmaja Keskar, Executive Health Officer & Project Director, MDACS, India also attended the programme.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Nepal on his speech reiterated that SAARC has always been a strong support pillar in minimizing the mortality and morbidity due to TB and HIV/AIDS in the region as well as minimizing the transmission of both infections until TB and HIV/AIDS diseases no longer remain public health problems in the SAARC region. He addressed the issues of stigma and discrimination prevailing in the community of SAARC Member States. He elaborated the role of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador Shree Ajay Devgan to minimize this especially among the youths.

Shree Ajay Devgan, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS was honoured with a Memento, a Replica of Window of youth and a Souvenir from SAARC by Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC. Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma and Mr. Ajay Devgan were also given a Memento of National Youth Day 2015 by NACO. Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta, Research Officer, STAC was also present at the event.

At the end, Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG, (LS/IEC), NACO extended his sincere and heartfelt thanks to BMC and MDACS for organizing the event successfully and to SAARC for coming forward to support in issue of HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region. He specially thanked Shree Ajay Devgan for gracing the event and motivating the Red Ribbon Club Members present there and giving his inspiring message to the youth of the nation focused on HIV prevention and care.
10. Development of Reports & Manuals

In the year 2014, STAC produced the documents on –
- Collection & sharing of all existing guidelines and frameworks on HIV/AIDS those are relevant to the work of the Member States
- Identification and documentation and sharing of best practices in the region in the field of TB & HIV/AIDS
- SAARC Regional Training Manual for ART
- SAARC Regional Programmatic Management of Drug Resistance TB (PMDT)
- SAARC Regional Infection Control at Health Facilities
  - Study and documentation on progress, achievement on MDG indicators on TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region
  - Compilation of information and statistics of MDR and XDR TB in SAARC Region and develop a Regional Report
  - Documentation on implementation status of existing SAARC Regional Strategies in the Member States
    - TB-HIV Co-infection
    - Advocacy, Communication & Social Mobilization for TB and HIV/AIDS (ACSM)
- Identification and documentation and sharing of best practices in the region in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS
- Epidemiological Trend on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/ HIV-Co-infection of SAARC Member States of last ten years
- Situation analysis of mechanism for migration of diagnosed HIV infected persons who need to continue their Care, Support & Treatment for HIV/AIDS.

11. Sharing of Information

- Presentation & dissemination of research findings on TB, HIV and AIDS through participation in International/Regional Conferences:

**Participation in Regional Conference of UNION**

The 2nd Conference of The Union South-East Asia Region (SEAR 2014) was organized from 9th to 12th March 2014 in Dhaka, Bangladesh in liaison with the NTP and the NATBA of Bangladesh. **The theme of the conference was ‘TB in 2050: challenge to humanity’.**

The Director and Research Officer from STAC participated in the conference. The STAC is an organizational member of the Union, South-East Asia Region and it is a unique organization working for control of TB TB/HIV Co-infection and prevention of HIV/AIDS in South Asia Region.

The objectives of the participation from STAC were to share experiences gained by the Centre in research on TB control conducted by STAC in collaboration with NTPs of SAARC Member States and advocacy on SAARC/SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in international platform.
A poster presentation on "HIV Prevalence among Newly Diagnosed TB Patients in Bhutan" was made during the conference which was a scientific research conducted in Bhutan.

**Participation in 20th International AIDS Conference, Melbourne, Australia**

The International AIDS Society (IAS) hosted 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia Convention Centre dated 20th to 25th July 2014. A range of organizations, researcher and policy makers were participated highlighting their specific activates and priorities before, during and after the conference. The theme of stepping up the pace recognize that we are at a critical time and we need to capture the optimism that has recently and build on it to ensure that HIV remains on top of the global agenda.

Director and Research Officer from STAC participated in the Conference. STAC and UNICEF Regional Office has been collaborating in the region by sharing programmatic/technical information as well as experiences in HIV/AIDS sector with each other.

**The 45th Union world conference on lung health in Barcelona, Spain**

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre attended the 45th Union world conference on lung health in Barcelona, Spain on 28 October to 1 Nov. 2014.

