



Bangladesh

Bhutan

India

Maldives

Nepal

Pakistan

Sri-Lanka

**SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)**

**AT A GLANCE**



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All reasonable precautions have been taken to verify the information contained in this publication.

# **SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)**

## **At a Glance**



**2016**

### **SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)**

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# Foreword

The SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) has been working in the SAARC Region since 1994 with the Mission to support the efforts of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes through evidence based policy guidance, coordination and technical support.



The Heads of State or Government of Member States of SAARC at their Fifth Summit held in Male from 22 to 23 November 1990 decided that SAARC Tuberculosis Centre would be set up in Nepal. Accordingly the SAARC TB Centre established in 1992 and started its functioning since 1994. Considering the efforts of the Centre in the field of TB and TB/HIV Co-infection the Thirty-first Session of Standing Committee of SAARC held in Dhaka on November 9-10, 2005 approved the renaming of the Centre as SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre.

Since establishment, the Centre has been supporting the National TB Control Programmes and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of Member States through its activities like, Trainings, Researches, Situations Analysis, Workshops, Seminars, Meetings, Conferences, Formulation of SAARC Regional Strategies, Training Manuals & Guidelines, Regional level Advocacy and Awareness Programmes, Partnership Programmes & Guidelines and technical/scientific publications.

The progress and achievement of National Tuberculosis and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of the SAARC Member States are remarkable, however, it still needs more efforts to achieve the National and Regional targets set for Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

I am very much pleased to introduce this revised publication of **SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) at a Glance** for brief introduction of the Centre and summary of its achievements as well as brief information about SAARC. I am confident that this document will be useful in this regard.

I would like to thank all the concerned authorities of Member States of SAARC, SAARC Secretariat and partners for their contribution and continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma  
Director

## South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established when its Charter was formally adopted on 08 December, 1985 by the Heads of State or Government of seven countries of South Asia i. e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Since 2007, Afghanistan has been included as a Member of SAARC. Now, SAARC, is represented by eight Member Countries.

SAARC is a manifestation of the determination of the people of South Asia to work together towards finding solutions to their common problems in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding and to create an order based on mutual respect, equity and shared benefits.



First SAARC Summit (Dhaka, 7-8 Dec. 1985)

### Institutional Setup of SAARC

- The Summit – Heads of State or Government
- The Council of Ministers – Foreign Ministers
- The Standing Committee – Foreign Secretaries
- The Technical Committees – Integrated Programme of Action (IPA)

### The areas of cooperation under SAARC

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Health and Population Activities
- Women, Youth and Children
- Environment and Forestry
- Science and Technology and Meteorology
- Human Resources Development and
- Transport

High level Working Groups have also been established to strengthen cooperation in the areas of Information & Communications Technology, Biotechnology, Intellectual Property Rights, Tourism and Energy.

## SAARC Secretariat

### Secretaries General of SAARC



Abul Ahsan  
(Bangladesh)  
(16 Jan 1987 - 15 Oct 1989)



Kant Kishore Bhargava  
(India)  
(17 Oct 1989-31 Dec 1991)



Ibrahim Hussain Zaki  
(Maldives)  
(1 Jan 1992-31 Dec 1993)



Yadab Kant Silwal  
(Nepal)  
(1 Jan 1994-31 Dec 1995)



Naeem U. Hasan  
(Pakistan)  
(1 Jan 1996-31 Dec 1998)



Nihal Rodrigo  
(Sri Lanka)  
(1 Jan 1999-10 Jan 2002)



QAMA Rahim  
(Bangladesh)  
(11 Jan 2002-28 Feb 2005)



Chenkyab Dorji  
(Bhutan)  
(1 Mar 2005-29 Feb 2008)



Sheel Kant Sharma  
(India)  
(1 Mar 2008-28 Feb 2011)



Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed  
(Maldives)  
(1 Mar 2011-22 Jan 2012)



Ahmed Saleem  
(Maldives)  
(12 Mar 2012-28 Feb 2014)



Arjun Bahadur Thapa  
(Nepal)  
(1 Mar 2014-Present)



The SAARC Secretariat is situated at Thamel, Kathmandu, Nepal

### Designated SAARC Years

1989	SAARC Year of Combating Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking
1990	SAARC Year of Girl Child
1991	SAARC Year of Shelter
1992	SAARC Year of Environment
1993	SAARC Year of Disabled Persons
1994	SAARC Year of the Youth
1995	SAARC Year of Poverty Eradication
1996	SAARC Year of Literacy
1997	SAARC Year of Participatory Governance
1999	SAARC Year of Biodiversity
2002-2003	SAARC Year of Contribution of Youth to Environment
2004	<b>SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS</b>
2005-2006	South Asia Tourism Year
2007	Green South Asia Year
<b>SAARC Awards</b>	
	• The SAARC Awards
	• SAARC Prize on TB
	• SAARC Prize on HIV/AIDS
<b>SAARC Decades</b>	
1991-2000	• SAARC Decade of Girl Child
2001-2010	• SAARC Decade of Right of the Child
2006-2015	• SAARC Decade of Poverty Alleviation
2010-2020	• SAARC Decade of Intra-Regional Connectivity

## SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

### Introduction:

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



The Second Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of SAARC Member Countries held at Male in July 1984 suggested for formulation of specific projects pertaining to one of the five disease control areas identified by working group of health & population activities. Accordingly, a proposal for establishment of the SAARC TB Centre in Nepal was submitted. The Technical Committee at its eighth meeting held in Colombo from 16 to 18 July 1990 considered the proposal. The Standing Committee at its thirteenth session held at Male from 16 to 17 November 1990 decided that a revised

proposal on the regional centre for Tuberculosis be prepared by Nepal.

The Heads of State or Government of Member Countries of SAARC at their Fifth Summit held in Male from 22 to 23 November 1990 decided that SAARC Tuberculosis Centre would be set up in Nepal. Accordingly the SAARC TB Centre established in 1992 and started its functioning since 1994.

Considering the efficiency and appreciating the efforts and activities related to work on TB and TB/HIV Co-infection and HIV/AIDS done by the Centre, the Meeting of Thirty-first Session of Standing Committee of SAARC held in Dhaka on November 9-10, 2005 approved the renaming of the Centre as **SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)**.

### Vision, Mission, Goal and Objectives of STAC

#### Vision

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

#### Mission

To support the efforts of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes through evidence based policy guidance, coordination and technical support.

