



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

# **Annual Report 2006**

SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Centre (STC)  
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## Preface

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

DOTS, the best available cost-effective strategy to combat TB, has been adopted by all Member States of SAARC by 1996 (1993-1996) with remarkable achievements. This region with 22% of world population still has to manage 2.5 million new cases of TB each year, which is approximately 27.9% of the total global burden. Now without compromising the quality, sustainability is the most important challenge ahead in addition to the threat posed by TB-HIV co-infection and MDR-TB.



This annual report is a summary of the activities carried out by the Centre during the period of January to December 2006. It gives me a great satisfaction that the Centre completed all most all assigned responsibilities for the year. I would like to thank TB and HIV/AIDS Programme Managers of SAARC Member States for their cooperation.

I believe that the activities performed by the Centre would be able to provide a strong support to NTPs & NACPs of Member States in the implementation of TB & HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities.

I want to offer my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General and Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat for their strong guidance, constant support and full cooperation to carry out all activities effectively. I would like to thank WHO/SEARO for providing technical support to carry out the activities of the Centre.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal Pakistan and Sri Lanka for their kind cooperation and support for successful organization of Partnership Programmes, Training, Workshop and Meetings on different aspects of the TB and HIV/AIDS.

I must appreciate my Professional and General Services Staff for their hard and sincere works to organize all the activities timely and effectively.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kashi Kant Jha'.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha  
Director

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFB	Acid Fast Bacilli
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
CD	Compact Disk
CDO	Chief District Officer
DDG	Deputy Director General
DG	Director General
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short-course
DPHO	District Public Health Office/Officer
DRS	Drug Resistance Surveillance
DTLA	District TB Leprosy Assistant
Dy	Deputy
EQA	External Quality Assurance
FHI	Family Health International
GENETUP	German Nepal Tuberculosis Project
GIS	Geographical Information System
GMP	General Medical Practitioner
HERD	Health Research and Social Development
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
IEC	Information Education Communication
IMHRC	Iwamura Memorial Hospital and Research Centre
INGO	International Non Governmental Organization
IUATLD	International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases
MDR TB	Multi Drug Resistance Tuberculosis
MO	Medical Officer
MoH P	Ministry of Health and Population
MOHC	Ministry of Health & Care
NAPCP	National AIDS Control Programme
NATA	Nepal Anti-TB Association
NCASC	National Centre for AIDS and STD Control
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NHTC	National Health Training Centre
NPO	National Professional Officer
NPTCCD	National Programme of TB Control and Chest Disease
NSACP	National STD and AIDS Control Programme
NTC	National Tb Centre
NTI	National TB Institute
NTP	National Tuberculosis Control Programme

QA	Quality Assurance
RHO	Regional Health Directorate
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
SEARO	South East Asia Regional Office
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
SS	Sputum Smear
STC	SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TB	Tuberculosis
ToT	Training of Trainers
TU	Tri-bhuvan University
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activity
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	
UNODC	United Nations Organization for Drug Control
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
WHO	World Health Organization
WR	WHO Representative

## **Introduction of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre**

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STC) is one of the Regional Centres of SAARC working for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB Control Programmes (NTPs) and National AIDS Control Programmes (NACPs) of Member Countries. The Centre is functioning since 1992.

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

The Heads of State or Government of Member Countries of SAARC at their Fifth Summit held in Male from 22 to 23 November 1990 decided that SAARC Tuberculosis Centre would be set up in Nepal. In this way the SAARC TB Centre (STC) came into existence and started it functioning since 1992 as one of the Regional centres of SAARC.

The Thirty-first Session of Standing Committee of SAARC held in Dhaka on November 9-10, 2005 approved the renaming of the Centre as SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre.

The Centre has a Governing Board of 10 Members. The structure of the Governing Board is created from seven representatives - one each from every Member States, representative from SAARC Secretariat, representative from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal and Member Secretary from SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre.

The objective of the Centre is to work for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National Tuberculosis Control Programmes and National AIDS Control Programmes of the Member States.

### **Fifteenth Meeting of the Governing Board**

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 Naem, 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, Nepal inaugurated the meeting. 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 about the activities done & achievements of the Centre in year 2005 and proposed the programmes and budget for year 2006. The Board reviewed the achievements and recommended programmes and budget for the year 2006.

## **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
- 3rd 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 .

## Sixteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre

The Sixteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre was held from 4 to 5 December 2006 in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. The Board Members Mr. Md. Abul Hasan, Counsellor & DCM, Embassy of **Bangladesh**, Kathmandu Dr. Ugen Dophu, Director, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Thimphu, **Bhutan**, Dr. Teja Ram, Chief Medical Officer (TB), Central TB Division, Directorate of General Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, **India**, Mr. Ibrahim Shaheem, Deputy Director General, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Male, **Maldives**, Mr. Arjun Bahadur Singh, Chief, Policy, Planning & International Cooperation, Ministry of Health, Kathmandu, **Nepal**, Mr. Deepak Dhital, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shital Niwas, Kathmandu, Dr. Iqtidar Ahmed, Director, Provincial TB Control Program, Sindh, **Pakistan**, Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, **SAARC Secretariat**, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, **SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre**, Kathmandu attended the meeting.

Dr. Mahesh Maskey, Advisor to the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister graced the opening session as Chief Guest.

The opening session of the meeting was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Ramchandara Man Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Population Government of Nepal.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC delivered the welcome address. Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat and Mr. Madhuban Poudel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal also addressed the opening session.

As per SAARC practice, the representative from Government of Bhutan, Dr. Ugen Dophu, Director, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Government of Bhutan was elected as Chairperson of the Governing Board of STC for next two years by acclamation. All members of the Board congratulated the newly elected chairperson and thanked the outgoing chairperson from Bangladesh for her remarkable contribution.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC presented the activities & achievements of year 2006 and proposed the programs and budget for year 2007 in the meeting. The Governing Board reviewed the achievements of the Centre of 2006 and recommended programs and budget for the year 2007.

### Recommended Programmes for 2007

#### 1. Public Awareness and Advocacy Program on TB and HIV/AIDS:

- Commemoration of:
  - World TB Day and World AIDS Day
  - Celebration of SAARC Charter Day
- Partnership Program with -
  - o School and Media in Afghanistan
  - o School Teacher in Bhutan
  - o School and Media in Maldives

- o School (teacher/students), Media, Medical Colleges and NGOs in Nepal
  - o Industries in Sri Lanka
  - Media involvement / mobilization activities  
SAARC Workshop on involvement of Media – Bangladesh, India, Pakistan
2. i) Participation in International / Regional Meetings, Seminars, Conferences,  
ii) Participation in NTP and NACP review in Member Countries.
  3. Production of STC Publications:
    - i. STC Newsletter
    - ii. SAARC Journal of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS
    - iii. SAARC epidemiological yearly reports (updates) on TB, HIV/AIDS including TB/HIV co-infection
    - 
    - iv. History of HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region
    - v. Annual Report of STC
    - vi. World TB Day and World AIDS Day Report
    - vii. Guidelines for Partnership program with Industry, Travel Agency and Manpower Agency
    - viii. Awareness and advocacy materials (stickers on HIV/AIDS, calendar, brochures etc.)
  4. Distribution of STC Publication
  5. Strengthening of STC Library and updating of website:
    - i. Purchase/subscription of books and journals
    - ii. Updating of Audio Visual materials in Library
    - iii. Dissemination of information on TB & HIV/AIDS by updating STC website
  6. SAARC Regional Training of Trainers on Management of Drug Resistant TB (DOTS Plus)
  7. SAARC Regional Workshop to develop/strengthen mechanism for cross - border activities in controlling TB and HIV/AIDS
  8. SAARC Regional consultative and strategic planning meeting of HIV/AIDS program managers
  9. SAARC Regional Meeting of Managers of NTP and NACP from SAARC Member States & SAARC Meeting for the Group of Experts of Electronic and Print Media to develop the mechanism/link to utilize the facility for dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC) information/materials on TB and HIV/AIDS in the region.
  10. SAARC Regional Training on Leadership and Strategic Management in TB and HIV/AIDS control
  11. SAARC Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on QA in Sputum Microscopy
  12. Preparatory works for the SAARC second conference on TB, HIV/AIDS & Respiratory Diseases to be organized in Kathmandu in 2008
  13. Carryout situation analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS control program and laboratory activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan
  14. Community based risk behavior study on HIV/AIDS targeting women in Nepal

15. Quality Assurance of Sputum Microscopy in Private Labs in Dhaka
16. HIV prevalence in TB patients in Afghanistan and Bhutan
17. Third SAARC Regional Workshop on TB/HIV co-infection (follow up of second workshop)
18. Second Workshop to develop regional guidelines for treatment of MDR TB & third meeting of Laboratory Directors from 9 Reference Labs in SAARC Region
19. Fourth Round External Proficiency Testing in 9 Reference Laboratories
20. Chemical and other materials to develop culture and sensitivity test, AFB test and regular activity at the STC reference lab
21. Strengthening of SAARC regional epidemiological networking for TB and HIV/AIDS data management
22. Acceptability of HIV testing by TB patients in the Member States
23. Identify the ways and means of collaboration between TB and HIV/AIDS programs to find out the challenges in implementation and suggest solution in Member States.

# Report on Activities Carried out and Achievements of the Centre in 2006

## 1. Public Awareness, Advocacy and Partnership Programme on TB and HIV/AIDS

- i) Partnership programme with Media, Industries, Pharmacists, Travel Agencies, School, Manpower Agencies and Private Sector
- ii) Commemoration of World TB Day, World AIDS Day and SAARC Charter Day

### 1.1. Partnership Programme in Nepal

#### 1.1.1. With Manpower Agencies

- On the occasion of World TB Day 2006, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STC) organized a partnership programme with Manpower Agencies in control of TB and HIV/AIDS on March 22, 2006 in Kathmandu.

The **objectives** of the programme were:

- To make aware about situation of TB and HIV/AIDS through dissemination of updated information.
- To highlight the role of manpower agency in control and prevention of TB & HIV/AIDS.
- To seek cooperation & commitment in control and prevention of TB & HIV/AIDS.
- To make the manpower agencies to be a part of solution.

#### Opening Session

Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha, Chief, Policy, Planning and International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal graced the programme as Chief Guest. Dr. Mahendra Bahadur Bista, Director General, Department of Health Services, Government of Nepal chaired the programme.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC welcomed the chief guest, dignitaries and participants in the programme and highlighted the objective of the programme along with the introduction of the Centre. He briefed the "Situation of Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region and Role of Manpower Agencies in Control of TB and HIV/AIDS".

