



SAARC TUBERCULOSIS CENTRE

Annual Report

2003

SAARC TB Centre

Thimi, Bhaktapur

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Preface

SAARC Tuberculosis Centre is one of the Regional centres of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). The Centre is working for the control & prevention of TB & HIV/AIDS in the Region.



This annual report is a summary of the activities carried out by the Centre during the year 2003. The Centre has also completed all planned activities under the SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project during this period.

The Centre is able to provide necessary support to NTPs of Member Countries for the expansion of DOTS, initiate the work on TB/HIV co-infection as well as to strengthen the skills of manpower to achieve the desired target.

I want to pay my sincere thanks to Member Countries for their extended support & collaboration.

I want to offer my sincere gratitude to the 12th SAARC Summit for endorsement of Regional Strategy for TB/HIV co-infection. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to His Excellency Mr. Q. A. M. A. Rahim, Secretary General and Mr. M. Naseer, Director, SAARC for their continued support to carry out these activities.

I would like to thank CIDA and Health Canada for their support in implementing activities under SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project. I would also thank WHO/SEARO and UNAIDS for their technical support to the Centre for control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

I must appreciate the efforts given by Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director for completion of the activities of the Centre and SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project. Also I appreciate the work done by professionals Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Dr. B. P. Rijal, Dr. R. Samaratunga and General Services Staff.



Dr. D. S. Bam
Director

SAARC TB Centre

Planned Activities for the year 2003

The twelfth meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC), held in Kathmandu in November 18-19, 2002, recommended the following activities to be carried out by the Centre in 2003.

Regular Activities:

1. Public awareness, advocacy & partnership programmes on Tuberculosis in Member Countries:
 - a) World TB Day & SAARC Charter Day.
 - b) Partnership programmes with School 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, SAARC Epidemiological Report on TB & HIV/AIDS, SAARC Directory of TB Institutions & Specialist.
6. Preparation of SAARC regional training module guidelines for B control programme.
7. SAARC Trainers' Training on TB Control Programme Management.

Programme under SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project

- Participation in WHO and UNAIDS meetings.
- Workshop for Nodal Officers of Member Countries to develop modalities for epidemiological networking and a uniform format for sending reports for TB & HIV/AIDS.
- Training on Epidemiology and Integration of Gender Issues in Epidemiological Reports.
- Workshop to develop SAARC Regional TB/HIV co-infection strategy.
- TB Laboratory Management Course.
- Meeting of Directors of National TB Reference Laboratories.
- Preparation of the Annual Report of Regional TB Reference Laboratory.
- Visit of STC professionals to Member Countries for situation analysis.
- Establishment of computer network between National TB Reference Laboratories & Regional TB Reference Laboratory.
- Computer Training in Member Countries

Thirteenth Meeting of the Governing Board and Meeting on Preparation of SAARC Regional Training Modules Guidelines

The 13th Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC) was held in Kathmandu from 23-24 October 2003. The Board reviewed the achievements of the year 2003 and expressed their satisfaction on the progress made by the Centre. The progress report was presented by Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC. The Board also proposed the programmes and budget of the Centre for the year 2004.



Board Members of 13th Meeting

Dr. Jalal Uddin Ahmed - Bangladesh, Dr. Dorji Wangchuck - Bhutan
Dr. Teja Ram - India, Mr. Ibrahim Shaheem - Maldives
Dr. Kashi Kant Jha - Nepal, Dr. Hasan Sadiq - Pakistan (Chairman of the Board)
Dr. Chandra Sarukkali - Sri Lanka, Mr. M. Naseer - SAARC Secretariat
Mr. Prakash Suvedi - MoFA, HMG, Nepal,
Dr. D. S. Bam (Member Secretary) - SAARC TB Centre

Programmes of the Centre (January to December 2004):

- i) "SAARC Awareness Year 2004" for TB and HIV/AIDS (special activity)
 - a) To prepare an audio-visual documentary on advocacy on TB and HIV/AIDS.
 - b) To organize an awareness programme related to TB and HIV/AIDS control through essay competition focusing the issues of TB and HIV/AIDS and to establish award for winners of the competition.

- c) To produce special publications regarding SAARC awareness year 2004 for TB and HIV/AIDS in English language as well as in seven national languages and disseminate them in all Member Countries and concerned organizations.
- ii. To organize SAARC regional conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and respiratory diseases.
- iii. Public awareness, advocacy & partnership programme on TB and HIV/AIDS:
 - a) World TB Day, World AIDS Day and SAARC Charter Day
 - b) Partnership programme with school and media in Nepal and in Bangladesh
 - c) Involvement of medical colleges, private sectors, pharmacists & industries.
- iv. Collection & dissemination of information and experiences in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS through the participation in international/regional meetings, NTP review, seminars and conferences by the Director, Deputy Director/Professionals of STC.
- v. Strengthening of STC library:

Purchasing of books, subscription of journals and acquiring of other related publications etc.
- vi. Publication & distribution of:
 1. STC Newsletter
 2. SAARC Journal
 3. SAARC Epidemiological Reports on TB & HIV/AIDS
 4. World TB Day Report
 5. World AIDS Day Report
 6. STC Annual Report
 7. Publication /distribution of SAARC regional modules guidelines for the partnership programmes
- vii. SAARC trainers' training on TB control programme management
- viii. Carry out situation analysis of regional activities by staff of STC in Member Countries.
- ix. Community based study to identify barriers in seeking health care in Tuberculosis control programme.
- x. Regional workshop for laboratory supervisor on QA in sputum microscopy
- xi. Regional workshop on TB/HIV co-infection
- xii. Regional workshop on TB drug management
- xiii. Chemicals & other related materials for laboratory work (purchase)

Meeting for Preparation of SAARC Regional Training Module Guidelines for TB Control Programme

October 24, 2003.



Considering the importance and necessity of the regional training modules guidelines, the SAARC TB Centre organized a meeting to prepare the SAARC regional training module guidelines by reviewing the existing training modules.

Dr. Hasan Sadiq from Pakistan, Chairman of the Governing Board chaired the meeting. Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC discussed the importance of updating existing training module guidelines in TB control programme.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC presented the main objective of the meeting, he also pointed out the current challenges faced by the Member Countries and the need for revising the training modules.

In the light of challenges, meeting authorized STC to do situation analysis of existing guidelines.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

1. Sustain present achievements & achieve targeted CDR (Case Detection Rate) and cure rates.
2. Inclusion of FDC (Fixed Dose Combination)
3. TB/HIV co-infection
4. MDR (Multi Drug Resistance) TB (threat)
5. Revised weight group dosages
6. New formulation of anti-TB drugs

Activities Organized on the World TB Day:

By SAARC TB Centre:

Display of Banners:

On 23rd March 2003, a day before the World TB Day attractive and colourful banners with simple and understandable messages were displayed at the prominent places of the Kathmandu valley.

Joint Function:

STC commemorated World TB Day 2003 jointly with NTC, WHO, JICA, DFID, NATA and other NGOs & INGOs working in the field of TB control. A joint function was organized at Birendra International Convention Centre (BICC) on 24th March 2003. Right Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Health Minister, Secretary of Health of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, His Excellency Mr. Q. A. M. A. Rahim, Secretary General, SAARC, Ambassador of Japan, Director General, Department of Health Services, HMG, Nepal, NATA central Chairman and representatives of different NGOs and INGOs participated.