This Union conference created the broadest international impact with the first-ever Global TB Summit culminating in the Barcelona Declaration on Tuberculosis. Media coverage was focused on key issues, such as a shortened regimen for MDR-TB and the looming TB-diabetes epidemic. The need for all stakeholders to have a strong role in public health was highlighted throughout the week in keeping with the theme of "Community solution for the next generation". During the conference, Dr. Verma had an opportunity to discuss with the National Programme Managers of TB Control Programmes of the SAARC Member States.

**Participation in the Regional Meeting of the Programme Managers, WHO/SEARO**

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC participated in regional meeting of NTP Managers and Partners organized by WHO/SEARO in New Delhi, India on 10th to 14th Nov. 2014. On 3rd day Dr. Verma performed his role as Moderator in the session - Presentation of group work and plenary discussion.

The general objective of the meeting was to organize consultation involving the NTPs, development partners, bilateral organizations, donors, civil society and other stakeholders in the development of country targets and relevant strategies in line with the new global post 2015 strategy and strengthen the implementation of TB control interventions in the Region.

STAC is a collaborating Centre of WHO/SEARO to work collectively for TB and HIV/AIDS. It was an opportunity for NTP Managers and collaborative partners to renew contact with existing partners meet to discuss issues with partners, share experiences and build on the discussions for future actions in the respective countries specifically the Global TB Strategy – post 2015.
Participation in Conference on Developing a Rights-based Approach to TB

At the invitation of University of Chicago Centre, New Delhi, India, Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta, Research Officer and Mr. Kailash Bahadur Karki, Training Officer of this Centre participated in a conference from 5 to 6 December 2014. The conference was co-hosted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). The objectives of the conference were to include stakeholders including medical professionals, lawyers, academics, community members, policy makers, and others from India and around the world. The goal was to promote cross-disciplinary thought, dialogue and action on developing and implementing a rights-based approach to TB. The session consisted of panel discussions and workshops on various subjects related to human rights and TB.

12. Publications and its distribution

This year, STAC published the following documents and distributed among the Member States and other stakeholders. These publications have also been uploaded on STAC website and can be downloaded.
- Report of Eleventh Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Member States
- Report on Situation Analysis of Mechanism for Migration of Diagnosed HIV Infected Persons who need to continue their care
- Report on Documentation of the Best Practice on Treatment, Care & Support on HIV and AIDS Programme in SAARC Member States
- Report on Documentation on Epidemiological Trend on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection of SAARC Member States (of last ten years)

13. Dissemination of information on TB, HIV & AIDS by updating STAC Website (www.saarctb.org)

STAC publishes all information related to TB & HIV/AIDS available in the Centre on this website. On this website recent information of TB control, HIV and prevention, information on programmatic management, informative articles, news and announcement of the Centre, Support to other regional centre of SAARC by publishing requested information, STAC publications etc. are being published. Periodically and timely updating for the purpose of giving information has been done. Timely modification is being done to make the website more users’ friendly, compatible to almost all web browsers used in internet browsing. A simple and user friendly online submission system of articles is being managed.

14. Resource Centre for TB and HIV/AIDS

STAC Library has been set up as SAARC Resource Centre for TB and HIV/AIDS. The library is in the process of being developed as e-library. Books, journals, newspaper, reports, dissertations and audio-visual materials have been collected and computerized for the use of people.
15. Visit of different dignitaries to STAC

- **Visit by Dr. Stephanie Langevin**

  Dr. Stephanie Langevin from Canada met the Director, STAC on 25th Feb. 2014 at the Centre. During her visit matter related to the treatment of Tuberculosis and Research on TB control was discussed. The Director, STAC briefed about the status of MDR & XDR TB, TB/HIV co-infection and TB laboratory services.