Mr. Nirmal Gurung, President, Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agency expressed his opinion. He thanked STC for organizing first time this activity targeting manpower. He requested STC to expand awareness programme widely among this group in future, because TB and HIV/AIDS are very prevalent in the society and awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS is very vital to the people who work in foreign employment.

Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha addressed the gathering as Chief Guest. He appealed the participants to have more consciousness about TB and HIV/AIDS when they engage in their duty out of their home country.

Dr. Mahendra Bahadur Bista addressed the participants as Chairman. He highlighted the government services available for TB and HIV/AIDS.

Dr. S. S. Mishra, Director, NCASC, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal talked about the services available for HIV/AIDS patients.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC delivered vote of thanks. Dr. Piryani thanked Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha for his presence in the programme as Chief Guest. He also thanked Dr. Mahendra Bahadur Bista for accepting to chair the programme. He thanked Mr. Nirmal Gurung, for his cooperation and coordination to organize this programme. Lastly he thanked all participants, guest and officials for their support to make the programme success.

Programme was attended by eighty-five participants/representatives from fifty manpower agencies of Kathmandu and Executive Committee Members of Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agency, Kathmandu.

### **Technical Session**

Dr. Mohammad Akhtar, WHO Medical Officer for NTP, Nepal explained about the "Global Situation of TB".

Dr. P. Malla, Director, National TB Centre, Nepal presented "Situation of TB in Nepal and Diagnosis & Treatment facilities in the country".

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, STC presented "Symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of TB"

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, then Epidemiologist, STC presented "HIV/AIDS: General Information and Its Impact in TB Control".

Discussion on the issues was held after the completion of the presentations. Participants raised different queries about TB and HIV/AIDS. They expressed their personal views on diagnosis of HIV, collecting blood sample at airport, need of strong partnership programme, need of medical examination before proceeding abroad for work etc. Dr. K. K. Jha, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Dr. Pushpa Malla and Dr. Md. M. Rahman highlighted the possible solutions on issues raised by participants.

### **Outcome**

Nearly Eighty-five representatives from different Manpower Agencies participated in the programme. This programme imparted the required knowledge to the participants and informed the related Manpower Agencies to ensure the adequate knowledge among the workers regarding contagious diseases before joining the job.

#### **1.1.2. With School**

##### **Bhaktapur English Secondary School**

An awareness program on Tuberculosis was organized on 18 August 2006 at Bhaktapur English Secondary School, Education Colony Street, Gathaghar. STC provided technical support by sending 2 facilitators with STC publications on TB control under Partnership Programme with School on the request of school coordinator.

The **objective** of the programme was to boost up the awareness level of school students towards Tuberculosis.

Mr. Suman BK, subject teacher welcomed the STC officials, teachers and students in the programme. He thanked STC for accepting the request of school to organize the awareness programme at their place.

Thirty-five students attended the programme. Pretest was done among the students to know the level of general knowledge about TB, its infection, diagnosis and treatment.

Mr. K. B. Karki, Training Officer, STC explained Tuberculosis, its control and prevention along with DOTS strategy.

Mr. P. Bhandari, Computer Technician, STC explained the role of students in control programme of TB and ways of prevention.

Discussion between students, teachers and facilitators was held after the presentations. Facilitators cleared all the queries of students and teachers regarding TB disease, its control programme of the government, STC's role and role of students & teachers.

Post-test reflected that the level of knowledge about TB improved satisfactorily. Only 80% of the questions were answered correctly in pretest where as in posttest it was 96%.

The program concluded with the remarks from Mr. Suman BK, subject teacher.

### **SOS Hermann Gmeiner School**

On the occasion of World AIDS Day 2006, STC commemorated the day by organizing an activity "Partnership programs with School on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis" in SOS Hermann Gmeiner School, Sano Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal on 29 November 2006. The program was focused on the World AIDS Day Theme "**Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise**".

The **objectives** of the program were:

- to disseminate update-information on HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis,
- to seek more cooperation from students in control of these diseases through raising public awareness
- to strengthen and expand partnership for control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS
- to build a cadre of child ambassadors, committed to spread messages on TB and HIV/AIDS to the community.

70 students from class nine, Principal, panel of teacher consisting subject-teacher and managerial staff took part in the program.

### **Opening session**

The program was conducted under the Chairmanship of Mr. Shanker Poudyal, Principal, SOS Hermann, Gmeiner School.

Mr. Poudyal welcomed the students and officials in the programme. He appreciated the STC for providing opportunity to organize this program in their school on the occasion of the World AIDS Day 2006. He also assured that the school in collaboration with STC will work for prevention and control of these diseases in future.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC extended a warm welcome to the officials of the school and thanked all for participation. Subsequently she presented "Objectives of the program and Role of School Students in TB & HIV/AIDS Control & Prevention".

Mr. D. K. Pant from National Centre for AIDS & STD Control, Government of Nepal presented "General information on HIV/AIDS and the mode of transmission, symptoms and ways of prevention".

Mr. D. N. Sharma from National Tuberculosis Centre, Nepal presented "General Information on Tuberculosis".

Students took part in discussion and experts from STC, NTC, NCASC and teachers answered queries raised by students.

The Chairperson thanked presenters for their remarkable presentations and students for their enthusiastic listening, keen interest in the subject and support for the program.

Mr. K. P. Bhandari, Teacher offered vote of thanks.

The program was concluded with the remarks from chairperson

Guidelines for Partnership with School and other publications of STC were distributed to participants.

### **Sarada Secondary School, Khanar, Sunsari**

Partnership programme with school on control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS was jointly organized by SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and National TB Control Programme, Nepal on 29 December 2006 at Sarada Secondary School, Khanar Sunsari. The purpose of the programme was to enhance public awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS and its prevention and control measures in the community through school family.

The **objectives** of the programme were -

- To disseminate the update information on TB and HIV/AIDS and their control measures to school family and community.
- To strengthen cooperation and commitment from the school in relation to implementation of prevention and control of HIV/AIDS through awareness building and encouraging healthy life style practice.

The programme was attended by school family members (teacher and students).

Mr. Hira Prasad Dhakal, District Education Officer, Sunsari graced the programme as Chief Guest. Mr. Subarna Thapa, Principal, chaired the programme. Mr. Bijaya Guragain, District TB and Leprosy Assistant, Sunsari conducted the programme. Representative from District Health Office, Sunsari delivered welcome address. Mr. Shiva Nath Chouhan from Eastern Regional Health Directorate, Dhankuta presented the importance of partnership programme to control TB and HIV/AIDS in collaborative way. Mr. Torendra Man Singh Pradhan, Ex-president, Nepal Anti-TB Association, Morang Branch presented the need of partnership and collaborative programmes to deal with growing problem on TB and HIV/AIDS in Nepal. Dr. Mahesh Singh Chouhan, Physician, LG Hospital, Sunsari presented the general information, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of TB. Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC presented general information on HIV/AIDS, TB and

situation of HIV/AIDS in the SAARC region. She also presented role of school in control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS.

After the general discussion between facilitators and students, the Chief Guest Mr. H. P. Dhakal address the participants. He pointed out the need of collaboration between public health and school education programmes.

In the closing remarks Chairperson Mr. Thapa, committed that there will be active participation from school in health awareness programme. He appreciated the efforts of the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in this regard. He thanked participants and organizers for selecting their school for this programme.

### **Out come of School Partnership Programmes**

Participants updated their knowledge regarding TB and HIV/AIDS and committed to cooperate in spreading messages to their family and friends which helps in decreasing prevalent stigma towards TB and HIV/AIDS in the community.

### **1.1.3. With Industry**

#### **Nekon Plastic Factory**

STC organized partnership program with industry in control of TB & HIV/AIDS with factory workers at Nekon Plastic Factory, Chatapipara, Chorni, Parsa District, Nepal on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 2006 jointly with National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Government of Nepal. More than 150 participants from Parsa and Bara districts participated in the program. The participants were provided STC publications about TB and HIV/AIDS in National language.

The **objectives** of the program were –

- To disseminate update-information on TB & HIV/AIDS and their control for strengthening cooperation & commitment from the Industry worker.
- To prevent & control HIV/AIDS through awareness building and encouraging for healthy life style practice.

The programme was facilitated by the experts from the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre, Kathmandu, National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Nepal and Department of Health Services, Nepal.

Mr. Umesh Yadav, District Tuberculosis Leprosy Assistant (DTLA), Parsa district welcomed the participants, facilitators and guest in the program.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC made presentation on "TB in the SAARC Region and role played by the STC in control of TB and HIV/AIDS in this region". He highlighted the importance of involving industries sector in increasing the awareness among themselves and in the community through this potential group in control of the TB and HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Pushpa Malla, Director, National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Government of Nepal made presentation on "Situation of TB in Nepal". Her presentations were focused on diagnosis and treatment policy of National TB Program in Nepal. She emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and treatment under DOTS strategy for the control of TB. Also she highlighted the essential of involvement of these workers in increasing the awareness on TB.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC made a presentation on "Situation of HIV/AIDS/TB and its impact on TB control in the SAARC Region".

Mr. V. P. Gautam, DPHO, Parsa district presented the "Situation of TB in Birgunj city. Also he delivered the talk about the prevention and control measures on TB and HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Ganga Bahadur Thapa from NATA Birgunj gave his opinion that anybody can be suffered from TB at anytime anywhere as it is transmitted through air. While HIV/AIDS could be prevented through the approaches that are in control of people themselves.

Dr. K. K. Jha, Director, STC and Mr. Deepak Agrawal, Manager of the factory delivered Vote of Thanks.

### **Outcome**

Participants are committed to cooperate in control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS by disseminating the facts about control measures on TB and HIV/AIDS.

## **1.2. Partnership Programme in Bhutan**

### **With Pharmacists**

The SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre organized a partnership programme with pharmacists in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan in Thimphu on June 24, 2006.

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

The programme was organized with a view to disseminate update information on TB and HIV/AIDS and their control programmes to the pharmacists. In other approach, the programme was organized to strengthen cooperation and commitment from the pharmacists in prevention and control of HIV/AIDS through awareness building and encouraging healthy life style practice by improving case detection through early referring of TB suspects, cooperation and supervision in case holding management.

Dr. Ugyen Dophu, then Medical Director, JDWNRH, Thimphu chaired the programme and declared the session open.

Dr. Lungten Z Wanchuk, NTP Manager, Bhutan delivered welcome address and explained the STC activities organized jointly in collaboration with NTP, Bhutan. She also presented "Situation of TB in Bhutan & Diagnostic & Treatment Policies of NTP, Bhutan" and "Involvement of Pharmacists in Bhutan". Her presentation was focused on the following messages:

- Pharmacists are partners
- No sale of Anti TB Drugs
- Help us and help TB patients

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC presented "Introduction of STC & Situation of TB & HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region". He described the need of partnership programme with pharmacists in control & prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC presented "Impact of HIV/AIDS on TB Control and General Information about HIV & AIDS".

