



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

**Annual Report  
2005**

SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Centre (STC)  
Thimi, Bhaktapur  
G.P.O. Box No. 9517, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel : 00977-1-6631048, 6632477, 6632601  
Fax : 00977-1-6634379  
E-mail : [saarctb@mos.com.np](mailto:saarctb@mos.com.np)  
Website : [www.saarctb.com.np](http://www.saarctb.com.np)



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## Preface

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre is one of the Regional Centres of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). This Centre is working for the control & prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of SAARC Member States in control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region. The Centre has been producing annual report since it became fully functional. This report includes the activities carried out in year 2005.



The Centre is providing support to NTPs and NACPs of Member States for control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS. The Centre has developed the strategies for TB/HIV co-infection and HIV/AIDS. The programme managers of TB and HIV/AIDS of the Member States are using the Centre as a platform for sharing the experiences and exchange of ideas concentrated on creating awareness in the community as well as advocacy for attention of policy makers, planners and stakeholders. The Centre also contributes towards the human resource development.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to the Member States for their support and cooperation to complete the activities.

We would also like to offer our gratitude to His Excellence Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General and Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC for their guidance and support to implement the activities.

We are thankful to the Ministry of Health/Department of Health Services, National TB Centre, National AIDS Centre Nepal for technical support & cooperation. WHO/SEARO, UNAIDS, JICA, UNFPA, IUATLD, NIH and other stakeholders for their support during the implementation of the programme.

I must appreciate the efforts given by Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist and all General Services Staff for completion of the activities of 2005.

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

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha  
Director

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
ANEMECON	All Nepal Medical Conference
CCC	Central Chest Clinic
CTLHP	Community TB and Lung Health Project
Dept.	Department
DFID	Department for International Development
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short-course
DPHO	District Public Health Office/r
Dr	Doctor
DRS	Drug Resistance Surveillance
EDO	Executive District Officer
EQA	External Quality Assurance
ER	Eastern Region
FG	Federal Government
FNJ	Federation of Nepalese Journalists
GLRA	German Leprosy Relief Aid/Agency
GPO	General Post Office
GSS	General Services Staff
GTZ	German Technical Assistance
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
IUATLD	International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases
JAT	Joint Audit Team
JDWNRH	Jigme Dorje Wanchuk National Referral Hospital
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MO	Medical Officer
MoH & P	Ministry of Health and Population
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NATA	Nepal Anti-TB Association
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
No	Number
NPO	National Programme Officer
NRL	National Reference Lab
NTC	National TB Centre
NTP	National Tuberculosis Programme
NTPCCD	National TB Programme and Control of Chest Diseases
PAL	Practical Approach to Lung-health
PHL	Public Health Lab
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS

Prof	Professor
PTP	Provincial TB Programme
QA	Quality Assurance
QE	Quantitative Error
Rt	Right
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SEARO	South East Asia Regional Office
STC	SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TB	Tuberculosis
ToT	Training of Trainers
TUTH	Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital
UNAIDS	United Nations AIDS
VC	Vice Chancellor
VCTC	Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centre
VDC	Village Development Committee
Vol	Volume
WHO	World Health Organization

## **I. Introduction**

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. TB control was one of the five identified disease control areas. Accordingly, a proposal for establishment of the TB Centre in Nepal was submitted. The Technical Committee at its eight meeting held in Colombo from 16 to 18 July 1990 considered the proposal. The Standing Committee at its thirteenth session held in Male from 16 to 17 November 1990 decided that a revised proposal on the regional centre for Tuberculosis be prepared by Nepal.

Three years before the declaration of TB as a Global Emergency by WHO, the Heads of States 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. It was established in 1992 and became fully functional in 1994.

The initial mandate of the centre was to work for prevention and control of TB in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National Tuberculosis Control Programmes of the Member States. But later on its mandate was extended to work for prevention & control of HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection in the Region.

Considering the achievement of the centre over last twelve years, 31<sup>st</sup> Session of Standing Committee meeting of SAARC held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in November 9-10, 2005 approved the renaming of the centre as SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre. Now the centre is called as **SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Centre (STC)**.

Since 1994 the Centre has been producing & publishing Annual Report of the activities carried out by the Centre in preceding year regularly. This Annual Report encompasses the activities carried out in year 2005.

## **II. Activities planned for the year 2005**

The Fourteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC) held in Kathmandu on November 09-10, 2004 recommended the following activities to carry out by the Centre in 2005

### **1. Public awareness, advocacy & partnership programmes on Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS**

- i) Commemoration/Celebration of:
  - World TB Day
  - World AIDS Day
  - SAARC Charter Day
- ii) Partnership Programme with:  
Medical Colleges, Industries, Private Sectors & Pharmaceuticals/ Pharmacists in Pakistan & Sri Lanka
  - School & Media in Bhutan, Pakistan & Maldives

### **2. Participation in International/Regional Meetings, Seminars, Conferences, in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS, NTP review in Member Countries**

- i) Participation in the 36<sup>th</sup> IUATLD World Conference on TB and Lung Health.
- ii) Regional Meeting, Seminars, Training, Conferences in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS.
- iii) Participation in NTP review in Member Countries.

### **3. Publication production and distribution of STC Publications**

- I. STC Newsletters
- II. SAARC Journals of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS
- III. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Reports (updates) on TB and HIV/AIDS including TB/HIV co-infection
- IV. Annual Report of STC
- V. World TB Day Report
- VI. World AIDS Day Report
- VII. History of Tuberculosis and TB Control Programme in the SAARC Region.

4. **Purchase of books, journals and other publications etc. related to TB and HIV/AIDS for library.**
5. **Carry out situation analysis of quality assurance in TB and HIV/AIDS control activities, epidemiological & laboratory network in Bhutan and Pakistan.**
6. **Workshop to Develop SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (3 days) & Meeting of Managers of National HIV/AIDS Control Programme from SAARC Member States (1 day) in Nepal.**
7. **Second Regional Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection to identify research areas and to develop research protocol on identified areas and to visit TB/HIV pilot project sites in India – 4 days.**
8. **SAARC Training on Data Management of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme**
9. **Second Workshop to Develop Regional Guidelines for Treatment of MDR-TB & Third Meeting of Laboratory Directors from 9 TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Region in Nepal.**
10. **Workshop to Develop Protocol for Quality Assurance in Culture and Drug Sensitivity Testing in National TB Reference Laboratory in Pakistan.**
11. **Regional Training for Laboratory Trainers on imparting training in Quality Assurance in Sputum Microscopy in Sri Lanka.**
12. **Third Round External Proficiency Testing in 9 National TB Reference Laboratories.**
13. **Identify barriers in seeking health care in TB Control Programme, an Institutional Based Pilot Study in Bangladesh/India.**
14. **SAARC Trainer's Training on TB Control Programme Management in Maldives (10 days)**
15. **Research activities in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS:**
  - I) Prevalence of HIV among diagnosed TB patients in Bangladesh/Nepal.
  - II) Quality assurance of Microscopy in private laboratories in Nepal.
  - III) Chemicals and other material for laboratory works

### **III. Fifteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB Centre**

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre was held on October 5-6, 2005 in Kathmandu. Board Members Dr. Vikarunnessa Begum, Programme Manager (TB), Bangladesh, Dr. Ugen Dophu, Medical Director, JDWNRH, Thimphu, Bhutan, Dr. Teja Ram, Chief Medical Officer (TB), DGHS, India, Mr. Ibrahim Shaheem, Deputy Director General, Dept. of Public Health, Maldives, Dr. Babu Ram Marasini, Deputy Health Administrator, MoH & P, Nepal, Dr. Mohammad Naeem, Additional Director, Provincial TB Control Programme, Punjab, Pakistan and Mr. Wimal de Silva, Counselor, Embassy of Sri Lanka (Nepal) Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat and Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC (Member Secretary) attended the meeting.

Hon'ble Mr. Neekshya SJB Rana, Assistant Minister for Health and Population, HMG Nepal inaugurated the meeting on Nov. 5, 2005. Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha, Officiating Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population chaired the session. Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat and Dr. Vikarunnessa Begum, Chairperson of the Governing Board of STC addressed the session. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC delivered welcome address in the inaugural session.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC presented the report on activities done & achievements of the Centre in year 2005 and proposed the programmes and budget for the Centre for year 2006 in the meeting.

The Governing Board reviewed the achievements and activities done by the Centre in the year 2005 and recommended programmes and budget for the year 2006.

#### **Proposed Programmes for the year 2006**

- Public Awareness and Advocacy Programme on TB and HIV/ AIDS
- Participation in International/Regional Meetings, Seminars, Conferences in the field of TB and HIV/ AIDS & NTP Review in Member Countries
- Production and Distribution of STC Publications
- Strengthening of STC Library and strengthening and updating of Website
- Carry out Situation Analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Program Activities in India and Nepal
- SAARC Regional Meeting of Managers of National TB Control Programme from SAARC Member States
- SAARC Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) on Quality Assurance in Sputum Microscopy
- SAARC Regional Training on Leadership and Strategic Management in TB and HIV/AIDS Control
- SAARC Regional Training on Data Management Applications for TB and HIV/AIDS Managers
- SAARC Regional Workshop to revise Regional Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Sputum Microscopy and Develop Country Specific Protocol for DRS
- SAARC Regional Training of Trainers on DOTS Plus
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SAARC Regional Workshop on TB/HIV Co infection
- Strengthening SAARC Regional Epidemiological Networking by developing software (Epi. Centre for TB & other for HIV/AIDS data management)
- Prevalence of HIV among diagnosed TB Patients in Bangladesh / Pakistan
- Gender based disparity among TB suspects and new TB patients: a record based retrospective study in the Region
- SAARC Regional Workshop on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization
- Procurements of Chemicals and other Materials for STC Reference Laboratory

## **Activities under UNAIDS support to SAARC**

1. Second SAARC-UNAIDS Expert Group Meeting to develop a Work plan to implement SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV and AIDS
2. Short term staff to initiate the process of implementation of SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS
3. SAARC/ASEAN Workshop to promote awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention and control
4. Study visit by SAARC delegation on ASEAN's experiences on HIV/AIDS prevention and control .

## **IV. Report of the activities carried out and achievements of the Centre in 2005**

### **1. Public Awareness, Advocacy & Partnership Programmes on Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS**

- i) Commemoration/Celebration of World TB Day, World AIDS Day and SAARC Charter Day
- ii) Partnership Programme with Medical Colleges, Industries, Private Sectors & Pharmaceuticals/ Pharmacists in Pakistan & Sri Lanka and School & Media in Bhutan, Pakistan & Maldives

#### **1.1. Commemoration of World TB Day 2005**

STC commemorated the World TB Day on March 24, 2005 in Kathmandu in collaboration with National TB Centre, His Majesty's Government of Nepal & other stakeholder.

The Day is commemorated annually on 24 March to mark the day, when Dr Robert Koch presented his discovery of the TB bacillus to a group of doctors in Berlin (1882). This year (2005), World TB Day focused on the efforts of frontline TB care providers and their crucial role in stopping TB. So the theme of the Day was "***FRONTLINE DOTS PROVIDERS: The Unsung Heroes in the War Against Tuberculosis***".

### **Activities**

#### **a) Display of Banners**

Banners with different messages of awareness about TB and HIV/AIDS were displayed at prominent places of the city and within surroundings of the Royal Nepal Academy where the joint function of the World TB Day 2005 was held.

#### **b) Rally**

School students, nursing college students, teachers, social volunteers, health workers, local leaders, artists, sport personnel, development partners, government officials, National & International dignitaries, NTC and STC staff participated in the rally. The rally was decorated with banners, placards, TB songs etc. The rally started from Kathmandu durbar square and ended at Royal Nepal Academy where joint function was held.

#### **c) Joint Function**

A joint function was organized at Royal Nepal Academy on March 24, 2005 to commemorate the day. The Right Honourable Mr. Kirtinidhi Bista, Vice Chairman of Council of Ministers, graced the programme as the Chief Guest. Mr. Lava Kumar Devkota, Secretary, Ministry of Health chaired the programme.

Programme was started with distribution of the badges to the chief guest and special dignitaries. Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha, Director General, Department of Health Services, delivered the welcome speech.

The chief guest inaugurated the programme by lighting a traditional oil lamp (panas). The TB control publications were handed over to the chief guest.

Mr. Devendra Bahadur Pradhan, President of Nepal Anti-TB Association, Residential representatives of W.H.O. to Nepal and representative from DFID gave their remarks.

JICA Representative handed over JICA Award and Certificate to Director, NTP, Nepal.

On behalf of the SAARC, Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat read out the message of His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General, SAARC delivered on the occasion of the World TB Day 2005. In the message he expressed his views for collaborative efforts of all countries in fighting TB. He further added “on this Day, SAARC Member States reaffirm their pledge to reduce the burden of TB in the region that is currently the cause of enormous human suffering”. He also elaborated on the theme of the campaign “Frontline DOTS Providers: The Unsung Heroes in the War against Tuberculosis”.