Hon'ble
Dr. Upendra Devkota,
Minister of Health
released STC
publications at the
joint function at
BICC.

Media Support:

As a result of the partnership programme with media, all electronic and press media telecasted, broadcasted and published the articles and news along with the messages of different dignitaries and Director, STC.

Exhibition of TB Control Activities:

Posters about the introduction of SAARC TB Centre, partnership programme with schools, industries, pharmacists, medical colleges & media, country information on TB and current status of DOTS in the SAARC Member Countries and information on TB/HIV co-infection were displayed. A large number of people observed this exhibition and collected the informative publications distributed by the Centre at the exhibition venue.

In SAARC Member Countries:

Bangladesh:

NTP Bangladesh observed the day by organizing different activities, like:

- Rallies of cured and current TB patient groups.
- Collection and distribution of success stories of cured TB patients.
- News at daily newspapers and publication of fact sheet.
- Scientific seminar on Tuberculosis
- Opening of new DOTS clinic and
- Forum to talk to patients/patients associates.

Bhutan:

NTP Bhutan commemorated the day by organizing various activities, such as:

- All 20 districts were given guidelines with materials on how to organize the World TB Day event.
- District event was participated by – sector head, students, communities, TB patients, district commercials, sub-divisional officers and community leaders.
- The messages from the RD, WHO and Minister for Health and Education were widely circulated and read during the observations.
- Highlighting of Global, Regional and National status of TB
- Coverage of news in National Newspapers

India:

- * NTP India observed the day by organizing various activities all over the country; some of the activities are:

- Circulation of guidelines to the states and districts to observe the World TB Day around the theme.
- Messages at the National level with the information about DOTS were issued by:
 - ✓ Hon'ble President,
 - ✓ Prime Minister,
 - ✓ Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare
 - ✓ Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare
 - ✓ Secretary of Health,
 - ✓ Director General of Health Services were published in leading English and Hindi Newspapers both.

- Media campaign
- TV spots using prominent Indian Cricketers telecast during the World Cup matches till the end of March 2003 at National channels.
- Rallies
- Symposia,
- Radio and Television talks
- Public Meeting and seminars
- Display of messages on banners and hoarding
- Poster making and slogan writing competition
- Innovative event – like cricket match between TB patients and health care providers.
- State-wise programmes

Maldives:

NTP Maldives marked the World TB Day by organizing special activities like:

- Translate theme into local language and circulated to all health facilities
- Developed separate schedule of activities by all atolls to observe the day
- Publication of News supplement including special address from the Minister of Health, Hon'ble Ahmed Abdulla
- Circulation of posters in schools
- Address to the school children at their assembly by health care workers,
- Parades led by health care workers
- Display of banners and posters
- Health education sessions
- Stage show with short dramas
- Training workshop for the health care workers in the island

Nepal:

NTP Nepal commemorate the day by observing different activities, like:

- Display of banners
- Rallies
- Joint function with other partners
- Press Release
- Publication of Messages and articles
- Releasing publications
- Advocacy through Television
- Workshop
- Exhibition

Pakistan:

NTP Pakistan commemorated the day by organizing different programmes, like:

- Mass media coverage
- News conference
- Walk
- Distribution of T-shirt, caps and badges
- Display of banners
- Seminar
- Meeting

Sri Lanka:

NTP Sri Lanka observed the day by organizing different activities, like:

- Radio broadcasting
- TV presentations
- Publication of articles in local language
- Docudrama
- Seminars
- Publication of leaflets
- Awareness programme
- Mobile clinic for difficult to reach areas
- Banners and posters display
- Sensitization programmes

SAARC Charter Day

On the occasion of 19th SAARC Charter Day, STC organized a Training course for the senior TB lab managers of NTP of SAARC Member Countries. On 8th December 2003, the Charter Day was celebrated along with the inaugural programme of the training.

(training report see page No. 36)

Partnership Programmes

A substantial period has been passed since the discovery of TB bacillus (1882), invention of anti-TB drug in 1944, implementation of NTP in 1960s, declaring TB as a global emergency in 1993 and introduction of DOTS however, TB still remains as a serious public health problem in our Region. Our experiences shows that it may not be possible to combat this dreaded disease without a good partnership with all components of the society. It is therefore, STC has identified the some of the components of the society to make the TB control programme wide expanded and sustainable, which are very vital to achieve the desired success.

Some Identified Partners of STC:

- Schools
- Medical Colleges
- Media
- Industries
- Pharmacists

The general objective of the partnership programme is to enhance the public awareness on TB and HIV/AIDS and their control and prevention and to seek their cooperation in control & prevention of TB & HIV/AIDS.

Schools:

Partnership with schools was started by STC in 2000. Pilot study was performed in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kathmandu. The results encouraged to conduct this type of programme in schools of SAARC Member Countries. Depending upon the available resources; STC is expanding this programme gradually.

The awareness and advocacy programme is one of the priority programmes in TB control activities in SAARC Member Countries. To fulfill this requirement, partnership programmes have been developed with certain potential segments of the society in order to raise public awareness on TB and its control. In this regard, school students have been identified as a potential group who could propagate the message on TB among their friends, family, neighbours and in the community at large.



In this year STC organized a partnership programme with schools of Lalitpur district on August 8, 2003.

The programme was started with the welcome address by Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC. In continuation to his address he also highlighted some very crucial information on TB disease, its cause and the present situation in SAARC Region. Role of Students and objectives of the programme was highlighted by Dr. M. Samaratunga, then Research Officer of STC.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director delivered talk on general information about TB

Specific Objectives

- to educate school children on TB disease with regard to general information and its prevention and control.
- to build a cadre of child ambassadors, committed to spread messages on TB awareness to the community.

Media:

Media is considered as a potential vehicle for spreading messages upto the bottom of the community. The media has very significant role in controlling TB, through advocacy, publications, broadcasts and social mobilization activities. Media does not merely heighten public awareness about TB and mobilize demand for TB services but also carries out the critical advocacy efforts needed to build the political will necessary for government to sustain effective TB control.

Evaluation of the programme

Pre and Post-test were arranged to evaluate the effect.

- **Pre-test** 71% of students answered satisfactorily.
- **Post-test** 96% of students answered satisfactorily.

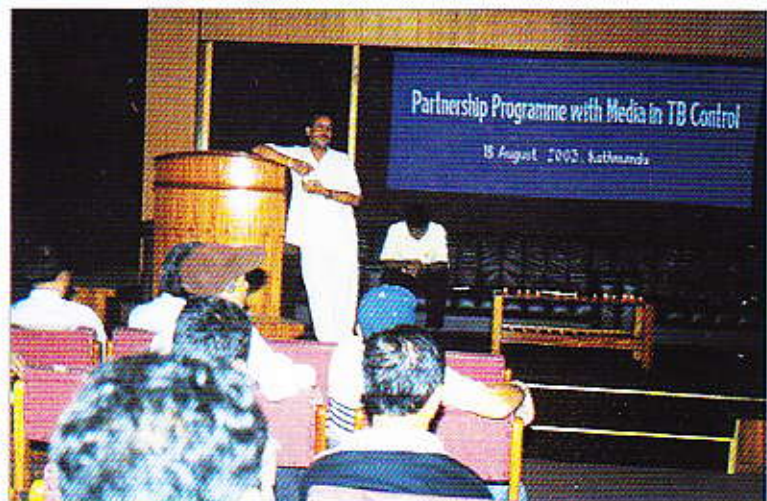
It was evident that they gained necessary knowledge on TB and its control.