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, then Consultant for HIV/AIDS & TB in STC presented "Role of Pharmacists in Control of TB & HIV/AIDS". He informed the participant pharmacists that they are the first point of contact for seeking health care services in the community by the patients.

After the presentations, discussion session was held. In the discussion many relevant issues were discussed. In this context, NTP Manager, Bhutan replied the queries.

Around 50 pharmacists, both from public and private sector from all over the Bhutan attended the program with great enthusiasm as being the first of its kind.

The participants urged the following matters to the organizers:

- Awareness programmes for pharmacist needs to be organized in Region.
- List of TB service facilities should be made available to pharmacists to refer TB suspects.
- IEC materials for TB & HIV/AIDS may be provided to them for display and distribution.
- Certificate to participants needs to be provided.

Dr. Ugyen Dophu, Chairperson thanked the pharmacists for their presence in programme and their commitment for TB & HIV/AIDS control. He emphasized the pharmacists not to sell anti TB medicines. He thanked STC Director and his team for taking such an initiative in Bhutan.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC delivered vote of thanks. He expressed gratitude to the Royal Government of Bhutan, Hon'ble Dr. Gado Tshering, Secretary for Health, Dr. Ugyen Dophu, Chairperson, Dr. Lungten, NTP Manager, participants, speakers, staff of NTP Bhutan and media people.

### **Outcome**

Around 50 participants (pharmacists) acquainted with the different problems of NTPs and NACPs in the SAARC Member States and they also became familiar about the role they have to play to support the National programmes on TB and HIV/AIDS. The programme was widely covered by the electronic and press media. Interview of Director, STC Dr. K. K. Jha and NTP Programme Manager Dr. Lungten were broadcasted on National Television.

## **1.3. Partnership Programme in Maldives**

### **With Travel Agency**

Partnership Program with Travel Agency in Control of TB & HIV/AIDS was organized jointly by SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre Kathmandu and National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Program, Government of Maldives on Sept. 13, 2006.

The **objectives** of the program were -

- to disseminate updated-information on TB and HIV/AIDS & their control measures and policy of government to the travel agencies and
- to strengthen cooperation and commitment from the travel agencies in relation to implementation of prevention and control of HIV/AIDS through awareness building and encouraging healthy life style practice specially targeting the mobile population.

People involved in working with travel agencies located in Male participated in the program.

### **Opening session**

Mr. Ibrahim Shaheem, Deputy Director General, Department of Public Health, Government of Maldives presided the session and welcomed the participants in the program.

Dr. Ahmed Razee, Medical Director, Department of Medical Services, Government of Maldives graced the session as a Chief Guest and delivered the inaugural address.

### **Technical session**

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC gave brief introduction of STC and presented “Situation of TB in SAARC Region as well as Role of Travel Agencies in control of TB and HIV/AIDS”.

Mr. Mohamed Rameez, Program Manager, HIV/AIDS, Government of Maldives explained the “Situation of HIV/AIDS and its control policy in Maldives”.

Ms. Shameema Hussain, Manager, TB Control Program, Government of Maldives presented the “Situation of TB in Maldives & Diagnostic and Treatment Policies of NTP in Maldives”.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC presented “General Information on HIV/AIDS and Situation of HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region and its Impact on TB Control”.

Presentation was followed by Interaction between presenters and participants.

The session concluded with closing remarks by the Chairperson. He committed that the recommendations made will be well taken for planning and implementation. He appreciated the efforts made by the presenters and participants and thanked all participants for their involvement.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha delivered vote of thanks.

### **Recommendations**

1. Continue care provider initiated consent based testing till standard HIV testing protocol developed in Maldives
2. Extensive of time period in relation to work permit plan
3. Measures need to be developed to resolve language barriers on dealing with different people coming from different countries in relation to HIV/ADS
4. Need support to inform regarding HIV status to concerned country and family from department of public health, Maldives
5. Linkages need to develop with inter country agencies under the co-ordination and cooperation with department of public health, Maldives
6. Orientation on HIV/AIDS/TB for the employers from department of public health Maldives
7. Screening of HIV/AIDS after orientation

## Outcomes

- Update information and policy on TB and HIV/AIDS in SAARC region disseminated well.
- Participants are committed and cooperated to provide the efforts in prevention and control interventions against TB and HIV/AIDS targeting at mobile population with developing linkages with manpower agencies.
- Recommendations made on different issues in relation to building of linkages and partnership between travel agencies and TB & HIV/AIDS Control Program.

## 1.4. Partnership Programmes in Pakistan

### 1.4.1. With Private Sector

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre and National Tuberculosis Programme, Government of Pakistan jointly organized a Partnership Programme with General Medical Practitioners (GMPs) in-Control of TB and HIV/AIDS in Islamabad on 11 October 2006.

The **Objectives** of the programme were:

- to strengthen partnership with General Medical Practitioners (GMPs) working in private sector in control & prevention on TB and HIV/AIDS and
- to disseminate update-information on TB and HIV/AIDS and their control measures and National policy of Government.

GMPs working in Islamabad participated in the programme. Experts from STC, Nepal and NTP & NACP Pakistan facilitated the programme.

### Opening session

Dr. Hassan Sadiq, Director, NTP, Pakistan chaired the session and welcomed the participants, officials and guests. He thanked STC for organizing this programme in Pakistan.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC highlighted the need of partnership programme with private sector for the control of TB and HIV/AIDS. She presented paper on "General Information on TB and HIV/AIDS, current status of the control programmes in the SAARC region and impact of HIV on TB".

Dr. Ejaz Qadeer, Deputy Manager, NTP Pakistan presented "Situation of TB in Pakistan and Diagnostic and Treatment Policies of NTP".

Dr. Asma Bokhari, Programme Manager, NACP, Pakistan presented "Situation of HIV/AIDS and its Control Policy in Pakistan".

### Closing session

The programme was concluded with the remarks from Chairperson. Chairperson thanked STC Director and his team and all participants for making the programme success.

### Outcome

General Medical Practitioners participated in the programme acquainted with the NTP and NACP policy adopted by the Government of Pakistan.

### 1.4.2. With Pharmacists

Partnership Programme with Pharmacists/Chemist & Druggist for the Control of TB and HIV/AIDS was jointly organized by SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre and National Tuberculosis Programme, Government of Pakistan in Islamabad on 12 October 2006.

The **objectives** of the programme were –

- to disseminate update information on TB & HIV/AIDS and Government policy about the control measures and
- to strengthen cooperation with pharmacists and get commitments from them regarding control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS.

Pharmacists, Chemists & Druggists from different organizations along with the Deputy Drug Controller of Ministry of Health, Government of Pakistan Mr. Abdul Sattar Sohrani participated in the program. Facilitators were from SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal and NTP and NACP, Government of Pakistan.

#### Opening session

Mr. Abdul Sattar, Deputy Drug Controller, Ministry of Health, Pakistan graced the programme as Chief Guest. Dr. Hasan Sadiq, NTP Manager, Pakistan chaired the session. The chairperson welcomed the Chief Guest, participants and officials in the program. Dr. Sadiq thanked STC for organizing the programme in Islamabad. He extended good wishes for the success of the programme.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC gave opening remarks. She highlighted need of partnership with pharmacists & druggists for control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Shrestha presented multi media presentation on "General Information of TB and HIV/AIDS along with the Situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region and its impact on TB control". She highlighted the challenges, constraints and sustaining the achievement of the programme in TB control.

Dr. Ejaz Qadeer, Deputy Manager, NTP Pakistan presented "Situation of TB in Pakistan & Diagnostic and Treatment Policies of TB adopted by NTP".

Mr. Abdul Sattar Sohrani, Deputy Drug Controller, Ministry of Health, Pakistan thanked all participants, STC officials and NTP officials for their hard work to organize important programme in Islamabad. Mr. Sohrani urged the participants for collaborative programme in order to control TB and HIV/AIDS in the country.

#### Closing session

Programme was concluded with the closing remarks by the Chairperson. He thanked STC Director and his team, attending participants and offered sincere thanks to the Chief Guest for his presence in the programme.

#### Outcome

The pharmacists and other related personnel acquainted with the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in the region and they became familiar with their role and responsibility towards the NTP as well as NACP.

## 1.5. Partnership Programme in Sri Lanka

### With Journalists and Manpower Agency

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre celebrated 8<sup>th</sup> December as SAARC Charter Day by organizing the interaction program with the Journalist in control of TB and HIV/AIDS in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Day was celebrated as 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Charter establishing the South Asian Association (SAARC).

The **primary objective** of the program was to raise the level of awareness about SAARC and its activities.

The **secondary objective** of the program was to enhance public awareness on prevention & control of TB and HIV/AIDS by making media and people working with manpower agency aware about situation on TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region and convincing them to be part of solution.

### Opening session

Dr. P. G. Maheepala, Deputy Director General, Department of Health Services, Sri Lanka chaired the session. Dr. Maheepala and the Guest of Honor Mrs. Grace Asirwathan, Director General, (South Asia & SAARC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombo, Sri Lanka, inaugurated the programme by lighting the traditional oil lamp. Simultaneously, the lamp was illuminated by Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal, Dr. Sujatha Samarakoon, Consultant, NSACP, Sri Lanka, Dr. K. A. I. U. Imbulana, Medical Officer, National Programme for TB Control and Chest Diseases, Sri Lanka, Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC and participants.

Dr. Kamal Herath, NTP, Sri Lanka welcomed the Chairman, Guest of Honor, STC officials, NTP Sri Lanka officials and participants in the programme. He thanked all for their participation and acceptance of the invitation from STC and NTP Sri Lanka.

Dr. P. G. Maheepala gave the inaugural speech, focusing on importance of SAARC Charter Day and highlighted about the SAARC/STC. He also explained the need of partnership programme with journalist and manpower agency to control TB and prevent HIV/AIDS in the community.

Dr. K. K. Jha, Director, STC explained the SAARC, its objectives, principles and general provisions contained in the SAARC Charter. Dr. Jha urged that under the umbrella of SAARC the people of the Region should strengthen people to people contact by enhancing the South Asian solidarity and identity within and beyond the Region. SAARC is a manifestation of the determination of the people of South Asia to work together towards finding solutions to their common problems in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding and to create an order based on mutual respect, equity and shared benefits.

Dr. Jha highlighted the need of involvement of media and people working with manpower agencies in TB and HIV/AIDS program to spread the right messages and develop healthy human resource.