The Chief Guest delivered his remarks and recalled his experiences “the pain of the Tuberculosis in the family”.

The chairperson of the programme Mr. Lava Kumar Devkota, Secretary of Health, delivered the closing remark.

At the end Dr. K. B. Shrestha, Director, NTC delivered the vote of thanks.

#### **d) Exhibition**

Rt. Honourable Mr. Kirtinidhi Bista, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers inaugurated the Exhibition at Bhanu Bhakta Hall in Royal Nepal Academy, Kathmandu. In the exhibitions SAARC TB Centre displayed the posters on TB and HIV/AIDS control activities in the Region, current status of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States and the achievements of the Centre since its establishment.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director explained the information displayed in the exhibition. Rt. Hon’ble Mr. Bista appreciated the progress made by the Centre.

#### **Achievements**

Thousands of city dwellers acquainted with Tuberculosis, its spread, prevention and treatment. NTP updated its advocacy and got repeated commitments from government level and stakeholders to put the TB control programme in priority. NTP also got the commitments from civic society and its development partners to continue their support for NTP.

### **1.2. Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2005**

World AIDS Day is commemorated around the globe on 1<sup>st</sup> December every year. It celebrates the progress made in the battle against the epidemic – and highlights the issues need to be addressed. Every year a theme is given and accordingly the theme of the year 2005 was “Stop AIDS, Keep Promise”.

Awareness is the main issue needs to be addressed to prevent HIV. To create awareness STC organized partnership programmes with media on control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS in Birgunj, Parsa, Nepal.

## **Interaction Programme with Media**

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre and Federation of Nepalese Journalists Association, Parsa district, jointly organized an interaction programme with Media on Prevention and Control of TB and HIV/AIDS on the occasion of World AIDS Day 2005 on Dec. 1, 2005 in Birgunj.

Birgunj, being one of the main entry points, was chosen for advocacy to the media people of both side of border, Nepal and India.

Forty-eight Journalists from Parsa District of Nepal and Raxual of India and representatives from government and non-governmental organizations participated in the programme.

### **Objectives**

The objective of the programme was to enhance public awareness on control of TB and prevention of HIV.

### **Methodology**

The following methodologies were adopted

- Deliberations
- Presentations
- Interaction/discussion
- Display of Audio Visual documentary on TB & HIV/AIDS

### **Proceedings**

Dr. Murali Prasad Singh, Medical Superintendent, Narayani Sub-regional Hospital, Parsa, Nepal chaired the session and Mr. Nabin Kumar Ghimire, Chief District Officer, Parsa graced the occasion as a Chief Guest.

Mr. Shartrughan Nepal, President, Federation of Nepalese Journalists Association, Parsa, delivered welcome address.

Mr. Binod Gautam, District Public Health Officer, Parsa highlighted the present status and problem of HIV/AIDS in Parsa district.

Mr. Nabin Kumar Ghimire, CDO, Parsa thanked STC for organizing this programme on the occasion of World AIDS Day 2005 in Birgunj. He expressed satisfaction for the invitation to the journalists of Nepal and from adjacent district of India. He also appreciated the people from different walk of life such as doctors, bureaucrats, social workers, etc. working for HIV/AIDS, who were participating in the programme beside journalists.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC welcomed the participants. He thanked for their active participation in the programme. Dr. Jha presented paper on "Situation of HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection in the SAARC Region". He emphasized that TB and HIV/AIDS are not only the medical problem but also the social and economical one. So, media is only the effective vehicle to carry the messages forward in the community. He also thanked media people for their continued support & extended collaboration at this juncture.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC presented "the Role of Media in Control and Prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS". He explained the role of media and said that media has to play role in mobilizing public support, influencing policy makers and reducing social stigma and discrimination.

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC presented prevention strategy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Rakesh Verma, President, NMA, Parsa and Mr. Ganga Bahadur Thapa, Vice-president, NATA, Parsa gave their remarks.

Participants gave following suggestions to STC :

1. Plan the activities on the cross-border issues, media education/training activities and rural/VDC based activities for the control of TB and HIV/AIDS
2. Organize training programme on creating awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS for the journalist of the SAARC Region,
3. Prepare visual of awareness & literacy programme on TB and HIV/AIDS.

Director, Deputy Director, Epidemiologist of STC, Mr. Binod Gautam, DPHO, Parsa and Dr. Murali Prasad Singh, Medical Superintendent, Narayani Sub-regional Hospital, Parsa clarified the queries raised by the participants during discussion.

Dr. Murali Prasad Singh, Med. Superintendent, NSR Hospital, Parsa, chairperson of the programme delivered the concluding remarks. He acknowledged the cooperation rendered by the journalists. He also thanked the STC officials and declared the session closed.

## Media coverage

Newspapers appreciated the programme of STC. Different newspapers from India and Nepal (Birgunj) published the news of the programme organized by STC on the occasion of World AIDS Day 2005 in Birgunj:

### • Hindustan daily

**Hindustan – Daily** 02 December 2005, It was published in Hindi language titled “Nepal me 61 hazar HIV pidit” (61,000 HIV infected people in Nepal). In the news it was mentioned that SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre(STC) and Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ), Parsa district jointly organized a seminar on HIV/AIDS under the chairpersonship of Dr. Murali Prasad Singh. The chief guest was Mr. Nabin Ghimire, CDO, Parsa district. In the programme Dr. Rakesh Verma, President, Nepal Medical Association, Narayani Region, Mr. Ganga Bahadur Thapa, Nepal Anti-TB Association, Parsa, Dr. Murali Prasad Singh, Chief, Narayani sub-Regional Hospital, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC and Deputy Director of the Centre Dr. Rano Mal Piryani (Pakistan) Dr. M. Rahman (Bangladesh) explained about the prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the community and role of the journalist.

Similarly the daily newspapers of Birgunj - Jana Pratibimba Daily, Pratik Daily, Chatyang, Daily, Satya Sandesh Daily and Ankush Daily published the news & appreciated the Centre for organizing such a programme in Birgunj.

## Achievements

Forty eight journalists participated in the programme and committed to use their pen on TB and HIV/AIDS. The participant journalists showed their solidarity to write TB and HIV/AIDS awareness columns.

## 1.3. Celebration of SAARC Charter Day

### Interaction with School Students

On the auspicious occasion of 21<sup>st</sup> SAARC Charter Day, STC organized an Interaction Programme with students at Prabhat Higher Secondary School, Lalitpur, Nepal under the Public Awareness, Advocacy & Partnership Programmes on Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS at school premises on December 8, 2005.

Mr. Ratna Lal Shrestha, Vice Principal, welcomed the STC team, students and teachers at the programme. The programme was started with the presentation of Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC. Dr. Jha highlighted

the activities of STC and situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region. He also appealed the students to play the role of “Child Ambassador” to control TB and HIV/AIDS in the community.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC explained about TB, its symptoms, diagnosis and treatment whereas Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist explained about HIV/AIDS, its spread, precaution and prevention.

On behalf of school Mr. Rupak Gyawali, Teacher assured STC of their contributions for the control of HIV/AIDS in the community. Mr. Gyawali also expressed happiness for getting opportunity to participate in the programme and thanked STC for selecting their school to organize the programme. He also advised students to communicate the knowledge, which they have gained in this programme to their friends, family and relatives.

All participants expressed their willingness to contribute and show their solidarity to help STC in its efforts to control TB and HIV/AIDS.

## **Achievements**

Over 100 students, teachers and other staff participated in the programme. The programme enhanced the awareness of students on TB and HIV/AIDS.

## **1.4. Partnership Programmes**

### **1.4.1. Partnership programme with School & Media in Bhutan**

SAARC TB Centre has been conducting awareness programmes to support TB and HIV/AIDS control programmes of Member States through partnership with school, media, industry workers and pharmaceuticals. In the year 2005, STC organized an awareness programme on partnership with school and media in Bhutan.

As per the recommendation of 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board of STC and approved programmes for the year 2005 – Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan, and STC jointly organized a partnership programme with school and media in Bhutan. The programme was held at Yangchenphu Higher Secondary School, Thimphu on May 28, 2005. Students of class 11 and 12 along with teachers and media people participated in the programme.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the school and media partnership programme were:

- Enhancement of public awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS and their control and prevention by:
  - Educating school children about these diseases with regard to general information and its prevention and control
  - Building a cadre of child ambassadors, committed to spread messages on TB and HIV/AIDS awareness in the community
  - Making media aware about situation of TB and HIV/AIDS, natural history of TB and HIV/AIDS, their spread, social and economic impacts on individual, family and community and benefits of prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS infection and control of these diseases to individuals, family, community, country, region and world at large
  - Building partnership for motivating individuals and communities, mobilizing public support, influencing the policy makers, reducing the social stigma attached to and creating community awareness about TB and HIV/AIDS
  - Convincing the media to be a part of solution.

## **Proceedings**

The programme was started with the welcome speech of Dr. Lungten Z Wangchuk, National TB and Leprosy Control Programme Manager, Bhutan.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist discussed on situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region, and role of students and media in control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS, through PowerPoint presentations.

Presentation was followed by question and answer session. Majority of the participants individually put their queries about HIV/AIDS, its transmission, prevention and impact.

Before conclusion students, media and teachers gave their remarks.

Dr. Jha, in his closing remarks expressed happiness on active participation from students and called for more cooperation from educational institutions and the media. Dr Lungten Wangchuk, Programme Manager, TB & Leprosy also gave closing remarks. In her remarks she thanked STC, school authorities, media and participants.

## **Achievements**

Students from class 11 and 12 (over hundred), teachers and staff of the school participated in the programme. They became familiar with different aspects of TB and HIV/AIDS. They also committed to talk to their friends and families about these diseases.

## **Special session with Media in Bhutan**

A special session was held with the media people. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC gave an interview and informed the media that the commitment from each sector is essential to control TB & HIV/AIDS. In response to a query of media, Dr. Jha said these diseases are co-related as HIV fuels TB and TB fuels HIV. He also told that the increase in prevalence of HIV/AIDS would greatly impact the TB burden in future as an HIV positive person bears 60 % risk of developing TB disease in his lifetime, instead of 5-10% if s/he is HIV negative.

Dr. Lungten, TB and Leprosy Programme Manager, Bhutan informed media that the status of TB is not alarming and over the years steady progress have been made in fighting the disease in Bhutan. She also highlighted the current data of HIV/AIDS in Bhutan.

## **Achievements**

Journalists from media agencies, Thimphu participated in the programme. Journalists committed to write/broadcast about TB and HIV to create awareness among the people on TB and HIV/AIDS.

### **1.4.2. Partnership Programme with Medical Colleges in Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan**

National TB Control Programme, Government of Pakistan and STC jointly organized one-day partnership programme with Medical Colleges on TB and HIV/AIDS on July 15, 2005 in Karachi, Pakistan. Seventy participants from Medical Colleges, NTP, Provincial TB Control Programme Sindh, WHO Sindh, representatives from drug manufacturing companies, TB and HIV/AIDS Centres, JICA Drug Management Centre, Civil Hospital, Private Practitioners and officials from STC took part in the programme.

## Objectives

- to build-up/expand partnership with Medical Colleges in planning, implementing & evaluating TB & HIV/AIDS control programmes and undertaking research for TB & HIV/AIDS & their control.
- to build up/expand partnership with Medical Colleges/Hospitals on advocacy for TB & HIV/AIDS control, providing learning opportunities for TB & HIV/AIDS & their control and providing preventive, diagnostic & management services for TB & HIV/AIDS in accordance with National programme guidelines.

## Methodology

- Presentations, deliberations and Interaction.

## Proceedings

Dr. Prof. Masood Hameed, Vice Chancellor, Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr. Syed Karam Shah, National Manager, NTP Pakistan welcomed the Chief Guest, participants and officials in the programme. Dr. Shah also expressed happiness and appreciated the initiative taken by STC for organizing this important activity in Karachi, Pakistan.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC delivered remarks and highlighted the functions of STC and its role in prevention and control of TB & HIV/AIDS in the Region. He thanked the Chief Guest for gracing the session and appreciated the excellent arrangements done by the NTP, Pakistan.

Dr. Prof. Masood Hameed, VC, Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi expressed his commitment to support TB control by implementing training, identification of focal persons in the Medical Colleges and TB related laboratory activities. He appreciated the activities being performed by STC in the Region.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC, presented Involvement of Medical Colleges in addressing DOTS and TB/HIV co-infection in the SAARC Region.

Dr. Ashraf Sadiq, Director, Ojha Institute of Chest Diseases (Dow University of Medical Sciences), presented TB control by DOTS in Dow University of Medical Sciences, Karachi

Dr. Tojammul presented DOTS in Civil Hospital, Karachi.

