



SAARC Tuberculosis Centre

**ANNUAL REPORT
2002**

SAARC TB Centre

(Thimi, Bhaktapur)

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PREFACE

TB is one of the major public health problems through out the world as well in SAARC region.

DOTS, the best available cost-effective strategy to combat TB, has been adopted by all Member Countries of SAARC by 1996 (1993-1996) with remarkable achievements. This region with 22% of world population still have to manage 2.5 million new cases of TB each year, which is approximately 30% of the total global (8.5 million) burden. Now without compromising the quality sustainability and further expansion of DOTS are the most important challenges ahead in addition to the treat posed by TB-HIV co-infection and MDR-TB.



The SAARC TB Centre is one of the regional centres of SAARC working for the control of TB in the Region by coordinating the efforts of National TB Control Programmes (NTPs) of the SAARC Member Countries. This annual report is a summary of the activities carried out by the Centre during the period of January to December 2002. It gives me a great satisfaction that the Centre could complete all most all assigned responsibilities for the year 2002. During the year many activities have been completed under the SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS project. I would like to thanks authorities of CIDA and Health Canada for their continuous and energetic support.

I believe that the activities performed by the Centre could be able to provide a strong support to NTPs of Member Countries for the expansion of DOTS as well as to strengthen the skills of manpower to achieve the desired target within the given period.

I want to offer my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Q. A. M. A. Rahim, Secretary General and Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC Secretariat. It is our great fortune to have their strong guidance, constant support and full cooperation to carry out all activities effectively. I would like to thank His Majesty's Government of Nepal for providing moral support and to WHO/SEARO for providing technical support to carry out the activities of the Centre.

I would also extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Sri Lanka for their kind cooperation and support for successful organization of SAARC Trainers' Training on TB Control Management in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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

Dr. D. S. Bam

Director

SAARC TB Centre

Vision Statement

SAARC Tuberculosis Center is a
Regional Centre of eminence working for
prevention and control of tuberculosis & HIV related tuberculosis
diseases in the region by
coordinating the efforts of
National Tuberculosis Control Programmes of
SAARC Member Countries

Background information:

SAARC has established five regional centres in different fields. SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC) is one of them, established in the field of social development for control of tuberculosis in the region. This is a regional centre of SAARC working since 1992 for prevention and control of TB and HIV related TB diseases in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB Programmes of the Member Countries.

The second meeting of the Foreign Ministers of SAARC Member Countries held at Malé in July 1984 suggested for formulation of specific projects pertaining to one of the five disease-control areas identified by working group of the then health & population activities. Accordingly, a proposal for establishment of the SAARC TB Centre in Nepal was developed and submitted.

The Heads of State/Government of Member Countries of SAARC at their Fifth Summit held in Malé from 22 to 23 November 1990 decided that SAARC Tuberculosis Centre would be set up in Nepal.

The first meeting of the Governing Board of STC was held in Kathmandu from 24 to 25 March 1992. This meeting formulated rules and regulations for the functioning of the Centre. The STC recruited Professionals and General Services Staff (GSS) and started its full functioning from 1994.

Summary of activities carried out by STC (1994 to December 2002)

The STC has been organizing meetings, seminars, workshops and training activities related to TB control. Experts and TB programme managers are kept informed about recent developments in the field of TB control in and around the Region including information from WHO, since the STC has already been identified as a WHO coordinating centre in the field of TB control in the region. One of the major functions of the Centre is to initiate, undertake and coordinate the training activities related to tuberculosis and HIV/ AIDS control in the region.

• Training:

Training is a major component among the different activities of the Centre. The Centre is conducting at least one training activity every year. Several training activities have already been conducted. Of which, five have been organized in Kathmandu, three in India, one each in Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. In future the Centre is planning to organize the training programme in other Member Countries of the SAARC Region.

The overall objectives of the training are to impart knowledge and strengthen skill of the related personnel for better implementation and expansion of TB control programme. The STC has organized eleven training activities so far. In addition to training, the Centre organizes Meetings, Seminars, Workshops on various important issues related to TB and HIV/ AIDS.

• Meeting:

Meeting on different technical issues raised during the implementation of the TB control programme, its planning and policies, technical information regarding TB control and HIV/

AIDS prevention are organized to take consensus decision. The Centre has organized seven meetings on related areas so far.

- **Seminar:**

The SAARC TB Centre has provided platform for interaction, sharing experiences & new findings of research, reviewing existing guidelines and suggesting for successful implementation of various aspects of TB & HIV/AIDS control in the region. The Centre has organized eight Seminars so far on different issues.

- **Workshop:**

Through this method, TB control programme managers could produce relevant, important and effective IEC/Advocacy material to help the TB and HIV/AIDS control programmes in the region.

The following table summarizes the activities performed by the centre during the period from 1994 to 2002. (Details are attached as Annex I)

Table: 1 - Activities performed by STC from 1994 to 2002

Activities	Number performed	Number of total participants, attended	Expected number of total participants	% of participation
Training	11	93	154	60%
Meeting	7	34	63	54%
Seminar	8	53	91	58%
Workshop	7	48	77	62%
Grand Total	33	210	378	56%

Over all average participation is 56% (54-62%), which needs to be increased for better impact of these activities.

Planned Activities for the year 2002

The eleventh meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC, held in Kathmandu on 20-21 November 2001, recommended the following activities for the year 2002:

1. Public awareness & advocacy on Tuberculosis on World TB Day 2002, SAARC Charter Day, Partnership programmes with Schools, Media and Industries in Member Countries and documenting the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS control in the Region.
2. A two-week modular training of trainers in TB control programme management.
3. Consultative meeting for TB and HIV/AIDS programme managers and development of public private linkage and coordinated involvement of medical colleges in TB control.
4. Workshop on development of research protocol related to operational research emphasizing quality assurance and MDR TB
5. Training for regional/district level programme managers to strengthen their skills in data management in consultation with WHO/SEARO unit.
6. Develop public private linkage in TB control
7. Coordinate involvement of medical colleges in TB control.

Activities under the SAARC-Canada project:

1. Meeting of Directors of focal reference laboratories for the project in Member Countries
2. Meeting of TB and HIV/AIDS focal points for the project
3. Install a web-site and infrastructure of the epidemiological database and training of STC staff
4. Coordinate inter-country research on gender based issues relating to TB and HIV control.

Activities in collaboration with WHO:

Please refer activity No. 5

Activity Number 1

This activity was divided into 4 different components to carry out on different dates:

- 1.1 Public awareness & advocacy on Tuberculosis on World TB Day 2002,
- 1.2 SAARC Charter Day,
- 1.3 Partnership programme with Schools, Media and Industries in Member Countries
- 1.4 Documenting the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS control in the Region.

1.1 Public awareness & advocacy on Tuberculosis on World TB Day 2002:

The Governing Board of SAARC TB Centre has considered that public awareness and advocacy could play vital roles in controlling TB; accordingly the STC has decided to create awareness and promote advocacy by observing the World TB Day all over the Region on 24 March every year.