During the session a booklet prepared by STC on the occasion of SAARC Charter Day "**SAARC – A Hope of Rays in South Asia**" along with the other publications on TB & HIV/AIDS and media guidelines were distributed to the participants.

## Technical session

The inaugural session was followed by the paper presentations in which, the following technical papers were presented:

Dr. K. K. Jha, Director, STC presented the General Information about STC, situation of TB in SAARC Region and Role of Journalists in Control of TB and HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Sujatha Samarakoon, Consultant, NSACP, Sri Lanka presented "Situation of HIV/AIDS and its control policy in Sri Lanka".

Dr. K.A. I.U. Imbulana, Medical Officer, NPTCCDs, presented paper on Situation of TB in Sri Lanka & Diagnostic and Treatment Policies of NPTCCD, Sri Lanka.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC presented paper on General information and situation of HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region along with its impact on TB control.

Interaction was held after the completion of the presentations.

## Outcomes

Different issues on TB and HIV/AIDS control programme activities of Sri Lanka were discussed with fruitful outcomes.

## 2. World TB Day 2006

STC commemorated the World TB Day on March 24, 2006 in Kathmandu by organizing various activities in collaboration with National TB Centre, Government of Nepal.

This day is commemorated annually on 24<sup>th</sup> March to mark the day, when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of TB bacillus in Berlin (March 24, 1882). This year the theme was selected "Actions for life towards a world free of tuberculosis". The day was commemorated in all over the SAARC Member States.

The **Objective** of the programme was to enhance public awareness and advocacy for increasing commitments from public and private sectors as well as from development partners, donors and other stakeholders.

### Activities organized to mark the World TB Day

#### a) Display of Banner

Banners with different messages of awareness about TB and HIV/AIDS were displayed at prominent places of the city and surrounding of the Academy Hall where the joint function of the World TB Day 2006 was organized.

#### b) Publication of Messages

Both the National Daily – The Rising Nepal (English) and The Gorkhapatra (Nepali) published the messages given by Hon'ble Minister, MoH & P, Government of Nepal, His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General SAARC, Hon'ble Assistant Minister and Secretary of MoH & P, Government of Nepal, Dr. M. B. Bista, Director General, Dept. of Health Services, Nepal and Dr. Pushpa Mall, Director, NTC/NTP, Nepal.

### **c) Rally**

School students & teachers, Nursing College students, Social Volunteers, Health Workers, Local Leaders, Artists, Sport Personnel, Development Partners, Government Officials, National and International Dignitaries, NTC/NTP staff, STC staff participated in the rally. Sun-hats with message were distributed to all participants passerby during the rally. The rally was decorated with banners, placards, TB songs, Traditional parade etc. People gathered at Basantapur, Durbar Square where rally was inaugurated by Minister for Health and preceded towards the Academy to join the joint function. Candles were lighted in the memories of dead TB patients.

### **c) Distribution of STC Publications**

STC publications and Calendar were distributed to the participants of the rally and other visitors of the joint function.

### **d) Joint Function**

A joint function was organized at Academy Hall, Kamaladi to commemorate the Day on March 24, 2006 at 2 O'clock. Hon'ble Minister for Health and Population graced the programme as the Chief Guest. Hon'ble Assistant Minister for Health and Population graced the programme as a Guest.

Mr. Ramchandra Man Shigh, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population chaired the programme.

Dr. Mahendra Bahadur Bista, Director General, Department of Health Services, Nepal, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC, Dr. Pushpa Malla, Director, NTC/NTP, Nepal, Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Dr. Kan Tun, WR Nepal, Hon'ble Prof. Dr. Bijaya Shrestha, Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal, Mr. Devendra Bahadur Pradhan, President, Nepal Anti-TB Association and Mr. Deep Raj Gurung, President, Dixaxa Award Trust, Nepal were on the dais along with the Chief Guest, Guest and Chairman of the programme. Programme was started with distribution of the badges and sun-hat to the Chief Guest and dignitaries on the dais.

Dr. M. B. Bista, DG, Dept. of Health Services, delivered the welcome speech.

The Chief Guest inaugurated the programme by lighting the traditional oil lamp (Panas). He also started DOTS Plus Pilot Project by administering the anti-TB drugs to MDR TB patients. The Chief Guest also released the publications of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and National TB Centre.

The first presentation was from Dr. Pushpa Malla, Director, NTC/NTP. She presented status and achievement of National TB Control Programme in Nepal.

After presentation from NTP Director, awards were distributed by Chief Guest and Guest to different personnel for their remarkable contributions in the field of TB control.

Remarks were given by WR, Nepal, President, NATA, Director, SAARC Secretariat, Member, National Planning Commission, Hon'ble Minister and Assistant Minister of Health and Population, Nepal, Secretary of Health and Population.

At the end of the programme Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC offered vote of thanks.

#### e) Exhibition

The Chief Guest of the joint function inaugurated the exhibition on TB control activities. The exhibition was arranged by National TB Centre and SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre supported by the NGOs and INGOs working for control of TB in Nepal at different levels.

STC displayed the photographic presentations of the different activities done in control of TB and HIV/AIDS, situation and achievement of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States and information related with awareness in the exhibition. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director explained the information displayed in exhibition to the Chief Guest, Guest and general visitors. The exhibition was highly appreciated.

### **3. World AIDS Day 2006**

On the occasion of World AIDS Day 2006, STC organized a School Partnership Programme in SOS Hermann Gmeiner School, Sano Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal with the theme "Stop AIDS, Keep Promise" to focus on keeping commitments to stop HIV/AIDS at all level on 29 November 2006. STC also participated in the World AIDS 2006 programme organized by National Centre for AIDS and STD Control Programme, Government of Nepal on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006. A stall was arranged by STC to display the materials and publication on TB & HIV/AIDS for creating awareness among the people and for free distribution.

### **4. SAARC Charter Day**

STC celebrated 8<sup>th</sup> December as SAARC Charter Day by organizing the interaction program with the Journalist in control of TB and HIV/AIDS in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Day was celebrated as 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Charter establishing the South Asian Association (SAARC) with the objective to raising the level of awareness about SAARC and its activities.

Guest of Honor Mrs. Grace Asirwathan, Director General, (South Asia & SAARC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombo, Sri Lanka, inaugurated the programme by lighting the traditional oil lamp. Dr. P. G. Maheepala, Deputy Director General, Department of Health Services, Sri Lanka and Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Nepal highlighted about the SAARC and its activities in the Region. The programme was chaired by Dr. P. G. Maheepala.

### **5. SAARC Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on DOTS Plus in Nepal**

STC organized Training of Trainers (ToT) on DOTS Plus in Kathmandu from 23 to 27 May 2006. The programme was organized jointly by National TB Centre, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal and SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre.

The **objectives** of the training was to strengthen the capacity of TB control workers in managing MDR TB, implementation & evaluation of DOTS Plus programme and make the participants able to provide training to health care providers at their work place.

#### **Opening Session**

Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha, Officiating Secretary for Health, Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal graced the opening session as Chief Guest.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC welcomed the Chief Guest, guests and participants in the programme. Dr. Jha expressed gratitude to the Member States, SAARC Secretary General and Directors of SAARC Secretariat for their support, guidance and cooperation. Dr. Jha highlighted the situation and achievements of TB control programme in the SAARC Region since the implementation of DOTS strategy. He explained the problem of MDR TB in the Region and need of training to solve this problem.

The Chief Guest Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha declared the training open and addressed the gathering. He emphasized on sustaining of DOTS strategy in TB control programme which minimize the chances of developing MDR TB. Dr. Shrestha appreciated the role played by STC and NTC in management of MDR TB in appropriate time.

Dr. Pushpa Malla, Director, NTC/NTP explained about the DOTS Plus project being implemented in Nepal. She thanked STC for organizing the training on DOTS Plus and giving opportunity to be a co-organizer of this training.

On behalf of the participants Dr. K. A. I. U. Imbulana, participant from Sri Lanka addressed the gathering. He appreciated the arrangements made for the training and thanked STC for organizing such an important training.

### **Technical session:**

#### **Proceeding of the programme:**

Chairperson: Dr. P. Malla

Co-chairperson: Dr. R. Pant

Technical session started with the introduction of the participants and facilitators. Dr. Lobzang Droji and Mr. Tashi Wangdi from Bhutan, Dr. Nirmal Shakya, Dr. Shyam Krishna Shrestha, Dr. Laila Lama and Dr. Ghan Shyam Jha, from Nepal, Dr. Abdulla Afeef, Ms. Aishath Zeenath, from Maldives and Dr. K. A. Indrajeewa U. Imbulana, and Dr. S. J. A. S. Silva from Sri Lanka participated in the training.

Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, RTC, Pokhara, Dr. Rajendra Pant, RHD, Central Region, Dr. B. P. Rijal, AP, TUTH, Kathmandu, Dr. N. R. Sharma, Bir Hospital, Kathmandu, Dr. S. S. Jha, MO, NTC, Mr. B. N. Gyawali, Stat. Officer, RHD, Eastern Region, Dhankuta, Mr. D. K. Khadka, Sr. Med. Tech. NTC, and Mr. S. L. Kandel, TB Coordinator, NTC facilitated the training.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC and Dr. Pushpa Malla, Director, NTC/NTP managed the training as Course Director.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Coordinated the programme and Mr. K. B. Karki, TO, and Mr. P. Bhandari, Comp. Tech. worked as co-coordinator of the training. The programme was also supported by Mr. K. B. Basnet, Adm. Officer, Mr. G. L. Joshi, Accountant, Ms. M. K. Dhakal, PA and Mr. H. K. Maharjan, Comp. Assistant.

### **Methodology of Training**

Training was based on the module. In addition to module other important topics were also discussed. Following were the major components of the training.

- Module reading
- Interaction and discussion on the exercises
- Technical presentations
- Field visit
- Presentation of reports

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani presented "*Objective and Methodology of Training*". Dr. Kashi Kant Jha presented "*Introduction of STC along with situation of TB and MDR TB in SAARC Region*". Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, presented "*Global Situation of TB & Stop TB Strategy*". Dr. Pushpa Malla presented "*DOTS Plus Initiative and Experience from Nepal*". Dr. Rajendra Pant introduced the training manual "**National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Treatment of Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis – DOTS PLUS PILOT PROJECT – MANUAL**" developed by National TB Control Programme, Nepal.

• Dr. Sarat Chandra Verma presented "*Overview on Case Finding & Case Holding*". Mr. Shyam Kandel presented "*Overview on Logistic Management for DOTS Plus*". Dr. Basista Prasad Rijal and Dr. D. K. Khadka presented "*Overview on Role of Lab in DOTS Plus*".