- **UNAIDS visit to STAC**

  UNAIDS Asia and Pacific Regional Programme Advisor Mr. Md. Ali Bhuiyan and UNAIDS Nepal Country Coordinator Mr. Ruben F. del Prado visited STAC. A discussion was held with Director and Professionals about ten years of programme achievements in SAARC Member States. Discussion was focused on SAARC Regional Strategy for HIV/AIDS implementation in Member States. The meeting concluded to continue the cooperation between the UNAIDS Regional Office and SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre.

- **Visit of Hon’ble Minister Mr. Khagaraj Adhikari, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal**

  Hon’ble Mr. Khagaraj Adhikari, Minister for Health and Population Government of Nepal visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Thimi, Bhaktapur on 24th November 2014. Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director along with staff of the Centre welcomed Hon’ble Minister. During the visit an introductory meeting was organized in honour of the Minister where introduction of staff along with the introduction of the Centre & status of TB & HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region was presented. Hon’ble Minister observed the functioning of the Centre, its infrastructure and available facilities. He also acquired the information about staff strength.
16. Additional Activities carried out by the Centre in this year

- **Participation in 48th Session of SAARC Programming Committee Meeting**

  Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director and Dr. Gajananda P. Bhandari, Epidemiologist, Mr. K. B. Basnet, Administrative Officer and Mr. G. L. Joshi, Accountant STAC participated in The 48th Session of SAARC Programming Committee Meeting organized in Kathmandu from 26th to 28th October 2014. The Centre presented reports of 24th Governing Board for consideration.

- **Meeting of STAC Director with Permanent Secretary, MoFA, Government of Maldives**

  Director, STAC met Mr. Hassan Shifau, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives during the training programme and discussed on the current status of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region.

- **Meeting of STAC, Director with Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Bangladesh**

  During the SAARC Training on MDR & XDR TB on Clinical and Programmatic Management held from 11th to 15th December 2014 in Dhaka, the delegates from SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre visited the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh. Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC briefed the introduction and activities of STAC to Ms. Roxana Quader, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh. Dr. Verma expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh for continue cooperation and support to STAC. Ms. Roxana Quader appreciated the efforts of the STAC for control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region.

- **Meeting of Director, STAC, with Programme Manager, NACP, Bangladesh**

  Similarly, Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC and National Programme Manager, HIV/AIDS Control Programme, Government of Bangladesh discussed on the situation of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh and Programme of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS, **Ms. Runa Laila** for Country level Sensitization, Advocacy and Social Mobilization on HIV/AIDS and TB in Bangladesh.

- **Audit of accounts of STAC for the year 2013**

  A joint audit team (JAT 13) for the year 2013 comprising auditors Yazmeed Mohamed, Auditor General’s Office, Male, Maldives and Bamdev Sharma Adhikari, Office of the Auditor General of Nepal carried out the audit of the accounts and operations on 9th and 10th June 2014 of the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Kathmandu for the period 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013.
Activities under process of completion

1. Study and documentation on progress, achievement on MDG indicators on TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region
2. Compilation of information and statistics of MDR and XDR TB in SAARC Region and develop a Regional Report
3. Documentation on implementation status of existing SAARC Regional Strategies in the Member States; a. TB-HIV Co-infection, b. ACSM
4. Collection & sharing of all existing guidelines and frameworks on HIV/AIDS those are relevant to the work of the Member Countries
5. Identification and documentation and sharing of best practices in the region in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS.
6. Reports on situation analysis of mechanism for migration of diagnosed HIV infected persons who need to continue their care, support & treatment for HIV/AIDS

Activities cancelled by the STAC Governing Board

1. SAARC Regional Meeting to finalize ‘advocacy packs on HIV/AIDS’ for countries and Goodwill Ambassadors.
2. Hiring the services of consultants to develop advocacy packs on HIV & AIDS for SAARC Member States
3. Broadcasting of documentary/advocacy pack through the National Television of SAARC Member States

Activities could not be carried out in the year 2014

1. SAARC Regional Training for Microbiologist on culture, DST & Xpert
2. Conferment of SAARC Award on Tuberculosis – 2014
3. Assessment of health planning and implementation to integrate mobile technology into health programming on TB and HIV/AIDS by Consultant
4. Participation in the Review of activities of NTPs and NACPs in the SAARC Member States
5. Reports on Epidemiological Trend on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/ HIV-co-infection of SAARC Member States
Annexes