(World TB Day parade of cultural dance group on the occasion of World TB Day 2002 near the National Stadium, Kathmandu)

a) *An interactive programme with school children:*

An interactive programme with school children was organized on 20 March 2002 under the school partnership programme. The co-organizers of this programme were National TB Centre, NATA Kathmandu Branch and Hamro Ghar, Banasthali. Approximately 100 students, teachers and some social workers participated in the programme. Dr. D. S. Bam, Director and Dr. P. Kumar, Deputy Director, STC highlighted the role of students

& social workers in spreading the messages of TB control. The programme was graced by the Hon'ble Member of Raj Parisad Standing Committee, Miss Bhadra Ghale as a Chief Guest.

b) Opening of DOTS centres:

A Joint programme was organized in collaboration with NTC to open DOTS centres in Kathmandu Medical College and Nepal Medical College on 21 and 22 March 2002 respectively.

c) Briefing programme for Journalists:

On 22 March, a programme was organized jointly by STC, NTC and Health Journalist Society, Nepal at STC premises, Thimi, Bhaktapur for briefing the journalists about TB and its control in the Region. The programme was graced by the Hon'ble Mr. Sarat Singh Bhandari, Minister of Health as Chief Guest. Participated journalists were from Health Journalist Society, Nepal.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC highlighted the problems caused by TB in our society. He also answered the different questions raised by the participants about TB and its control in the community. NTP web-site www.ntp.com.np was also launched on this occasion.

d) Inauguration of TB Museum:

Before participating in the above briefing programme, Hon'ble Minister Mr. Bhandari inaugurated the TB Museum at the STC premises, Thimi, Bhaktapur on 22 March 2002.

e) Display of Banners:

Attractive colourful banners with slogans related to TB and its control in the Region were displayed at the various prominent places of the Kathmandu valley.

f) Messages:

The National daily published message of His Excellency Mr. Q.A.M.A. Rahim, Secretary General, SAARC. In the message H. E. expressed "TB – an age old disease, known for centuries to afflict, debilitate and to impoverish large sections of the population, continues to ravage humanity, especially those in the developing world. TB is yet to receive the high priority it desperately deserves". He also added "TB spread through infectious droplets containing the TB bacilli, transmitted from TB patients to other people through coughing, sneezing or spitting. A person with active TB can infect an average of 15 people every year. TB is known to thrive in conditions of poverty and overcrowding". A message from Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, SAARC TB Centre, was also published in the same newspaper along with the different articles on TB control.

g) *Procession:*

A rally of students from schools & colleges, social workers, political leaders, government officials, workers from NGOs of the traditional cultural groups, sport personnel, volunteers, police and army band, shamans, fashion models, artists, etc. under the leadership of Hon'ble Mr. Sarat Singh Bhandari, Minister of Health proceeded from Basantapur to the National Stadium for the mass meeting at the joint function. The National Anthem and peace songs were sung by the Batuks (Holy Boys) during the long procession.

h) *Joint Function:*

The procession gathered at the National Stadium where the functions were jointly organized by SAARC TB Centre, National TB Centre, NATA, JICA, and WHO through different attractive activities to mark the day.

Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Taranath Ranabhat, Speaker of the House of Representatives, inaugurated the function as the Chief Guest. The Organizing Committee welcomed the Chief Guest and awarded the badge "Stop TB fight poverty". The Royal Nepal Army displayed the band show. The TB songs were sung by the senior artists. Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC delivered the welcome speech and announced that "Nepal is beyond DOTS". Different ethnic groups took part in this colourful function by displaying their traditional customs through a dancing procession. A cured TB patient expressed his feelings about the disease.

The "Rana-Shamundra Bam" award was announced in the programme. This award will be given to the persons with outstanding contributions in TB control.

Representatives from DFID, WHO, Embassy of Japan, President NATA delivered their speeches. Dance show was followed by the remarks of Director General, Department of Health Services and Prof. Donald Enarson, Director, Scientific Activities of IUATLD, Paris. Hon'ble Mr. Sarat Singh Bhandari, Minister of Health as well as Chairman of the Organizing Committee addressed the gathering. The Chief Guest also addressed the function.

Mr. Mahendra Nath Aryal, Secretary for Health delivered the vote of thanks.

i) *Releasing of Books:*

The Chief Guest Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Taranath Ranabhat released 2 books '*Involving Medical Colleges and Private Sector in TB & HIV Control*' and '*Role of Private Sector and NGOs in TB Control*' and a brochure '*An Introduction of SAARC TB Centre*' published by SAARC TB Centre.

Observance of World TB Day in Member Countries:

World TB Day is observed on the same day in all seven countries of the SAARC. STC collects the brief report from the Member Countries and publishes it as a compiled report of the World TB Day organized in Member Countries.

1.2 SAARC Charter Day:

The SAARC Charter Day was celebrated along with the trainers' training programme held at Colombo (see report on next page).

1.3 Partnership programme with Schools, Media and Industries in Member Countries:

a) Programme with schools:

Considering the burden of Tuberculosis in the society, STC decided to involve the school students to expand the public awareness and advocacy activities on TB control because students are the most revolutionary forces in the society and they are capable of propagating any information among their friends, families and community at large.

A partnership programme with school students was organized on 18 September 2002. Students from 6 schools participated in the programme.



(Director, STC is interacting with students under the partnership programme with schools in fight against TB held at STC training hall, 20 March 02)

Objectives:

- To educate school students about TB and its control.
- To build a cadre of child ambassadors committed to spreading messages of awareness about TB and its control.
- Forge an active partnership with students in fight against TB disease.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC made a detailed presentation about the disease, its cause, transmission and preventive and curative aspects. His presentation took place in the form of interaction with the students. At the end of the programme all students and teachers stood up joining their hands together to gesture their solidarity to support the TB control programme.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. R. M. Samaratunga, Research Officer, STC.

The following schools participated in the programme:

1. Adarsha Secondary School, Thimi.
2. Prabhat English Secondary School, Byasi, Bhaktapur.
3. Nobel Academy Higher Secondary School, Baneshwar, Kathmandu.
4. Shree Padma Secondary School, Darbarsquare, Bhaktapur.
5. Basu Secondary School, Byasi, Bhaktapur.
6. Wise-land Secondary School, Jagate, Bhaktapur.

b) Programme with Media and Industries:

Expansion of public awareness and advocacy on TB and HIV/AIDS is a timely felt need because the situation of TB in the SAARC Region is likely to be complicated by the rapidly spreading HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Considering this issue, SAARC TB Centre has identified new partners in control of these diseases and industry workers are considered as a very important category of partners.

With a view to develop this partnership, STC organized a one day briefing programme on "TB & HIV/AIDS" for workers and managers at Balkumary Cotton Thread Dyeing Industry at Thimi, Bhaktapur on 23 Sept. 2002.



(Director, STC Presenting TB & its control under the partnership programme with industries workers in fight against TB and HIV/AIDS held at Balkumari Cotton Thread Dyeing Industry, Thimi, Bhaktapur)

The objectives of the programme were to sensitize industry people on TB and HIV/AIDS with a view to promote prevention and control and to build a partnership with industry people, committed to spreading messages to enhance awareness about these diseases.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC made a presentation on TB. He explained the symptoms, cause, mode of transmission and ways of prevention of the disease. Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist explained about the HIV/AIDS, its cause, symptoms, mode of transmission and prevention in local language.

A Nepali version booklet prepared by STC on Tuberculosis was distributed among participants. Posters carrying information on TB and HIV/AIDS were displayed in industry premises.

c) *Involvement of media people:*

The involvement of the journalist and other media people had already been initiated. The regular participation of the journalists in the activities organized by SAARC TB Centre is encouraging. They are helping us in our endeavor in controlling TB from the different aspects. Regular news, articles and their involvement show their activeness in this field.

1.3 Documenting the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS control in the Region.

Under SAARC-Canada project, different documents are continuously being prepared by incorporating the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS control in the Region. It is published regularly in the form of articles in the STC Newsletter as well as in the general newspapers. The consolidated document on this subject will be published in due course of time.