#### Goal

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.

## Objectives

To work for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National Tuberculosis Control Programmes and National AIDS Control Programmes of the Member States.

### The Governing Board of the Centre

The Governing Board is the apex body to supervise function of the Centre. The Governing Board composed of one representative from each Member States, SAARC Secretariat and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal for a period of 3 years. The Member Secretary of the Board is the Director of the Centre. The Governing Board analyses the policy matters, recommends the programmes, and annual budget estimates, monitors and evaluates administrative and overall operations of the Centre. A Chairperson designated for two years term from the Member States by alphabetical rotation who heads the Governing Board. The Board meets once in a year. The proceedings of the Governing Board Meetings need to be approved by the SAARC Programing Committee/Standing Committee/Council of Ministers.

*The Centre's Governing Board consists of 11 Members:*

- One representative from each Member State 8
- Representative from SAARC Secretariat 1
- Representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal 1
- Director of STAC (Member Secretary) 1

## The Meetings of the Governing Board of STAC

First	-	March 24-25, 1992,
Second	-	April 21-22, 1993,
Third	-	February 8-9, 1994,
Fourth	-	January 31-Feb. 1, 1995,
Fifth	-	March 12-14, 1996,
Sixth	-	January 7-8, 1997,
Seventh	-	October 26-27, 1997,
Eighth	-	December 22-23, 1998,
Ninth	-	October 27-28, 1999,
Tenth	-	February 27-28, 2001,
Eleventh	-	November 20-21, 2001,
Twelfth	-	November 18-19, 2002,
Thirteenth	-	October 23-24, 2003,
Fourteenth	-	November 9-10, 2004,
Fifteenth	-	October 5-6, 2005,
Sixteenth	-	December 4-5, 2006,
Seventeenth	-	November 27-28, 2007.
Eighteenth	-	September 25-26 2008.
Nineteenth	-	October 28-29, 2009
Twentieth	-	September 23-24, 2010
Twenty-first	-	September 23-24, 2011
Twenty-second	-	October 11-12, 2012
Twenty-third	-	November 6-7, 2013
Twenty-fourth	-	September 23-24, 2014
Twenty-fifth	-	December 18-19 , 2015

## The Staff Strength

The Director is the chief executive of the Centre, who manages all administrative work of the Centre. Professionals are the specialist on TB and HIV/AIDS. They are regionally recruited from the SAARC Member States. General Services Staffs are recruited locally from the respective host country. There is provision of Director & five Professional staff (Deputy Director, Epidemiologist, Research Officer, Microbiologist and Technical Officer-HIV/AIDS) and General Services Staff (GSS) at the Centre.

### Director and Professionals of the Centre



Dr. S. C. Verma, Nepal  
Director (2014-Present)



Late Dr. N. G. Amatya,  
Nepal  
(1991-1992)



Late Dr. T. M. Shakya,  
Nepal  
(1992-1995)



Dr. D. S. Bam,  
Nepal  
(1995-2004)



Dr. K. K. Jha,  
Nepal  
(2004-2014)

Directors



Dr. P. Kumar,  
India  
(1994-2002)



Dr. R. M. Piryani,  
Pakistan  
(2003-2006)



Dr. V. S. Salhotra,  
India  
(2007-2012)

Deputy Directors

Epidemiologists



Dr. Md. M. Rahman,  
Bangladesh  
(2002-2006)



Dr. Lochana Shrestha,  
Nepal  
(2006-2009)



Dr. N. K. Afridi,  
Pakistan  
(2011-2013)



Dr. G.P. Bhandari,  
Nepal  
(2014-2015)



Dr. A. P. Weerakoon,  
Sri-Lanka  
(2016- present)

Microbiologists



Dr. B.P. Rijal,  
Nepal  
(2002-2005)



Mr. D. K. Khadka,  
Nepal  
(2007-2010)



Dr. B. Thapa,  
Nepal  
(2011-2012)

Research Officers



Dr. R. M. Samarantunga,  
Sri-Lanka  
(2002-2003)



Dr. A. P. Weerakoon,  
Sri-lanka  
(2007-2010)



Dr. G. K. Bhatta  
Nepal  
(2012-2015)



Dr. G. C. Pathirana,  
Sri-Lanka  
(2009-2010)



Dr. Abdul Malik,  
Maldives  
(2013-2014)



Director and STAC Family – 2016

P. Bhandari, K.B. Karki, Dr. A.P. Weerakoon, Dr. S.C. Verma, K.B. Basnet, M.K.Dhakal  
T. Maharjan, S. Dhakal, D. Subba, H.K.Maharjan, S. Karki, B. Basyal, G. L. Joshi,  
K. N. Shrestha, R. Chaudhary, R. K. Tamang, R.K. Sunari, S. K. Jha

SAARC

## Major Achievement and Activities of STAC

### Signing of Headquarters Agreement for STAC

The Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the SAARC Secretariat for the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre was signed by the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal Mr. Upendra Yadav and H. E. the Secretary General, SAARC, Ms. Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed, at a function on 03 June, 2011 at Kathmandu.

Signing of Headquarters Agreement on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011



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

### Formulation of SAARC Regional Strategies for HIV/AIDS, TB, TB/HIV Co-infection and ACSM:



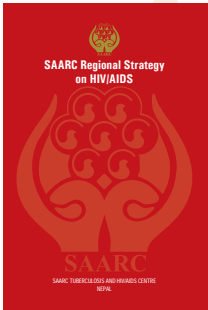
According to the mandate given by the Eleventh SAARC Summit, a **SAARC Regional Strategy on TB/HIV Co-infection (2004-2009)** was formulated in consultation with SAARC Member States, civil society, international organizations with the technical support from Health Canada in 2003, which was approved during the Twelfth SAARC Summit for implementation.



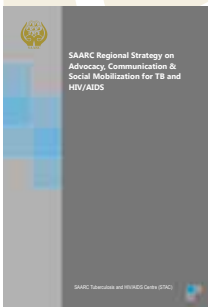
The Strategy has been revised as **SAARC Regional Strategy for TB/HIV Co-infection (2011-2015)**. It also provides guidelines for tackling the co-infection problems in the Region through collaborative efforts of both the Programmes.