Annex I

SAARC Workshop on Experiences and Best Practices on Pediatric TB/TB-Diabetes Colombo, Sri-Lanka from 14th to 16th July 2014,

Chairperson
Dr. K. N. Gamini Seneviratne
Director
National Programme for TB Control and Chest Disease
No. 555/5, Elvitigala Mawatha, Narahenpita, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

List of Participants and Facilitators

Facilitators
Dr. (Mrs) Anoma Siribaddana
Consultant Chest Physicians
Teaching Hospital, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Dr. Neranjan Dissanayake
Consultant Respiratory Physician
District General Hospital, Nuwara Gliva, Sri-Lanka

Participants

Bangladesh
Dr. Ahmed Hussain Khan
Program Manager
National TB Control Programme
Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Maldives
Dr. Ahmed Saeed
Pediatrician, IGMH, Male, Maldives

Pakistan
Dr. Muhammad Aamir Safdar
TB/HIV Coordinator
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National Health Complex,
Islamabad, Pakistan

Sri Lanka
Dr. Ramya de silva
Medical Officer, NPTCCD, Public Health Complex,
Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

Dr. K. Sheelani Gunaratne
DTCO Gampaha
Chest Clinic, Gampaha, Welisara, Sri Lanka

Dr. M. M. Kodithuwakku
MO/IC
District Chest Clinic, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka

Dr. Harshini Nadeeka Vitharana
Medical Officer
555/5, Elvitigala Mawatha, Narahenpita,
Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

Dr. G. P Athukorala
SR/ Chest Medicine, Teaching Hospital,
Kandy, Sri Lanka
Dr. A. Ramachandaran
Medical Officer, Central Chest Clinic,
Base line Road, Colombo 08, Sri Lanka

Dr. Channa de Silva
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Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children,
Borella, Colombo 08, Sri Lanka.

Dr. K. A. S. D. Rathnayaka
Medical Officer
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Elvitigala Mawatha,
Narahenpita, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

Dr. Thushara Abagahage
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NPTCCD, Public Health Complex, 555/5,
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Dr. Wasantha Jayakody
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Dr. P. K. G. Gunathilaka
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SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre
Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar Bhatta
Research Officer

Dr. Gajananda Prakash Bhandari
Epidemiologist

Mrs. Srijana Dhakal
PA to Director
Annex II

SAARC Regional Training on Leadership and Strategic Management for Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes
Male, Maldives from 6th to 10th November 2014

List of the Participants and Resource Persons

Resource Persons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Persons</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Nutan P Jain, PhD; MPH Associate Professor India Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur, India</td>
<td>Ms. Shina Ahmed Public Health Programme Officer National TB Control Programme HPA, Maldives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. B. B. Rewari, NPO ART, WHO India</td>
<td>Ms. Mariyam Waheedha, Assistant Public Health Programme Officer HPA, Maldives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Abdul Hameed Senior Public Health Programme Officer National TB-HIV Control Unit, Communicable Disease Division HPA, Maldives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mohammad Younas Bargami Technical Coordinator National AIDS Control Programme, Kabul Afghanistan</td>
<td>Mr. Dorji, District TB Coordinator Thimphu, Bhutan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Kencho Wangdi District Health Officer, District Administration, Chukha, Bhutan</td>
<td>Ms. Shina Ahmed Public Health Programme Officer, Health Protection Agency, Maldives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Mohamed Ismail, Consultant in Respiratory Medicine IGMH, Male, Maldives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ms. Quraisha Abdul Azeez, Enrolled Nurse, IGMH, Male, Maldives

Ms. Mariyam Shabeen Senior Registered Nurse /Hulhumale’ Hospital Male, Maldives.

Mohamed Ahmed Public Health Programme Officer Dhamana Yeshi, Maldives.

Ms. Shifaza Adam Shareef Public Health Programme Officer Dhamanveshi, HPA, Male, Maldives.