Activity Number 2

Trainers' training on TB control programme management:



(Inaugural session of Trainers' Training Programme conducted in Colombo, Sri Lanka, organized by STC from 10 to 23 Dec. 02)

Training to the existing TB control staff has been taken as a major activity of the Centre since its establishment. First trainers' training was organized in 1994 in Kathmandu. Afterward, for the better impact of the training, STC has taken a policy to organize at least one activity in Member Country other than host country per year. This year the training programme was organized in Sri Lanka on the auspicious occasion of the SAARC Charter Day.

SAARC TB Centre and National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases, Government of Sri Lanka jointly organized the trainer's training course on Tuberculosis Control Programme Management from 10 to 23 Dec. 2002.

Participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in this training programme.

Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage, Director General of Health Services, Sri Lanka graced the inaugural ceremony as Chief Guest. He addressed the participants and highlighted the vital role played by SAARC for the welfare of the millions of people living in the region. He appreciated the activities carried out by SAARC since its establishment.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, SAARC TB Centre explained the goal and objectives of the training programme. He further mentioned the TB situation in the Region and the efforts being made by Member Countries for its control.

Dr. Kapila Sooriyaarachchi, Director, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka also addressed the gathering.

Tuberculosis experts from Nepal and Sri Lanka facilitated the programme on the basis of the following four modules:

1. Establish Revised Tuberculosis Programme Strategy
2. Ensure Training
3. Plan Supplies
4. Revised Recording and Reporting

In addition to the above modules, the epidemiology, TB, HIV & TB-HIV co-infection, advocacy, supervision, IEC, proposal writing, public private partnership, presentation skills, gender issue, role of laboratory and role of community in TB control were also discussed during this in the training.

During the course, participants paid a visit to the Chest Hospital, Welisara.

Dr. Dula de Silva, Deputy Director General, Public Health Services, Sri Lanka, attended the concluding session on 23 December as the Chief Guest and awarded the certificates to the participants and facilitators. In her address she requested the participants to utilize the skills and knowledge they acquired during the programme to improve TB control activities in their respective countries.

On behalf of the participants, Mr. Kunzang Dorji from Bhutan addressed the gathering and expressed his views about the programme and thanked STC, Kathmandu and NPTCCD, Sri Lanka for organizing the programme.

Dr. Kapila Sooriyaarachchi, Director, NPTCCD, Sri Lanka expressed his satisfaction about the programme.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. M. Samaratunga, Research Officer, SAARC TB Centre.

Outcome of the Training Course:

This training improved the managerial aspect of the TB control programme of the participants.

Activity Number 3

Consultative Meeting for TB and HIV/AIDS programme:



(Plenary session of consultative meeting for TB and HIV/AIDS programme, Kathmandu)

A meeting was organized on 20 November 2002 preceded by the Twelfth meeting of the Governing Board of STC. It was a follow-up meeting of the previous consultative meeting on TB & HIV/AIDS organized in Sept. 1996. Experts from Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the meeting.

The following were the objectives of the meeting:

- to review the trends of TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection in the Region,
- to identify problems and challenges faced in TB & HIV/AIDS control and
- to formulate an update strategy for TB and HIV/AIDS control programmes within SAARC Region.

The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Mahendra Nath Aryal, Secretary of Health, His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

The meeting recommended very important recommendations to be implemented for the better management of TB and HIV/AIDS in the region.

The meeting expressed their hope that such recommendations regarding TB and HIV/AIDS prevention and control within SAARC Region countries will strengthen ongoing and future efforts.

Activity Number 4

Workshop on Development of Research Protocol Related to Operational Research Emphasizing Quality Assurance & MDR-TB and Involvement of Private-sector & Medical Colleges:



(Plenary session of Workshop on development of Research protocol related to operational research emphasizing quality assurance & MDR TB and involvement of private sector & medical colleges held in Kathmandu, 27-28 May 02)

Aforementioned workshop was held in Kathmandu from 27 to 28 May 2002. Experts from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the workshop. Besides, other local experts from both public & private sector and medical colleges working in the field of TB control, diagnosis and research took part in the workshop as observers.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- to formulate the research protocol related to MDR TB in the Region,
- to formulate research protocol by emphasizing quality assurance,
- to foresee and develop suitable strategy to deal with the problem of MDR-TB,
- to improve possibility of joint plan of action, including pilot project for dealing Quality Assurance & MDR-TB,
- to share experiences, lessons learnt and constraints being faced in controlling TB & MDR-TB,
- Development of a common definitions and guidelines to study the MDR-TB in the SAARC Region.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Mr. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, State Minister for Health, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, who graced the ceremony as chief guest. In the inaugural ceremony Mr. Basnet welcomed the participants on behalf of HMG Nepal and expressed his satisfaction for cooperation among the Member Countries for the control of Tuberculosis. "TB is considered as a major health problem and it has been a great challenge for us" Mr. Basnet said in his opening speech. He pointed out that the Member Countries of SAARC could use STC as a common platform to work collectively for the control of TB in the Region.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, SAARC TB Centre, delivered welcome address and highlighted the objectives of the workshop. He expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble State Minister of Health, Secretary of Health, Director General, Department of Health Services, Director, SAARC Secretariat, Member Countries of SAARC and all National and International dignitaries.

On behalf of His Excellency the Secretary General, Mr. K. Wangdi, Director, SAARC Secretariat addressed the gathering and informed that SAARC has accorded high priority to the control and prevention of TB in the Region.

Dr. Umanga Sooriyaarachchi, from Sri-Lanka addressed the session on behalf of the participants.

Dr. L. R. Pathak, Director General, Department of Health Services delivered the Vote of Thanks.

The inaugural session was presided over by Mr. Mahendra Nath Aryal, Secretary of Health.

Recommendations:

1. All the participating Member Countries have agreed in principle for the upgradation of the SAARC TB Centre as a Regional Reference Laboratory. Till such time the participating Member Countries would take the help of Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the existing Supra-National Reference Laboratory of the WHO for the Drug Resistance Surveillance (DRS) related External Quality Assurance (EQA) activities.
2. The World Health Organization/International Union against TB and Lung Diseases (WHO/IUATLD) Drug Resistance Surveillance (DRS) protocol will be followed for carrying out DRS in the respective member countries.
3. A specific timetable will be drawn up by the participants of the member countries for the timely implementation of DRS.
4. The participating countries will submit the project proposal as per schedule to the SAARC TB Centre to enable them to explore the possibility of obtaining adequate funding from donor agencies for undertaking multi-centric study on DRS.
5. All Member Countries should develop country specific mechanism to initiate pilot projects involving private sector in TB control programme.
6. All participants of Member Countries felt the need to involve the private and government medical colleges/ Universities for TB control/DRS in order to sensitize doctors, medical & para-medical staff and students.
7. All the participants felt the need of research funding for carrying out operational research in the above-mentioned areas.