Dr. N. R. Sharma and Dr. S. C. Verma, presented "*Overview of Adverse Effects of Drugs used in treatment of MDR TB*". Mr. B. N. Gyawali presented "*Overview on Recording & Reporting on DOTS Plus*".

Participants visited DOTS Plus Centre located at NTC and observed the clinical management for the treatment of MDR TB, recording and reporting procedures. The participants also visited different sections of NTC and STC and observed the functioning.

Participants visited DOTS Plus Reference Lab Centre at GENETUP and DOTS Plus Sub-centre at NATA and observed the lab and sub-centre. They discussed with the staff about functioning of the lab and clinic. Dr. Bhawana Shrestha, briefed the functioning of the lab and clinic. They also talked with the MDR TB patients.

Participants visited DOTS Plus Sub-centre at Nepal Medical College, Jorpati, Kathmandu and observed the centre. They discussed with staff and patients as well. Prof. Dr. Ramesh Chokhani, explained the functioning of the centre.

Presentation of Field Report was held on fifth day of the training under the chairpersonship of Dr. Pushpa Malla, Director, NTC/NTP, Nepal. Participants presented field reports and discussed on the matters observed during the visit to DOTS Plus Centre and Sub-centres.

The training was evaluated by distributing the questionnaire prepared by STC.

Closing session was held under the chairmanship of Dr. K. K. Jha at the second half of the last day. Dr. Tashi Wandu from Bhutan gave remarks on behalf of the participants. He appreciated the management of training and hospitality provided to them. He thanked STC and NTC for excellent organization of training.

On behalf of the facilitators, Dr. Rajendra Pant expressed their happiness and satisfaction with the enthusiasm and interest shown by the participants during training. He thanked STC and NTC for providing opportunity to facilitate the program.

Host of Honour Dr. Pushpa Malla thanked the participants for their feedback which will be the guidance to NTC for updating the DOTS Plus Centre, Sub-centres and for reviewing the manual.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha appreciated the passion of the participants in this training. He assured the participants that the feedback given by them will certainly be entertained to improve the modalities of programme to be organized in future. He expressed his satisfaction that the training will certainly be beneficial to them & to the Member States.

Dr. Jha expressed gratitude to Secretary General, and Directors of SAARC for their guidance and support to organize the training. He thanked Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health & Population, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal participants and facilitators for their cooperation to complete the programme successfully. He thanked Dr. Malla, Director, NTC/NTP for active support and cooperation and staff of both the Centre for their help to make the training a grand success.

- Certificates were distributed to the participants, facilitators & coordinators.

### **Outcome**

Ten participants updated their skills regarding TB control programme especially in managing MDR TB and implementation & evaluation of DOTS Plus programme. The participants became capable to provide training as trainers to health care providers about the management of DOTS Plus at their work place.

## **6. SAARC Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Quality Assurance (QA) in Sputum Microscopy in Bhutan**

SAARC Regional ToT on QA in Sputum Microscopy was organized by SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in collaboration with National TB Control Programme, Ministry of Health, Government of Bhutan in Paro from June 19 to 23, 2006.

The **objectives** of the Training were to update the knowledge and strengthen skills of the participants on QA in sputum microscopy and to make participants proficient to impart training on QA on sputum microscopy to district level laboratory supervisors.

### **Opening Session**

Dr. Gado Tshering, Secretary for Health, Ministry of Health, Government of Bhutan graced the session as Chief Guest.

Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk, Programme Manager, NTP Bhutan delivered the welcome address. Dr. Wangchuk welcomed the delegates from SAARC Member States, Resource Person from WHO, Facilitators and STC officials & other dignitaries in the programme. She also highlighted about the ToT on QA which was organized jointly by STC and NTP Bhutan.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, then Consultant for HIV/AIDS & TB highlighted the importance of this training.

Dr. N. Selvakumar, Resource Person from WHO (Dy. Director, TRC, Chennai) presented importance of QA in TB diagnosis.

Dr. Gado Tshering, Secretary for Health, MoH, Government of Bhutan declared the training open. He informed the participants that health care is provided to all citizens free of cost in Bhutan. Dr. Tshering emphasized the development of human resource in QA in TB lab network and strengthening of overall quality of programme. He appreciated the role played by SAARC and STC in TB and HIV/AIDS programme and thanked Member States for giving opportunity to organize this training in Bhutan.

## **Technical Session**

Dr. Ashwin S. Sanghvi from India chaired the session. Participants and facilitators introduced themselves.

Mr. Kinley Penjor, Medical Lab Tech., JDWNRH, Thimphu, Bhutan, Mr. Rixin Jamtsho, Medical Lab Tech., Regional Referral Hospital, Mongar, Bhutan, Mr. Sangay Wangchuk, Lab. Tech., Geleypchu Central Regional Referral Hospital, Bhutan, Ms. Thuji Wangmo, Medical Lab Tech., Public Health Lab, MoH, Thimphu, Bhutan, Mr. Sherub Tenzing, Medical Lab. Tech., District Hospital Paro, Bhutan, Mr. Dechen Zangmo, TB In-charge, District Hospital Paro, Bhutan, Dr. Ashwin S. Sanghvi, Director, State Training and Demonstration Centre, Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad, India, Dr. Farrukh Anwar, Pathologist, TB Reference Lab., Services, NWFP, City Hospital, Kohat, Peshawar, Pakistan and Dr. N. Selvakumar from WHO participated in the training as participants and resource facilitators.

Dr. N. Selvakumar, Dy Director & Head, Micro-bacteriology Division, TRC, Chennai, India facilitated the training programme as Resource Person.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC facilitated the training programme as Course Director.

Dr. Rano Mal Piriyani presented "Objective and Methodology" of the training along with "Components & Functions of Laboratory Network in SAARC Region".

Dr. Lungten, presented the "Overview on National TB Lab. Network under NTP Bhutan".

Dr. Selvakumar, presented "Role of Bacteriology in Control of TB".

Dr. Rano Mal Piriyani from STC, Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk from Bhutan, Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC, Mr. Dhruva Kumar Khadka, Sr. Medical Technologist, NTC facilitated the programme.

Modular training started after the general presentations.

Field visit programme was organized to exhibit on the spot activities of QA of TB Laboratory. The team visited District Hospital, Paro Lab., Gidakom Hospital Lab., Public Health Lab., Thimphu (National TB Ref. Lab.) Participants and facilitators observed the laboratories and discussed with lab staff about QA. Field reports were also presented in this technical session.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC presented "Introduction of STC and Situation of TB in SAARC Region".

Before completion, evaluation of the training was conducted by distributing the questionnaires.

## Closing Session

Dr. Gado Tshering, Secretary for Health, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan graced the session as Chief Guest.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani presented recommendations prepared by the participants and handed over copy of the report to Dr. Gado Tshering, Secretary, Ministry of Health, Bhutan. As a Chief Guest, Dr. Tshering distributed Certificates along with Group Photos and CD contained training materials to the participants and facilitators.

In the session Dr. Selvakumar, Mr. Rixin and Dr. Gado Tshering gave the remarks in the session. Dr. Lungten offered vote of thanks.

## Outcome

Nine participants updated the knowledge and strengthen their skills on Quality Assurance in Sputum Microscopy and they became capable to conduct training on Quality Assurance on sputum microscopy for district level laboratory supervisors.

## 7. SAARC Regional Training on Leadership & Strategic Management for TB & HIV/AIDS Control Managers in India

SAARC Regional Training on Leadership & Strategic Management for TB & HIV/AIDS Control Managers was organized jointly by STC and Government of India in National TB Institute, Bangalore, India from 4 to 8 September 2006.

The **objective** of the training was

- to develop leadership and management skills of Managers of TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programs of SAARC Member States.

Participants from Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives and Pakistan participated in the program.

### Opening Session:

Dr. L. S. Chauhan, Deputy Director General, Directorate of Health Services & Program Director, National TB Control Program, India graced the inaugural session as Chief Guest.

Dr. R Vatsala, Additional Director, NTI, Bangalore welcomed the Chief Guest, participants, resource-persons, facilitators, dignitaries and officials from SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in the program.

The Chief Guest inaugurated the training by lightning the lamp and highlighted the importance of the training for the strengthening of human resources in relation to management and leadership skill development in all Member States for the control of TB and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Chauhan thanked WHO for providing the facilitator, STC and NTI for organizing the program. He also thanked SAARC Member States for providing opportunity to organize this training in India, especially at NTI, Bangalore.

Dr. Chauhan presented “the situation of TB and Control efforts done under RNTCP in India”. He highlighted the recent steps adopted by RNTCP under STOP TB and DOTS PLUS strategy to enhance the efforts and control the problem with targeting to achieve the goal within the time frame.

Dr. Binod Arora, WHO Resource Person addressed the importance of this training in relation to control TB and HIV/AIDS in the presence of different technical solutions in SAARC Member States.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC extended vote of thanks. Dr. Shrestha expressed the sincere gratitude to the Government of SAARC Member States for sending the participants and special thanks to the Government of India for the permission given to organize the program in NTI, Bangalore. She also thanked Dr. L. S. Chauhan, DDG, TB and Dr. P. Kumar, Director, NTI and all good wishers for their support to organize the program.

### **Technical Session:**

Dr. Lochana Shrestha Epidemiologist, STC explained the objective & methodology of the training at the beginning of the session.

Dr Binod Arora presented the overview of the training modalities and role of participants to make the training fruitful.

The following modules were discussed:

<u>Module</u>	<u>Title of Module</u>
1.	Introduction
2.	Managerial Styles
3.	Leadership and leadership styles
4.	Personal Effectiveness
5.	Role efficacy
6.	Effective Communication
7.	Team building
8.	Building partnership

Dr. T. L. N. Prasad, Technical Manager, STI, Institute of HIV/AIDS, Hyderabad and Mr. Muhammad Younis Javed, Additional Secretary (DEV), Health Department, Civil Secretariat, Govt. of NWFP, Peshawar, Pakistan summed up above modules after completion of the discussion.

Dr. V. K. Chaddha, Epidemiologist, NTI, Bangalore facilitated Module 6.

Dr. Vinod Arora facilitated Module 7.

Dr. Pema Tenzing, Chest Physician, Lungtenphu Hospital, Thimphu, Bhutan summed up the above modules.

Dr. Mahadev NTI, Bangalore facilitated Module 8.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC presented the “Importance of partnership with different stakeholders and partners to develop partnership and involve them in the control activities effectively” at the end of the *technical session*.