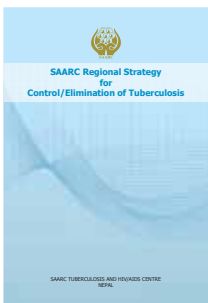
On the directive of the Twelfth Summit of **SAARC, a Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS** has been developed through a consultative process and in close collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in 2005, which has been approved by 31st Session of Standing Committee of SAARC held in Dhaka on November 9-10, 2005 and implemented in the Region.



Later on, this Strategy has been revised and formulated as **SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2013-2017)**, which has been implementing by the Member States.

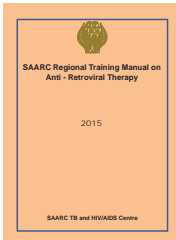


The Centre formulated the **SAARC Regional Strategy on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM) for TB and HIV/AIDS (2011-2015)** and has been implementing in the Region. Now the Strategy in the process of revision.



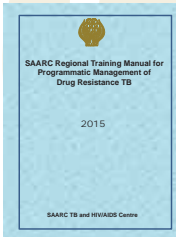
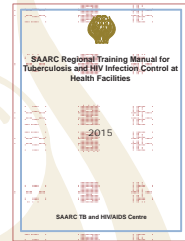
The Centre formulated the **SAARC Regional Strategy on Control/Elimination of Tuberculosis (2013-2017)**, which approved by the Forty-fourth Session of the Programming committee, on the recommendation of the Twenty-third Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC and has been implementing in the Region.

## SAARC Regional Training Manuals and Guidelines



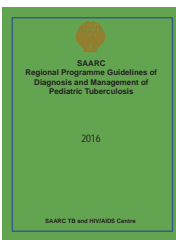
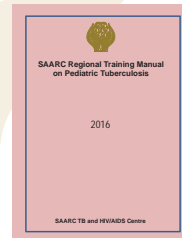
The Centre has formulated the “**SAARC Regional Training Manual on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART)-2015**” which approved by the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC on 18-19 December, 2015, Kathmandu for its implementation.

The Centre has formulated the “**SAARC Regional Training Manual for Tuberculosis and HIV Infection Control at Health Facilities-2015**” which approved by the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC on 18-19 December, 2015, Kathmandu for its implementation.



“**SAARC Regional Training Manual for Programme Management of Drug Resistance TB-2015**” which approved by the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC on 18-19 December, 2015, Kathmandu for its implementation.

The Centre has formulated the “**SAARC Regional Training Manual on Pediatric Tuberculosis-2015**”, which is under the process of approval by the Governing Board Meeting.




The Centre has formulated the “**The SAARC Regional Programme Guidelines of Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric Tuberculosis (TB)-2016**”, which is under the process of approval by the Governing Board Meeting.

## Observation of SAARC Awareness Year 2004' For TB and HIV/AIDS

The STAC observed the year 2004 as the SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS by organizing different awareness activities at the Regional level with the following theme:

**“TB is curable, HIV is preventable, Mobilize community, Save Precious Human lives”**

### The some major activities conducted on the occasion of SAARC Awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS-2004 were;

SAARC Regional First Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases	Audio-visual Documentary on TB and HIV/AIDS	SAARC Regional Level Essay competition among school students	Special publications on TB and HIV/AIDS in English and Seven National languages
The 1st SAARC Regional Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases was organized on 14-17 December 2004 on the occasion of the SAARC Awareness Year 2004 for TB and HIV/AIDS, and around 600 participants were participated in the conference.	An audio-visual documentary on advocacy on TB and HIV/AIDS was produced and distributed to the Member Countries on the occasion of SAARC Awareness Year 2004 for TB and HIV/AIDS. 	The Regional level Essay competition among school students focusing the issues of TB and HIV/AIDS was conducted in 2004. The winners of Prizes First, Second and Third of Essay competition were from Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri-Lanka respectively.	The Centre published the Special publications on TB and HIV/AIDS in English language as well as in seven national languages of Member States.

## Establishment of SAARC Prize on TB and HIV/AIDS

The Twenty-third Session of the Council of Ministers endorsed the Concept Note for the SAARC Prizes on Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Considering the existing guidelines on the SAARC Prizes under the SAARC Regional Centres, the Twenty-first Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC recommended for conferment of SAARC Prize on TB and HIV/AIDS alternatively each year and same was approved by the Forty-ninth session of the Standing Committee as recommended by the Forty-first Session of Programming Committee.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE PRIZE

1. To encourage individuals and organizations based in SAARC Region to undertake programmes and activities complementing and supplementing the efforts on TB and HIV/AIDS Control.
2. To honour outstanding contributions and achievements of individuals/ organizations of the region in the fields of Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS .
3. To recognize any other outstanding achievements, not covered above, of individuals or organizations in the region whose work or contribution has benefited or inspired the country as well as the region.

### Winner of SAARC Prize on HIV/AIDS – 2012

As per the decision of Twenty-second Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC. Mr. Tshewang Nidup of Bhutan was



awarded by SAARC Prize on HIV/AIDS 2012 in recognition of his remarkable contribution for creating awareness on HIV/AIDS in Bhutan.

### Winner of SAARC Prize on Tuberculosis – 2015

The Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC has decided to honour SAARC Prize on Tuberculosis – 2015

to **Ms. Shameema Hussain of Maldives** for her remarkable contributions in Control of Tuberculosis, including promoting awareness and reducing stigma and discrimination.



### SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS



Ms. Shabana Azmi, India and Mr. Sanath T. Jayasuriya, Sri Lanka were conferred by the honorary title of SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS and started the programmes by visiting Nepal and Bhutan by Ms. Shabana Azmi in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

## Present Goodwill Ambassadors

Ms. Runa Laila (Bangladesh), Shri Ajay Devgan (India) and Ms. Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy (Pakistan) have been conferred as the honorary title of SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS since 2013. Ms. Runa Laila started her programme by visiting New Delhi, India in 2013.