Activity Number 5

Training for Regional/District level programme managers to strengthen their skills in data management in consultation with WHO/SEARO unit:



(Inaugural session of Training for Regional/District level programme managers to strengthen their skills in data management in consultation with WHO/SEARO unit held at STC Training hall, 27 Dec – 9 Jan 02, 03)

A training programme for regional/district level TB programme managers to strengthen their skills in data management was organized by SAARC TB Centre in cooperation with WHO/SEARO in Kathmandu from 27 Dec. 2002 to 9 January 2003. Since, SAARC TB Centre is a WHO collaborating centre for the control of TB in the region, both the organizations support each other for their activities. STC has considered this activity was another milestone in the field of TB control in the Region and expressed its gratitude to the authorities of WHO/SEARO for giving the opportunity to work jointly for the control of TB and HIV/AIDS in this region.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, SAARC TB Centre and Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC Secretariat jointly inaugurated the programme. Addressing the inaugural session Dr. Bam extended a warm welcome to the participants and facilitator in the programme. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the Governments of Member Countries for sending participants in this course and also expressed his gratefulness to His Excellency Mr. Q. A. M. A. Rahim, Secretary General SAARC for providing regular guidance to the SAARC TB Centre for implementing the programmes. He also thanked Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC Secretariat for his support and regular guidance to organize the programmes. Mr. Avijit Home Choudhury, Epi-Centre, Resource Person, WHO/SEARO gave his remarks as a facilitator in this programme.

Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC Secretariat addressed on behalf of SAARC Secretariat. He also conveyed the message of SAARC Secretary General and his good wishes for the success of the training programme. He also thanked Dr. D. S. Bam and staff of STC for organizing very useful training programme for the Member Countries.

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC delivered the vote of thanks.

Goal:

The goal of the training programme was to make the TB programme managers able to manage or handle NTP data effectively thereby enabling them to provide accurate information, which will ultimately facilitate the preparation of "update SAARC Regional Report".

Objectives of the training:

- To improve/strengthen the knowledge and skills of the participants in computer use,
- To make the participants skilled in data entry, analysis and report writing using Epi-Info-software programme.

Training Materials:

Each participant were provided a desktop computer and the training manual on MS-Office, containing the introduction to computers & Windows along with the working with MS-Word, MS- Excel, MS- PowerPoint and Epi-Info. V 6.

Methodology:

In each session and components, there was orientation followed by the discussion. Every topic was summed up after discussions. The questions and answers session played a very important role during the training programme. Sufficient time was provided to the participants for their exercise in the computer. The session ending quiz was also there at the end of each day.

Field Visit:

Participants were assigned a project work for presentation as the evaluation of their training. They visited Dhulikhel PHC and collected TB data on case-finding and treatment outcome to accomplish the project. All the participants analyzed the collected data by the help of Epi-Info and presented satisfactorily.

The closing session was organized at the presence of Dr. Bam and Mr. Sareer on 9 Jan. 2003. At the beginning, the participants presented their skills acquired from this training, which was highly appreciated by the Directors, SAARC TB Centre and SAARC Secretariat. Dr. Bam and Mr. Sareer jointly awarded certificates to the participants and facilitator. On behalf of the participants, Dr. Mahjabeen Qamar, participant from Pakistan thanked Dr. Bam, Mr. Sareer, Mr. Avijit all staff of the Centre.

Mr. Avijit H. Choudhury, thanked all participants and staff for their dedication and hard work during the training course and appealed to the participants for the use of their knowledge gained during the training in their daily work.

Mr. Ahmed Sareer, expressed his satisfaction and urged the participants to use their skills learnt in this training after resuming the work.

Dr. Bam thanked all participants and facilitator for their hard work to make success this programme successfully. He extended his best wishes for the pleasant journey back to their home country.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC, who coordinated the training course.

Activity Number 6

Develop public private linkage in TB control:

Private Practitioners Workshop and DOTS Orientation at College of Medical Sciences – Teaching Hospital Bharatpur, Chitawan, Nepal, 21 December 2002

The SAARC TB Centre has started to develop public private linkage and involvement of medical colleges in TB control, in compliance with the decision of the Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB Centre.

As a part of it, a one-day workshop of “private practitioners and DOTS orientation activity” was organized jointly by STC and NTP Nepal at College of Medical Sciences – Teaching Hospital, Bharatapur, Chitawan, Nepal on 21 December 2002.

The objectives of the programme were to discuss the role of medical colleges and private sector in building capacity, service delivery and research by identifying strategies and framework for enhanced involvement of medical colleges and private sector in National TB and HIV/AIDS control programme.

The programme was started through an inaugural function chaired by Prof. A.C. Patowary, Principal of the College of Medical Sciences. At first, Dr. Natraj Prasad, ISME Management, CMS-TH welcomed the team of SAARC TB Centre along with the students and teachers of the Medical College at its Conference Hall. In the welcome address Dr. Prasad expressed his happiness for the cooperation of the SAARC TB Centre to open the DOTS center and organize this DOTS orientation programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, SAARC TB Centre by lighting the lamp. Dr. Bam briefed the cooperation of SAARC TB Centre for strengthening the DOTS programme in the Member Countries of SAARC. Dr. Bam also highlighted the role of SAARC TB Centre in control of Tuberculosis in the Region.

Dr. S. B. Karki and Medical Superintendent, Bharatpur Hospital, HMG Nepal and Dr. B. N. Choudhary also spoke in the inaugural session.

Dr. Bam was felicitated jointly by Prof. Dr. A. C. Patowary, Principal, College of Medical Sciences and Dr. Natraj Prasad, ISME, Management, CMS-TH by providing a letter of felicitation. He was honoured by the post of Honourary Visiting Professor of the College of Medical Sciences.

Programme:

On behalf of the SAARC TB Centre, the Global TB Situation was presented by Dr. C. Gunneberg, WHO Consultant for NTP Nepal. Dr. D. S. Bam explained the five components of DOTS. He also highlighted the experiences of DOTS in the SAARC Region including Nepal and Involvement of Medical Colleges and Private Sector in TB Control. Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, SAARC TB Centre, presented a paper on TB and HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region and Impact of HIV on TB Control Programme. Dr. K. K. Jha, Senior Chest Physician, NTC briefed about the Diagnostic and Treatment policies of NTP. Dr. S. S. Mishra, Director, National Centre for AIDS and STD, His Majesty's Government of Nepal presented his paper on HIV/AIDS control programme in Nepal. In his presentation he requested to inform about the co infection of TB and HIV regularly to the Centre. Open discussion followed the paper presentations. Mr. Ramesh Adhikari, Public Health Officer, Chitwan, presented TB data of Chitwan district and gave vote of thanks.

At his concluding remarks the Chairperson of the programme, Prof. Dr. A. C. Patowary, expressed his strong commitment to help National TB Control Programme of Nepal by implementing DOTS and SAARC TB Centre by providing the information about TB and TB related HIV.

Activity Number 7

Coordinate involvement of medical colleges in TB control

This programme was organized jointly with the programme workshop on development of research protocol related to operational research emphasizing quality assurance and MDR TB held in Kathmandu from 27 to 28 May 2002. (see page 13)

SAARC-Canada project

The impact of the project is to enhance capacity of the SAARC Secretariat for communications & policy development on regional health & development issues. This project has been divided into following major areas:

- **Regional TB & HIV/AIDS epidemiological networking:**

This is being developed in cooperation with Health Canada's WHO collaborating centre for HIV/AIDS and will be coordinated and maintained by the SAARC TB Centre, to facilitate the sharing of data and the generation of regional analysis and reports related to HIV/AIDS and TB.

- **Improved laboratory diagnosis of TB through better quality assurance:**

This area of work will enhance the capacity of the SAARC laboratory to provide support to national labs in the field of TB diagnostic reference testing, standardized antibiotic resistance testing and quality assurance. This will be accomplished through the provision of scientific/technical advice from Health Canada's WHO collaborating centre for tuberculosis.

- **STC supporting regional communication & policy development in TB & HIV/AIDS:**

Using the database developed, the project will facilitate dialogue on the matters related to the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and TB in the region and assist in the formulation of regional policies.