All students and teachers committed to propagate the information to their friends and family.

Interaction between TB experts and students was very interesting. They were very enthusiastic in asking the questions.

At the end, on behalf of the students and teachers, Mr. Paras Sharma, Teacher, DAV Sushil Kedia, Vishwa Bharati, Jawalkhel expressed his satisfaction about this programme. He also urged STC to expand the programme for higher level students also.

The Director of STC extended sincere thanks to all schools for accepting our programme and participating with great enthusiasm.



STC organized a partnership programme with media on August 18, 2003 at National News Agency (RSS), Kathmandu. Mr. Kamal Pradhan, General Manager, RSS chaired the session. All journalists working in RSS participated in the programme.

The objective of the programme, TB situation in SAARC Region and Role of Media in TB control were presented by Dr. Md. M. Rahman, epidemiologist, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. D. S. Bam, Director of STC respectively. The global TB situation was presented by Dr. C. Gunneberg, WHO Medical Officer for NTP, Nepal.

Dr. Bam appealed to the journalists to use their strong weapon 'The Pen' to control TB in the SAARC Region.

Chairman Mr. Pradhan committed to support the TB control programme.

Specific objectives of the partnership with Media:

- to make media aware about situation of TB, natural history of TB, its spread and social and economic impact on individual, family and community and benefits of prevention of TB infection and control of TB disease to individuals, family, community, country, region and world at large.
- to build partnership for motivating individuals and communities, mobilizing public support, influencing the policy makers, reducing the social stigma attached to and creating awareness in the community about TB.
- to convince the media to be part of solution.

Medical Colleges:

Under the partnership programme with Medical Colleges/Private Sector on TB control programme, Dr. D. S. Bam, Director and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director STC presented papers on TB control programme and DOTS strategy in Nepal and Global and Regional Situation of TB and Impact of HIV on Epidemiology of TB respectively in the seminar on "Involvement of Medical Colleges in TB Control Programme" held at BPK Institute of Health Sciences, eastern Nepal on 25th June 2003. Both Director and Deputy Director participated in an interaction meeting with private practitioners and health workers at NATA Branch, Morang.

This visit further strengthened the involvement of Medical Colleges and private sector in TB control activities.

Industry Workers:

The employees working at Elina Garments, Lalitpur district shown their willingness to become aware about TB disease and accordingly, STC planned an awareness activity under the partnership programme with industry workers on July 29, 2003.



Mr. Uttam Silwal, Manager of the Garments welcomed the participants and STC staff at the programme.

Dr. D. S. Bam explained about TB disease and available facilities for diagnosis and treatment.

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist highlighted the objective of this programme and explained about the HIV/

AIDS, its cause, symptoms, mode of transmission and ways of prevention.

At the end of presentations, many participants became enthusiastic to know more about the diseases. They were requested to read the publications provided to them. On the spot queries were answered by Dr. Bam, Dr. Rijal and Dr. Rahman. In addition STC publications were distributed among the participants.

- The specific objective of the programme were:
 - to make the industry workers aware about causes of disease, mode of transmission, prevention and control of TB & HIV/AIDS,
 - to seek their co-operation and active involvement in control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS,
 - to built a partnership with industry workers committed to spreading messages of awareness about these diseases,
 - to forge active partnership with officials and workers of industries.

Pharmacists:

Pharmacists, Chemists and Druggists are the first point of contact of the health service seekers in context of SAARC Member Countries. Most of the patients first contact to the pharmacists and druggists working at the private medical store and take advices from them and their family members. Taking this fact into consideration, STC planned to develop partnership with the pharmacists. In this context, a programme was organized in August 25, 2003 at STC training hall.



Dr. D. S. Bam, STC started the programme with welcome address. He highlighted various aspects of National Tuberculosis Control Programme, importance of DOTS, success of DOTS and current situation of TB problem in Nepal and in the SAARC Region. He appealed to the pharmacists to help by heart in prevention and control of this disease, as it is a social malady.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC presented principles of treatment of tuberculosis, anti-TB drugs, cause of treatment failures and multi-drug resistance. He also highlighted Role of pharmacists in the community in control of this disease. He emphasized that not only the medicine but the appropriate use of medicine that benefits.

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC gave general information on HIV/AIDS. His emphasized that "it is not condom on its own but it is the appropriate use of condom that can prevent HIV & STI".

Objectives

- to disseminate update information on TB & HIV/AIDS and its control
- to seek cooperation in prevention and control of these infectious diseases.

A discussion session was held to clarify the confusions raised during the presentations. The queries were clarified by the Director, Deputy Director and Professionals.

Mr. Prakash Man Pradhan, President, Nepal Chemist and Druggist Association (NCDA) spoke on behalf of participants and thanked the organizer. He expressed his commitment to cooperate in prevention and control of TB & HIV/AIDS from their association.

At the end Dr. Bam acknowledged the cooperation rendered by the NCDA, Kathmandu and thanked all the participants.

Preparation/publication and distribution of guidelines/modules for the partnership programme:

9 In order to sustain the achievements and expand the partnership activities, the STC is building partnership with schools, industry, medical colleges, pharmacists and media. All these segments of the society have significant role to play in controlling TB. The guidelines/modules certainly provide technical information on TB to update their knowledge and would also help National TB Control Programme to build partnership with all these segments of the society. In 2003, STC prepared two such publications.

- SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Schools in Prevention & Control of Tuberculosis.
- SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Media in Prevention & Control of Tuberculosis.

Activity Number 2

Preparatory work for SAARC Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases

The 1st SAARC conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases is going to be organized in December 2004 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Concept paper developed and submitted to SAARC and Member Countries as per decision of 13th Governing Board Meeting. The first announcement brochure will be published and distributed.

Activity Number 3

Collection & distribution of information on experiences in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS through Participation in meetings, seminars, conferences etc. by Director, and Professionals of STC:

STC's team participated in the 22nd ERIUATLD Conference:

The 22nd Eastern Regional Conference of International Union Against Tuberculosis & Lung Diseases was held from Sept. 22 to 25, 2003 in Kathmandu. Director, Deputy Director, Epidemiologist, Microbiologist and Research Officer participated in this conference from STC.

STC's participation in 34th IUATLD Conference:

The Director and Deputy Director of STC participated the 34th IUATLD World Conference held in Paris from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2, 2003.