Ms. Runa Laila  
Bangladesh



Shri Ajay Devgan  
India



Ms. Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy  
Pakistan

## SAARC Goodwill Ambassador's Programmes

**SAARC Goodwill Ambassador Programmes of Ms. Shabana Azmi at Kathmandu, Nepal in 2009**



Courtesy call on then Hon'ble Minister of Health & Population, Govt. of Nepal,  
Mr. G. M. Pokharel



Press conference during the visit of Ms. Shabana Azmi in Kathmandu

### **Visit of Ms. Shabana Azmi under SAARC Goodwill Ambassador's Programme in Thimphu, Bhutan in 2010**



Then Prime Minister Lyonchhoen Jigmi Y Thinley, Royal Government of Bhutan and Ms. Shabana Azmi, during her visit to Bhutan in August 2010

**Ms. Runa Laila, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS visited New Delhi, India from 31 July -03 August, 2013 with the following programmes;**



Courtesy call on then Honourable Minister, Mr. Salman Khurshid, Ministry of External Affairs during the visit of Ms. Runa Laila, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador in New Delhi, India



Courtesy call on then Honourable Minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during the visit of Ms. Runa Laila, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador in New Delhi, India



Press Conference during the visit of Ms. Runa Laila an ART Centre at LNJP Hospital and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Hospital, Rohini, New Delhi, India

**Shri Ajay Devgan, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador  
Programme in Mumbai, India  
on January 12, 2015.**

Shri Ajay Devgan, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS was involved in a special programme on the occasion of National



Youth Day and interacted with people affected by HIV/AIDS with a plea to the public to remove the social stigma and discrimination against People living with HIV/AIDS. The programme was organized jointly by NACO, India and STAC, Nepal in Mumbai on 12 Jan. 2015.



Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC offering souvenir to Shri Ajay Devgan, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS

### SAARC Conferences on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases

STAC organized the First Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases in December 14-17, 2004 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Around 600 participants participated in the conference from region and abroad.



STAC organized the Second Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases on 15-18 December, 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Around 650 participants attended in the conference from region and abroad.



### Collaboration & Networking

After having signing on MOC/MOU of SAARC, the Centre has established the networking with different organizations for collaboration, cooperation and bilateral support especially in the technical aspects of research activity and human resource development.

- SAARC and CIDA MoC
- SAARC-WHO MOU
- SAARC and UNAIDS MoU for cooperation
- SAARC and UNFPA MoU for cooperation
- SAARC and UNICEF MoU

**STAC is a Collaborating Centre of WHO since 2001**

## Networking with National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory in the Member States:

### Existing Identified TB Reference Laboratories in the Region

- i. The National TB Reference Laboratory , Kabul, Afghanistan
- ii. The National TB Reference Laboratory , Shymoli, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- iii. Public Health Laboratory, JDWNR Hospital, Thimphu, Bhutan
- iv. National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai, India
- v. Laboratory at National TB Institute, Bangalore, India
- vi. Laboratory at National TB Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal
- vii. Laboratory, Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Male, Maldives
- viii. Laboratory at Ojha Institute of Chest Diseases, Karachi, Pakistan
- ix. Federal TB Centre at Rawalpindi, Pakistan
- x. National Public Health Laboratory at Welisara, Sri-Lanka

### Establishment of SAARC Regional Supra-national Reference Laboratory for Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS at STAC

SAARC TB Reference Laboratory was established with the support of SAARC- Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS project.



Teaching Microscope in the STAC Lab

SAARC TB Reference Laboratory has received all the equipment for sputum microscopy from the Project. The sputum microscopy at SAARC TB Reference Laboratory is functioning.

During the SAARC Consultative Meeting on Public Health Challenges, held in New Delhi from 28-29 July, 2009, Director of the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre requested the Member States for the urgent need of a SAARC Regional Supra-national Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS, which has been approved by the 18<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit, Kathmandu, 2014, Declaration No. 16.

### **Establishment of Pool of Experts on TB and HIV/AIDS**

STAC has established the Pool of Experts/Specialists in the areas of Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, TB HIV/ Co-infection, Epidemiological aspects, Research and Laboratory. The services of these experts are being utilized by STAC and Member States as per requirement.

### **Peer Reviewers for Reviewing Articles for SAARC Journals of TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases**

The official peer reviewed journal of STAC has publishing, since 2004. A panel of Peer Reviewers from Medical Universities/ Colleges and other related organizations and NTP and NACP of the Member States and outside has been formulated. The journal's main aim is the continuing education of personnel and the dissemination of the most up-to-date research information in the field of tuberculosis, lung diseases and HIV/AIDS. The journal is an appropriate forum for the publication of articles concerning the social, economic, public health, epidemiology, diagnostics, genetics etc. in the area of tuberculosis, lung diseases and HIV/AIDS available in the website of STAC and can be downloaded free of charge.

## Regular Activities of the Centre

The Centre has been carrying out the activities recommended by the Governing Board Meetings and approved by the Standing Committees. The Centre formulates regional strategies and coordinates for its implementation, organizes training, workshops, seminars, meetings and conducts research on TB and HIV/AIDS, publishes documents, disseminates the information, support NTPs and NACPs of Member States for reviewing and evaluation of their Programmes on their request and carry out any additional activities identified by the Governing Board of STAC.

## Pilot Projects for Partnership Programmes

A pilot project “Partnership with School Students in fight against TB” was designed by STAC in Kendriya Vidyalaya, in Indian Embassy, Kathmandu in 2000. The STAC got excellent result from the pilot site. STAC identified other partners for the partnership programme. For successful implementation of the Partnership programme in fight against TB and HIV/AIDS in the Member States, STAC has been organizing partnership Programme with Schools, Media, Pharmacists, Industries and Medical Colleges,



Manpower Agencies and Travel Agencies. The STAC has developed and published the SAARC Guidelines for the following Partnership Programme;

- Partnership Programme with **Schools/Colleges**
- Partnership Programme with **Media**
- Partnership Programme with **Travel Agencies**
- Partnership Programme with **Manpower Agencies**
- Partnership Programme with **Pharmacists**
- Partnership Programme with **Industries**

### Data Bank and Epidemiological Networking

The STAC has developed uniform formats of data collection on TB and HIV/AIDS activity on regular basis which will be analysed for purpose of providing the feedback/suggestions to improve the performance of National Programmes of Member Countries and has been publishing as yearly reports.

### Resource Centre

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. Scientific Books, National and International journals, newspaper, reports, dissertations, WHO Books and



technical health series and audio-visual materials have been collected and computerized for the use of people.

## Visits of STAC and Observation of its Activities by the Dignitaries

### Visit of Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister:

- **Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba**

Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Government of Nepal visited the SAARC TB Centre and National TB Centre on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1997 during the inaugural function of VIII National Seminar on TB Control Programme of Nepal.