In the year 2002 the project carried out the following activities whose brief reports are as under:

Activity No. 1

Meeting of Directors of focal reference laboratories for the project in Member Countries:

A meeting was organized on the above subject in Kathmandu from 13 to 15 November 2002. The experts from all Member Countries of SAARC participated in the meeting. It was facilitated by Dr. C. N. Paramasivan, Senior Deputy Director Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC), Chennai, India and Coordinated by Dr. Basista P. Rijal, Microbiologist, STC.

The objective of the meeting was to develop and implement a programme of regional collaboration between National TB reference laboratories in SAARC Member Countries to support quality improvement of laboratory diagnosis as well as good laboratory practices in the TB laboratory networks of the SAARC Region.



(Closing session of Meeting of the Directors of focal reference laboratories for SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project in Kathmandu, 13-15 Nov. 02)

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC and NTC extended a warm welcome to the participants and offered his sincere gratitude to the Member Countries for sending the participants. He also thanked the SAARC Secretariat for supporting STC to work smoothly in every aspect of its schedule. He thanked specially Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC Secretariat for his support to organize the meeting and Dr. Paramasivan for facilitating the programme.

Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC Secretariat addressed the meeting and extended a warm welcome to the participants and best wishes for the successful completion of the meeting on behalf of His Excellency, SAARC Secretary General and himself.

Dr. C. N. Paramasivan, Deputy Director, TRC, Chennai thanked SAARC TB Centre and Health Canada for organizing the meeting related to TB reference laboratory which would be very much fruitful to the personnel working in this field.

Ms. Carla Hogan Rufelds, Chief, CCO, Kathmandu welcomed the participants on behalf of Health Canada and explained the urgency in tackling the menace of TB and HIV in this Region.

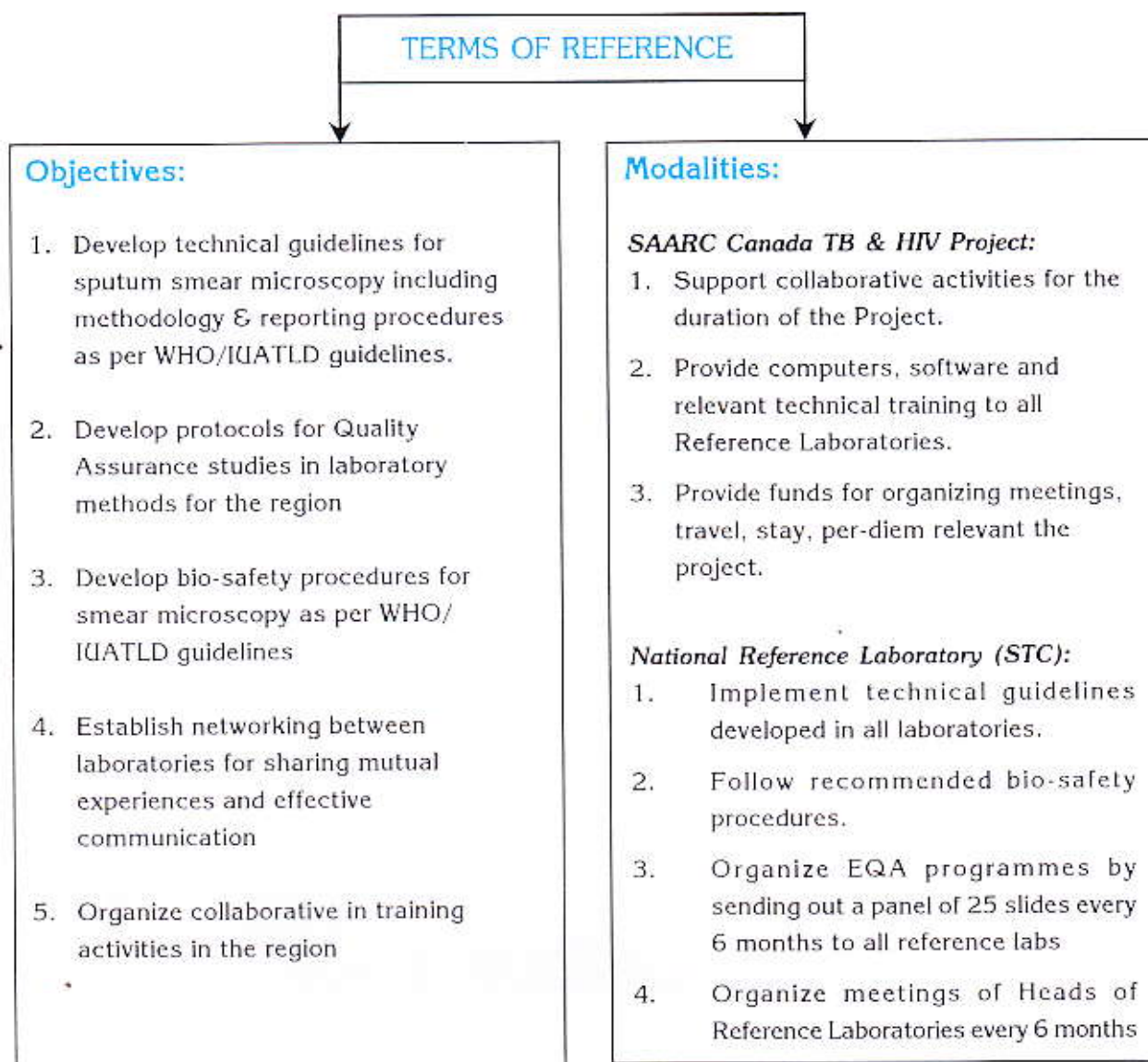
Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist proposed the vote of thanks.

The meeting recommended the Terms of References (TOR) as follows:

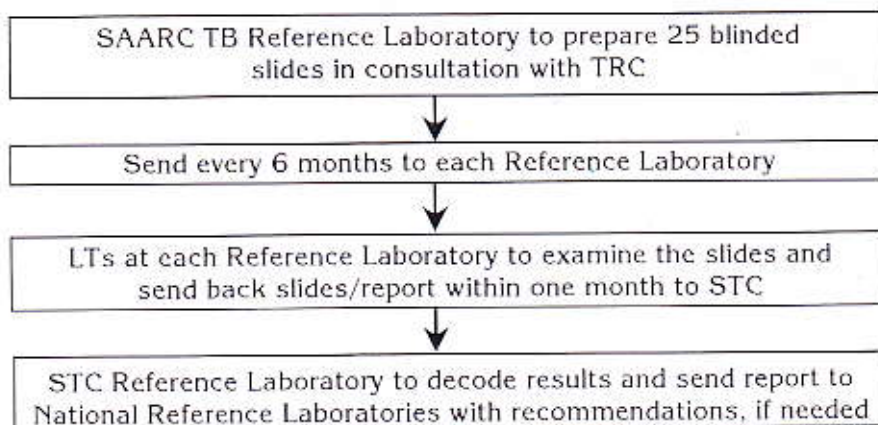
1. Technical guidelines specifically prepared in accordance to WHO and IUATLD guidelines for sputum microscopy for the SAARC Regional Laboratory networking meeting of National Reference Laboratories has been discussed and adopted. (*The document has been provided to participants in paper and in floppy format*).
2. Twenty-five slides for proficiency testing will be prepared and sent to all the National Laboratories from the SAARC TB Centre at the end of every six-month period. The first batch of the slides will be prepared with the help of TRC Chennai, and will be dispatched before March 2003 to the National Laboratories of SAARC member countries.