## **Methodology of training**

**This was modular training. WHO Modules - *The Leadership and management skills development for TB Control Managers*, received from WHO/SEARO were used.**

Modalities followed in the training were as under:

- Module reading by the participants with explanation from facilitator
- Interactions, discussions & exercises solution by the participants
- Small group work and discussion
- Case studies
- Role-plays and feedback
- Games
- Facilitators presentations on some priority topics

## **Evaluation of training**

Evaluation of the training was conducted by providing questionnaires to the participants.

## **Closing Session:**

Dr. Prahlad Kumar, Director, National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore graced the closing session. He welcomed the participants and facilitators and requested to present their views regarding this training.

Dr. Kumar thanked STC for choosing NTI as training venue and WHO/SEARO for providing resource person and modules.

Participants presented their views about the training and highlighted the benefit they have obtained from this training.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha presented the recommendations made by the participants.

Dr. Binod Arora gave his views on the importance of this training for the participants and for the programs. He thanked STC, NTI and WHO for providing him opportunity to work as resource person for this training. He extended thanks to participants and facilitators for sharing their experiences and participation.

At the end, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC highlighted the collaborative activities done by STC in SAARC Member States. He mentioned the need of human resource development to plan and implement the collaborative activities on TB and HIV/AIDS and contribution of training to develop human resources. He expressed gratitude to the Government of India, Ministry of Health, NTI, Bangalore, participants from Member States, WHO/SEARO, Resource-person and facilitators for their valuable contributions to organize this training successfully.

He urged that what ever learned during the training, would be implemented and disseminated to others. He expressed his happiness on successful completion of training.

Dr. Basista Prasad Rijal, Associate Professor, T.U, Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu and Mr Badri Nath Gyawali, Ministry of Health, Kathmandu also moderated the sessions.

## Outcome

The skills of the participants have been scaled up to conduct the activities smoothly.

## 8. SAARC Regional Meeting of Managers of National TB Control Program from Member States in Maldives

SAARC Regional Meeting of Managers of National TB Control Program from Member States was organized jointly by the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and Government of Maldives from 10 to 12 September 2006 in Male, Maldives.

The objectives of the Meeting were

- to review the situation of TB control in the region,
- to chalk-out the plan of activities to be carried out by STC for supplementing Member States' efforts in controlling TB and
- to achieve the target 8 of MDG 6.

The participants from Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka participated in the Meeting.

### Opening Session

Hon'ble Dr. Abdul Azeez Yoosuf, Deputy Minister of Health, Government of Maldives inaugurated the meeting as Chief Guest. In inaugural address the Deputy Minister highlighted the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in Maldives and appreciated efforts put by STC in control of TB and prevention of HIV/AIDS in the Region.

Mr. Ibrahim Shaheem, Deputy Director General, Department of Public Health, Maldives and Member of Governing Board STC delivered the welcome address.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre addressed the session and expressed sincere thanks to the Hon'ble Deputy Minister for Health for his support & guidance. He extended his thanks to Mr. Ibrahim Shaheem for his invaluable contribution to STC since its inception and continuous guidance for the development of the Centre.

### Technical Session:

Dr. Ahmed Razee, Medical Director, Department of Medical Services, Male, Maldives chaired the session.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC presented Objective & Methodology of Meeting.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director presented the paper on "Contribution of STC towards TB and HIV/AIDS Control program".

Dr. Lungten Wanchuck from Bhutan, Dr. Preetish S. Vaidyanathan from India, Ms. Shameema Husain from Maldives, Dr. Chandra Sarukkali from Sri-Lanka presented their country presentation.

## ***Recommendations***

The Meeting discussed the plan of activities to be carried out by STC for supplementing Member States' efforts in controlling TB and HIV/AIDS to achieve the target 8 of Millennium Development Goal 6 and recommended the following:

### **1. Improvement in participation in SAARC activities on TB and HIV from Member states**

The Meeting strongly recommends discussing on this matter in its Governing Board to develop a mechanism to ensure participation from each Member State.

The Meeting also recommends providing more opportunity to the host country for participation.

### **2. Strengthening the networking of data on TB and HIV control programs**

The Meeting strongly recommends that; the Program Managers of National Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Control Program of the Member States will send the Program Reports to STC regularly to produce quality Regional Epidemiological Report.

The STC will develop websites linkages among the National Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS control Program of Member States for reporting on TB and HIV.

### **3. Strengthening of HIV Division at STC**

The meeting strongly recommends for the sanction and recruitment of technical/professional on HIV.

### **4. Strengthening of TB and HIV collaboration**

The Meeting recommends to;

- organize joint meetings involving TB and HIV Program Managers in the Region by STC
- conduct trainings on TB/HIV
- Expand the surveillance of HIV among TB patients
- Advocacy for strengthening of VCT Centres in the Member States.

### **5. Capacity Building in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS**

The Meeting recommends to provide inter country study observation/training for the Personnel of TB and HIV Programs among Member States within the Region.

### **6. Advocacies, Communication and Social Mobilization on TB and HIV**

The Meeting recommends that STC will propose program/s in its Governing Board for the involvement and support of Media on the Regional level for advocacy and awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS.

### **7. Explore Linkages of Technical Institutions / Experts / Resource Persons in the field of TB and HIV in Member States**

The STC will Explore Linkages of Technical Institutions/Experts/Resource persons in the field of TB and HIV in Member States.

The Meeting strongly recommends that the Managers of National Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS control Program of Member States will provide information on this regard to STC to establish the Pool of Experts in the Region.

#### **8. Outline and Implement measures to prevent the misuse of Anti TB drugs in the region.**

The Meeting recommends the following;

- Conduct Multi centric evidence based study to address the issue
- Scaling up of Public Private Partnership in TB and HIV control

#### **9. Strengthening the collaboration between STC and WHO/SEARO**

The Meeting recommends participation of STC and Member of the Governing Board from host country in WHO/SEARO Meeting held for discussion on TB and HIV.

The Meeting also recommends for the Participation of STC in World Health Assembly.

#### **Closing session**

The participants from Member States expressed sincere thanks to STC and Government of Maldives for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

Mr. Ibrahim Shaheem, Deputy Director-General, Department of Public Health Male as well as Governing Board Member of STC thanked all for their hard work and active participation in the Meeting.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC expressed his sincere thanks to the participants for their hard work and exercise for the fruitful out come of the Meeting. He expressed sincere thanks to the Ministry of Health, Department of Public Health, National Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Control Programs, Government of Maldives for warm welcome, hospitality, cooperation and excellent arrangements for this Meeting. He informed the participants that report of the Meeting will be submitted in the meeting of the Governing Board for consideration.

### **9. SAARC Regional Training on Computer based Data Management Applications for TB & HIV/AIDS Data Managers in Pakistan**

SAARC Regional Training on Computer based Data Management Applications for TB & HIV/AIDS Data Managers was organized jointly by the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and Government of Pakistan from 9 to 14 October 2006 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The **objectives** of the training were

- to update the knowledge & strengthen the skills of the participants in computer use and
- to strengthen the participants' skills in data entry, analysis and report writing using analytical software programs.

Participants from Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan participated in the training.

## **Opening session**

Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed from Ministry of Health Government of Pakistan graced the opening session as the Chief Guest.

Dr. Hassan Sadiq, NTP Manager welcomed the participants from SAARC Member States, Resource Person, Facilitators, NTP Officials, STC Officials & dignitaries. He highlighted the importance of the training in relation to data management from programmatic view. He pointed out that this is one of the essential components for strengthening the recording and reporting system.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC highlighted the objectives of the training. Dr. Shrestha extended a warm welcome to the participants and thank to NTP Pakistan team for their support to organize this training.

Dr. Nasir Khan, Provincial Program Manager, PACP presented the situation of HIV/AIDS in Pakistan and control efforts adopted by National AIDS Control Program, Pakistan.

Dr. Hussain Hadi, Deputy Program Manager, NTP, Pakistan presented the situation of TB and Control efforts done under NTP in Pakistan.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC presented "Contribution of STC to TB & HIV/AIDS Control in the SAARC Region".

Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed thanked the Member States for giving opportunity to organize this training in Pakistan, especially at Islamabad.

Dr. Saima Tahir, Medical Officer, NTP extended the vote of thanks.

## **Technical Sessions**

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC presented "Objective and Methodology" of the training.

Mr. Jeetendra from NTI (facilitators) welcomed the participants and presented the overview of the training modalities and role of participants to make the training fruitful.

The training covered the following topics:

- Introduction on data
- MS Word, MS Excel and MS PowerPoint
- SPSS
- GIS

## **Closing Session**

Dr. Hassan Sadiq, NTP Manager chairing the session requested to present their views regarding this training as well as he thanked participants for sharing their experiences and active participation during these 6 days.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC presented the importance of this training for the development of effective and efficient data management system in the programs and requested to provide the inputs for the fruitful achievement.

At the end she highlighted the collaborative activities done by STC in SAARC Member States and contribution of trainings for human resources development. She expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan and other Member States, NTI Bangalore and facilitators for their contribution to make the program successful. Certificates and mementoes were distributed to the participants and facilitators.

#### **Outcomes**

- Trained manpower for computer based Data Management.
- Strengthened and updated the skills to impart the training in their respective country.
- Ensure the inputs towards the program in their country to improve the programs.

### **10. SAARC Regional Workshop to Revise Regional Guidelines for QA in Sputum Microcopy & Develop Country Specific Protocol for DRS in Sri Lanka**

SAARC Regional Workshop to revise Regional Guidelines for Quality Assurance (QA) in Sputum Microcopy & Develop Country Specific Protocol for DRS was organized jointly by the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and National Program for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases, Government of Sri Lanka from 8 to 14 October 2006 in Colombo.

The objectives of the Meeting were to discuss the current practice of QA in Sputum Microcopy in NTRL in Member States and to revise existing Regional Guidelines for QA on Sputum Microcopy for NTRL in SAARC region based on WHO/IUATLD guidelines and regional needs and develop updated final Guidelines on QA in Sputum Microscopy.

Participants from National TB Reference Laboratories of Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in this workshop.

#### **Opening session**

Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage, Director General, Department of Health Services, Government of Sri Lanka chaired the inaugural session of this workshops.

Dr. Chandra Sarukkali, NTP Manager delivered welcome address. She welcomed the participants from SAARC Member States, Resource Person, Facilitators, NTP Sri Lanka officials, STC officials & others. She highlighted the importance of this workshop in relation to quality improvement of laboratory network on tuberculosis for SAARC Member States. Dr. Sarukkali also presented the situation of HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka and control efforts adopted by National AIDS Control Program, Sri Lanka.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC presented Introduction of STC and its activities. He also presented the contribution of STC to TB & HIV/AIDS Control in the SAARC Region and explained the importance of this workshop. He extended warm welcome and thanks to the all the participants and thanked to NTP team for their support to organize this workshop in Colombo.