Dr. Syed Karam Shah, NTP Manager, Pakistan presented involvement of Medical Colleges in DOTS implementation in Pakistan.

Participants from various institutions took part in the discussion. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC coordinated and moderated the technical session.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC chaired the closing session. Dr. Iqtidar Ahemed, TB Programme Manager, Sindh delivered vote of thanks. The chairperson delivered closing remarks.

## Achievements

Seventy participants from Medical College, Private Practitioners, Development Partners and other stakeholders participated in the programme. Participants acquainted with the National TB control programme and National HIV/AIDS control programmes.

### **1.4.3. Partnership Programme with Industries on TB Control in Karachi**

National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) Pakistan and STC jointly organized Partnership Programme with Industry workers on July 16, 2005 at JAVEDAN CEMENT FACTORY, Karachi, Pakistan.

#### **Objectives**

- to ensure commitment of all levels for TB control
- to ensure implementation of DOTS as part of the ongoing health services and to establish DOTS centre in identified areas
- to initiate information and education programme to raise awareness among workers about TB.

#### **Methodology**

The following methodologies were adopted to conduct the programme:

- Meeting with the management to discuss various aspects of TB and its negative impact on the health of the workers, their families and the overall impact in the performance of the industry.
- Implementation of DOTS in the industry complex and
- Interaction with industry workers.

#### **Proceedings**

##### **Meeting with Industry management**

A meeting with the high level officials of the industry was held in the chamber of General Manager (GM), which was attended by all departmental heads, in-charges and NTP Managers from Sindh and Karachi.

Mr. Ashique Ali, GM welcomed the factory and STC officials in the meeting.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC highlighted the objectives of the programme and explained the ways of prevention of TB, especially at the workplace. He also explained the importance of DOTS at the workplace.

Captain, Dr. A. B. Talpur, Deputy General Manager (Medical) gave information about medical facilities provided to the employees of the factory and expressed his happiness for bringing the awareness programme by targeting the workers of the Javedan Cement Industry. He also gave commitment to open DOTS centre at that industry.

Dr. Iqtidar Ahmed, NTP Manager, Sindh explained about TB control and DOTS programme run by the Government of Pakistan in Karachi and Sindh & assured to help in opening DOTS centre.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC jointly clarified the queries related to TB and DOTS made by the factory officials during discussion.

##### **Interaction with industry workers**

Captain Dr. A. B. Talpur, Deputy General Manager (Medical) welcomed officials from STC and NTP Pakistan, PTP Sindh and industry workers and representative from union of industry workers. He also highlighted the importance of the programme.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, highlighted in presentation that “TB is fully curable disease”. An early detection and treatment are essential to control TB. The diagnosis and treatment are available at free of cost in all

DOTS centres. He also added that if workers suffer from TB disease it affects not only the individual but also the family, industry and ultimately the Nation. So, TB control programme at the workplace is crucial.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director gave talk in local language on general information about TB.

Dr. Iqtidar Ahmed, NTP Manager, Sindh explained on various aspects of TB control and importance of DOTS in industrial setup.

With acknowledging the warm reception & full cooperation from the President of Workers' Union and Officials of the industry the programme concluded.

## **Achievements**

Workers attended the interaction programme acquired the knowledge about TB and its control. There was an agreement between NTP Sindh and Industry Management to set up DOTS Centre in the premises of the industry for industrial workers. Management also assured to take care of their workers regarding TB and HIV/AIDS.

### **1.4.4. Partnership Programme with Pharmacists in Sri Lanka**

The SAARC TB Centre organized a partnership programme with Pharmacists/Che-mists & Druggist s for control and prevention of TB & HIV/AIDS in collaboration with National TB Control Programme, Government of Sri Lanka on August 18, 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Pharmacists, Chemists & Druggist from different organizations and Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Society of Sri Lanka participated in the programme.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the programme were;

- To disseminate update information on TB & HIV/AIDS and their control.
- To strengthen cooperation & commitment from the Pharmacists in prevention & control HIV/AIDS through awareness building and encouraging healthy life style practice.
- To strengthen cooperation & commitment from the Pharmacists in control of TB by improving case detection through early referring of TB suspects and case holding thorough cooperating and supervising anti-TB treatment.

## **Methodology**

The following methodologies were adopted to conduct the programme:

- Power point Presentations
- Interaction & discussions
- Question answer

## **Proceedings**

The programme was facilitated by the experts from the SAARC TB Centre, Kathmandu and National Tuberculosis Control Programme and National HIV/AIDS Control Programme, Government of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Chandra Sarukkali, Director, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka chaired the session and started programme with welcome address.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC gave opening remarks and presented “General Information about TB and Situation of TB in SAARC Region”. Dr. Jha also explained the importance of involvement of pharmacists in achieving the target of case detection.

Dr. Chandra Sarukkali, Director, NTP, Sri Lanka presented “Situation of TB in Sri Lanka & Diagnostic and Treatment Policies of TB Control Programme”.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC highlighted the “Role of Pharmacists in Control of TB and HIV/AIDS”

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC made presentation on “General Information of HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region and Impact of HIV/AIDS on TB control programme”.

Dr. Sujatha Samarakoon, Cons. Venerologist, NSACP, Sri Lanka made a presentation on “Situation of HIV/AIDS and its Control Policy in Sri Lanka”.

After the completion of presentation, participants and presentators/facilitators discussed on the issues raised during the session.

## **Conclusion**

Prof. Tuley de Silva, Chairman, Pharmaceutical Society, gave remarks on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society, Sri Lanka. Prof. Silva committed to collaborate with TB and HIV/AIDS programme.

## **Achievements**

Fifty participants attended the programme and acquired updated information about TB and HIV/AIDS. They also informed about the control programme run by the Government. Participants were acquainted with their role and responsibility towards TB and HIV/AIDS control in the society.

### **1.4.5. Partnership Programme with Private Sector in Sri Lanka**

The SAARC TB Centre organized a partnership programme with Private Sector for control and prevention of TB & HIV/AIDS in collaboration with National TB Control Programme, Government of Sri Lanka on August 19, 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Doctors working in the Private Sector Health Institutions in Sri Lanka attended the programme.

## **Objectives**

The objective of the programme was to strengthen partnership with Private Sector (Private Doctors) in control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS.

## **Methodology**

The following methodologies were adopted to conduct the programme:

- Power point Presentations
- Interaction & discussions
- Question answer

## **Proceedings**

The programme was facilitated by the experts from the SAARC TB Centre, Kathmandu and National Tuberculosis Control Programme and National HIV/AIDS Control Programme, Government of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Chandra Sarukkali, Director, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka chaired the session and started programme with welcome address.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC briefed about the partnership with Doctors engaged in private sector. He also highlighted the importance and need of the partnership with these Doctors in control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region. Dr. Jha presented “TB Situation in SAARC Region: Success and Challenges”.

Dr. Chandra Sarukkali, Director, NTP, Sri Lanka presented “Situation of TB in Sri Lanka & Diagnostic and Treatment Policies of NTP”.

Dr. Rano Mal Piriyani, Deputy Director, STC highlighted the “Role of Private Doctors in Control of TB and HIV/AIDS”.

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC made presentation on “Situation of HIV/AIDS and its Impact on TB Control Programme in the Region”.

Dr. Sujatha Samarakoon, Cons. Venerologist, NSACP, Sri Lanka gave presentation on “Situation of HIV/AIDS and its Control Policy in Sri Lanka”.

After the completion of presentation, participants and presentators/facilitators discussed on the issues raised during the session.

## **Conclusion**

Dr. Sydney Jayasuriya, President of Private Doctors Association, Sri Lanka gave remarks and suggestions. He assured commitment to continue collaboration with TB and HIV/AIDS programme. He also thanked NTP Sri Lanka and STC.

## **Achievements**

Fourteen Doctors attended the programme and committed to collaborate with NTP and NACP. Programme policy in TB and HIV/AIDS control adopted by government were informed and requested to implement in practice.

### **1.4.6. Partnership Programme with School in Nepal**

The SAARC TB Centre organized a partnership programme with school on creating awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS at Shri Mahabir Prasad Raghbir Ram Madhyamik Bidyalaya, Birgunj, Nepal on Dec. 2, 2005.

## **Objectives**

- To educate students about TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection and control of TB and prevention of HIV infection,
- To forge an active partnership with students in fight against TB and HIV/AIDS, TB/HIV co-infection
- To raise public awareness by mobilizing community at large.

## **Methodology**

The following methodologies were adopted to conduct the programme:

- Power point Presentations
- Interaction & discussions
- Question answer

## **Proceedings**

Mr. Janak Prasad Aryal, Teacher, Shri Mahabir Prasad Raghbir Ram Madhyamik Bidyalaya chaired the session. Mr. Binod Gautan, DPHO, Parsa welcomed the participants and officials from different organization in the programme.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC delivered welcome address and highlighted the objectives of the programme and role of students in control of TB and prevention of HIV in the community.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC gave general information on TB. Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC discussed general information about HIV/AIDS & its spread and prevention.

Students and teachers took part in discussions and raised different queries, which were answered by the STC experts.

Dr. Rakesh Verma, President, NMA, Parsa and Mr. Ganga Bahadur Thapa, Vice-president, NATA, Parsa gave their remarks. Mr. Shatrughan Nepal, President, Nepal, Federation of Nepalese Journalist also gave remarks.

Mr. Janak Prasad Aryal, Teacher, Shri Mahabir Prasad Raghbir Ram Madhyamik Bidyalaya and Chairperson of the programme concluded the programme with his remarks.

The programme was appreciated widely and there were requests for organizing such type of awareness programme in future in Birgunj.

## **Achievements**

Students, teachers and staff of the school participated in the programme. They became familiar with different aspects of TB and HIV/AIDS. They also committed to spread the messages to their friends and families about TB and HIV/AIDS to enhance awareness.

### **1.4.7. Partnership with School in Control and Prevention of TB, Hyderabad Sindh, Pakistan.**

An interaction programme with school students in control and prevention of TB was held at Government Himayat-ul-Islam Girls High School, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan on Dec. 23, 2005. SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal, National TB Control Programme, Pakistan and Provincial TB Control Programme, Sindh jointly organized the programme at school premises. Nearly 100 participants (students and teachers) participated in the programme.

## **Objective**

To enhance public awareness on control and prevention of TB by:

- Educating students about TB, its control and prevention,
- Forging a partnership with students in fighting against TB and
- Raising public awareness by mobilizing community at large

## **Methodology**

- Power point Presentations
- Interaction & discussions
- Question & answer

## **Proceedings**

Head Mistress of the school extended a warm welcome to the officials of STC and PTP of Sindh and all the participants. She thanked the organizers for selecting their school for such an important activity. She emphasized that the students could play active role in spreading messages against TB in the community.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC explained about the general information on TB in local language (Urdu & Sindhi)

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC extended a warm welcome to the participants and highlighted the role of students in TB control and prevention.

Dr. Iqtidar Ahmed, Manager, PTP Sindh briefed about the activities being carried out in Hyderabad district.

The experts answered the queries raised by the participants about TB and its control programme.

At the conclusion Dr. Nazir Shaikh, NPO, PTP Sindh thanked to all the participants, Head Mistress, Teachers and Staff of the school. Dr. Shaikh appreciated the cooperation rendered by school and PTP officials. He thanked STC for organizing this programme in Sindh. An audiovisual documentary was displayed in the programme.

Dr. Mohd. Gajjan Mastoi, District TB Coordinator, Hyderabad district coordinated the programme.

## **Achievements**

Nearly 100 participants (students, teachers and staff) participated in the programme. The participants became familiar with different aspects of TB and HIV/AIDS.

### **1.4.8. Partnership with Media in Control of TB and Prevention of HIV/AIDS, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan**

An interaction programme with media people in control of TB & prevention of HIV/AIDS was held at Hyderabad, Pakistan on Dec. 23, 2005. SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal, National TB Control Programme, Pakistan and Provincial TB Control Programme, Sindh jointly organized the programme.

## **Objective**

To enhance public awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS and their control and prevention by making media aware about situation of TB and HIV/AIDS, its nature of spread as well as impact on people and convincing the media people to be a part of campaign.

## **Proceeding**

The programme was started under the chairpersonship of Representative from Director General of Health Services, Sindh.

Hon'ble Law Minister of Sindh Mr. Chaudhari Iftikhar Ahmed graced the programme as a Chief Guest. Dr. Iqtidar Ahmed, Manager, PTP, Sindh welcomed the participants and briefed about TB control programme in Sindh and Pakistan.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest and participants and highlighted the situation of TB & HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region. He also briefed about the role of STC in control of TB & prevention of HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC talked on the role of media in prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS.