3. Guidelines for bio-safety regulations for both Sputum Microscopy and HIV/TB were presented to the participants of Member Countries (*details were provided in paper format*).
4. A basic protocol on “Quality Assurance Programme on sputum microscopy” with all annexures were provided to the Heads of the Laboratories of the Member Countries to enable them to adopt the same for their respective countries with suitable modifications, if desired. In addition, the need for networking of National Reference Laboratories among the countries in the SAARC Region and standardization of performance reported were also deliberated and adopted.
5. The progress of the above will be monitored periodically and discussed in a meeting of Heads of Laboratories once during every six-month period. This periodic monitoring will occur for the duration of the SAARC-CIDA Project and later as per the guidelines of SAARC TB Centre.
6. As per the requests made by the members representing the National TB Reference Laboratories, for effective communication and dissemination of information, provision of computers/UPS/printers will be provided to the identified laboratories of the region.
7. Efforts will be made in the near future to arrange training programmes for master trainers in Quality Assurance Programme under SAARC-CIDA Project.
8. Arrangements will be made to provide short-term consultancy services to assist member countries upon request during the initial phase of the Quality Assurance Programme.

NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN NATIONAL TB LABORATORIES IN SAARC COUNTRIES AND THE STC REFERENCE LABORATORIES



PROFICIENCY PANEL TESTING



Activity No. 2

Meeting of TB and HIV/AIDS focal points for the project:

This meeting has been postponed to the year 2003 due to unavoidable circumstances.

Activity No. 3

Install a Web site and infrastructure of the epidemiological database and training of STC staff:

A web-site of SAARC TB Centre has been installed and can be seen at

<http://www.saarctb.com.np>

Infrastructure of epidemiological database is being developed after the computer training for the professionals and GS staff. The training was organized in STC from 20 January to 25 February 2003. The training was based on use of windows and MS Office software applications and introductory aspects of the SPSS.

In relation to this programme a meeting of different agencies was organized at STC. The detailed is given below:

Meeting for Epidemiological Network under SAARC-Canada Regional TB & HIV/AIDS Project



(Meeting for epidemiological Network between UNAIDS/WHO and STC on 1 Nov 02 at STC meeting hall)

As a preliminary step for the establishment of an epidemiological networking link between STC and the existing UNAIDS/WHO database project, a meeting was held on 1 Nov. 2002 at SAARC TB Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the possibilities of developing a collaborative arrangement for an epidemiological network and to have mechanisms for data exchange between NTPs, STC and UN agencies to facilitate the sharing of data and generation of regional analysis and reports related to TB and HIV/AIDS and to build consensus for regular exchange of data among these organizations.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC presented an introduction of SAARC-Canada TB and HIV/AIDS Project and its achievements. Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC explained the current activities and future plan of the project and Mr. Paul Alexander, Epidemiologist, Health Canada presented the need for epidemiological networking among relevant institutions and the need for STC being included as part of the existing HIV/AIDS database project in South Asia. In the meeting, Dr. Usmani from UNFPA and UNAIDS, Dr. S. S. Mishra, Director, NCASC, HMG, Nepal and Ms. Carla Hogan, CCO, Kathmandu, Dr. Anton Fric, Medical Officer, WHO also spoke about the need of the network in this field. Dr. Takashi Yoshiyama, Chief Advisor, JICA, CTLHP also attended the meeting. Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC Secretariat highlighted SAARC's recent recognition of the importance of involvement of other expertise i. e. UN agencies and appreciated the meeting's initiatives and extended SAARC's full support in the activities of STC.

Activity No. 4

Coordinate inter-country research on gender based issues relating to TB and HIV control:

This activity has been rescheduled and is included in AWP Y - 4 (year 2003).

Summary of the other additional achievements of the project:

- Microbiologist, Epidemiologist and Research Officer joined STC in March-April 2002.
- Epidemiologist from Health Canada posted in Kathmandu in Sept. 2002.
- STC team & HC participated at the UNAIDS Regional Partnership Meeting in Kathmandu in October 2002.
- Collaboration with the UNAIDS database project initiated with UNAIDS Inter-Country Programme-South Asia.
- Gender sensitive orientation sessions to familiarize STC professionals completed and gender analysis are being integrated into project activities.
- Data analysis on TB & HIV/AIDS ongoing in SAARC TB Centre.
- Five articles related to TB & HIV/AIDS completed.
- HIV/AIDS Regional situation analysis completed and TB Regional situation analysis being finalized.
- Basic computer training to improve knowledge and skills of STC professionals and General

Services Staff organized.

- Proposal for retrospective study on gender and TB prepared.
- Microbiologist received specialized training at the Tuberculosis Research Centre in Chennai, India in July 2002.
- STC TB Lab has started regional QA activities.
- Computer linked network between STC and 9 National TB Reference laboratories established.
- Situation analysis on sputum microscopy in Nepal has been started.
- Technical operational manual for sputum microscopy for TB lab has been drafted.
- Regional policy issue articulated in documents that can serve as a basis for SAARC statements on the TB and HIV/AIDS epidemics.
- STC participated in formulating TB and HIV key elements as part of the SAARC Summit's resolutions held in Kathmandu in January 2002.
- STC participated in drafting the UNICEF's and UNAIDS's declaration of commitment at the High-Level South Asia Conference on Combating HIV/AIDS, held in Kathmandu in February 2003 and articles on TB and HIV/AIDS distributed.
- STC participated in the formulation of Regional policy statements at the consultative meeting on TB & HIV/AIDS held in Kathmandu in November 2002.
- TB and HIV/AIDS co-infections and migration articles published in STC's semi-annual newsletters for dissemination.
- Management process streamlined and all operations carried out under HC management team with the assistance of the CCO and STC.
- Computer equipments procured and functional at STC.
- Annual work plan, result-based management reports and budgets as well as semi-annual progress reports completed.

Additional Activities carried out by STC

tb.net Conference:

The 5th tb.net conference 2002, on TB, HIV/AIDS & Media was organized jointly by SAARC TB Centre, National TB Centre and United Mission to Nepal from 22 to 24 February 2002 in Kathmandu. Hon'ble Mr. Sarat Singh Bhandari, Minister of Health inaugurated the programme on 22 February 2002. The appeal of the conference was "*Communicate TB and HIV/AIDS before it is too late*".

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC welcomed the participants and facilitators in the conference. Need of the conference was highlighted by Dr. John Dickinson, UNM. TB and HIV situation in the World/Region was presented by Ms. L. Morgan WHO, Geneva. Media in TB and HIV was explained by Mr. Peter Gill, BBC, World Service Trust and Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. S. Mishra, Director, National Centre for AIDS and STC, HMG Nepal. The inaugural function of the conference was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, Minister of State for Health. Approximately 150 participants from Nepal and abroad participated in the conference.

JSC Meeting on SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project:

The second meeting of Joint Steering Committee (JSC) was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency. Mr. Q. A. M. A. Rahim, Secretary General, SAARC at SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu on 18th June 2002.

Dr. Donald Sutherland, Director, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, STD & TB, Health Canada, Ms. Carla Hogun Rufelds, Chief, Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO) Kathmandu, Mr. K. Wangdi and Mr. Tariq Zameer, Directors, SAARC, Mr. Lekhnath Bhattarai, Section Officer, SAARC Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, His Majesty's Government of Nepal and Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, SAARC TB Centre participated in the meeting. In continuation to the meeting Dr. Sutherland, Ms. Carla Mr. Wangdi and Mr. Bhattarai visited SAARC TB Centre, Thimi, where the project is located. After observing the physical facilities, Dr. Sutherland discussed with the professionals about the functioning of the project. He advised to start regional report writing on quality assurance of sputum microscopy, epidemiological aspects of HIV epidemic, gender issue in TB & HIV.