Activity Number 4

Strengthening of STC Library

STC library received the following books/journals/reports/newsletter etc. during the year 2003:

Books Purchased by STC

S.No.	Name of the Books	Author	Published by
1.	Be a Scientist with Simple Experiments,	Bhesh Raj Mainali,	Right, Chulachuli Unesco Club Kathmandu, Baneswor Galli -11, Kathmandu.
2.	Pathologic Basic of Diseases,	Robbin's	Harcourt India Pvt.Ltd, New Delhi, India.,
3.	Textbook of Medical PhysiologyElsevier,	Guyton & Hall	A division of Red Elsevier India,
4.	Cunningham's Manual of practical Anatomy Vol 1, Vol. 2, Vol. 3	G.S. Romanes	Oxford University press, New York,
5.	Hutchison's Clinical Methods,	Helicon	Unit Kingdom,
6.	Essential of Medical pharmacology	K.D. Tripathi	Jaypee Brothers, New Delhi,
7.	Textbook of Microbiology,	R. Anathanarayan	Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd. Chennai,
8.	Harper's Illustrated Biochemistry,	Robert K. Murray	MC Graw Hill, India
9.	Clinical Anatomy	Recharad S. Snel	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins New Your, London
10.	Webster's, Grammar, Thesaurus, Medical, Computer, Spelling, Dictionary	Websters	CBS Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi-110002, India
11.	The Human Body Atlas How the human body works	Gordon Cheers	Om Books Service, New Delhi, India

Journals Purchased by STC:

S.No.	Name of the Journals	Duration	Remarks
1.	IUATLD Journals	Monthly	Purchase
2.	Tropical Doctor Three Monthly issue	Quarterly	..
3.	The Journal of Infectious Diseases	Monthly 2 Issue	..
4.	Indian Journal of Chest Disease & Allied Science	Quarterly	..
5.	Current Medical Trend	Quarterly	..
6.	News Week	(Weekly)	..
7.	Pakistan Journal of Chest Medicine	Quarterly	Free of cost

WHO Global publications Subscribed by STC:

S.No.	Name of the Books	Author	Published by
1.	Understanding and Living with AIDS		WHO Regional Office of South East Asia, New Delhi
2.	Handbook on AIDS Home Care		WHO Regional Office of South East Asia, New Delhi
3.	Drug Utilization Studies Methods of Use	MNG. Dukes R. Bonita	WHO
4.	Basic Epidemiology		WHO Geneva
5.	The burden of Musculoskeletal Conditions at the Start of the new Millennium (Report of WHO Scientific Group)		WHO Geneva
6.	Drug Surveillance International cooperation Past Present and future		WHO
7.	Heterotrophic Plate Counts and Drinking Water Safety	J. Bartram.	WHO/NSF/IWA
8.	Surgical Care at the District Hospital		WHO
9.	Journal of Water and Health		WHO /IWA
10.	Regional Health Forum		WHO
11.	Bangladesh Country paper on HIV/AIDS		MOH, Bangladesh
12.	Education and HIV/AIDS a window of hope		The World Bank
13.	TDR news October 2003, No. 70		UNDP/World Bank/WHO
14.	Cities and Health Advisory Task Force Meeting		WHO Kobe Centre
15.	Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding		WHO/UNICEF
16.	Treatment of Tuberculosis Guidelines for National programmes		WHO
17.	Policy Tools for Allocative Efficiency of Health Services	Xingzhu Liu	WHO
18.	Guidelines for Preventing HIV, HBV and other Infections		WHO Regional Office.
19.	Medical Devices Regulations Global Overview and guiding principles		WHO, Geneva
20.	Planning for HIV/AIDS Communication HIV/AIDS Training Modules		WHO, Delhi
21.	Environmental Health in emergencies and disasters	B. Wisner and J. Adams	WHO/SDR/ICRC/ UNHCR
22.	Adherence to Long Term Therapies Evidence for action		WHO
23.	WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence		WHO, Geneva
24.	25 Questions & answers on Health & Human Rights		WHO
25.	Monitory Mission to the National TB Control of Maldives		WHO
26.	The Tobacco Atlas	Mackay & Eriksen	WHO
27.	Hazard Characterization for Pathogens in food and water (Guidelines)		WHO/FAO

28.	International Guidelines for Estimating the costs of Substance abuse (2nd ed.)		WHO
29.	Making a Difference Indicators to Improve Children's Environmental health		WHO
30.	Information products, on Pharmaceuticals		WHO
31.	Guidelines for safe recreational water Vol. I		WHO
32.	Safe Abortion (Technical & Policy Guidance for Health Systems)		WHO, Geneva
33.	Evaluation of certain Veterinary Drugs Reduce in food 918 (Sixteenth Report)		WHO/FAO
34.	Diet Nutrition to the prevention of chronic diseases WHO Technical Report Series 916		WHO/FAO
35.	The Selection & use of Essential medicine 914 WHO Report of WHO Expert Committee 2002		WHO
36.	Evaluation of Certain food additives Fifty Ninth Report		WHO/Geneva/ FaO
37.	Managing Complications in Pregnancy and Child Birth A Guide for Mid wives and Doctors		WHO/ UNFA/ UNICEF/ World Bank
38.	World Cancer Report	Bernard W. Stewart	WHO/ICRC Press Lyon'03
39.	Towards adulthood Exploring the Sexual & Reproduction Health of Adolescents in South Asia	Sarah Bott	WHO/DRHR
40.	Human Leptospirosis Guidance for Diagnosis, Surveillance and Control		WHO/ILS
41.	DAC Guidelines and Reference Services Poverty & Health		WHO/OECE
42.	Kangaroo Matinee care (A practical Guide) Department of Remodutive Health Research		WHO/ Geneva
43.	National Cancer Control Programme Policies and Managerial Guidelines (2nd Ed.)		WHO Geneva
44.	Key Policy Issues in Long-Term Care	J. Brodsky	WHO, Geneva
45.	Guide to producing National health Accounts with Special Applications for low- income and Middle-income- countries		W. Bank/ WHO/ USAID
46.	Progress 2001-2002 Tropical Disease Research 16th Programme Report		UNDP/W. Bank/ WHO
47.	A Strategic Framework to increase the burden of TB/HIV.		WHO/UNAIDS,
48.	Health system performance assessment Debates Methods	Empiricism	WHO
49.	Monica Monograph & Multimedia Source book 1979-2002	Hugh T. Pedoe	WHO/MONICA, Geneva
50.	Training Module for Doctors.		NTCP, Pakistan & WHO
51.	Summary Measures of population Health,	Murray, Salmon	WHO
52.	World Report of violence and Health	G. Krug, Linda L.	WHO
53.	WHO Report 2003, Global TB Control, Surveillance, Planning, Financing		WHO, Geneva,

54.	NTP Bangladesh Review and Strategy 2001-2005		WHO
55.	Behaviour Change Communication, WHO		MHPW & WHO
56.	(TB) Tuberculosis		WHO
57.	Clinical Management of HIV and AIDS at District Level		WHO, Regional Office

Other publications received at free of cost :

S.No.	Name of the Books	Author	Published by
1.	How to Invest for Future Generations? Guidelines for Integrating HIV/AIDS in the Development cooperation		SIDA
2.	Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sexual abuse of Children in South Asia		UNICEF, Japan
3.	Investing in South Asian Children		UNICEF
4.	A Journal of Nepalgunj Medical College Vol. 3 No. 1		Nepal Medical College
5.	Sea Level Variability Along the Indian Coast SMRC No. 7		SAARC
7.	Guidelines for NTCP, Bhutan 2nd Ed.		NTCP, PHD, Bhutan 2001
8.	European Commission SAPP-II Coordination Office Pakistan provincial and Special Areas TB DOTS Review Oct-Nov. 2003 Report.		NTCP Ministry of Health Govt. of Pakistan,
9.	National Strategy Plan TB Control Pakistan		NTCP, Pakistan
10.	Bangladesh Country profile 2002 December		Bangladesh
11.	Strategy for NTCP, Bangladesh 2001-2005		Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programme 2001
12.	INF Tuberculosis Leprosy Project Annual Report 2002		INF Annual Report
13.	National HIV/AIDS Strategy		Nepal Centre for AIDS and STD Control, MOH, Nepal

Book received from NTC:

S.No.	Name of the Books	Author	Published by
1.	The Hutchinson Encyclopedia	Helicon	United Kingdom
2.	Nepal Who's Who 2003	Deepak Aryal	Research Centre for communication and Development, Kathmandu.
3.	Social Research for Thesis Writers	G.P. Adhikari	Investigation, Nepal
4.	Health Management	Subash C. Dhungel	Hisi offset Press, Jamal, Kathmandu.