- **Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand**

Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand, Government of Nepal grace the occasion as Chief Guest at the World TB Day/SAARC TB Day Jointly organized by Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal, SAARC TB Centre, National TB Centre and other stake holder, in March, 1997.

- **Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal**

Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Government of Nepal inaugurated the SAARC second Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases organized by the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre on 15-18 Dec. 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal

### Visits of Hon'ble Health Ministers:

- **Visit of Hon'ble Health Minister Mr. Radha Krishna Mainali, Government of Nepal**

On 19 April 1996, Hon'ble Health Minister Mr. Radha Krishna Mainali, Government of Nepal visited the Centre during the inaugural function of First South Asia Regional Training Course on TB Control

- **Visit of Hon'ble Mr. Bipin Koirala, Minister, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal**

On 21st Dec. 1997 Hon'ble Mr. Bipin Koirala, Minister, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal visited SAARC TB Centre and National TB Centre

- **Visit of Hon'ble, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister for Health, Republic of Maldives**

On 20th April, 1999, Hon'ble Minister for Health Republic of Maldives Mr. Ahmed Abdullah visited the Centre. He appreciated the progress made and activities undertaken by the Centre.

- **Visit of Hon'ble Minister for Health, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal**

Hon'ble Minister for Health, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav and Mr. Srikant Regmi, Secretary, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal visited the SAARC TB Centre and National TB Centre on 3 Sept.1999.

- **Visit of Health Ministers of South East Asian Countries**

On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2000, Hon'ble Ministers of South East Asian Countries along with the Secretaries of Health, Director Generals of Health Services, Directors of Health Planning of South Asian Countries and WHO Secretariat staff visited the Centre. The Director of the Centre welcomed the delegates and briefed about the situation of Tuberculosis, progress in the SAARC Region and role played by the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre for Control of Tuberculosis in the SAARC Region.

- **Visit of Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Ramkrishna Tamrakar, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal**

Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Ramkrishna Tamrakar, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal visited the SAARC TB Centre and National TB Centre on 20 June 2001.

- **Visit of Hon'ble Mr. Sharat Singh Bhandari, Minister for Health, Government of Nepal**

Hon'ble Mr. Sharat Singh Bhandari, Minister for Health, Government of Nepal visited the Centre on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2001. Hon'ble Minister observed the functioning and activities of the Centre and shown commitment of Government of Nepal for necessary support and cooperation for strengthening of the Centre.

- **Visit of Mr. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, Hon'ble State Minister for Health, Government of Nepal**

Mr. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, Hon'ble State Minister for Health, Government of Nepal visited the Centre on 19 November, 2001. Hon'ble Minister appreciated the progress and work done by the Centre.

- **Visit of Hon'ble Dr. Upendra Devkota, Health Minister, Government of Nepal**

Hon'ble Dr. Upendra Devkota, Minister for Health, Government of Nepal visited the SAARC TB and National TB Centre on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2002.

- **Visit of Hon'ble Mr. Neekshya SJB Rana, Health Minister, Government of Nepal**

Hon'ble Mr. Neekshya SJB Rana, Assistant Minister for Health and Population Government of Nepal visited the SAARC TB and National TB Centres on August 11, 2005. Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha as Acting Secretary accompanied with Hon'ble Minister for Health and Population. Hon'ble Minister observed the functioning of the Centre with great interest and gave his remarks for making further progress in future.

- **Visit of Hon'ble Mr. Girirajmani Pokharel, Health Minister, Government of Nepal**

Hon'ble Mr. Girirajmani Pokharel, Minister for Health and Population, Government of Nepal, visited the Centre during the

time of laying the foundation stone of new building of SAARC TB and HIV/ AIDS Centre at Thimi, Bhaktapur on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

- **Visit of Hon'ble Mr. Rajendra Mahato, Health Minister, Government of Nepal**

On 2nd February 2012, Hon'ble Mr. Rajendra Mahato, Minister for Health and Population and Dr. Praveen Mishra, Health Secretary Government of Nepal, visited the Centre, during the inauguration of the new building of STAC.

- **Visit of Hon'ble Minister Mr. Khag Raj Adhikari, Health Minister, Government of Nepal**

Hon'ble Mr. Khag Raj Adhikari, Minister for Health and Population, Government of Nepal visited STAC, Thimi, Bhaktapur on 24th November 2014. Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director along with staff of the Centre welcomed Hon'ble Minister. An introductory meeting 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.

### **Visits of H.E. Secretaries-General, SAARC:**

- **Visit of His Excellency Mr. Naeem U. Hassan, Secretary General, SAARC**

His Excellency Mr. Naeem U. Hassan, Secretary General SAARC, Mr. Tahir Iqbal Butt and Ms. K. C. Namgyel, Directors, SAARC Secretariat visited the Centre on 7th February 1997 and observed the activities carried out by the Centre. His Excellency advised the Centre to work in the field of TB/HIV Co-infection and HIV/AIDS also due to a burning issue for the Region.

- **Visits of His Excellency Mr. Lyonpo Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General, SAARC:**

His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General, SAARC and Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director SAARC Secretariat visited the Centre on March 11, 2005 and on 17 May, 2007. His Excellency observed the office, resources and Laboratory of the Centre. He also observed the functioning of the Centre and appreciated the activities done by the Centre and encouraged the staff to do the work more efficiently in future.

- **Visit of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Saleem, Secretary General, SAARC to STAC**

His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Saleem, Secretary General, SAARC visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur on 5th July 2012. His Excellency was accompanied by Mr. Ibrahim Zuhree, Director, SAARC Secretariat.

### **Visits of officials from the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs:**

A team of diplomats from the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs, Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal visited the Centre on 21 August, 1997.

- **Visit of Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Foreign Secretary, Government of Nepal**

Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Foreign Secretary, Government of Nepal visited the Centre on July 4, 2007. Mr. Acharya observed the functioning of STAC and discussed various issues with the staff. He expressed his delighthness to be at the Centre and said, despite, its own constraints; the centre is making best efforts to achieve its objective of excellence for the SAARC Region". He also expressed his best wishes for intensifying the efforts in the days ahead and expressed the commitment of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support STAC strengthening.

- **Visit of Mr. Lila Prasad Sharma and Dr. Narayan Govinda Amatya**

Mr. Lila Prasad Sharma and Dr. Narayan Govinda Amatya, who were key persons in establishment of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in Nepal in 1992, visited the Centre on 28 May 2007. Mr. Sharma and Dr. Amatya expressed their happiness and appreciated the progress made by the Centre, who were assigned to perform the performance Audit of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre by the SAARC higher body.