Audit of the Accounts of STC:

The Joint Audit Team (JAT) audited the annual accounts and the related statements of the SAARC TB Centre for the year 2001, comprising of -

Mr. Tanweer Ahmed,
Director General,
 Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan Islamic Republic of Pakistan and

Mr. Manor Kumar Bhandari,
Director,
 Office of the Auditor General, the Kingdom of Nepal,

*The audit was carried out in accordance with GAAS from 7 to 8 September 2002.

Appointment of Deputy Director:

As per the request of the twelfth meeting of the Governing Board of STC the Selection Committee initiated the process of appointment of the Deputy Director and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani from Pakistan has been appointed as a Deputy Director of SAARC TB Centre.

SAARC Year 2004

The twelfth meeting of the Governing Board of STC has proposed the year 2004 as a SAARC Year on TB and HIV/AIDS.

Joining of Professionals

On the decision of the appointment committee three professionals. Dr. Basista Prasad Rijal, Microbiologist (Nepal), Dr. Md. Mojibur Rahman, Epidemiologist (Bangladesh) and Dr. Mallika Samarantunga, Research Officer (Sri Lanka) have been joined in STC in March-April 2002.

Farewell to Dr. P. Kumar

Former Deputy Director of STC returned to his country on 30 April 2002. He was the first Deputy Director of the Centre.

STC visited by different dignitaries:

- Health Minister, Secretary of Health Director General, Department of Health Services of Nepal visited the Centre on 22 March 2002.
- Director, SAARC Meteorological Research Centre Mr. Md. Akram Hossain visited the STC on 16 April 2002.
- Delegates of SAARC Member Countries visited the Centre on 29 May 2002.

- Dr. D. Sutherland, Health Canada, Ms. Carla, CCO, Kathmandu, Mr. Wangdi, SAARC, Mr. Lekha Nath Bhattarai, MOFA, Nepal visited the Centre on 18 June 2002.
- Hon'ble Dr. Upendra Devkota, Minister for Health, Nepal visited the Centre on 31 Oct. 2002.
- Dr. Hasan Sadiq, Chairman, Governing Board of STC visited the Centre on 21 November 2002.
- Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC visited the Centre on 1 Nov. 2002.

Participation of STC in different National and International activities:

The professionals of STC participated in the International Review of National TB Programme of Nepal held from 24 to 29 October 2002.

Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist visited Eastern Region,
 Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist visited Central Region and,
 Dr. M. Samaratunga, Research Officer visited Western Region

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director called upon officials of Health Canada during his visit to 33rd World Conference on IATLD held in Montreal from 6 to 10 Oct. 2002. During his visit he discussed about the SAARC-Health Canada project running in STC.

List of publications in the year 2002 by STC:

Distribution of STC Newsletter and other publications:

i) STC Newsletters:

The regular publication of STC Newsletters Vol. XII No. 1 and 2 have been published and distributed as per the mailing list of STC. Two issues of STC Newsletters had been published in the year 2002 including reports on activities, decisions of important meetings of the Centre and recent information on TB and TB/HIV co-infection and its control.

ii) World TB Day 2002 Report:

A compiled report of the activities carried out by SAARC TB Centre and Member Countries in commemoration of World TB Day 2002 had been published and distributed to the Member Countries for the information, promotion of health education and advocacy for the control of TB in the community.

iii) Books:

1. Involving Medical Colleges and Private Sector in Tuberculosis & HIV Control.
2. Role of Private Sector and NGOs in Tuberculosis Control

3. Report-SAARC Workshop for Preparation of Strategic Long-term Plan of STC for TB and HIV/AIDS control in the Region.

Annual Report:

The Annual Report on activities carried out by the Centre for the period of January – December 2001 had been published and distributed to the Member Countries. This report on realized on the World TB Day 2002 function.

Strengthening of Resource Centre (Library)

SAARC TB Centre, library has collected some scientific books, reports and journals related to TB and HIV/AIDS from different sources. The list of newly acquired publications is placed at ANNEX II.

Planned and recommended activities for the year 2003 (January – December 2003)

A) *Programme/Activities under STC Budget:*

1. Public awareness, advocacy & partnership programmes on Tuberculosis in Member Countries:
 - a) World TB Day & SAARC Charter Day
 - b) Partnership programmes with Schools and Media
 - c) Involvement of Medical Colleges, pharmaceuticals & industries
 - d) Preparation/publication and distribution of guidelines/modules for the partnership programme
2. Preparatory work for SAARC Regional Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and other Respiratory Diseases.
3. Collection & distribution of information on experiences in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS through:
 - a) participation in meetings, seminars, conferences etc. by Director and Professionals of STC.
 - b) country visits by the professionals of National TB Programme of Member Countries.
4. Strengthening of STC Library (procurement of books, journals, and other publications etc. related to TB & HIV/AIDS).
5. Publication & Distribution of STC Newsletter, SAARC Journal of TB, SAARC Epidemiological Report on TB & HIV/AIDS, SAARC Directory of TB Institutions & Specialists.
6. Preparation of SAARC regional training module guidelines for TB control programme.
7. SAARC trainers' training on TB control programme management (two weeks).

B) *Programme/Activities under SAARC-Health Canada Project:*

1. Workshop of nodal officers of Member Countries and other stakeholders to develop modalities for epidemiological networking and workshop to develop a uniform format for sending reports to TB & HIV/AIDS networking.
2. Workshop on development of research protocol based on gender issues related

to TB and HIV/AIDS.

3. Joint workshop with WHO and UNAIDS to discuss technical issues in relation to TB & HIV/AIDS data collection, analysis and interpretation.
4. Two-week laboratory management workshop for 2 senior managers from 9 national TB reference laboratories based on WHO/IQATLD training modules.
5. Consultative meeting on TB & HIV/AIDS situation in SAARC Region.
6. Community awareness campaign on gender issue related to TB and HIV/AIDS in Member Countries.
7. Develop/update manuals for TB diagnostics and QA for SAARC region.
8. Preparation of the Annual Report of STC Regional TB Reference Laboratory
9. Participation of STC staff in regional and international (IN) workshops or seminars on TB & HIV/AIDS.
10. Produce Annual Regional Surveillance Report on TB & HIV/AIDS
11. Visit by STC staff to Member Countries for situation analysis in respect to epidemiological data base networking and laboratory net-working.
12. Establishment of a computer net-work between national reference laboratories.

As per the established SAARC practice, **Dr. Hasan Sadiq**, Member of the Governing Board from Pakistan was elected Chairman of the Board.