Discussions, question-answer session were held after the presentations. Participants appreciated the efforts made by NTP Pakistan, PTP Sindh and STC, for control of TB and prevention of HIV/AIDS. They thanked the organizers for holding such programme in Hyderabad.

Hon'ble Law Minister of Sindh Mr. Chaudhari Iftikhar Ahmed as a Chief Guest delivered remarks and said that Government has given high priority to control TB and allocated enough fund for it.

The Chairperson of the programme expressed the commitments of his department in controlling TB & preventing HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Nazeer Ahmed Shaikh, NPO, Sindh delivered vote of thanks.

An audiovisual documentary on Burden of TB & HIV/AIDS in SAARC Countries, Success & Future Challenges was also displayed in the programme.

## **Achievement**

This programme enhanced the awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS among the media groups and acquainted the commitment from them for the control of TB and HIV/AIDS by being part of campaign.

## **2. Participation in International/Regional Meetings, Seminars, Conferences in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS, NTP review in Member States**

### **2. 1. Participation in ANEMECON - 22**

Nepal Medical Association organized 22<sup>nd</sup> All Nepal Medical Conference from 2 to 4 March 2005 in Kathmandu. The theme of ANEMECON – 22 in this year was – Health, Human Rights & Conflict. Director, Deputy Director, Microbiologist and Epidemiologist from SAARC TB Centre participated in the conference held at Birendra International Convention Centre, Kathmandu. They presented scientific papers on i) Global & Regional burden of TB and HIV/AIDS & NTP policy ii) Recent advances in Tuberculosis iii) Threat of HIV on NTP and iv) Quality control of sputum microscopy.

### **2. 2. Participation in PAL Meeting**

On the invitation of Director, NTP Nepal, the Director, STC along with the professionals attended one day meeting to look at the scientific findings of the project from Practical Approach to Lung-health (PAL) done in Nawalparasi district in Nepal on June 30, 2005. The international PAL initiative consisting of WHO Geneva, Erasmus University Rotterdam, John Hopkins University and Institute of Medicine, Nepal jointly evaluated this approach.

### **2.3. Participation in JICA/CTLHP Workshop**

On the invitation of Director General, Department of Health Services, Nepal, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC & Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director attended workshop on terminal evaluation on Community TB & Lung Health Project (CTLHP), which is being implemented under the bilateral agreement of MoH, HMG Nepal and JICA in Kathmandu on May 18, 2005.

### **2.4. Participation in TB/HIV Collaboration Meeting**

STC Director and Deputy Director attended the meeting organized by JICA and NTC on June 2, 2005 in Kathmandu. The objective of the meeting was to develop proposal for TB/HIV project.

### **2. 5. Participation in the Interactory Meeting of LHL**

Director & Deputy Director, STC attended an Interactory Meeting for the improvement of NTP Nepal on April 14, 2005 in Kathmandu.

## **2.6. Participation in International Course**

IHMHR, Jaipur, India and IUATLD (the UNION) Paris, France organized an International Course in Management, Finance and Logistic for TB Control from Feb. 6-20, 2005 at Jaipur. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani attended the course under the sponsorship of IUATLD, Paris.

## **2.7. Participation in 23<sup>rd</sup> IUATLD-ER Conference in Lahore**

On the invitation of the Chairman, Organizing Committee of 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on TB and Lung Diseases IUATLD-ER, Lahore, Pakistan, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist participated in the conference held in September 25 to 28 in Lahore, Pakistan.

Dr. Jha, Dr. Piryani and Dr. Rahman presented papers on TB Situation in the SAARC Region, TB/HIV Co-infection & its status in SAARC Region and Socio-demographic characteristics of families with and without TB suspects: findings from a community based survey in Kathmandu valley respectively.

## **2.8. Participation in 36<sup>th</sup> Union World Conference on Lung Health**

Dr. Jha presented papers on “Success of Tuberculosis Control in the SAARC, Dr. Piryani presented papers on “Quality Assurance of Sputum Microscopy in the SAARC and Dr. Rahman presented papers on “Barriers in seeking health care among TB suspects: a community based pilot study in Kathmandu valley in 36<sup>th</sup> IUATLD World Conference held in Paris from 18-22 October 2005.

## **2.9. Participation in International Review of NTP Nepal**

At the invitation of the Director, NTP Nepal the Director and Deputy Director from STC participated in NTP review along with the International and National experts conducted from 17 –26 November 2005.

## **2.10. Participation in PPP Workshop in TUTH**

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC participated in PPP Workshop held on November 23, 2005 at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH) Kathmandu.

## **2.11. Participation in 26<sup>th</sup> Session of Programming Committee of SAARC**

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC participated in 26<sup>th</sup> Session of Programming Committee of SAARC held in Dhaka on November 8-9, 2005. Dr. Jha presented the Report of STC Governing Board.

## **2.12. Participation in 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAR Technical Working Group on TB**

On the invitation of WHO/SEARO Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director attended the meeting held at Kathmandu on December 8 - 9, 2005. The meeting reviewed the progress during the past year and followed up the recommendations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> TWG meeting held at SEARO, New Delhi. The meeting also advised on key priorities to scale up and intensify implementation of the expanded DOTS strategy at Regional and country levels towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals and recommended ways to ensure and sustain adequate financial support for TB control activities.

## **2.13. Participation in 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National TB Programme Managers of SEA Region**

With the objectives to review the progress made at country level with regard of TB control targets set for 2005, to discuss the Regional Strategic Plan for TB, National five-year TB control plans (2006-2010), to identify country-specific steps for implementation during 2006-2007 and to identify steps for

implementation of joint TB-HIV activities at the Regional and country level, a meeting was organized in Kathmandu from 5-7 December 2005 by WHO/SEARO. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director of STC participated in the meeting.

## **2.14. Participation in International Course**

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC attended the International Course in Budgeting & Finance for TB Control from Sept. 5-17, 2005 held in Bangkok organized by IUATLD (the UNION) Paris, under the sponsorship of IUATLD.

## **Achievements**

Participations in different National and International programmes provided opportunities to share experiences, presentation of papers and discussion on the issues and problems related to TB and HIV/AIDS programme among the experts.

## **3. Publication, production and distribution of STC publications**

### **Documents published in the year 2005**

STC published following documents and distributed as per the mailing list:

1. STC Newsletters Vol. XV No. 1 and 2
2. SAARC Journal of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS Vol. II No. 1 and 2
3. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Reports (updates) on TB and HIV/AIDS including TB/HIV co-infection:
  - Tuberculosis In the SAARC Region – an update 2005
  - HIV & AIDS in the SAARC Region – an update 2005
4. STC Annual Report 2004
5. World AIDS Day Report 2004
6. History of TB Control Programme in the SAARC Region
7. Third Round External Proficiency Testing of Smear Microscopy in National TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Region.

### **Achievement**

STC published the publications mentioned in the programme with updated information/data and disseminated to the concerned persons and institutions.

## **4. Purchase of books, journal and other publications etc. related to TB and HIV/AIDS**

STC library, a Resource Centre is established for health workers, researchers, medical students and general people. Students from medical/nursing colleges, doctors/nurses working in different hospitals and research centres as well as general people use this library. It remains open from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday except SAARC holidays.

## **New books added in Library**

1. Global Patterns of HIV/AIDS Transmission, Dr. V. Ramanurthy
2. HIV/AIDS Vulnerability in South Asia, Dr. V. Ramamurthy
3. AIDS Transmission: Challenges in the New Millennium, G.C. Satpathy
4. Encyclopedia of AIDS (7 Vols. Set), G.C. Satpathy
5. Prevention of HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse
6. AIDS in the World, Jafar Mahmum
7. AIDS Causes & Prevention, Jaiswal
8. Migration & Risk of HIV/AIDS: An Empirical Study, Sudipta
9. AIDS Pathology, Diagnosis, Treatment & Prevention
10. Tuberculosis, Madkour
11. A Clinician's Guide to TB, Iseman
12. Health and Social organization
13. Ensnared by AIDS: Cultural Contexts of HIV/AIDS in Nepal
14. Poverty migration and HIV/AIDS
15. AIDS and NGOs
16. Programming with C – Gottfried
17. Computer Fundamentals – P. K. Sinha
18. Hardware Bible – Winn Rosch
19. Introduction to Computer – Peter Norton
20. Let Us C – Kanetkar
21. HTML – Bible Series
22. Computer Graphics – Hill

## **Achievement**

Acquisition of the above books increased the strength of the library. More readers will be benefited from new books.

## **5. Situation analysis of quality assurance in TB and HIV/AIDS control activities, epidemiological & laboratory network in Bhutan**

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre carried out situation analysis of Quality Assurance in TB and HIV/AIDS control activities, epidemiological & laboratory network in Bhutan from 23 to 28 May 2005.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the activity were:

- To do situation analysis of TB & HIV/AIDS control activities
- To collect the information about HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co infection
- To assess the laboratory networks activities under NTP
- To assess epidemiological network activities under NTP and NACP
- To do follow up of meetings, seminars, training, workshops etc organized by STC.

## Methodology

The methodologies adopted by the team to carry out the activity were as follows:

- Information retrieved/gathered from documents
- Information provided by NTP, NACP, National Public Health Laboratory and Drug Vaccine and Equipment Division Authorities.
- Information collected by field visit

A team of 4 members consisting of Dr. K. K. Jha, Director, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist and Mr. P. Bhandari, GSS reviewed the health infrastructure of the country, visited related organizations of TB control, HIV/AIDS control and, Public Health Laboratory. The organizations visited were as follows:

- Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health
- Jigme Dorji Wangchuk National Referral Hospital, Thimphu
- Public Health Laboratory, Department of Health, Thimphu
- Gidakom Hospital, Paro District
- Dawakha BHU, Paro District
- Traditional Medicine Centre, Thimphu
- Thimphu DOTS Centre, Thimphu
- Drugs and Equipment Supply Division, Thimphu

STC is very much grateful to all organizations and officials under Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan for their excellent cooperation.

A detailed report has been prepared and submitted to the concerned authority with the recommendations.

## Achievement

The study performed situation analysis of TB control activities in Bhutan by assessing the laboratory networks and epidemiological network activities under National Tuberculosis Programme and National AIDS Control Programme. This activity also performed the follow up of the meetings, seminars, training, workshop etc. organized by STC and analyze the status of implementation of the recommendations. The situation analysis team collected information about TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection required to STC.

## **6. Workshop to Develop SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS & Meeting of Managers of National HIV/AIDS Control Programme from SAARC Member States**

### **6.1. Joint SAARC-UNAIDS Regional Expert Group Meeting to Develop SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS**

To comply the decision of 14<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting of STC and the direction of 12<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit and under the MoU between SAARC and UNAIDS, a meeting of experts to develop SAARC Regional strategy on HIV/AIDS was held in Dhaka from 4 to 6 April 2005. The programme managers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan, the representatives from UNAIDS, SAARC & STC along with the representatives from PLWHA and other stakeholders were participated in the meeting.

## Objective

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To strengthen active collaboration by exchanging information and sharing experience in related activities.
- To discuss the epidemiological networking and ensure regular flow of data.
- To review the action plan for implementing TB/HIV co-infection strategy.
- To discuss about the HIV/AIDS strategy which, was under development process.
- To discuss other activities under UNAIDS support to SAARC.

## Inaugural Session

Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Bangladesh graced the inaugural session as a Chief Guest and inaugurated the meeting. Ms. Muna Tasneem, Director, SAARC Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh welcomed the Chief Guest, delegates and participants.

In her welcome address she highlighted the problems related to HIV epidemic in the Region and appreciated the steps taken by SAARC in developing the strategy. Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat delivered opening remarks. He quoted the declaration of 12<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit whereby leaders directed to develop Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS. He also referred to MoU between SAARC and UNAIDS. Mr. Mohd. Bhuiyan from UNAIDS also addressed the session. He mentioned the importance of strategy and UNAIDS support to SAARC. The Chief Guest reminded the commitment of Member States to tackle jointly the HIV/AIDS problem.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC documented the contribution made by Member States and participants and delivered vote of thanks.

Assistant Director, NTP, Bangladesh, representative from BRAC, and officials from NSACP also attended the session.

## Proceedings of Programme

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC facilitated the proceedings and presented background for organizing expert group meeting to develop the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS. The session was chaired by Dr. Hassan Mahmud, NSACP, Manager, Bangladesh.

Mr. Chewang Rinzin, NACP Manager, Bhutan, chaired the second session of the programme. Dr. Hassan Mahmud from Bangladesh, Mr. Chewang Rinzin from Bhutan, Dr. Shyam Sunder Mishra from Nepal, Mr. Mohamed Rameez from Maldives and Dr. Ayesha Rasheed from Pakistan presented country situation on HIV/AIDS and its response respectively.