Freely Received Video Cassettes – TB/HIV

1. Kathmandu Untold stories
2. The Unseen
3. Its my life
4. Unheard Voices
5. Nepal Piece Unheard voices
6. Four years in hell

Activity Number 5

Publication & distribution of STC Newsletter, SAARC Journal of TB, SAARC Epidemiological Report on TB & HIV/AIDS, SAARC Directory of TB Institutions & Specialists:

Both the volume of STC Newsletter have been published and distributed as per the mailing list. The SAARC journal is planned to publish in 2004. Epidemiological reports on TB and HIV/AIDS published under project. SAARC Directory of TB institutions & specialist have been published and distributed accordingly. (List of publications on page 26)

Activity Number 6

Preparation of SAARC Regional Training Modules of TB control Programme

In this regard a meeting was held in Kathmandu on October 24, 2003 (please refer page 4)

Activity Number 7

Trainers' Training on TB Control Programme Management

Dec. 29, 2003 – Jan. 11, 2004, Islamabad

*H*on'ble Mr. Hamid Yar Hiraj, State Minister for Health, government of Pakistan inaugurated SAARC trainers' training on TB control programme management, jointly organized by the SAARC TB Centre, Kathmandu and National TB Control Programme, Pakistan in Islamabad.



Objectives

- to impart the trainers with managerial skills to manage the TB control at National levels,
- to sensitize the participants to implement revised strategies of TB control to achieve global targets 85% cure rates and 70% case detection rate.
- to save the lives by reducing the morbidity and mortality due to TB.
- to impart skills of planning, implementation and evaluation of effective TB control programme, based on the strategy of DOTS.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC, Dr. Syed Karam Shah, Manager, National TB control programme Government of Pakistan and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC addressed the inaugural function.

Dr. Hassan Sadiq, Chairman of the Governing Board of SAARC TB Centre & Deputy Manager, National TB Control Programme, Government of Pakistan delivered the vote of thanks.

Participants from TB control programme of SAARC Member Countries participated in this course. The experts from NTP Pakistan, Islamabad-based WHO/UNAIDS, provinces of Pakistan and SAARC TB Centre facilitated the programme.

The training programme was based on the modules approved by WHO and SAARC Member Countries.

Besides these modular training plenary session & discussion on different aspects of TB were also arranged.

The modular training was facilitated by Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC, Dr. Hassan Sadiq, Pakistan, Dr. Lubna Khurshid, Pakistan and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, SAARC TB Centre. Following topics were discussed in plenary sessions:

- Role of SAARC TB Centre in TB Control in the SAARC Region (Dr. D. S. Bam, STC)
- Gender on TB Issue (Dr. G. N. Qazi, Pakistan).
- Role of Media in TB Control (Dr. D. S. Bam, STC).
- Gender and TB Control (Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, STC).
- Advocacy in TB Control (Dr. D. S. Bam, STC).
- Presentation on Situation HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region (Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, STC).
- Sputum Microscopy and Role of Mycobacterial Culture and Sensitivity in TB Control (Dr. Sabir Tahsen, Pakistan).
- Situation on TB in SAARC Region (Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, STC).
- Public Private Linkage in TB Control (Dr. Amir Khan, Pakistan).
- Role of X-ray in Management of TB & Practical on X-ray reading (Dr. Amanullah Ansari, Pakistan).
- Role of Pharmacist in TB Control (Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, STC)
- Guidelines for Management of Drug Resistant TB (Dr. Hassan Sadiq, Pakistan)
- Diagnosis of Extra Pulmonary TB (Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, STC)
- Role of School in TB Control (Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, STC)
- TB/HIV Co-infection, Report Writing, Proposal Writing, Conducting Supervisory Visit of NTP (Dr. Md. M. Rahman, STC).
- Operational Research (Dr. Noor Ahmed, Pakistan)
- Role of WHO in supporting TB control in EMRO (Dr. Laura, WHO, EMRO).
- MDR TB (Dr. Shamshad Rasool, Pakistan).
- Quality Assurance in Smear Microscopy (Dr. B. P. Rijal, STC).
- Improving IPC (Dr. Rukshana, Pakistan).
- Role of VCT (Dr. Imran, Pakistan)
- Industrial Worker and TB (Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, STC)
- Prevention of MDR TB (Dr. B. P. Rijal, STC)
- Children TB (Dr. Ejaz Khan, Pakistan).

Mr. Mohd Afzal Malik, Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health, Govt. of Pakistan, attended the concluding ceremony as a Chief Guest. He distributed certificates and letter of appreciations to the participants and facilitators respectively.

Dr. Karam Shah, Manager, NTP, Pakistan thanked Dr. Bam, Director, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC and their team for organizing the training nicely.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, on behalf of STC thanked, Mr. Mohd Afzal Malik, Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health, Govt. of Pakistan, Dr. Karam Shah, Dr. Hassan Sadiq, Dr. Gulshan Rashid, Dr. Murtaza Shah and all NTP staff for their invaluable cooperation and support.

Mr. Mohd Afzal Malik, in his closing remarks stated that TB is a threat to precious lives and valuable resources, which kills many people in the SAARC Region. In his address he also mentioned that SAARC TB Centre, Kathmandu is playing very vital role to tackle this serious problem in close collaboration with the NTPs of the Member Countries, which is really appreciable. He encouraged STC to keep continue this type of programme in Member Country.

Dr. Gulshan Rashid, Medical Officer, NTP Pakistan delivered vote of thanks.

Additional Activities:

STC's support in TB Lab. review mission:

In 2003, STC participated in a TB Lab review mission team along with the members from Stop TB, WHO Geneva, Royal Netherlands TB Association, National TB Institute, Yemen and Ojha Institute of Tuberculosis, Karachi. Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist, STC attended this mission as an observer. Dr. Sang Joe Kim, TB Strategy and Operations, Stop TB WHO led the mission.

STC's participation in South Asia High Level Conference:

Director and professionals took part in a high level conference on accelerating the momentum in the fight against HIV/AIDS in South Asia. This conference hosted by HMG Nepal and jointly organized by ROSA and UNAIDS in Kathmandu from 3 to 4 February 2003.

STC's support to strengthen NTP of Member Countries:

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, Dr. M. Samaratunga, (then Research Officer), and Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist participated in International Review of NTP Nepal team from Sept. 26 to Oct. 1, 2003.

Other Events:

STC Director honoured with Bharat Jyoti Award:

International Institute of Success Awareness (IISA) of India conferred "Bharat Jyoti Award" to Director, STC Dr. D. S. Bam on 22 Jan. 2003. The STC has taken this honour as an international recognition of work done by the Centre in the field of TB Control in the Region.

Joining of New Deputy Director:

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, MD, MCPS, DTCD, MBBS, Consultant Chest Physician, from Pakistan joined the SAARC TB Centre as Deputy Director on April 11, 2003.