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

Dr. Gajananda Prakash Bhandari, Epidemiologist

Mrs. Meena Kumari Dhakal, SPA

Sri-Lanka

Dr. Thushara Ambagahage, Medical Officer National Programme for TB Control and Chest Diseases 555/5, Public Health Complex, Narahenpita, Colombo

Dr. Saman Rohan Kumara Tittagalle Gamage Medical Officer, National STD/AIDS Control Programme, Kandy, Sri Lanka
SAARC Meeting of the Programme Managers of National TB and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of Member States Thimphu, Bhutan from 5th to 6th December 2014

Chief Guest
Dr. Dorji Wangchuk
Hon’ble Secretary
MoH, Bhutan

Guests
Mr. Tanding Dorji
Offtg. Director General
Department of Public Health
Bhutan
Dr. Karma Lhazeen
Chief Programme Officer CDD,
MoH, Bhutan

Director
Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma
Director
SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre
Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal

List of Participants

Bhutan
Mr. Chewang Rinzin
Dy. Chief Programme Officer, NTP, DoPH, MoH,
Bhutan

Mr. Tashi Dendup
Programme Officer, DoPH, NTP, MoH, Bhutan

Mr. Lekey Khandu
Programme Officer, NACP, DoPH, MoH, Bhutan

Mr. Sonam Wangdi
Programme Officer, NACP, Bhutan

India
Dr. Ashok Kumar, MD
Dy. Director General, NACO, MoH & FW

Nepal
Dr. Bikash Lamichhane
Director, National TB Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur

Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh
Director, National Centre for AIDS and STD
Control, Kathmandu

Sri Lanka
Dr. Sudhath Samaraweera
Dy. Director, NPTCCD, Colombo 05

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre,
Kathmandu
Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma,
Director

Dr. Gajananda Prakash Bhandari,
Epidemiologist

Mr. Pradyumna Bhandari,
Computer Technician
SAARC Regional Training on MDR and XDR TB on Clinical and Programmatic Management
Dhaka, Bangladesh from 11th to 15th December 2014

List of Resource Persons and Participants

Resource Persons

Dr. Md. Quamrul Islam,
Director MBDC and Line Director

Dr. Ahmed Hussain Khan
Programme Manager, NTP Bangladesh

Dr. Asif Mujtaba Mahmud
Associate Professor, Respiratory Medicine, IEDCR
Member, WHO South East-Asia Regional Advisory Committee for MDR-TB (r-glc)

Dr. MA Hamid Salim
MDR TB /GF Advisor
NTP Bangladesh

Dr. Md. Wahiduzzaman Akhanda
Assistant Professor, Respiratory Medicine and
PMDT Coordinator, Dhaka

Dr. S.M. Mostofa Kamal
Associate Professor and Acting Head
Department of Pathology & Microbiology
NIDCH, and Coordinator, NTRL, NIDCH, Mohakhali, Dhaka

Dr. Md. Mujibur Rahman
NTP, Bangladesh

Dr. Sabera Sultana
NTP, Bangladesh

Participants

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Dr. Md. Abdul Qayyum
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NIDCH, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Pronab Kumar Modak
Medical Officer, NTP, Bangladesh

Dr. Fahmida Khanam
Expert Lab & Infection Control, NTP, Bangladesh

Dr. Habiba Binte Alalm
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TB Hospital, Shyamoli, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Nazis Arefin Saki
Medical Officer
NTP, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Ahmadul Hasan Khan
Surveillance & Epidemiology Expert
NTP, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Md. Abul Khair Basher
Senior Sector Specialist
75, BRAC Centre, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Nepal
Dr. Niraj Dhakal
Medical Officer, National TB Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal

Pakistan
Dr. Azam Khan Babar
MDR Coordinator, Balochistan, Pakistan

Sri Lanka
Dr. N.B.P. Krishanthi Nanayakkara
District Tuberculosis Control Officer, Chest Clinic, Kandy, Sri Lanka

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre
Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director
Dr. G. P. Bhandari, Epidemiologist
Mr. K. B. Basnet, Admin. Officer