Dr. Shyam Sunder Mishra from Nepal chaired the third and fourth sessions; in these sessions group work was done on strategy including plan of action.

Dr. Ayesha Rasheed from Pakistan chaired the fifth session and group work continued to complete the task.

Dr. Shubhra Philips from India presented country situation on HIV/AIDS and its response and the group work continued under the chairpersonship of Dr. Philips. The meeting adopted the draft report and suggested to organize another meeting to involve other bilateral partners/agencies to finalize the strategy draft in May 26-27, 2005 in New Delhi, India.

Dr. Kashi Kanta Jha, Director, STC, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director STC, Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC, Dr. Pramilla Senanayake, UNAIDS Consultant and Mr. Mohammed Bhuiyan facilitated the group task. Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat discussed about the mechanism of SAARC to facilitate the Member States.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC chaired the closing session. Mr. Mohammed Ali Bhuiyan delivered remarks and Dr. Hassan Mahmud gave vote of thanks. The chairman thanked Ministry of Health and Family welfare, Bangladesh for generous support and cooperation, UNAIDS and all the participants for their remarkable contribution to make the meeting successful.

## **Achievement**

SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS has been developed, incorporating the consensus inputs provided by participants of the meeting.

### **6.2. SAARC Regional Meeting of National HIV/AIDS Control Programme Managers**

In pursuant of the 14<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting of STC a SAARC Regional Meeting of National HIV/AIDS Control Programme Managers was held on April 5, 2005 in Dhaka. The Programme Managers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan attended the meeting. Director, Deputy Director and Epidemiologist from STC participated in the meeting.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Hassan Mahmud, Programme Manager, National STD and AIDS Control Programme, Bangladesh.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To strengthen active collaboration by exchanging information and sharing experience in related activities,
- To discuss the epidemiological networking and ensure regular flow of data,
- To review the action plan for implementing TB/HIV co-infection strategy,
- To discuss about the HIV/AIDS strategy, which was under development process and
- To discuss other activities under UNAIDS support to SAARC.

This meeting put forward following recommendations:

## **Recommendations**

1. Every country will follow their won HIV/AIDS Control Strategy at country level.
2. To avoid duplication and to proper utilization of resources problems common to Member States need to be dealt in cooperation like cross border issue.
3. Capacity Building. Manpower development activities to be organized in coordinated way.
4. To update regional policy and planning update information is needed and for this SAARC TB Centre is to be provided latest data regularly according to the updated modalities for data exchange (Annex – III).
5. Uniform format updated in this meeting to be used for reporting of HIV/AIDS data by Member States to STC (Annex – IV)
6. Similar meetings need to be organized regularly at least one in every two years.
7. The Meeting agreed upon the Action Plan developed for implementation of regional strategy on TB/HIV co-infection and gave emphasis on resource mobilization for the same.
8. The Meeting agreed to organize visit for Member States and SAARC/STC for gaining experiences from other regions in implementation of HIV/AIDS activities and recommended to organize visit for ASEAN countries in first instance & to conduct survey on HIV prevalence among TB patients in all member countries under UNAIDS support to SAARC.
9. The Programme Managers from the respective country will act as the focal point for HIV/AIDS activities related to SAARC/STC.
10. The committee also suggested to organize workshop with policymakers on
  - a. Girl/women trafficking and cross border issue for reducing HIV/AIDS problem
  - b. Informal labor group and HIV/AIDS.

## **7. SAARC Regional (Second) Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection to identify Research Areas & to develop Research Protocol on the identified areas & study visit to TB/HIV (pilot project) implementation sites from 28-31 Dec. 2005, Pune, India**

To comply the decision of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board of STC, the SAARC Regional Second Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection to identify Research Areas & to develop Research Protocol on the identified areas & study visit to TB/HIV pilot project sites was organized jointly by Government of India and STC from 28-31 December 2005, in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

Dr. Kapila Mani Sharma, District Medical Officer, Tshimalakha Hospital, Bhutan, Mr. Tandin Dorji, Pharmacists, JDWNRH, Bhutan, Dr. V. S. Salhotra, CMO, Central TB Division, India, Dr. Neeraj Raizada, Consultant TB/HIV, Central TB Division, India, Dr. Fathimath Nadhiya, Sr. Registrar in Internal Medicine, IGMH, Maldives, Dr. Pushpa Malla, Sr. Consultant Chest Physician, NTC, Nepal, Dr. Pulkit Choudhary, National Centre for AIDS and STD Control Programme, Nepal, Dr. Shaheed Isran, Provincial Programme Manager, Sindh AIDS Control Programme, Pakistan and Dr. Eshanth Perera, Consultant Chest Physician, General Hospital, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka participated in the workshop.

Dr. Shivaji Ramchandra Karad, District TB Control Officer, Pune, India, Dr. Sheela Rangan, Chief Research Scientist, the Maharashtra Association of Anthropological Sciences, Centre for Health Research and Development, India, Dr. Amrita Mishra, India, Dr. Manoj Toshniwal WHO, RNTCP, PPM Medical Consultant, Maharashtra, India, Dr. S. V. Ghorpade, Prof. & Head, Chest Medicine, BMC Medical College, Pune, Dr. S. N. Gaikwad, Prof. Chest Medicine, BMC Medical College, Pune, Dr. Vikas Inamdar, City TB Officer, (SMO), Pimpri Chinchward Municipal Corporation, Pune, Dr. Dilip Jagtap, City TB Officer, Pune, Dr. Shivhari Vithalrao Ghorpade, India and Dr. Sanjay Narayan Gaikwad, India also took part in the workshop.

### **Objectives**

- To review the trend of TB, HIV/AIDS & TB/HIV co-infection and their impacts regionally
- To adopt TB/HIV collaborative approach by sharing experiences and by visiting TB/HIV pilot project areas, (programme implementation sites)
- To identify priority research areas/topics in relation to TB/HIV co-infection and
- To develop research protocol on the identified areas/topics.

### **Methodology**

- Presentation on country situation of TB, HIV/AIDS & TB/HIV co-infection,
- Field Visit
- Group Work
- Interactions & discussions

### **Inaugural Session**

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC chaired the session. Dr. P. P. Doke, Director, Health Services, Maharashtra, India graced the session as Chief Guest. Dr. A. B. Patil, State TB Officer, Maharashtra welcomed the participants. Dr. Jha delivered the opening address and highlighted the problem of TB, HIV and TB/HIV co-infection in the SAARC Region and explained the need of the workshop. Dr. V. Salhotra, CMO, Central TB Division, Government of India gave remarks. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC delivered vote of thanks.

## **Technical Session & Field Visit**

Dr. K. Sharma from Bhutan chaired the proceeding of the technical session. Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC discussed the objectives, methodology and expected outcome of the workshop. Participants presented their country presentations.

Dr. V. S. Salhotra chaired the second session that identified & prioritized the research topics.

Field visit to VCTC, DMC, DOTS centres and National AIDS Research Institute, Pune was organized. The participants presented field visit reports under the chairpersonship of Dr. Fatima from Maldives. The draft protocols were discussed at the session chaired by Dr. Pushpa Malla. Participants also prepared certain recommendations.

Dr. A. B. Patil, Member Secretary & State TB Officer, Maharashtra State TB Control Society, DD of Health Services, Maharashtra, India, Dr. Padma Shetty, TB/HIV Medical Consultant, WHO, Maharashtra, India, Dr. Anita Kar, Reader in Health Sciences, Social Medicine Department, University of Pune, India, and Dr. Srikanth P. Tripathy, Deputy Director, National AIDS Research Institute, Pune, Director, Deputy Director & Epidemiologists of STC facilitated the workshop. Dr. Sheela Rangan, Chief Research Scientist, MAAS, Pune and Dr. Amrita Mishra, WHO Consultant, TB, Maharashtra also facilitated the programme.

## **Closing Session**

Dr. Piryani, presented the recommendations and summing up of the workshop. Dr. Jha delivered the closing remarks. He thanked participants, facilitators for their deliberations and invaluable contributions to make the workshop successful by developing research protocols. He expressed gratitude to the Government of India, Central TB Division, Government of Maharashtra, Dr. Patil and his team for excellent arrangement and cooperation. Dr. Pushpa Malla gave remarks on behalf of the participants.

Chief Guest Dr. Tripathi highlighted importance of Operational Research and Dr. Ayer told about the benefit of workshop to the participants. Dr. Karnatake, APD, Maharashtra, Chairperson awarded certificates to the participants. Dr. Vikas Inamdar delivered vote of thanks.

## **Achievement**

Twenty four participants from different sectors related to TB/HIV of Member States of SAARC participated in this workshop. They formulated the work-plan with activities on priority. A prioritized list of 6 research topics identified and research protocols on 2 identified topics were developed and recommended.

## **Identified priority research areas**

1. Identify the ways of implementing collaboration between both the programmes, finding out the challenges in implantation and suggest solutions.
2. HIV surveillance in TB patients & TB surveillance in HIV patients
3. Baseline CD4 counts in the population & development of country specific CD4 criteria for starting ART therapy in HIV/HIV-TB patients
4. Acceptability of HIV testing by TB patients
5. What happens after TB patients have tested +ve for HIV (in terms of care and support)
6. When is the optimal time to initiate cotrimaxazole in HIV & HIV-TB & when to stop it.

## **Research protocols**

1. HIV prevalence in TB patients and acceptability of HIV testing by TB patients in SAARC countries.
2. Baselines CD4 counts in the adult population and develop recommendations for country specific CD4 criteria for starting ART therapy in HIV-TB patients.

## 8. SAARC Training on Data Management of TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes, July 27-31, 2005, Kathmandu

To comply the recommendation of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Governing Board, STC organized training on data management of TB & HIV/AIDS control programmes from July 27 to 31, 2005 in Kathmandu.

Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Health Educator, National TB and Leprosy Control Programme, Bangladesh, Mr. Tshewang Dorji, Programme Officer, STI & HIV/AIDS Programme and Mr. Kinzang Namgyel Programme Officer (TB), Bhutan, Mr. Hari Bahadur Kunwar TB/HIV Coordinatoar, NTC, and Mr. Hemanta Sharma Paudel, Health Education Inspector, National Centre for AIDS & STD Control, Nepal, Ms. Salma Bano, Computer Officer, NTP, Pakistan and Dr. Faisal Mansoor, Medical Officer, National AIDS Control Programme, Pakistan, Dr. D. M. K. S. P Herath, Medical Officer, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka participated in the training.

Mr. Sitaram Ghimire, Statistical Officer, NTC Nepal and Mr. Shyam Lal Kandel, Regional TB Coordinator WHO/NTP Nepal also took part in the training as additional participants from host country.

### Objectives

- To update the knowledge and strengthen the skills of the participants in computer use and
- To strengthen the participants skill in data entry, analysis and report writing using analytical software programmes.

#### Contents of the Course

- MS-Word,
- MS PowerPoint,
- MS Excel,
- Introduction to GIS,
- Epi-Info 6, and
- SPSS 11.0

### Inaugural Session

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC delivered welcome speech and expressed gratitude to the Government of Member States for valuable support. Dr. Jha also expressed gratefulness of His Excellency SAARC Secretary General, Director, Mr. Mohamed Naseer for their guidance and support to implement this programme. Dr. Jha highlighted the objectives of the training.

Dr. Hari Nath Acharya, Member, Governing Board of STC from Nepal & Chief, Policy, Planning and International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Health & Population, HMG Nepal, graced the inaugural session of the training.

Dr. Acharya highlighted the importance of data management in control of TB and HIV/AIDS and expressed his gratitude to the Member States for sending participants to make the training successful. On behalf of the Ministry of Health & Population, HMG Nepal, he thanked Dr. Jha and STC team for organizing such important training in Nepal.

Dr. Acharya and Dr. Jha inaugurated the training jointly by clicking the Computer. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC delivered vote of thanks.

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC conducted the inaugural session.

### Programme of the Training

Each participant provided with desktop computer and necessary training handouts/modules

Mr. Avijit Home Choudhury, Epi-Centre, Resource Person, TB Unit, WHO, New Delhi, Mr. Rastra Bhusan Khadka, Academic and Technical Director, National College of Computer Study, Kathmandu, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani & Dr. Md. M. Rahman facilitated the training.

## **Closing Session**

The Chief Guest Dr. Bishnu Prasad Pandit, Director General, Department of Health Services, HMG Nepal graced the closing session. On behalf of the participants Dr. Faisal Mansoor from Pakistan thanked Director STC, his team and facilitators for their untiring efforts to teach them. He also expressed satisfaction for excellent arrangements of the training programme made by the organizers.

The Chief Guest and STC Director jointly awarded certificates to the participants and facilitators. Dr. Pandit expressed happiness and urged the participants to use their skills learnt in this training after resuming at works. Dr. Jha thanked the participants and facilitators for excellent efforts for making the programme successful. He extended his best wishes for the pleasant journey back to their country.