Farewell to Mr. Sareer:

Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC Secretariat from Maldives, a Member of STC Governing Board returned to his home country. A farewell function was organized in STC on June 4, 2003

Farewell to Dr. Samaratunga:

Dr. Mallika Samaratunga, Research Officer, STC returned her home country, Sri Lanka on 5th Dec. 2003. A farewell was organized in her honour in STC.

Audit of the Accounts of STC:

Joint Audit Team of Mr. Benjamin Randle, Director General Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan and Damodar Prasad Aryal, Director, Office of the Auditor General, Kingdom of Nepal audited the annual accounts and the related statements of the SAARC TB Centre for the year 2002 from Sept. 15 – 16, 2003.

Director's visit to Pakistan:

Director, STC, Dr. D. S. Bam, visited Islamabad, Pakistan to present the progress report on activities of the year 2003 and programmes for the year 2004 of the SAARC TB Centre at Programming Committee meeting of SAARC on 29 –30 Dec. 2003.

During this visit he visited Lahore, the capital city of Punjab province and met Manager of Provincial TB Control Programme and discussed areas of collaboration. He also visited Pakistan Anti-TB Association. Authorities of association briefed about their activities. On the invitation of National TB Control Programme of Pakistan he participated in the Inter-country Coordinating Committee meeting held at Peshawar.

Published Documents in the Year 2003:

1. Articles on Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region, Vol. I
2. Report on HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region
3. Report on Commercial Sex Workers in SAARC Region
4. Report on Detail Situation Analysis on QA on Sputum Microscopy in Nepal
5. Report on Gender Issue in Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region
6. Report on Tuberculosis in the SAARC Region
7. Report on TB and HIV/AIDS Co-epidemic in the SAARC Region
8. Articles on TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region Vol. II
9. Report of 1st Round of External Proficiency Testing of Sputum Smear Microscopy in National TB Reference Lab in SAARC Region
10. Situation Analysis of TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection in SAARC Region
11. Report on World TB Day 2003
12. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Schools in Prevention & Control of Tuberculosis
13. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Media in Prevention & Control of Tuberculosis
14. SAARC Newsletters (both numbers)
15. Annual Report 2002
16. Directory of TB Institutions and Specialists in SAARC Member Countries.
17. Information about TB (Pamphlet) (Nepali & English version)

**SAARC-CANADA
Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project**

SAARC-CANADA Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project

A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed in July 1997 between South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and was decided to develop joint project for TB & HIV/AIDS control in SAARC Region. The aim was to look at the dual epidemics. Accordingly a workshop was organized in March 1999 to develop Project Approval Document (PAD). The goal of the project is to facilitate regional co-operation through SAARC. The purpose of the project was to strengthen the capacity of SAARC TB Centre (STC) to formulate regional policies for combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and TB epidemics in SAARC Member Countries.

The major components of the project

Key Activities in 2003

- Participation in different meetings organized by UN agencies.
- Workshop of Nodal Officers from SAARC Member Countries.
- Training on Epidemiology and Integration of Gender Issues in Epidemiological Reports.
- Workshop to Develop SAARC regional TB, HIV/AIDS co-infection Strategy.
- SAARC TB Laboratory Management Course.
- SAARC Regional Meeting of Directors of National TB Reference Laboratories.
- Computer Training.

I. Regional TB & HIV/AIDS epidemiological networking.

II. Improvement of laboratory for better quality assurance

III. Supporting for regional communications & policy development in TB & HIV/AIDS

IV. Project Management

The 3rd JSC Meeting

SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project



His Excellency Mr. Q. A. M. A. Rahim, Secretary General, SAARC chaired the third meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held at SAARC Secretariat on 11 March 2003.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC presented a detailed description of the activities carried out by the project during April 2002-March 2003

and activities planned for April 2003 – March 2004.

What is JSC?

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) is the key governance structure for strategic direction and oversight of the project. It serves as the formal body through CIDA, SAARC and Health Canada to review the progress of the project, provide advice and facilitate implementation of project's activities. The JSC meets no less frequently than once a year. The minutes of these meetings are circulated promptly to all partners. The SAARC Secretary General chairs the JSC meeting.

Dr. Donald Sutherland, then Senior Director, Scientific Affairs, Health Canada, Ms. Carla Hogun Rufelds, then First Secretary (Development) and Consul, Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO), Kathmandu, Ms. Jacinthe Desmarais, Manager, International Projects of Health Canada and Mr. Paul Alexander then Epidemiologist, Health Canada and STC professionals attended the meeting.

After the presentation from Director, STC detailed discussions on the achievements and plan were held.

At the conclusion, His Excellency gave some guidance to implement the new activities in coming year to the both parties. He also thanked Health Canada for their help through this project. Meeting concluded with sincere thanks to the Chairman as well as to the staff of Secretariat for excellent arrangement and cooperation.

Meeting - STC and WHO/SEARO for the co-operation in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS

To explore the possible areas of mutual cooperation in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region, a meeting was organized in New Delhi between SAARC TB Centre and WHO/SEARO on May 8, 2003.

From WHO/SEARO, Dr. J. P. Narain, Coordinator HIV, TB and other Communicable Diseases chaired the meeting. Dr. Nani Bair, Short-term Professional for TB control, Dr. M. P. Verma, Short-term Consultant for TB and HIV/AIDS and Dr. Ying Ru-Lo, Medical Officer, HIV/AIDS attended the meeting. From STC Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist and Mr. Paul Alexander (HC) attended the meeting.

The meeting identified the various areas for possible collaboration in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

The meeting concluded with an agreement that WHO/SEARO and STC would continue to work closely in areas identified and strengthen their collaborative efforts for control of TB and prevention of HIV in the Region. The delegation from STC thanked the chair and other participants for their cooperation.

Possible areas identified for cooperation

- Strategic Information/Networking and Surveillance.
- Operational Research.
- Training, Meeting, Consultations, Conference.
- Monitoring Mission.
- Advocacy.
- Quality Assurance in Laboratory Diagnosis and Other (Lab.) Related Issues.

SAARC and WHO signed Memorandum of Understanding in August 2000. Since then, STC is working as a collaborating centre of WHO/SEARO in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS. This event has opened a new chapter of cooperation in this Region.

Meeting - STC and UNAIDS-ICTSA for the co-operation in the field of HIV/AIDS



On 9th May, STC officials attended a meeting with Dr. Emelia Timpo and Dr. V. R. Ganesh from UNAIDS-ICTSA to explore the possible areas of mutual cooperation between these two organizations.

Ms. Ganesh delivered talk on South Asia HIV database by highlighting the objectives of South Asia Political Advocacy (SAPA) Project. Having the presentations from the both side, the meeting emerged the following key issues:

- While UNAIDS-ICTSA has a comparative advantage in technical areas, the STC is best place to advocate for greater political commitment through the SAARC Secretariat and facilitate co-ordination and networking between Member Countries through the SAARC forum.
- The role and responsibilities of Nodal Officers designated by Member Countries of SAARC must be carefully defined for them to contribute effectively to implement TB, HIV/AIDS control, care and prevention programmes and TB/HIV interventions at country level.

An agreement has been made between two organizations that UNAIDS-ICTSA and STC would continue to work closely in HIV/AIDS database development and exchange of data information and other related activities where the work of each would be complementary in providing support within the Region.