Mrs. Dhanida Rienthong, Senior Medical Scientist, (Temporary Advisor, WHO/SEARO and UNION) presented remarks regarding this workshop.

Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage thanked SAARC Member States for giving opportunity to organize

this workshop in Sri Lanka. He also appreciated the efforts made by STC for strengthening TB control in Member States and thanked participants for attending this workshop.

Dr. Kamal Herath from NTP, Sri Lanka offered vote of thanks.

### **Technical session**

Technical session started with the presentation on “Objective and Methodology” of the workshop by Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC.

Dr. Dhanida, Facilitator, welcomed the participants and presented the overview of the workshop modalities and role of participants in the workshop.

### **Workshop covered and discussed the following topics:**

1. Safety in Laboratory
2. Sputum Smear Microscopy procedure
3. Quality assurance
4. Field visit (National Reference Tuberculosis Laboratory, Welisara, Sri Lanka) and EQA in Member States.
5. Discussion/preparation country specific DRS protocol.
6. Presentation of DRS protocol
7. Review of the QA guidelines for EQA.

### **Closing Session**

Dr. W.M.T.B. Wijekoon, Director, MOHC and Nutrition, Colombo, Sri Lanka chaired the session and thanked STC, participants from SAARC Member States and congratulated to all for the success of this workshop.

Dr Kamal Herath NTP, Sri Lanka welcomed the participants in the session and requested to present their views regarding this workshop.

Facilitator thanked STC and NTP, Sri Lanka for providing an opportunity to work as resource person in this workshop. She also thanked participants for sharing experiences and cooperation for preparation of guidelines and protocol.

Dr Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC thanked participants and facilitators for their weeklong deliberation to make the workshop successful. Dr. Jha expressed sincere gratitude to Government of Sri Lanka for giving permission to organize workshop in Colombo and WHO/SEARO for providing very energetic professional as facilitator for the workshop. He also expressed gratitude to SAARC Member States for sending participants to make the workshop successful. Session ended with distribution of certificates to the participants and facilitators.

### **Outcomes**

- Revised the Guidelines on Quality Assurance in Sputum Smear Microscopy for National TB Reference Laboratories of SAARC Member States.
- Development of Country Specific Protocol for DRS

## 11. Situation Analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Program Activity in Nepal

STC carried out situation analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS control program activities in Nepal in November and December 2006.

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 National TB Program
  - to assess epidemiological network activities under NTP and NACP
  - to do follow up of meetings, seminars, training, workshops etc. organized by STC
- The methodologies adopted to carry out the situation analysis were as follows:
- Meeting with NTP, NACP and Health Laboratory authorities
  - Information retrieved/gathered from documents provided by NTP, NACP and Health Laboratories and field/on site visit.

Team of experts consisting Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC, Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, Mr. K. B. Basnet, Administrative Officer, Mr. K. B. Karki, Training Officer, Mr. G. L. Joshi, Accountant, Ms. Meena K. Dhakal, Personal Assistant and Mr. H. K. Maharjan, Computer Assistant performed the situation analysis. This team visited the following organization and observed the functioning and discussed with the concerned authorities.

The team visited Regional Health Directorate of Eastern Region, District Health Office of Parsa, Morang, Jhapa, Dhanusha, Dhankuta, Sunsari, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Palpa. The Team also visited Nepal Anti-TB Association, Morang and Adra Nepal, Jhapa.

Activities of Central Public Health Laboratory, National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Teku, Kathmandu, GENEPUP and National TB Centre were also observed in this connection.

The team observed TB control and HIV/AIDS prevention programmes and noted the current status.

- Government of Nepal has given priority to both the programs – TB and HIV/AIDS.
- Both the programs are functioning through the general health system under the Department of Health Services.
- DOTS in TB control and VCT in HIV prevention are adopted as major strategies.
- DOTS Plus has been started since 2005 in 5 pilot sites.
- Collaborative activities between TB and HIV have been started recently.

## 12. Other Activities

### 12.1. Participation in International/Regional Meetings, Seminars, Conferences in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS & NTP Review in Member States

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director and Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist participated 37<sup>th</sup> Global Conference organized by IUATLD in Paris from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006. The activities

and progress of the Centre were presented and displayed at the conference in three different posters.

On the request of Dr. P. Malla, NTP Manager, STC participated in the International Review of NTP Nepal held from 13 to 22 November 2006 at different districts of Nepal.

## **12.2. Production and Distribution of STC Publications:**

- i. STC Newsletter – Vol XVI No. 1 and 2
- ii. SAARC Journal of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS
- iii. SAARC Epidemiological Yearly Update Reports on TB and HIV/AIDS (separate volume)
- iv. Annual Report – 2005
- v. SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS at a Glance
- vi. World TB Day Report – 2006
- vii. STC Directory of TB and HIV/AIDS
- viii. Guidelines for Partnership Programme with Media, School and Pharmacists
- ix. Awareness and Advocacy Materials – General Information on TB and HIV/AIDS and SAARC – A Hope of Rays in South Asia

## **12.3. Strengthening of STC Library and Strengthening and updating of Website**

- i. Purchase of books and subscription of journals –

STC purchased the following new books:

1. Quick Review of Pgme Vol. 1-3, Japee Brothers
2. Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine
3. Oxford Handbook of Clinical Specialists
4. Oxford advance Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press

- ii. Purchase of Software -

Soft-link Library Automation Software has been purchased for library use.

- iii. Development of Audio Visual Section in Library -

Audio visual section has been developed in library.

## **12.4. Prevalence of HIV among Diagnosed TB Patients in Pakistan and in Bangladesh**

The study on prevalence of HIV among diagnosed TB patients is being carried out in Pakistan and Bangladesh with the objective to estimate proportion of HIV infection among diagnosed TB patients.

## **12.5. Gender Based Disparity among TB suspects and New TB Patients – a record based retrospective study**

The studies have been done in all Member States of SAARC.

## **12.5. Strengthening of SAARC Regional Epidemiological Networking by Developing Software**

Software has been developed as per the agreement signed between Bar Code, Nepal, Inc. P. Ltd., Kathmandu and SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre.

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

### **1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint- SAARC-UNAIDS Expert Group Meeting to Develop Work Plan for Implementation of SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS**

The Second Meeting of the Group of Experts on finalization of a Work Plan for the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS was held in Dhaka on 22-23 April 2006. All Member States except Nepal participated in the Meeting. Representatives of UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNODC, UNIFEM, ADB and World Bank were also present at the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Md. Shahadat Hossain, Director General of Health Services.

Mr. A. K.M. Zafar Ullah Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh inaugurated the Meeting. In inaugural address he expressed the commitment of the Government of Bangladesh to work with other SAARC Member States in preparing a regional response against HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Nazrul Islam, Director (SAARC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh welcomed the Member State delegation to Dhaka.

Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat recapitulated the initiatives taken by SAARC in dealing with the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Dr. Mohammed Ali Bhuiyan, the representative of UNAIDS highlighted the enormous threat posed to development and economic growth of Member States by over growing HIV/AIDS epidemic and the urgent need for SAARC Member States to collaborate amongst one another to avert it.

Prof. Dr. Md. Shahadat Hossain, Director General of Health Services addressed the delegates as chairperson of the opening ceremony. He shed light on the process that led to the evolution of the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS. He also highlighted the measures taken by the Government in responding to the HIV/AIDS prevention.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu delivered Vote of Thanks on behalf of visiting Member States delegations. Dr. Jha thanked the Government of Bangladesh for organizing this meeting and Member States for their participation in it. He also thanked the UNAIDS and its co-sponsors for their continued support in developing the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat opened the discussion in the meeting. The meeting adopted the agenda and selected themes for discussion. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, then Consultant, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre highlighted the objectives of the meeting to facilitate focused discussions on agenda items. Meeting reviewed the Regional Strategy and the Implementation Plan and proposed a detailed Work Plan for 2006-2010 for the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS. The meeting recommended the venue for 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The recommended venue is either Maldives or SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu in the first quarter of 2007.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Oscar Kerketta, the Leader of the Delegation of India delivered vote of thanks at the closing ceremony.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

## **2. Short term staff to initiate process of implementation of SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS**

A short term staff has joined the job at SAARC Secretariat.

## **3. Joint SAARC/ ASEAN Workshop to promote awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention and control**

## **4. Study visit by SAARC delegation on ASEAN's experience on HIV/AIDS prevention and control**

Both the activities mentioned in 3 and 4 have been postponed for the year 2007.

## **13. Additional Activities**

### **1. Participation as Temporary Advisor**

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre participated as WHO Temporary Advisor in the Regional Consultant on Expanding Laboratory Services for TB control held in Chennai from 11 to 13 July 2006 and in Inter-country Consultation on TB Surveillance and Monitoring held in Bangalore, India from 28 to 32 August 2006.

Dr. Jha also participated as WHO Temporary Advisor in the Meeting of the Partners for TB Control in the South-East Asia Region held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 27 to 30 November 2006.

### **2. Briefing to the Ministers at MoH & P, Nepal**

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani then Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, then Epidemiologist, STC met the State Minister of Health and Population, Government of Nepal on February 2, 2006 and briefed the achievements and activities of the Centre for control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

Similarly the Director STC briefed about the Centre to the Assistant Minister for Health and Population on February 10, 2006 and to the Secretary of Health and Population on February 13, 2006.

STC presented activities and achievements of the Centre at the Ministry of Health and Population on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2006. This presentation was done on the request of Hon'ble Minister for Health & Population, Government of Nepal. Dr. Mahesh Maskey, Advisor to the Minister observed the presentation. Dr. Maskey appreciated the progress of the Centre.

### **3. Participation in the Expert Group Meeting**

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC participated in the Expert Group Meeting for revision of salary and allowance of Regional Centre. Dr. Jha presented the recommendations and inputs on behalf of the SAARC Regional Centres in the meeting (STC, SIC, SAIC, SMRC, SDC, SCZMC and SHRDC) held at SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu on March 17, 2006.

### **4. Inauguration of DOTS Centre**

STC is supporting Member States to implement DOTS strategy to control TB in the Region. Dr. Iwamura Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (IMHRC), Sallaghari, Bhaktapur, Nepal invited STC to support in opening DOTS Centre in their Hospital. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC

inaugurated DOTS centre at IMHRC on the occasion of World TB Day 2006 on March 21, 2006. Speaking as Chief Guest, Dr. Jha highlighted the activities of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and support being provided to private sector in control of TB and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Jha appreciated the contribution of IMHRC in the field of TB and chest diseases in Nepal.