## **Achievement**

Participants updated their knowledge and strengthened skills in computer use for data analysis, report writing and using analytical software.

## **9. Second workshop to develop Regional Guidelines for Treatment of MDR-TB & third Meeting of Lab Directors from 9 Reference Laboratories in SAARC Region in Nepal.**

(Note: this activity could not be held due to time constraints)

## **10. SAARC Regional Workshop to Develop Protocol for QA on Culture and DST in National TB Reference Laboratories, July 12-14, 2005 Islamabad**

To comply recommendation of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of STC, Regional Workshop to develop Protocol for QA on Culture and DST in National TB Reference Laboratories was organized jointly by STC and NTP, Pakistan in Islamabad on July 12-14, 2005.

Dr. Mostafa Kamal from Bangladesh, Mr. Binay Thapa from Bhutan, Dr. Balasanghameshwara H Vollepore from India, Dr. Tribhuvan Prasad Rajbhandari from Nepal, Dr. Sabira Tahseen and Mr. M. K. Khatak from Pakistan participated in the workshop.

Dr. C. N. Paramasivan from TRC, Chennai, India was the resource person. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani from STC facilitated the workshop.

## **Objective**

The objective of the workshop was to develop protocol on QA in Culture and Drug Sensitivity Testing in National TB Reference Laboratories of the SAARC Region.

## **Inaugural Session**

Dr. Ishfaque Ahmed, Deputy Director General (International Health), Ministry of Health, Govt. of Pakistan, chaired the session and delivered inaugural address. Dr. Syed Karam Shah, NTP Manager, Pakistan delivered welcome speech. Ms. Riffit Massod, Director SAARC Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan graced the session as Chief Guest and presented the overview of SAARC.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director STC, delivered remarks as Guest of Honour in the opening session. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC spoke about the activities of STC and objectives of the workshop. Dr. Sabira Tahseen, In-charge, National TB Reference Laboratory, NTP, Pakistan delivered vote of thanks.

## **Technical Session**

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha declared the session open. Participants discussed the draft agenda and adopted it.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, highlighted overview of laboratory network in SAARC Region and objectives and methodology of the workshop.

Dr. C. N. Paramasivan, resource person of the workshop, presented laboratory diagnosis of TB, Smear Microscopy and Culture & Drug Sensitivity Testing in TB Control as well as importance of QA, organization of Culture and DST activities in laboratory & need of protocol for QA.

Dr. S. M. Mostofa Kamal from Bangladesh, Mr. Binay Thapa from Bhutan, Dr. Balasamgameshwara from India, Dr. Tribhuvan Prasad Rajbhandari from Nepal, and Dr. Sabira Tahseen from Pakistan presented their country presentations.

How to organize services for QA in Smear Microscopy, QA in Culture & DST, Drug Resistance Surveillance, Generic Protocol and DRS Organization were discussed in the workshop.

The guidelines on Quality Control, which are most important component of QA of Mycobacterial Culture was adopted with suitable modifications. It was suggested further that STC may facilitate the Member States to organize culture and DST services by taking the help of reference laboratories available within the Region.

## **Closing Session**

As a chairperson in the closing session, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha thanked all participants, resource persons and officials for their support to make the workshop fruitful and declared workshop completed.

## **Achievement**

Protocol on QA in Culture and Drug Sensitivity Testing in National TB Reference Lab of the SAARC Region has been developed.

## **11. SAARC Regional Training for Laboratory Trainers on Imparting training on Quality Assurance in Sputum Microscopy, Aug. 15-17, 2005, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

To comply the recommendation of the fourteenth meeting of the Governing Board, SAARC Regional training for Lab. trainers on imparting training on QA in Sputum Microscopy was organized jointly by STC and NTP Sri Lanka in Colombo, on August 15-17, 2005.

## **Objectives**

- To update the knowledge and strengthen skills of the participants on quality assurance in sputum microscopy
- To make the participants proficient to impart training on quality assurance on sputum microscopy to laboratory supervisors at (District / Region / State / Province) levels.

## **Inaugural Session**

Hon'ble Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Health Care, Nutrition & Uva-Wellassa Development, Sri Lanka inaugurated the training by lightening the traditional lamp and delivered inaugural remark. Dr. Chandra Sarukkali, Director, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka, delivered welcome address. Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage, Director General of Health Services, Sri Lanka and Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC delivered remarks, where as Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC gave vote of thanks. Dr. Imbulana conducted the inaugural ceremony.

## **Methodology**

- Modular Training
- Presentation & Deliberation
- Field Visit

## **Technical Session**

Proceeding of the programme was started with the introduction of the participants.

Mrs. Thuji Wang, Lab. Technician, PHL, Thimphu, Ms. Pema Yuden, Lab Technician, PHL, Thimphu, Dr. V. P. Myneedu, Sr. Microbiologist and Head, Dept of Microbiology, LRS Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases, Delhi, Ms. Thooma Adam, Lab. Technologist, PHL, Male, Ms. Fathimath Ibrahim Manik, Sr. Lab. Technologist, IGMH, Lab. Services, Male, Mr. Keshab Raj Sharma, Lab. Technician, Palpa Hospital, Nepal, Dr. Inayatullah Memon, Pathologist, Institute of Chest Diseases, Kotri, Sindh, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Pathologist, Fatima Jinnah General Hospital, Quetta, Ms. D. R. Weerasinghe, Public Health Laboratory Technician, Central Laboratory, National Programme for TB control and Chest Diseases, Welisara, Mr. Jagath Kumara Guruge, Public Health Lab Technician, CCC, Colombo, Mr. P. A. L. D. Bandara, Public Health laboratory Technician, Central Lab, NPTCCD, Welisara, Mrs. L.N.K. Dilrokhika, PHL technician, Central Lab, NPTCCD, Welisara, and Dr. Jayanthi Elwitigala, Consultant Microbiologist, Central Lab., NPTCCD, Welisara participated in the training.

Resource persons Dr. Sabira Tahseen, NPO, NRL, NTP, Pakistan, Dr. Chandra Sarukkali, Director, NPTCCD, Central Unit, Sri Lanka, Dr. K.A.I.U. Imbulana, Training Co-ordinator, NPTCCD, Central Unit, Sri Lanka facilitated the training.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director also facilitated and coordinated the programme.

## **Closing Session**

Dr. Jha chaired the closing session and Dr. Sabira Tahseen and Dr. Chandra Sarukkali gave their closing remarks. As a chairperson, Dr. Jha thanked the participants and officials for their contribution in the training and declared the training closed.

## **Achievement**

Participants updated their knowledge and strengthened skills in Quality Assurance in sputum microscopy and they also became proficient to impart training on Quality Assurance on sputum microscopy.

## **12. Third Round External Proficiency Testing of Smear Microscopy in National TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Region**

STC conducted Third Round External Proficiency Testing of Smear Microscopy in National TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Region in 2005. STC supports National TB Reference Laboratories by coordinating and conducting laboratory activities to improve quality assurance on sputum smear microscopy, standardize the culture and drug susceptibility testing. It also supports to implement internationally accepted bio-safety measures.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> round of external proficiency testing on sputum smear microscopy in National TB Reference laboratories is one of such kind.

## Objective

To implement an ongoing proficiency testing programme for sputum smear microscopy within the Networks of National TB Reference laboratories in SAARC Region.

## Methodology

- Preparation of a panel of 10 slides
- Distribution of each panel to National TB Reference Lab for examination
- Getting back panel of slide along with reports
- Analyzing the reports received.

## Result and Conclusion

After analyzing the reports the results revealed that none of the National TB Reference labs reported errors of any type.

## Achievement

The performance of the National TB Reference Laboratories in third round of external proficiency testing of Smear Microscopy found excellent in compare to second round. It proved the quality of SAARC Regional TB Reference Laboratories.

## 13. Barriers in seeking health care in TB control programme, an Institutional Based Pilot Study in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The study was conducted in two TB diagnostic centres of Bangladesh.

- 1) TB Control & Training Institute, Chankharpool
- 2) National TB Control Project, Shyamoli, Dhaka

## Objectives

The objectives of the study were to assess the pattern of health seeking behaviour and to explore the barriers in seeking health care among the TB suspects with gender differentials.

## Methodology

The study was an institution based, cross sectional study, which was conducted among 998 identified TB suspects of both sexes and of ages 15 years or more. Information and socio-demographic characteristics, presenting symptoms/complaints, health seeking behaviour and barriers in seeking health care of the TB suspects were collected by using pre-tested semi-structured questionnaires.

## Results

The overall male:female ratio was 57:43. More than 52 % of the studied TB suspects were below 30 years of age. Higher number of female was found in the age group of 15-19 years and beyond that males were more. Overall mean age was significantly higher in male TB suspects than that in female TB suspects ( $p < 0.01$ ). About 68% of the TB suspects were from urban area and no sex difference was found regarding their place of residence, ( $p > 0.05$ ). Mostly they were from low socio-economic status.

Along with cough other complaints were chest pain (87%), fever (82%), night sweat (62%), loss of appetite (86%), loss of weight (89%) and blood in sputum (33%). Compared to males, higher number of

females complained of fever, chest pain and loss of appetite ( $p < 0.05$  in each case). Duration of symptoms showed no significant sex difference except night sweat by which female suffered for longer duration ( $p = 0.044$ ).

About 17% of the TB suspects did not seek any advice for their symptoms. In this regard there was no significant sex difference. The most common cause for not seeking health care was lack of awareness or ignorance (52%). Other causes were want of money (32%) and lack of time (15%).

Among those who sought advice for their symptoms, 42% visited paraprofessionals or irrelevant sources and another 38% visited either qualified private practitioners or private hospitals. Only 16.5% visited government hospital/health posts. No significant gender difference was found in this regard. Significantly more males had to lose wages and more females had to take an accompanying person for visiting the centre. About 75% of the TB suspects faced some form of social stigmatization.

## **Conclusion**

A substantial proportion of the TB suspects in this study did not seek health care due to lack of awareness or ignorance. Among those who sought advice for their symptoms, most of them visited paraprofessionals or private sectors. Some of the TB suspects faced social stigmatization. Strengthening of awareness programme for paraprofessionals and expansion of public private partnership are vital to achieve the target of TB case detection.

## **Achievement**

From this study, the centre could highlight the prevalent barriers in seeking health care in TB control programme. These barriers, i.e. lack of awareness and social stigma need to be tackled well to achieve the target on TB case detection.

## **14. SAARC Training of Trainers on Tuberculosis Control Programme Management in Islamabad, Pakistan**

Trainer's Training on Tuberculosis Control Programme Management was jointly organized by NTP, Government of Pakistan and SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STC), in Islamabad from 12 to 21 December 2005 on the recommendation of 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Board of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre.

Dr. R. P. Vasist, State TB Control Officer, Delhi, Ms. Aishath Wahida, CHW, Male, Ms. Maya Ranjitkar, Senior Public Health Administrator, Pokhara, Dr. Sundar Shyam Jha, MO, NTC, Bhaktapur, Dr. Muneer Ahmed Mangrio, District Health Officer, Sukkur, Dr. Saleem Ahmed, EDO Health, Balochistan participated in the programme.

Ms. Salma Bano, Computer Officer, NTP, Pakistan, Dr. Imtiaz Ali Memon, Assistant Manager, TB Control Project, Good Life Health Services, Pakistan, Dr. Tariq Rashid, MO, Social Security, Islamabad, Mr. Abdul Majeed Naich, Statistical Officer, NTP, FG TB Centre, Rawalpindi also participated in the programme as additional participants from the host country.

Dr. Pushpa Malla, Senior Consultant Chest Physician, NTP, Nepal, Mr. Syed Zia Khurshid, Sociologist, NTP, Pakistan, Dr. Sameh Yousef, Team Leader, STCP, GTZ, Islamabad, Dr. Thomas, GLRA, Dr.

Karam Shah, NTP Manager, Pakistan, Dr. Sabira Tahseen, Lab In-charge, National TB Reference Laboratory, NTP, Pakistan and Dr. Hussain Hadi, Deputy Programme, Manager, NTP, Pakistan along with Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. Mojibur Rahman, Epidemiologist facilitated the programme.

## **Objectives**

- To strengthen the capacity of the participants in managing tuberculosis control programme and imparting trainings, to health care providers in this respect
- To strengthen the capacity of the participants in implementation and,
- To evaluate TB control programme based on the DOTS strategy and imparting trainings to health care providers in this respect.

## **Methodology**

- PowerPoint presentation
- Interaction & discussion
- Field visit

## **Proceedings**

Dr. Hussain Hadi, Deputy Programme Manager, NTP, Pakistan opened the training.