The meeting concluded with thanks to each other for their cooperation and fruitful decisions of the meeting.

Second Meeting with UNAIDS

As information extended by UNAIDS New Delhi, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist attended Reference Group Meeting held in New Delhi from June 19-20, 2003. The meeting discussed the following issues:

- Possible structure of the report to be adopted by all Centres
- Agree on common minimum key indicators that will be used for analysis and develop a uniform process of aggregation of age group, geo location, gender, study subjects.
- Linkages with national programmes and sustainability.
- Estimation of additional technical assistance needed by the database centres for analysis and report preparation.

At conclusion, the meeting was seemed to be extremely useful. The inputs provided by the STC professionals and participant from WHO/SEARO were remarkable.

Regional Workshop of Nodal Officers from SAARC Member Countries

The Secretary of Health, HMG, Nepal inaugurated the Regional workshop of nodal officers for 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 network on 8 July 2003 in Kathmandu.



The workshop was organized by SAARC TB Centre under the activities of SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project. The inaugural session was chaired by the Director General of Health Services, His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

The Objectives of the Workshop

1. To develop modalities for exchange of data on TB, HIV/AIDS, TB/HIV co-infection.
2. To develop uniform formats for collection of data on TB, HIV/AIDS, TB/HIV co-infection.
3. To define the Roles and Responsibilities of nodal officers in relation to exchange of data on TB, HIV/AIDS, TB/HIV co-infection.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC welcomed the participants and guests at the inaugural function. Dr. V. S. Salhotra, CMO (TB), Directorate General of Health Services, Government of India spoke on behalf of participants. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC delivered vote of thanks to SAARC Member Countries, National and International dignitaries, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HMG, Nepal, CIDA, Health Canada, WHO, UNAIDS and other N/INGOs for their co-operation & collaboration. He specially thanked the SAARC Secretariat for generous support, guidance and co-operation.

Following papers were presented in the workshop:

- Introduction of SAARC Tuberculosis Centre – Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC.
- Overview of SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project - Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC.
- Objectives and Methodology of Workshop and Impact on HIV on TB Control Programme - Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC.
- TB/HIV Global and wRegional Epidemiology - Mr. Paul Alexander, then Epidemiologist, Health Canada.
- Gender Issues in TB and HIV/AIDS and Importance of Gender Disaggregated Data within the Disease Analysis - Dr. M. Samaratunga then Research Officer.
- Importance and Necessity of TB Laboratory Network within SAARC Region. Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist, STC.
- Situation, Strategy and Structure of Prevention of HIV/AIDS in Nepal - Dr. Bal Krishna Suvedi, then Director, National Centre for AIDS and STI Control, HMG, Nepal.
- Status and Policy for TB and HIV/AIDS Programme in Bhutan - Mr. Kinzang Namgyel, TB Programme Officer from Bhutan.
- Burden of TB, Coverage and Expansion of DOTS, HIV/AIDS Control Programme and TB/HIV Co-infection Situation in India - Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Chief Medical Officer (TB) Government of India.
- National TB Programme and HIV/AIDS Control Programme in Bangladesh - Mr. Md. Lutfor Rahman, Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Government of Bangladesh.
- TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme in Pakistan - Dr. Gulshan Rasheed, Medical Officer, National TB Programme, Government of Pakistan.
- National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme in Sri Lanka - Dr. Kapila Sooriyaarachchi, Acting Director, National Programme for TB and Chest Disease, Government of Sri Lanka.
- Data-base technique was presented by the participant from New-era.

Dr. D. S. Bam, chaired the closing session and expressed his sincere thanks to the participants for their hard work and exercise for the outcome of the workshop. He specially thanked CIDA and Health Canada for their support.

SAARC Regional Training on Epidemiology and Integration of Gender Issue in Epidemiological Report



With the expectations of improvement in skills, opportunities for epidemiological networking & gender sensitive analysis and enhanced data sharing through STC coordinated networking, SAARC TB Centre (STC) organized a training programme for four days on epidemiology and integration of gender issues in epidemiological report under the SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project from 16-19 October 2003 in Kathmandu.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC inaugurated the programme. He welcomed all the participants and guests. In continuation to his speech, Dr. Bam highlighted the magnitude of the TB problem and stressed the need for collective and coordinated efforts in order to have effective management of TB, HIV/AIDS & TB/HIV co-infection in the Region.

Mr. Mohammed Naseer, Director, Social Development, SAARC Secretariat conveyed the greetings and best wishes from His Excellency Mr. Q. A. M. A. Rahim, Secretary General, SAARC to participants, guests and for the success of the programme. Ms. Jacinthe Desmarais, International Project Manager, Health Canada also spoke in the session.

Professionals from SAARC TB Centre, gender specialists, Epidemiologist, Health Canada and computer training experts, facilitated the training programme.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC delivered the vote of thanks.

Objectives of the Training:

- To impart knowledge on basic principles of epidemiology and of research methodology
- To strengthen the participants skills on computer use, spread sheet & data management
- To impart knowledge on gender issues in relation to regional, TB HIV/AIDS and Co-infection
- To highlight the importance of gender sensitivity analysis, gender differentials and analysis of such differentials
- To develop regional epidemiological networking activities and collection.

The training was facilitated by:

- Dr. D. S. Bam, STC
- Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, STC
- Ms. J. Desmarais, Health Canada
- Dr. Md. M. Rahman, STC
- Mr. R. B. Khadka, Computer Expert
- Ms. Prabha Thacker, CCO, Kathmandu
- Dr. M. Samaratunga, STC
- Dr. Y. Chaudhri, Health Canada

Regional Workshop to Develop SAARC Regional TB/HIV Co-infection Strategy

Hon'ble Mr. Kamal Thapa, Minister for Health, Information & Communication, HMG, Nepal inaugurated a regional workshop to develop SAARC regional TB/HIV co-infection strategy and STC Governing Board meeting on 21 October 2003 in Kathmandu.

The inaugural function was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Q. A. M. A. Rahim, Secretary General, SAARC. The workshop was scheduled for 21 and 22 October 2003. Along with the inauguration of workshop the thirteenth meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB Centre and meeting on preparation of SAARC Regional Training Modules Guidelines on TB Control Programme was also inaugurated.



The workshop was conducted to review the situation of TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection in the SAARC Region and to develop a TB/HIV co-infection strategy for consideration at the SAARC SUMMIT.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC welcomed the participants, the Board Members and the guests at the inaugural function.

The speakers at the inaugural function were:

- Dr. Hasan Sadiq (Chairman STC Governing Board) from Pakistan,
- Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC
- Mr. Vijaya Raj Bhattarai, Secretary, Ministry of Health, HMG, Nepal,
- Ms. Jecinthe Desmarais, Health Canada,
- Dr. Michel Hahn, UNAIDS, Dr. Lin Aung, WHO

Facilitators and Resource Persons of the Workshop:

Facilitators:

- Dr. D. S. Bam, STC
- Dr. R. M. Piryani, STC
- Dr. Md. M. Rahman, STC
- Dr. B. P. Rijal, STC
- Dr. M. Samaratunga, STC
- Dr. Bal Gopal Baidya, New Era
- Ms. J. Desmarais, Health Canada
- Dr. Y. Choudhri, Health Canada
- Dr. Edward Ellis, Health Canada

Resource Persons:

- Ms. Sarita Upadhyay, GTZ
- Ms. Anjani Bhattarai, UNDP
- Dr. Tirtha Rana, World Bank
- Dr. Michael Hahn, UNAIDS
- Dr. C. Gunneberg, WHO
- Dr. I. J. Uhaa, UNICEF
- Ms. B. Satyal, NATA

On the Auspicious Occasion of Nineteenth SAARC Charter Day

SAARC

TB Laboratory Management Course

The Nineteenth SAARC Charter Day had been observed by exchanging the greeting and sharing the congratulation among the participants, facilitators and observers of the SAARC TB Lab Management Training Course, commenced from 8-18 Dec. 2003 in Kathmandu.