SAARC Tuberculosis Centre

Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal

Summary Report on Training

Period: 1994 to December 2002

S. No.	Subject	Venue	Date & Duration	Category of Participants	No. of attended participants	% attended	Expected Participants	Not attending Countries
1.	SAARC trainers' training on TB control in Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 1994, one week	Regional/district level TB programme managers	8	57%	14	Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
2.	SAARC trainers' training for district TB control programme in Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	July 1995, one week	Regional/district level TB programme managers	9	64%	14	Bhutan, Sri Lanka
3.	Training programme for laboratory technician (on TB bacteriology) from SAARC countries	National TB Institute Bangalore	April 1995 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	Region/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 coordinators	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 1998, one week	Regional level TB programme managers	8	57%	14	Pakistan, Sri Lanka
8.	SAARC training course for TB control programme managers	Thimphu, Bhutan	June 2000, two weeks	National level TB Program 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 Program managers	8	57%	14	India, Maldives
	Total				93	60%	154	

SAARC Tuberculosis Centre

Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal

Summary Report on Workshops

Period: 1994 to December 2002

S. No.	Subject	Venue	Date & Duration	Category of Participants	No. of attended participants	% attended	Expected Participants	Not attending Countries
1.	SAARC workshop for preparation of health education materials to fulfill the need of the Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	Oct. 1995, two days	National level TB and IEC programme managers	9	64.29%	14	Maldives
2.	SAARC workshop on formulation of guidelines of coordination in government and private/ NGO sector initiatives of TB control	Kathmandu, Nepal	June 1997, two days	National level TV 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 level TB programme managers	7	100.00%	7	
7.	SAARC workshop on development of research protocol related to operational research	Kathmandu, Nepal	May 2002, four days	Head/Chief of National Reference TB laboratory	7	50.00%	14	Maldives Pakistan
	Total				48	62.00%	77	

SAARC Tuberculosis Centre

Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal

Summary Report on Seminars

Period: 1994 to December 2002

S. No.	Subject	Venue	Date & Duration	Category of Participants	No. of attended participants	% attended	Expected Participants	Not attending Countries
1.	SAARC seminar on surgical and clinical aspects of TB	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 1991, two days	National level TB programme managers	7	100.00%	7	
2.	SAARC seminar on socio-cultural aspects 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
	Total				53	58.00%	91	

SAARC Tuberculosis Centre

Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal

Summary Report on Meeting

Period: 1994 to December 2002

S. No.	Subject	Venue	Date & Duration	Category of Participants	No. of attended participants	% attended	Expected Participants	Not attending Countries
1.	SAARC consultative meeting on TB & HIV/AIDS	Kathmandu, Nepal	Sept. 1996, two days	National level TB and HIV/AIDS programme managers	7	50%	14	Bhutan, Sri Lanka
2.	SAARC meeting of the tuberculosis experts for compilation of TB control training manuals for Member Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	June 1997, two days	National level TB programme managers	6	43%	14	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka
3.	SAARC meeting of the TB programme managers	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 1998, two days	National level TB programme managers	5	71%	7	Bhutan, Maldives
4.	SAARC meeting for formulation of urban TB control programme	Kathmandu, Nepal	Oct. 1999, two days	National level TB programme managers	4	57%	7	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan
5.	SAARC experts meeting for standardizing training curriculum in SAARC countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	Dec. 2000, two days	National level TB programme managers	4	57%	7	Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan
6.	SAARC meeting to formulate guidelines for migratory population for TB and HIV/AIDS control in SAARC countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	Aug. 2001, two days	National level TB and HIV/AIDS programme managers	8	57%	14	India, Pakistan
7.	Meeting of Heads/Directors of National TB Reference Laboratories of SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project in Members Countries	Kathmandu, Nepal	Nov. 2002, three days	Heads of NRLs	9	64%	14	
8.	SAARC consultative meeting for TB & HIV/AIDS programme Managers	Kathmandu, Nepal	20 Nov. 2002, one day	National Level programme managers	6	86%	7	Bangladesh, India
	Total				49	58%	84	

The Library of SAARC TB Centre collected the following publications in 2002 to strengthen its capacity:

Free publications received:

1. Abstract Book 2001-Conference of People Living with HIV/AIDS, 2001, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand.
2. Souvenir 2001- NATA Branch, Bhaktapur
3. Bulletins 2058 - Medicare, Kathmandu
4. Journal 2001- Nepal Medical Association
5. Climate Variability and its trend at Maldives, 2001 - SMRC
6. Bangladesh National Formulary (BCNF) 2001 -
7. WHO Report on Global TB Control 2002 -
8. Annual Report 1999-2000 - Department of Health Services, Kathmandu
9. Basic Epidemiology 1994 - WHO
10. Summary Measures of Population Health 2001 - WHO
11. Sea level Variability at the Indian Ocean - SAARC
12. SAARC Newsletters 2002 - SAARC
13. WTO Agreements & Publication 2000 - WHO
14. WHO Drug Information 2000 - WHO
15. WHO Report on Global TB Control 2003 - WHO
16. Evaluation of Certain Veterinary Drugs - WHO
17. Summary Measures of Population Health 2000 - WHO
18. The Natural History of Pulmunology 2000 - WHO
19. Basics of Quality Assurance 2000 - WHO
20. WHO Model Formulary 2000 - WHO
21. Keep fit for life 2002- WHO
22. Healthy Villages 2002 - WHO
23. Genomic and World Health 2002 - WHO
24. Global Drug Facility 2002 - WHO
25. Risk Assessment of Salmonella in eggs and broiler chickens 2002 - FAO
26. IPCS Journals 2002 - WHO
27. Care for Chronic Conditions 2002 - WHO
28. Improving TB Drug Management 2002 -MSH
29. Health Environment for Children 2002 -WHO
30. NTI Bulletin (March-Dec. 01) - National TB Institute, India
31. Bharat Bulletin 2002 -
32. Information product 2002 - WHO
33. Bulletin WHO 2002 -WHO
34. TM & IH Bulletin 2002 - European Journals
35. TB Trends Journal 2002 -
36. JNMA 2002- Nepal Medical Association

Priced publication purchased:

1. Research Methodology 2nd Edition 2002 - Wishwa Prakashan
2. Bio-statistics by PN Arora & PK - Himalaya Publishing House
3. Bio-statistics A Manual for Student
by PS Sundar Rao & J. Richard - Prentic Hall of India
4. Medical Microbiology by David Green Wood - Churchill Living Stone
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Abbreviations Used

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CCO	Canadian Cooperation Office
CIDA	Canada International Development Agency
CTLHP	Community TB and Lung Health Project
DFID	Department for International Development
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short-course
DRS	Drug Resistance Surveillance
EQA	External Quality Assurance
GAAS	Generally Accepted Audit System
HC	Health Canada
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMG	His Majesty's Government
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IUATLD	International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases
JAT	Joint Audit Team
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
MDR-TB	Multi Drug Resistance Tuberculosis
NATA	Nepal Anti-TB Association
NCASC	National Centre for AIDS and STD Control
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NPTCCD	National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases
NTP	National Tuberculosis Programme
QA	Quality Assurance
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SEARO	South East Asia Regional Organization
STC	SAARC Tuberculosis Centre
TB	Tuberculosis
TOR	Terms of Reference
TRC	Tuberculosis Research Centre
UMN	United Mission to Nepal
UNAIDS	United Nations AIDS Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

Mission Statement

- STC is mandated to act as a Regional coordinating centre for National Tuberculosis Control Programmes (NTPs) in the Region and functions as a centre for information exchange about the related activities.
- STC collects, collates, analyzes and disseminates all relevant information regarding the latest development and findings in the field of tuberculosis in the region and elsewhere.
- STC establishes a networking arrangement among the NTPs and conducts survey, research and other related works, if necessary.
- STC initiates, undertakes and coordinates the research and training in technical, bio-medical, operational and other aspects related to TB control programme in the Region.
- STC strives for adequate supply at low cost of anti-TB drugs and other related supplies in all the Member Countries.
- STC monitors incidence, prevalence and emergence of drug resistant strains of Tuberculosis in the Region.
- STC promotes action on issues related to HIV related TB in the Region.
- STC is committed to carry out any other functions related to TB as requested by the Member Countries.