Following topics were presented and discussed:

- i. Role of Laboratory Services
- ii. Logistics Management & Drug Procurement
- iii. Importance of Partnership Programmes
- iv. Recording & Reporting, Monitoring, Supervision & Data Management
- v. TB/HIV Co-infection Activities in TB Control Programme
- vi. MDR TB and its Management
- vii. Human Resources Development for TB Control

Field Visit was also organized. Following health facilities were visited

1. Basic Health Unit, Rahmatabad
2. Tahsil Hospital, Taxilla

Dr. Syed Karam Shah, National Manager, NTP Pakistan honoured the participants and facilitators by offering them Certificates and CD containing electronic copies of the presentations and delivered the closing remarks.

## **Achievement**

Participants strengthened their capacity in managing TB control programme. They became capable to provide training to health care providers for implementation and evaluation of TB control programme based on DOTS strategy.

## 15. Research activities in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS

### 15.1. Prevalence of HIV among diagnosed TB patients

The study on prevalence of HIV among diagnosed TB patients is being carried out in Nepal with the objective to estimate proportion of HIV infection among diagnosed TB patients. The study is continuing and will be finished soon.

### 15.2. Quality Assurance of Sputum Smear Microscopy in Private laboratories in Nepal

A study on Quality Assurance of sputum smear microscopy in private laboratories in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur districts of Nepal was conducted in the year 2005. Randomly 10 laboratories (5 from each districts) were selected for this study, among them 9 laboratories took part. The study was focused to ensure that the selected laboratories would provide results, which are correct and relevant to the clinical situation of the TB suspects or chest symptomatic.

#### Objectives

- To assess the quality of sputum microscopy of selected laboratories in Kathmandu valley using a panel of stained smears,
- To suggest or recommend necessary measures for further improvement.

#### Participating Laboratories

Kathmandu district	Bhaktapur district
1. Everest Nursing Home, Baneshwor	1. Dr. Iwamura Memorial Hospital, Sallaghari
2. Sanjibani Polyclinic, Jadibuti	2. Suryabinayak Polyclinic, Suryabinayak
3. Koteshwor Medical, Koteshwor	3. Model Clinic, Tripurasundari
4. S. S. Pharma, Koteshwor	4. Shrestha Pathology, Dudhpati
	5. S. S. Pathology, Suryabinayak

#### Result and Conclusion

Quality Assurance of Sputum Smear Microscopy is one of the methods recommended for External Quality Assessment (EQA). Present study of Quality Assurance of Sputum Smear Microscopy in Private Laboratories in Nepal was conducted first time in the Region. Of the nine laboratories, taken part in the first round testing; only one laboratory had a QE. None of the laboratories have showed any major error.

It is recommended that prior to involvement of private laboratories in TB control at least External Quality Assessment activity should be done with subsequent training and orientation as per need.

#### Achievement

The quality of sputum microscopy in private laboratories in Nepal was ensured.

### 15.3. Chemicals and other materials for laboratory works

The required chemicals and other materials have been purchased.

## **Additional Activities and Events**

### **Visits:**

#### **Visit of Secretary General, SAARC**

His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General, SAARC and Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre on March 11, 2005. Dr. K. K. Jha, Director and staff of STC welcomed the new Secretary General at the Centre. H. E. observed offices, laboratory and library of the Centre. He also observed the functioning of the Centre.

#### **Visit of WR Nepal:**

WR Nepal – Dr. KAN TUN – visited STC on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2005 and observed the functioning of the Centre. Dr. K. K. Jha, Director and other staff of the STC welcomed Dr. Kan Tun at the STC.

#### **Students' Visit**

Under the SAARC Internship Programme of SAARC students from Nepal Mr. Ghanashyam Sharma and Ms. Sita de Zassa, Expert Oriented Management, EU-SAARC, Austria visited STC on June 27, 2005 and acquainted with the functioning of the STC and the status of the TB and HIV/AIDS control in the Region.

Similarly Aneel Piryani – (Pakistan) from Kathmandu College of Management, Mr. Yogendra Bahaduar Mahat, Apex College and Mr. Bikash Mahat, Kathmandu College of Management, Nepal visited the Centre on Sept. 22, 2005. The Director and Deputy Director of the Centre interacted with them. Students also observed the functioning of the Centre.

#### **Visit of PANOS South Asia**

Journalists from PANOS South Asia visited STC on July 28, 2005. The journalists expressed their views during the visit, which are as follows:

“We are visiting the SAARC Centre to learn about its activities in the South Asian Region. We are a group of 15 journalists and 2 resource persons, writing on TB issues. The visit was extremely well organized and each detail thought of SAARC & NTP is done a commendable job in TB treatment, prevention & control”.

Anushree Mishra  
PANOS SOUTH ASIA

“Thank you very much to the SAARC TB Centre for receiving the PANOS/STOP TB media fellows & for giving us a thorough presentation & visit”.

Shalu Rozario  
STOP TB Partnership, Secretariat

“It is really a great honour for me to have a chance for visiting the SAARC TB Centre. Thank you very much for giving me a thorough presentation about how the SAARC works”.

Aryani Indonesian Journalist – PANOS

The following journalists also expressed their views:

Gary Hampton, Photo Journalist, New Delhi, India, Kaman Reza Choudhury, Staff Reporter, The Daily Jugantor, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Kay Alare from Manila, Philippines, Unipa Z Bito from Manila, Philippines, Shanifuzzaman Pintu from Bangladesh, Anuradha from The Indian Express, Pune, India, and Ramya Kaman from The Hindu, Chennai, India.

### **Visit of Ms. Fathimath Leena**

His Excellency Secretary General during his visit to Male, agreed a proposal by the SAARC Costal Zone Management Centre (SCZMC) that Ms. Fathimath Leena, Administrative Assistant, may visit the SAARC Secretariat and SAARC TB Centre for on the job training in the financial and administrative matters. She visited STC on July 25, 26 and 29, 2005 and observed the administrative and financial procedures / management of the Centre.

### **Visit of Health Minister at SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre**

Hon'ble Mr. Neekshya SJB Rana, Assistant Minister for Health and Population of Nepal visited STC on August 11, 2005. Special Secretary for Health Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha as Acting Secretary accompanied Hon'ble Minister for Health and Population.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC welcomed the distinguished guests at STC by delivering a welcome remarks in a special function. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC presented Introduction of SAARC and STC.

Hon'ble Minister observed the functioning of the Centre with great interest and gave his remarks. He thanked all staff of the Centre. He assured to provide support to STC from His Majesty's Government of Nepal. He also assured support of MoH & Population to STC for its additional responsibility for the control of HIV/AIDS.

### **Visit by officials from Dr. Iwamura Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (IMHRC), Bhaktapur.**

To promote the partnership between two centres, particularly in research related to TB and HIV/AIDS a team comprising Mr. Neel Krishna Tamrakar, Managing Director, Dr. J. P. Jaiswal, Medical Director, Dr. Uttam Krishna Karmacharya, Mr. Raju Man Joshi, Mr. Daan Gurung and Mr Ravi Giri visited STC on September 6, 2005.

Director, STC welcomed the team and organized a meeting with STC official. The meeting decided that two centres would work together in research areas relating to TB and HIV/AIDS in coming days.

### **Visit of NTP Authority from India**

Dr. L. S. Chauhan, NTP Manager, India Dr. P. Kumar, Director, NTI, Bangalore and Dr. Salhotra , Chief Medical Officer, Central TB Division, New Delhi visited STC on 9 Dec. 2005 during their participation in WHO/SEARO Meeting held in Kathmandu.

## **Farewell to professionals**

### **Completion of tenure of Professionals of STC**

Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist from Nepal and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist from Bangladesh completed their tenure at STC in 2005 and 2006 respectively and returned to their parent organizations. STC is very much thankful to Dr. Rijal Dr. Rahman for their contributions to the Centre and wish them a great success in coming days.

## **Meetings**

### **Meeting between STC and UNAIDS**

A meeting was held at STC on May 30, 2005 between STC and UNAIDS to discuss the future activities under UNAIDS support to SAARC. Mr. Mohammed Bhuiyan, APLF, UNAIDS coordinator for South Asia, Bangkok attended the meeting. Director, Deputy Director and Professional staff participated in the meeting from STC.

The meeting discussed and planned the activities for the year 2005-2006 under the UNAIDS support to SAARC. The meeting also prepared the provisional budget for these activities.

### **Meeting between SAARC, STC and UNAIDS**

The meeting was held on June 1, 2005 at SAARC Secretariat. Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, SAARC TB Centre and Mr. Mohammed Bhuiyan, APLF, UNAIDS Coordinator for South Asia participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed details on the planned activities for the year 2005-2006 under the UNAIDS support to SAARC and finalized the activities to be done in year 2005-2006 along with the budget.

### **Felicitation by NATA**

Nepal Anti-TB Association (NATA) felicitated Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre by offering letter of felicitation and shawl for his outstanding contributions in TB control programme.

Mr. Devendra Bahadur Pradhan, President, NATA at the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Buddhi Raj Bajracharya, Minister, Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation felicitated Dr. Jha by offering letter and shawl at the programme organized on the occasion of Seventh General Convention and Twenty-fifth Central Convention of Nepal Anti-TB Association organized on June 5 - 6, 2005 at Lalitpur, Nepal.

### **Renaming of the Centre**

On the recommendation of Fifteenth Meeting of Governing Board of STC, the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of Standing Committee of SAARC held in Dhaka on November 9-10, 2005 renamed the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre as **SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre**.

### **The Headquarters agreement**

The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of Standing Committee of SAARC approved the common format for Headquarters Agreement between SAARC Regional Centres and host Government. The Headquarters Agreement between SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Centre and His Majesty's Government of Nepal will be signed soon.

### **WHO Collaborating Centre**

Dr. Nani Nair, WHO/SEARO and Dr. C. Gunneberg, WHO, Nepal discussed the re-designation of STC as WHO Collaborating Centre with Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC on December 10, 2005. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC also took part in

discussion. The team discussed the functioning of the Centre as a collaborating centre of WHO for the control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region for next four years.

### **SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS**

SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS has been developed in collaboration with UNAIDS in April 2005 in Expert Group Meeting held in Dhaka. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of Standing Committee of SAARC held in Dhaka on Nov. 9-10, 2005 approved the strategy.

### **Involvement of schools of Bhaktapur district in TB Control**

World Vision International and Nepal Public Health Association organized a programme to distribute awards to the winners of essay competition at Korea-Thimi Maitri Hospital at Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In the competition students of 16 schools from Bhaktapur participated. After awarding the certificates Dr. Jha highlighted the importance of the involvement of schools in TB control. He explained about the role of school in prevention and control of TB. He also explained the activities of STC in schools and highlighted the importance of essay competition organized by STC at different schools of SAARC Member States on the occasion of SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS 2004.

### **Audit of STC Accounts 2004**

A Joint Audit Team (JAT) consisting of Mr. Mohammad Moslem Uddin, Director General, Foreign Aided Project Audit Directorate, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Mr. M. Iftekhar Ahmed, Director General Audit (Defense Services) Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan, Rawalpindi, Pakistan audited the annual accounts and the related activities of SAARC Tuberculosis Centre from June 6 to 7, 2005 in Kathmandu for the year 2004.