The training programme was organized by the Centre under the SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project and the course was based on IUATLD and WHO training modules.



Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC inaugurated the course by welcoming the participants, resource persons, and facilitators.

Mr. Mohammed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat extended warm welcome to all and conveyed good wishes on behalf of His Excellency, the Secretary General.

Dr. C. N. Paramsivan, Sr. Deputy Director, TRC, Chennai thanked STC and Health Canada for the opportunity provided. He emphasized on focusing the time towards achieving the stated objectives.

All facilitators, resource persons also expressed their views regarding the training course.
(see page No. 38)

The Objectives of the Course

- To ensure understanding of the role of the laboratory programme in the NTP.
- To improve coordination between the laboratory programme and other part of the NTP.
- To ensure that the participants understand the basic principles of TB control.
- To ensure familiarity with basic management principles and practices.
- To improve capacity for management of TB laboratory networks.
- To improve skills in training, supervision, staff motivation, monitoring & evaluation and planning.
- To coordinate the activities of data collection, analysis and processing & feedback.

Meeting of Directors of National TB Reference Laboratory



The second meeting of the Directors of National TB Reference Laboratory the SAARC Member Countries was organized in Kathmandu on December 19, 2003 under the SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project. The experts from SAARC Member Countries Health Canada and STC participated in the meeting.

The **Objectives** of the meeting were to review the implementation programme of regional collaboration between National TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Member Countries, to support quality improvement of laboratory diagnostics as well as good laboratory practices in the TB laboratory network of the SAARC Region and to explore new area of collaboration.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC opened the meeting and welcomed TB Lab. experts. Before starting the discussion, he highlighted current TB situation in the SAARC Member Countries as well as the importance of National Reference Laboratory in the TB Control Programme, if brief.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC explained the overview of the SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project.

Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist, STC gave a brief talk on the current activities of SAARC Regional TB Reference Laboratory and its future activities to be undertaken.

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC, discussed TB/HIV co-infection and measures needed to be taken to contain co-epidemic.

Dr. Adalbert Laszlo, Scientist, Stop TB WHO, expressed his views regarding the SAARC TB Reference Laboratory.

Participants from SAARC Member Countries presented current microscopy network and quality assurance system in their countries.

The review of the progress on the decision taken in first meeting was also carried out.

Dr. C. N. Paramasivan, Sr. Deputy Director, Head, Bacteriology Division, TRC, Chennai, India chaired the concluding session. Dr. D. S. Bam paid the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to all concerned organizations and persons. At last Drs. Laszlo and Paramasivan expressed their views about the meeting and thanked all for successful completion of the meeting.

(Continue from SAARC TB Laboratory Management Course.....)

Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist, STC highlighted the current activities of SAARC TB Reference Laboratory and objective of the course.

Consultants from Health Canada/CIDA Prof. Richard Urbanczik, WHO/IUATLD, Dr. Isabel N. Dekantore, WHO, Dr. C. Gunneberg, WHO, Nepal, Dr. B. Shrestha, GENETUP, Dr. T. Sugiyama, JICA/CTLHP, Dr. P. Ghimire, TU, Dr. Md. M. Rahman, STC expressed their views on the importance of TB laboratory and the lab. management course.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC paid vote of thanks. The programme was participated by two senior TB laboratory managers from SAARC Member Countries (except Bhutan).

Dr. Prakash Ghimire, Central Dept. of Microbiology, TU, Kathmandu and Dr. Bhabana Shrestha, Director, German Nepal TB Project, Kathmandu also participated. Health Canada Consultant Dr. Adalbert Laszlo, Scientist, THD, Stop TB WHO, Geneva, Dr. Esabel De Kantor, WHO Short-term Consultants, Prof. Richard Urbanczik, Short-term Consultant IUATLD/WHO and Dr. C. N. Paramsvivan, Senior Deputy Director, Head, Bacteriology Division, TB Research Centre, Chennai, India facilitated the programme.

A conclusion session was organized under the chairmanship of Dr. D. S. Bam. In the session, Dr. Bam thanked all participants, resource persons and facilitators for their invaluable cooperation and hard work to make the course pleasant and successful.

At the end certificates were distributed among participants and facilitators.

Preparation of annual report on Regional TB Reference Laboratory:

The annual report has been prepared.

Visit of STC professionals to Member Countries for Situation Analysis in Respect of Epidemiological data-base Networking and Laboratory Networking

STC' Microbiologist visited Bhutan:

Dr. B. P. Rijal visited Bhutan for situation analysis of quality assurance of sputum microscopy from Nov. 23 to 30, 2003.

Establishment of Computer Networking between National TB Reference Laboratories:

The computer networks have been established between the following National TB Reference Laboratories of the SAARC Member Countries:

1. National TB Reference Laboratory, Shyamoli, Dhaka, Bangladesh
2. Public Health Laboratory, Dept. of Health, Thimphu, Bhutan
3. Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai, India
4. National TB Institute, Bangalore, India
5. Public Health Laboratory, Male, Maldives
6. National TB Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur
7. Ojha Institute of Chest Disease, Karachi, Pakistan
8. Federal TB Centre, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
9. National TB Reference Laboratory, CH, Welisara, Sri Lanka

Computer Training organized in SAARC Member Countries:

The computer trainings were organized to strengthen and sustain the epidemiological and Lab networking established in Member Countries. As per convenience of Member Countries training were conducted on different dates.

Country	Date and Duration	No. of Participants attended
Bangladesh	Scheduled to be held on 3-7 March 2004	8 (expected)
Bhutan	15 – 31 December 2003	8
India	Scheduled to be held on 3-8 March 2004	4 (expected)
Maldives	Scheduled to be held on 9-15 February 2004	7 (expected)
Nepal	Scheduled to be held on 22 Feb.-6 March 2004	9 (expected)
Pakistan	8-18 December 2003	13
Sri Lanka	Scheduled to be held on 23-27 February 2004	8 (expected)

Supplies for SAARC Regional Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS:

STC received the equipment and other supplies for the laboratory.

SAARC Regional Strategy for TB/HIV Co-infection in Brief

Goal:

To consolidate and enhance the efforts/achievements of Member Countries in prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS

Purpose:

To strengthen the capacity of SAARC Member Countries and of the STC to develop and implement Regional and National responses to the TB/HIV co-infection

Elements:

- Collaboration between National TB and HIV/AIDS Programmes.
- Regional and National Epidemiological Surveillance Network.
- Operational Research on TB/HIV Co-infection.
- Advocacy, Communications and Community Mobilization.

Expected Outcomes:

- Collaboration between National TB and HIV/AIDS programmes established.
- Regional and National epidemiological surveillance network for TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection strengthened.
- Operational research on pertinent issues conducted.
- Regional and National communication plans developed and implemented.