- **Visit of Member SAARC Division, MoFA, Afghanistan**

Mrs. Latifa Wali Rahimi, and Mr. Abdul Ahad Hadeef, Member of SAARC Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Afghanistan visited the Centre on 19th June, 2008. They observed the functioning of the Centre and discussed different issues related with the Programmes.

- **Visit of officers form Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh and Sri-Lanka**

A Team Consisting Ms. Sayeda Jesmin Sultana Milky, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Reyad Hossain, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh and Mr. Christy Ruban, Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka visited STAC on 23 Dec. 2010. A brief introduction of the Centre was given. The team observed the functioning of the Centre and expressed their satisfaction towards the progress and achievement of the Centre.

- **Visit of officers form Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bhutan and Nepal**

A team consisting Mr. Ugen Dorji and Mr. Tenzin Dorji from Department of SAARC & Regional Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan and Ms. Roshani

Khanal, Central Passport Office and Ms. Indira Gohiwar Aryal, SAARC Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal visited SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre on 18th October 2010 and observed the functioning of the Centre and discussed about the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region.

- **Visit of Ms. Thompson, U.S. Dept. of State, Washington DC**

Ms. Heather Joy Thompson, International Relation Officer at the U.S. Dept. of State, Washington DC and Mr. Richard Rasmussen, Political Officer at the U.S. Embassy, Kathmandu, Nepal visited STAC on 30th Sept. 2011. They discussed about SAARC policies in the areas of cooperation between Member States. They also observed the facilities in the Centre.

- **Familiarization visit of Officers from Department of SAARC and Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan**

Mr. Gembo Tshering, Mr. Ugen Dorji and Mr. Jigme Tshewang from Department of SAARC and Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan visited to SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2013.

#### **Visits of H.E. Ambassadors:**

- **Visit of His Excellency Mr. K.H. Doh, Ambassador of Republic of Korea in Nepal**

His Excellency Mr. K.H. Doh, Ambassador of Republic of Korea in Nepal visited the Centre on 9th March 2004. His Excellency appreciated the activities done by the Centre. His Excellency wished for further development of the bilateral relations between Korea & Nepal.

- **Visit of H. E. Ms. Susan Grace, Ambassador of Australia to Nepal**

H. E. Ms. Susan Grace, Ambassador of Australia to Nepal, Ms. Elaine Ward, Director of South Asia Section, Aus AID, Mr. Mark Bailey, Regional Counselor for South Asia, Aus Aid and Ms. Tara Gurung, Country Manager, Aus AID Nepal, visited the Centre on 31st, March, 2009. Her Excellency Ms. Grace was briefed on the functioning and challenges faced by the Centre, in prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

### **Visits of Governing Board Members, NTPs, NACPs Managers from the Region:**

- **Visit of NTP authority from India**

Dr. L. S. Chauhan, NTP Manager, India, Dr. P. Kumar, Director, NTI, Bangalore and Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Chief Medical Officer, Central TB Division, New Delhi visited the Centre on 9th December, 2005. They appreciated the progress and work done by the Centre.

- **Visit of Health Dignitaries from Afghanistan**

Dr. Hayat M. Ahmadzai, Director, NTP, Mr. Mirwais Sarah, Programme Officer, UNDP, Dr. Stanekzai, Director General, MRCA, and Dr. Saifur Rehman, Director, NACP, visited the Centre on 22 March 2007. The team observed and discussed the functioning of the Centre.

- **Visit of Governing Board Members:**

Governing Board Members of twenty second meeting of STAC visited the STAC on 12th October 2012. The Director and staff of the Centre welcomed the Board Members. Board Members observed the facilities of the Centre and expressed their happiness.

### **Visits of Directors of SAARC Secretariat:**

- **Mr. Tahir Iqbal Butt and Ms. K. C. Namgyel, Directors, SAARC Secretariat**

Mr. Tahir Iqbal Butt and Ms. K. C. Namgyel, Directors, SAARC Secretariat visited the Centre during the visit of His Excellency the Secretary-General, SAARC on 7th February 1997, and observed the activities carried out by the Centre.

- **Visit of Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC Secretariat**

Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director (Maldives), SAARC Secretariat visited the Centre on 4th June 2003. Mr. Sareer appreciated the progress made and activities undertaken by the Centre. He gave his remarks for making further progress in future.

- **Visit of Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat**

Mr. Mohamed Nasser, Director, Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat, visited the Centre on 11th March 2004. He appreciated the activities done by the Centre and wished all success for the further development of the Centre.

- **Visit of Mr. Hassan Shifau, Director Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat**

Mr. Hassan Shifau, Director, Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat, visited the Centre on 20th March, 2008. The Purpose of the visit was to observe the functioning of the Centre. Mr. Shifau observed all sections of the Centre and appreciated the progress made and activities undertaken by the Centre.

### **Visits of Directors of SAARC Regional Centres:**

- **Visit of Mr. Yaqub Malik, Director, SAARC Human Resources Development Centre, Pakistan**

Mr. Yaqub Malik, Director, SAARC Human Resources Development Centre, Pakistan visited the Centre on 10th October

2001. The Director and Deputy Director of STAC briefed about the activities of the Centre.

- **Visit of Md. Akram Hossain, Director, SAARC Metrological Research Centre, Bangladesh**

Md. Akram Hossain, Director, SAARC Metrological Research Centre, Bangladesh visited the Centre on 16 April 2002. He appreciated the activities done by the Centre and appreciated the benefits of the Centre, for all the SAARC Member States.

- **Visit of Mr. Shree Dhar Gautam, Director, SAARC Information Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal**

Mr. Shree Dhar Gautam, Director, SAARC Information Centre, Kathmandu, visited the Centre on 28th March, 2008. Mr. Gautam observed the functioning of the Centre and appreciated the progress and development of the Centre.

#### **Visit of dignitaries from WHO:**

- **Visit of Dr. Jai P. Narain, WHO/SEARO, New Delhi**

Dr. Jai P. Narain, WHO/SEARO, New Delhi visited the Centre on 20th September 2000. During the visit, issues related to Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Control in the region along with collaborative activities were discussed.

- **Visit of Dr. A. Kochi, Director, Stop TB Initiative, WHO, Geneva**

Dr. A. Kochi, Director, Stop TB Initiative, WHO, Geneva visited the Centre on 20th October 2000 and observed the activities carried out by the Centre.