## Workshops organized by STC

*Period: 1994 to December 2005*

S. No.	Subject	Venue	Date & Duration	Category of Participants	No. of attended participants	% attended	Expected Participants	Not attending Countries
1.	SAARC workshop for preparation of health education materials to fulfill the need of the Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	Oct. 1995, two days	National level TB and IEC programme managers	9	64.29%	14	Maldives
2.	SAARC workshop on formulation of guidelines of coordination in government and private/NGO sector initiatives of TB control.	Kathmandu, Nepal	June 1997, two days	National level TB programme managers and representative from NGOs/private sectors	7	50.00%	14	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka
3.	SAARC workshop relating to research in TB HIV/AIDS in Member	Kathmandu, Nepal	Oct. 1997, two days	National level TB programme managers	7	100.00%	7	
4.	SAARC-CIDA workshop on TB & HIV/AIDS control	Kathmandu, Nepal	March 1999, three days	National level TB programme managers	7	50.00%	14	Bhutan, Maldives Pakistan
5.	SAARC workshop on operational research for TB control in Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 2000, two days	National level TB programme managers	4	57.14%	7	Bhutan, Maldives Pakistan
6.	Preparation of Strategic long Term Plan of STC	Kathmandu, Nepal	November, 2001, two days	National TB Programme Managers	7	100.00%	7	
7.	SAARC workshop on development of research protocol related to operational research emphasizing quality assurance & MDR TB	Kathmandu, Nepal	May 2002, two days	Head/ Chief of National Reference TB laboratory	7	50.00%	14	Maldives, Pakistan
8.	Regional Workshop of Nodal Officers of Member Countries under SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 2003, three days	National Level NTP Managers	6	85.71%	7	Maldives

9.	Regional Workshop to Develop SAARC Regional TB/HIV Co-infection Strategy	Kathmandu, Nepal	Oct. 2003, two days	National level NTP managers	10	100%	10	
10.	SAARC Regional Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection & Fixed Dose Combinations in TB Treatment Regimen/Protocol	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 2004, two days	National level NACP and NTP managers	10	71%	14	Sri Lanka
11.	SAARC Workshop on Fixed Dose Combinations in TB Treatment Regimen/Protocol, which was conducted to meet the following objectives (followed by co-infection workshop)	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 2004, one day	National level NACP and NTP managers	10	71%	14	Sri Lanka
12.	SAARC Regional Workshop on TB Drug Management and to Develop Regional Guidelines on Treatment of MDR-TB	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 2004, three days	National level NTP managers	4	57%	7	Bhutan, India Sri Lanka
13.	Regional Workshop for Lab Supervisors on QA in Sputum Micros-	Islamabad, Pakistan	August 2004, three days	Laboratory Supervisors from National Reference Labs	6	86%	7	Bhutan, India Sri Lanka
14.	SAARC Regional Workshop to Develop Protocol for QA on Culture and DST in National TB Reference Labs	Islamabad, Pakistan	July 2005, three days	National Reference Lab	6	86%	7	Maldives
15.	SAARC Regional (Second) Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection to identify Research Areas & to Develop Research Protocol on the Identified Areas & Study visit to TB/HIV (pilot project) Implementation sites	Pune, India	December 2005 four days	National level officials from NTP and NACP	9	64%	14	Bangladesh
	<b>Total</b>							

## Seminars organized by STC

*Period: 1994 to December 2005*

S. No.	Subject	Venue	Date & Duration	Category of Participants	No. of attended participants	% attended	Expected Participants	Not attending Countries
1.	SAARC Seminar on surgical and clinical aspects of TB	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec 1991, two days	National level TB programme managers	7	100.00%	7	
2.	SAARC seminar on socio-cultural aspects of Tuberculosis	Kathmandu, Nepal	Oct. 1993, two days	National level TB programme managers	7	50.00%	14	Pakistan Sri Lanka
3.	SAARC seminar for TB control programme managers	Kathmandu, Nepal	Nov. 1994, two days	National level TB programme managers	4	57.14%	7	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka
4.	SAARC seminar on TB control programme through PHC approach	Kathmandu, Nepal	April 1995, two days	National level TB programme managers	9	64.29%	14	Maldives
5.	SAARC workshop on operational research for TB control in Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	Jan 1997, three days	National level TB programme managers	6	85.71%	7	Sri Lanka
6.	SAARC seminar on gender and socio-logical issues related to TB	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 1999 two days	National level TB programme managers	6	42.86%	14	Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka
7.	SAARC seminar on production, marketing, distribution and quality control of anti-TB drugs in the Region	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 1997, four days	National level TB programme managers	7	50.00%	14	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives
8.	SAARC seminar on compilation and updating advocacy and IEC materials related to TB and HIV/AIDS	Kathmandu, Nepal	Sept 2000, two days	National level TB programme managers	7	50.00%	14	India, Maldives
	<b>Total</b>							

## Trainings organized by STC

*Period: 1994 to December 2005*

S. No.	Subject	Venue	Date & Duration	Category of Participants	No. of attended participants	% attended	Expected Participants	Not attending Countries
1.	SAARC trainers' training on TB control in Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 1994, one week	Regional/district level TB programme managers	8	57%	14	Maldives Pakistan, Sri Lanka
2.	SAARC trainers' training for district TB control programme in Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 1995, one week	Regional/district level TB programme managers	9	64%	14	Bhutan, Sri Lanka
3.	Training programme for laboratory technician (on TB bacteriology) from SAARC countries	National TB Institute, Bangalore	April 1996, three weeks	National/Regional level laboratory technicians	8	57%	14	Bangladesh
4.	SAARC training programme for regional TB control programme coordinators in Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	June 1996, one week	Regional/district level TB coordinator	8	57%	14	Bhutan
5.	SAARC training programme for strengthening IEC activities with special emphasis on TB and HIV/AIDS	New Delhi, India	Feb. 1998, two weeks	National level IEC & TB programme managers	11	79%	14	Pakistan
6.	SAARC training of trainers for TB programme managers in Member Countries	Male, Maldives	July 1998, one week	National level TB programme managers	8	57%	14	Bhutan, India
7.	SAARC training programme for regional TB coordinators	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 1998, one week	Regional level TB programme coordinators	8	57%	14	Pakistan, Sri Lanka
8.	SAARC training course for TB control programme managers	Thimpu, Bhutan	June 2000, two weeks	National level TB programme managers	8	57%	14	Maldives Pakistan, Sri Lanka
9.	SAARC trainers training on TB control management	Bangalore, India	Dec. 2001, two weeks	National level TB programme managers	11	79%	14	Pakistan
10.	SAARC trainers training on TB control programme management	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Dec. 2002, two weeks	National level TB programme managers	6	43%	14	India Maldives, Sri Lanka

11.	Training for Regional/district level TB programme managers to strengthen their skills in data management	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 2002, two weeks	National level TB programme managers	8	57%	14	India, Maldives
12.	Trainers' Training on TB Control Programme Management	Islamabad, Pakistan	Dec. 2003 Two weeks	National level TB programme managers	?		14	
13.	SAARC Regional Training on Epidemiology and Integration of Gender Issue in Epidemiological Report	Kathmandu, Nepal	Oct. 2003 four days	National level data Supervisors	14	100.00%	14	India, Sri Lanka
14.	SAARC TB Laboratory Management Course	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 2003 eleven days	National level lab supervisors	14	100.00%	14	Bhutan
15.	Computer Training organized in SAARC Member Countries	In seven member states	2003 different duration and month	Staff working in data management	-	-	-	
16.	Trainers' Training on TB control programme management	Dhaka, Bangladesh	May 2004 Ten days	National level TB programme managers	13	93%	14	Maldives, Sri Lanka
17.	SAARC Training on Data Management of TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programmes	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 2005 Five days	National level programme officers from NTP & NATCP	10	71%	14	India, Maldives
18.	SAARC Regional Training for Lab trainers on imparting training on QA in sputum microscopy	Colombo, Sri Lanka	August 2005 three days	National level lab supervisors from NTP	13	93%	14	Bangladesh
19.	SAARC TOT on TB Control Program Management	Islamabad Pakistan	December 2005 Ten days	NTP officials	4+4	57%	7	Bhutan, Sri Lanka Bangladesh

## Meetings organized by STC

*Period: 1994 to December 2005*

S. No.	Subject	Venue	Date & Duration	Category of Participants	No. of attended participants	% attended	Expected Participants	Not attending Countries
1.	SAARC consultative meeting on TB & HIV/AIDS	Kathmandu, Nepal	Sept. 1996, two days	National level TB and HIV/AIDS programme managers	7	50%	14	Bhutan, Sri Lanka
2.	SAARC meeting of the tuberculosis experts for compilation of TB control training manuals for member countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	June 1997, two days	National level TB programme managers	6	43%	14	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka
3.	SAARC meeting of the TB programme managers	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 1998, two days	National level TB programme managers	5	71%	7	Bhutan, Maldives
4.	SAARC meeting for formulation of urban TB control programme	Kathmandu, Nepal	Oct. 1999, two days	National level TB programme managers	4	57%	7	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan
5.	SAARC experts meeting for standardizing training curriculum in SAARC countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 2000, two days	National level TB programme managers	4	57%	7	Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan
6.	SAARC meeting to formulate guidelines for migratory population for TB and HIV/AIDS control in SAARC Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	Aug. 2001, two days	National level TB and HIV/AIDS programme managers	8	57%	14	India, Pakistan
7.	Meeting of Heads/Directors of the National TB Reference Laboratories of SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project in Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	Nov. 2002, three days	Heads of NR Labs.	9	64%	14	-
8.	SAARC consultative meeting for TB & HIV/AIDS programme Managers	Kathmandu, Nepal	Nov. 2002, one day	National Level Programme Managers	6	86%	7	Bangladesh, India
9.	Meeting – STC and WHO/SEARO	New Delhi, India	May 2003, one day	STC and WHO/SEARO staff	-	-	-	-

10.	Meeting of Directors of National TB Reference Lab	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 2003 One day	Directors of National TB Reference Labs	14	100%	14	Bhutan,
11.	Joint SAARC-UNAIDS Regional Expert Group Meeting to Develop SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS	Dhaka, Bangladesh	April 2005 three days	National level managers from NACP	5	-	-	Sri Lanka
12.	SAARC Regional Meeting of National HIV/AIDS Control Programme Managers	Dhaka, Bangladesh	April 2005 One day	National level managers from NACP	5	-	-	Sri Lanka
	<b>Total</b>							



*His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General SAARC observing STC Reference Lab at Thimi, Bhaktapur on March 11, 2005*

*Hon'ble Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Health Care, Nutrition & Uva-Wellassa Development, inaugurating SAARC Regional training for Laboratory Trainers on Imparting **Training on QA in Sputum Microscopy**, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on August 15-17, 2005*



*Briefing by Director and Deputy Director, STC Dr. Gado Tshering, Secretary for Health, Royal Government of Bhutan about situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in Bhutan*

*15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board, October 5-6, 2005, Kathmandu (Dr. Vikarunnessa Begum, Chairperson of the Board Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC and other Board Members)*





*Audience at the joint function organized to observe the **World TB Day 2005** in Kathmandu*

*STC Director and Media People after completion of the interaction programme with Media on the occasion of **World AIDS Day 2005**, Birgunj, Nepal*



*STC Officials, Teachers and Students at Prabhat Higher Secondary School, Lalitpur, Nepal Celebrating **21<sup>st</sup> SAARC Charter Day 2005***

*Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk, NTP, Manager Bhutan giving information about TB and HIV/AIDS during the **Partnership Programme with School** organized at Yangchenphu Higher Secondary School, Thimphu, Bhutan*





*Journalists from media agencies, Thimphu participating at the **partnership programme with media** organized in Thimphu.*



*(Dr. Syed Karam Shah, Dr. Kashi Kanat Jha, Dr. Masood Hamed, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Dr. Iqtidar Ahmed Chaudhary, Dr. Nadeem Rizvi, Dr. G. N. Kazi, Dr. Amonullah, Dr. Nazeer Shaikh, Dr. Ismat Ara and other are participating in the **Partnership Programme** jointly organized by NTP Pakistan, PTP Sindh and STC Nepal)*

*STC Director and School dignitaries during the **partnership programme with school** held at Shri Mahabir Prasad Raghbir Ram Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Birgunj, Nepal.*



*Students of Government Himayat-ul-Islam Girls High School, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan with officials from NTP Pakistan and PTP Sindh during **partnership programme with school** organized jointly by STC and NTP Pakistan.*



*Partnership programme with Media – STC and NTP, Pakistan officials with media people at partnership programme with media held in Hyderabad, Pakistan*

*Participants of Joint SAARC-UNAIDS Regional Expert Group Meeting to Develop SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS, held in Dhaka on April 4-6 April 2005.*



*SAARC Regional Meeting of National HIV/AIDS Control Programme Managers, held in Dhaka on April 5, 2005*

*SAARC Regional (Second) Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection to identify Research Areas & to Develop Research Protocol on the Identified Areas & Study Visit to TB/HIV (pilot project) Implementation sites, held in Pune, India on Dec. 28-31, 2005*





*Director General, Department of Health Services, Government of Nepal and participants of the **Data Management** Training, Nepal*

*NTP authorities of Pakistan and officials of STC participating in the workshop on **development of protocol for QA on culture & drug sensitivity testing in TB reference labs.**, held in Islamabad, on July 12-14, 2005*



*Inaugural session of SAARC Trainers' Training on **TB Control Programme Management**, held in Islamabad, Pakistan on December 12-21, 2005*

*Dr. Kan Tun, WHO Representative to Nepal with Director STC and Director NTP, Nepal*






*Visit of Journalists from PANOS South Asia at STC  
on July 28, 2005*

*Visit of Dr. L. S. Chauhan, NTP manager, India,  
Dr. P. Kumar, Director, NTI, Bangalore and  
Dr. Sallhotra, Chief Medical Officer,  
Central TB Division, New Delhi at STC  
on Dec. 9, 2005*



Symptoms of Tuberculosis  
Cough more than 2 weeks - Chest pain - Loss of appetite  
Fever - Blood in sputum  
Loss of weight

**DOTS** TB patients should take TB medicines regularly under DOTS



SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre (STC)  
Thimi, Bhaktapur,  
PO Box 9517, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel : 00977-1-6632601, 6632477  
Fax : 00977-1-6634379  
E-mail: saarctb@mos.com.np  
Web: saarctb.com.np

If you have cough for more than 2 weeks, visit nearby DOTS Centre