The programme was chaired by Me. Neel Krishna Tamrakar, MD. Dr. Pushpa Malla, Director, NTC/NTP, Nepal, Dr. N. G. Amatya, former Director, STC/NTC, CDO, Bhaktapur district, Mr. Raju Mrigendra Joshi, Director, IMHRC, Dr. J. P. Jaisawal, Medical Director, IMHRC also spoke on the various aspects of TB and the activities of the IMHRC.

Inauguration of the DOTS centre was done by providing anti-TB drugs to a new SS positive TB patient.

## **5. Key Stakeholders' Meeting on TB/HIV Programmes Collaboration**

On the invitation of Health Research and Social Development Forum (HERD), Kathmandu, Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director from STC participated in meeting among key stakeholders' of TB and HIV programmes held at National TB Centre (NTC), Bhaktapur on May 9, 2006. The meeting was jointly chaired by the Directors of NTC and National Centre for AIDS/STD Control (NCASC). The objective of the meeting was to bring key stakeholders together to discuss on issues of TB/HIV collaboration.

The meeting agreed to form a National level Core-team comprising of 7-9 members. To develop ToR for this core-team a task group of four members from WHO, FHI, STC and HERD has been formed.

## **6. Facilitation in Training**

Dr. Rao Mal Piryani, Consultant of STC for TB and HIV/AIDS facilitated the orientation training on "Surveillance of drug resistance in patients with TB in Nepal" organized by NTC and WHO, Nepal on 4 June 2006.

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC also facilitated the orientation training on "Surveillance of HIV infection in patients with tuberculosis" organized by National TB Centre and WHO, Nepal on 5 June 2006.

## **7. Participation in Workshop**

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC participated in "Workshop on National Paediatric ART Programme Micro Planning organized by UNICEF, Pulchowk, Nepal from 12 to 13 June 2006. There was a discussion about National Pediatric Guideline on ART and National Pediatric ART action Plan. Since she was a member of Task Group for development of this guideline from the beginning, she has provided the advice for the linkage with PMTCT interventions and adult ART centres. Under the National Paediatric action plan, concurrence achieved on capacity building with the development of training manuals, ToT training, procurement and distribution, monitoring and evaluation plan, strategies for strengthening linkages and partnerships with PMTCT and ART programme.

## **8. Participation in Regional Technical Review Meeting, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, 28-29 June 2006**

On the invitation from SAARC Secretariat, Director, Consultant and Epidemiologist from STC attended the Regional Technical Review Meeting convened by the SAARC Secretariat in participation

with UNDP/RCC on June 28-29, 2006 at SAARC Secretariat auditorium, Kathmandu. Following the endorsement of the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV and AIDS (2006-2010) and the development of the work plan, the SAARC Secretariat in participation with UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo (RCC) had initiated efforts to prepare a regional proposal entitled "Scaling up the regional response to HIV and AIDS through South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)" with addressing the urgent and emerging needs related to mobility and HIV in the Region. This proposal was planned to submit to the 6<sup>th</sup> Round call by GFATM. This proposal planned SAARC as the Principal Recipient and UNDP, RCC as the Management Support and proposed to implement the activities in the participating countries through sub-recipients (SR).

At the meeting, representatives from National Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS control programmes of SAARC countries and regional UN organizations like UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNFPA were invited. Representatives from Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and UN organizations were present at the meeting.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC presented "Status of TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection in the SAARC Region" and "On going collaborative activities between TB and HIV/AIDS to address co-infection in the Region".

## **9. Participation in Meeting**

Dr. Lochana Shrestha, Epidemiologist, STC participated in preparatory meeting on TB/HIV collaborative guidelines on June 30, 2006 held at NCASC, Kathmandu. The objective of the meeting was to formulate guidelines for TB/HIV collaborative programmes. She also attended the meeting on Policy and Strategy Guidelines on TB/HIV organized by NCASC held at NHTC on July 23, 2006 with the objective to develop policy and strategy guidelines on TB/HIV collaborative activities.

## **10. Audit of STC accounts 2005**

A Joint Audit Team (JAT) consisting of Mr. M. Shamsul Baqui Khan, Deputy Director, Local and Revenue Audit Directorate Office of C & A of Bangladesh, Dhaka Bangladesh, and Mr. Rokhum Lalremruata, Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, India audited the annual accounts and related activities of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre from August 14 to 15, 2006 in Kathmandu for the year 2005.

## **11. STC WHO Collaboration**

WHO Evaluation Team consisting Mr. Deepak Thapa, Dr. Madhu Ghimire and Dr. Shailesh Upadhyay, National Professional Officer (NPO) visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre observed the functioning of the Centre for the purpose of evaluation of WHO collaborative activities. The team carried out their activity at the Centre on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

## **12. Re-designation of the SAARC TB Centre as WHO Collaborating Centre for TB and HIV/AIDS**

The re-designation of the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal as a WHO Collaborating Centre for TB and HIV/AIDS Research and Training has been approved for a period of four years from July 2006.

## Workshops organized by STC

Period: 1994 to December 2006

S.N.	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 Countries	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	October 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 Microscopy	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 Supervisors	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
16.	SAARC Regional Workshop to Revise Regional Guidelines for QA in Sputum Microscopy & Develop Country Specific Protocol for DRS	Colombo, Sri Lanka	October 2006 seven days	TB Lab In-charge from NTP	8		14	Bangladesh

## Seminars organized by STC

Period: 1994 to December 2006

S.N.	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 and 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 seminar on pilot demonstration areas of TB control in Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	January 1997, three days	National level TB programme managers	6	85.71%	7	Sri Lanka
6.	SAARC seminar on gender and sociological 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

## Trainings organized by STC

Period: 1994 to December 2006

S.N.	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	Thimphu, 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, Pakistan
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	14	India, Sri Lanka
14	SAARC TB Laboratory Management Course	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 2003 eleven days	National level lab supervisors	14	100	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 Regional training of Trainers (ToT) on DOTS Plus	Kathmandu, Nepal	May 2006 five days	NTP Medical Officers	10	71%	14	Bangladesh, India, Pakistan
20	SAARC Regional ToT on QA in Sputum Microscopy	Paro, Bhutan	June 5 days	NTP Laboratory Perons	4		7	Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka
21	SAARC Regional Training on Leadership & Strategic Management for TB & HIV/AIDS Control Managers	Bangalore, India	September 2006 five days	NTP Managers	10		14	Bangladesh, Sri Lanka
22	SAARC Regional Training on Computer Based Data Management application for TB & HIV/AIDS Data Managers	Islamabad, Pakistan	October 2006 six days	NTP and NACP Data Managers	8		14	Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka

## Meeting organized by STC

Period: 1994 to December 2006

S.N.	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		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		5	Sri Lanka
13	SAARC Regional Meeting of Managers of National TB Control Programme form Member States	Male, Maldives	September 2006 three days	NTP Managers	4		7	Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan

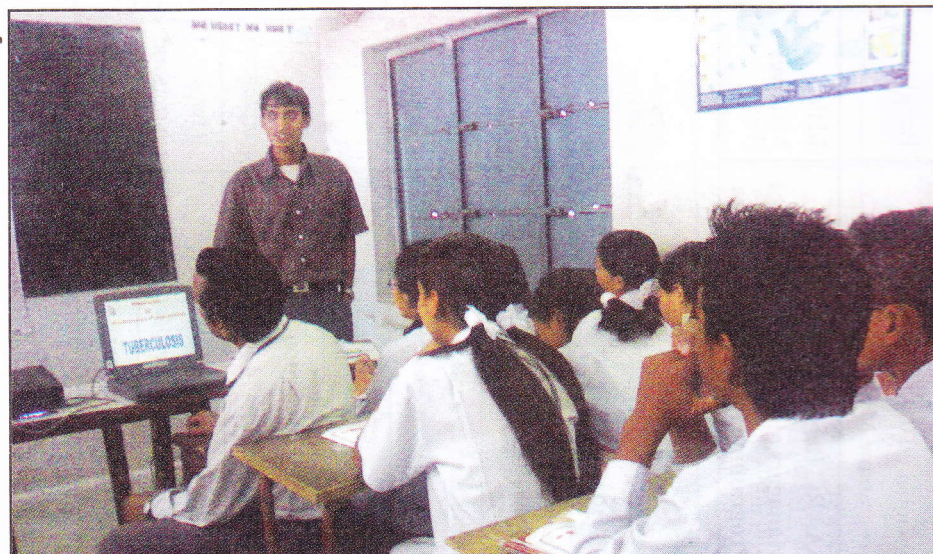
## Photographic Presentation of the activities



*16<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre*



*Director STC is addressing the participants at the function*



*Subject Teacher welcoming participants and facilitators at the school partnership programme held at Bhaktapur English Secondary School*



*Principal Mr. Shankar Pokharel addressing participants and facilitators at the school partnership programme held at SOS Hermann Gmeiner School, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur*



*Opening session of school partnership programme held at Sarada Secondary School, Khanar, Sunsari*



*Director STC addressing the participants at the Partnership Programme with Industry on TB and HIV/AIDS control and Prevention at Birjung*



*Opening function of Partnership Programme with Travel Agency on control of TB and HIV/AIDS held at Male, Maldives*



*Participants and Facilitators of Partnership with Private Sector in Control of TB and HIV/AIDS held in Islamabad, Pakistan*



*Participants and Facilitators of Partnership with Pharmacist in Control of TB and HIV/AIDS held in Islamabad, Pakistan*



*Participants and Facilitators of Partnership Programme with Journalists in Control of TB and HIV/AIDS held in Colombo, Sri Lanka*



*Rally to commemorate World TB Day 2006 held in Kathmandu*



*Deputy Prime Minister/Health & Population Minister observing STC publications at the stall displayed to mark the World AIDS Day 2006 in Kathmandu*



*Inaugural Programme of Celebration of SAARC Charter Day held in Colombo, Sri Lanka*



*Participants with the Chief Guest at ToT on DOTS Plus Programme held in Kathmandu*



*Inauguration of ToT on QA held in Bhutan*



*Participants and Facilitators in the SAARC Regional Meeting of NTP Managers held in Maldives*



*Participants with the Chief Guest at ToT on DOTS Plus Programme held in Kathmandu Inauguration of SAARC Training on Computer based Data Management for TB & HIV/AIDS held in Pakistan*



*Inauguration of SAARC Regional Workshop to Revise Regional Guidelines for QA in Sputum Microscopy & Develop Country Specific Protocol for DRS held in Sri Lanka*



*Observation of TB Control Programme at Morong District during Situation Analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme in Nepal*



*Presentations from STC at the 37<sup>th</sup> Global Conference organized by IUATLD in Paris*



*Participants of the international review of NTP Nepal.*