- **Visit of Dr. Kantun, WHO Representative to Nepal:**

Dr. Kantun, WHO Representative to Nepal, visited the Centre on 27th June 2005 and observed the functioning of the Centre.

- **Visit of WHO Evaluation Team**

WHO Evaluation Team consisting Mr. Deepak Thapa, Dr. Madhu Ghimire, and Dr. Sailesh Upadhyay, National Professional Officer (NPO) visited the Centre on 5th November 2006 & observed the functioning of the centre for the purpose of evaluation of WHO collaborative activities.

- **Visit of Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Regional Advisor, WHO/SEARO, New Delhi**

Dr. Rahman visited the Centre on 23 May 2007 and observed the functioning of the Centre. He discussed with the Director of the Centre about the Plan and Programmes of the Centre and advised to integrate TB & Tobacco in the coming years. He appreciated the achievements of the Centre.

- **Visit of Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO/SEARO**

Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, World Health Organization, South East Asia Region visited the Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Dr. Samlee observed the functioning of the Centre and discussed about the collaborative activities of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and WHO/SEARO.

- **Visit of WHO/SEARO Team**

Dr. Alexander Andjaparidze, WR & Chief of Mission to Nepal, Dr. Richard Stern, Dr. Krongthong Thimasarn, Dr. Nani Nair, Dr. Sangay Thinley, Advisors for WHO/SEARO and Dr. Rajesh Bhatia (A team from WHO/SEARO) from WHO/SEARO visited the Centre on 25th February 2008. They discussed on the various activities undertaken by the Centre and STAC as a WHO collaborating Centre.

- **Visit of Dr. Jigmi Singay, Regional Advisor, Department of Communicable Diseases, WHO/SEARO and Team**

Dr. Jigmi Singay, Regional Advisor, Department of Communicable Diseases, WHO/SEARO and his Team Visited the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre on 24th April 2012

### **Visits of dignitaries by other International Organizations:**

- Dr. Donald Sutherland, Director, Bureau of HIV and STD, Health Canada and Mrs. Sarada Leclerc, Health and Population Specialist, CIDA, Asia Division visited the Centre on 16 September, 1997.
- Delegates from SAARC Member States, CIDA and Health Canada visited the Centre on 03 March, 1999 during the time of SAARC-CIDA Workshop on HIV/AIDS/TB Control in the Region in Kathmandu.
- The Journalist from South Asia, Panos Institute of South Asia and Norway visited the Centre on 24 February, 2000
- Members of Joint Steering Committee of SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project visited the Centre on 18 June, 2002.
- **Visit of UNAIDS team**

Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat and UNAIDS team, visited the Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2004, after signing the MoU between SAARC and UNAIDS. The team observed the functioning of the Centre and updated the information on TB and HIV/AIDS activities.

- **Visit of PANOS South Asia:**

Journalists from PANOS South Asia visited the Centre on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2005. They expressed their different views during the visit.

The purpose of their visit was to learn about the activities of the Centre.

- **Visit of Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, JLN University, New Delhi, India**

Prof. Mahendra P. Lama visited the Centre on 22 May 2007 to know the activities of the Centre. He appreciated the activities carried out by the Centre.

- **Visit of Ms. Orienne Boyer, EMPHASIS Project Director, Care Nepal**

Ms. Orienne Boyer, EMPHASIS Project Director, Care Nepal and Mr. Daring Sherpa, Team Leader, EMPHASIS Nepal visited SAARC TB and HIV Centre on 27 April 2012.

- **Visit to UNDP Team**

Mr. Kazuyuki Uji and Ms. Nashida Sattar from UNDP visited STAC on 7th Sept. 2010 and observed the functioning of the Centre and expressed their happiness regarding the progress of the Centre.

- **Visit to APLF Team**

Ms. Geeta Sethi, APLF Manager, Regional Support Team, UNAIDS, Bangkok, Thailand visited the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre on 21st Sept. 2010 and discussed the Regional Situation of HIV/AIDS in the Region.

- **Visit to UNAIDS Nepal representative**

Dr. Maria Elena Filio-Borromea (Marlin), Country Representative, UNAIDS, Nepal visited STAC on 19th June 2012

- **Visit of Participants of Consultative Meeting to Review Achievements and Progress on Protection., Care and Support for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS in the South Asia, 9-10 Sept. 2013.**

A team consisting Dr. Moinullah Zafari, Ministry of Public Health, Afghanistan; Dr. Noor Hassan Basharyar, NACP, Jalalabad, Afghanistan; Ms. Dechen, MoH, Bhutan; Dr. Choeda Gyaltshen, Punakha District Hospital, Bhutan; Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Delhi State AIDS Control Society, India; Mr. Abdul Hameed, Maldives; Dr. Sisira Ananda and Dr. M. K. D. Senanayake Sri-Lanka visited the Centre on 11 September 2013 and observed the facility of Centre.

Dr. Geeta Shakya, Director, National Public Health Laboratory, Teku, Kathmandu and Mr. Kabiraj Khanal, Under Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal visited the facilities of SAARC Supra-national Reference Laboratory in the Centre in 22 January 2014.

Dr. Stephanie Langevin from Canada visited STAC and discussed with the Director, STAC on 25th February 2014 at the Centre The Director, STAC briefed about the status of MDR & XDR TB, TB/ HIV Co-infection and TB Lab services and also discussed about the treatment of Tuberculosis and Research.

Dr. Md. Ali Bhuiyan, UNAIDS, Asia and Pacific Regional Programme Advisor and Ruben F. del Prado, UNAIDS Nepal Country Coordinator visited the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in 2014. Director briefed the ten years of programme achievements in SAARC Member States. Discussion was focused on SAARC Regional Strategy for HIV and AIDS and its implementation in the Member States.

Dr. Supriya Wansavithane, MO-HIV, WHO Country Office, Nepal visited the Centre on 7 January 2015 and discuss about the area of collaborative activities with WHO, especially in Nepal

- **Visit of the dignitaries from MOFA, Government of Nepal**

Mr. Ramesh Prasad Khanal, Joint Secretary, and Ms. Rita Dhital, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal visited STAC on 1st April 2015 and discussed on the development of the Centre, its activities and future programmes. They observed the functioning, infrastructure and facilities of the Centre.

- **Visit from High Level Dignitaries from Embassy of India, Kathmandu**

A team of Senior Diplomats, Mr. Vinay Kumar, Deputy Chief of Mission and Mr. Gyanveer Singh, SS (EC), from the Embassy of the Republic of India in Kathmandu, visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre on 13th July 2015 and observed the functioning and infrastructure of the Centre. Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC briefed the vision, mission, progress and the future programme of the Centre.

Visit from LHLI

- Laila Lochting, LHL International, Norway visited the Centre on 17 December 2015 and thank for interesting and fruitful visit and hope that future collaboration to improve the TB situation in Nepal and the SAARC Countries

- **Visit of Members of SAARC Programming Committee**

Mr. Dinkar Asthana, Joint Secretary and Mr. S. R. Patnaik, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of India visited STAC, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal on 23 December 2015. They observed the functioning of the Centre by visiting the Laboratory,

Library and office rooms and obtained the information regarding SAARC Supra-national Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS.

- **Visit of Executives from Johnson & Johnson**

Mr. Jason Williams and Mr. Anand Rishi from J&J, India visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal on 3rd March, 2016 as Nepal is also going to launch Bedaquiline shortly. The purpose of their visit was to discuss with the Director, STAC Dr. S. C. Verma about the initiatives STAC may take with the new drugs for the management of MDR-TB, XDR-TB in the SAARC Region.

- **Visit of STAC by International Team during the Annual Review of the National TB Control Programme of Nepal held from 5 to 14 Sept. 2016**



(Dr. Chen-Yuan Chiang, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), Dr. Russell Dacombe, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), and Dr. Hsien-Ho Lin, Institute of Epidemiology Preventive Medicine, National Taiwan, University and Mr. Gokul Mishra, LHLI Focal Person to Nepal, NTC, Thimi visited STAC and discussed with Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC on the progress made by the Region in TB control along with its constraints & challenges on 14th Sept. 2016)

- Meeting of Dr. Md. *Khurshid Alam Hyder*, Regional Adviser, Tuberculosis, WHO-SEARO with Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC during his visit at STAC, Kathmandu in August 2016.



- Visit of STAC by Dignitaries from KNCV



Visit of Dr. Remi Verduin, Public Health Consultant, KNCV and Dr. Tushar Kanti Ray, KNCV Technical Advisor to Global Fund Tuberculosis Programme, Nepal to STAC on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 and observed the facilities and functioning of the STAC and discussed with Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC about future activities of the Centre and establish KNCV related collaboration/coordination.

## Photographs of Visits/observation of activities of the Centre



Hon'ble then Minister Mr. Khagaraj Adhikari, MOHP, Govt of Nepal addressing at the programme organized to celebrate 30th SAARC Charter Day at STAC on 8 Dec. 2014, Thimi, Bhaktapur.



Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Deen Mohd. Noorul Huq, DG of Health Services, Bangladesh, Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC, other participants of the programme, ToT on MDR-TB on 15 Dec. 2014 in Dhaka



H. E. Firozuddin Feroz, Public Health Minister, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC during SAARC Health Ministers' Meeting, New Delhi, 2015



Hon'ble then Minister Mr. Kagaraj Adhikari, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal observing the facilities at STAC



Hon'ble then Minister Mr. Mohamed Nazim, Ministry of Health, Govt of Maldives and other dignitaries at the closing session of the SAARC Regional Training on LSM for TB & HIV/AIDS Prog. in Maldives



Mr. Ramesh Prasad Khanal, Joint Secretary, and Ms. Rita Dhital, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal visited STAC, Thimi on 1st April 2015.



Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC discussing with Dr. Ejaz Quadeer, Programme Manager, National TB Control Programme, Pakistan during The UNION Conference, held in Barcelona, Spain in 2014.



Interaction Programme with Nursing students on the occasion of World TB Day and SAARC TB Day on 20th March 2016 at STAC



On the occasion of World TB Day/SAARC TB Day "Interaction Programme on TB and its Preventive Strategy" with students and teachers of Nursing Colleges at STAC on 20th March 2015



Hon'ble Secretary Dr. Dorji Wangchuk, Ministry of Health, Royal Govt. of Bhutan, Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC other dignitaries along with the officials in the SAARC Regional Meeting of the Programme Managers of National TB and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of Member States in Dec. 2014, Bhutan



25th Meeting of the Governing Board of  
SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Center (STAC), 2015



National and International dignitaries at the joint function of  
World TB Day 2015 organized in Kathmandu



Mr. Vinay Kumar, Deputy Chief of Mission and Mr. Gyanveer Singh, SS (EC), from the Embassy of  
India in Kathmandu, visited STAC, Thimi, Bhaktapur on 13th July 2015



National and International dignitaries at the joint function of World TB Day 2016 organized in National TB Centre, Nepal



(Participation of STAC Director in the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAR, TWG on TB at Male in April 2016)  
The Programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister Ms. Iruthisham Adam, Ministry of Health, Government of Maldives.



SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control and Heads of National TB Reference Laboratories  
30 September - 01 October, 2015 Kathmandu, Nepal



(Participation of Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC in Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) to review the RNTCP conducted by the Government of India in April 2015)



Participation of Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC at the Ninth Meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee on MDR-TB organized by WHO/SEARO held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016



STAC's participation in 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of South East Asia Region (SEAR) of The UNION held in Kathmandu from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016



*Meeting organized for Development of the ToR of SAARC Supra-national Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS and formulation of Long Term Plan, 1-5 Feb. 2016, STAC, Bhaktapur, Nepal*

(Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC, Dr. B. Lamichhane, Director, NTC, Nepal, Dr. G. Shakya, Director, NPHL, Nepal, Dr. B. P. Rijal, Professor & Head, Dept. of Microbiology, IoM, Kathmandu, Nepal Mr. D. K. Khadka, Microbiologist, NTC, Nepal and staff of STAC interact with Visiting Consultant Dr. V. P. Myneedu, Sr. Microbiologist and Prof. & Head, NRL & Dept. of Microbiology, NITRD, New Delhi, India)



(Observation of ground floor layout of SAARC Supra-national Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS at STAC by Members of Internal Technical Advisory Committee and Visiting Consultant Dr. V. P. Myneedu from NITRD, New Delhi on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 2016)



(Dr. S.C. Verma, Director, STAC briefing about STAC to team members from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan upon their visit to STAC on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016)

**SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)**

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