



SAARC

# **SAARC TUBERCULOSIS CENTRE**

## **Annual Report**

**2004**

**SAARC Tuberculosis Centre**

Thimi, Bhaktapur

G.P.O. Box 9517, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 00977-1-6632601, 6631048, 6632477

Fax: 00977-1-6634379

E-mail: [saarctb@mos.com.np](mailto:saarctb@mos.com.np)

Website: [www.saarctb.com.np](http://www.saarctb.com.np)



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## Preface

SAARC 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 and HIV/AIDS in the Region.



This Annual Report is a summary of the activities carried out by the Centre during the year 2004.

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, platform for sharing the experiences and exchange of ideas between programme managers, creating awareness, advocacy for attention of the policy makers, planners and stakeholders as well as to strengthen the skills of manpower to achieve the desired target.

I want to pay my sincere thanks to Member States for their extended contribution, support & cooperation.

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 continuous guidance and support to carry out the activities of the Centre.

I would like to thank CIDA and Health Canada for their support in strengthening the capacity of STC.

I would also thank, MOH/HMG, NTC, WHO/SEARO UNAIDS, UNFPA, JICA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, NIH, BNMT, INF, UMN, IUATLD, NLR, and NATA for their support to the Centre for organizing first SAARC conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases.

I must appreciate the efforts given by Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist and the General Services Staff of the Centre for completion of the activities assigned for the year 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kashi Kant Jha', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha  
Director

# Planned Activities for the year 2004

The thirteenth meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC), was held in Kathmandu in October 23-24, 2003. The meeting recommended the following activities to be carried out by the Centre in 2004:

## Special Programme:

### 1) Year 2004 - SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS:

- 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

### 2) To organize SAARC conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases

### 3) 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

### 4) Collection & dissemination of information and experiences in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS through participation in international/regional meetings, NTP review, seminar and conferences by the Director, Deputy Director/Professionals of STC

### 5) Strengthening of STC Library

- Purchasing of books, subscription of journals and acquiring of other related publications etc.

### 6) Publication and distribution of:

- STC Newsletter
- SAARC Journal of Tuberculosis
- SAARC Epidemiological Reports on TB & HIV/AIDS
- World TB Day Report
- World AIDS Day Report
- STC Annual Report
- SAARC Regional Modules-guidelines for the partnership programmes

### 7) SAARC Trainers' Training on TB control programme management

### 8) Carryout situation analysis of Regional activities by staff of STC in Member Countries

### 9) Community based study to identify barriers in seeking health care in Tuberculosis control programme

### 10) Regional workshop for laboratory supervisors on QA in sputum microscopy

### 11) Regional workshop on TB/HIV co-infection

### 12) Regional workshop on TB drug management

### 13) Chemicals & other related materials for laboratory work – purchase

## Fourteenth Meeting of the Governing Board:

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC TB Centre was held in Kathmandu from 9 to 10 November 2004. The Board reviewed the achievements of the year 2004 and expressed their satisfaction on the progress made by the Centre. The progress report was presented

by Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC. The Board also recommended the programmes and budget of the Centre for the year 2005.



### Members Participated in 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Board

Dr. Vikarunnessa Begum – Bangladesh (Chairperson), Dr. V. S. Salhotra – India,  
Mr. Ibrahim Shaheem – Maldives, Dr. Hari Nath Acharya - Nepal, Mr. Ehsan Ullah Batth – Pakistan,  
Mr. M. Naseer – SAARC Secretariat, Mr. D. P. Bhandari – MoFA, HMG, Nepal,  
Dr. Kashi Kant Jha (Member Secretary) – SAARC TB Centre

### Proposed Programmes of the Centre (January to December 2005):

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

I) Commemoration/Celebration of:

- World TB Day
- World AIDS Day
- SAARC Charter Day

II) Partnership Programme with:

- Medical Colleges, Industries, Private Sectors & Pharmaceuticals / Pharmacists in Pakistan & Sri Lanka
- School & Media in Bhutan, Pakistan & Maldives

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

- I. Participation in the 36th IUATLD World Conference on TB and Lung Health.
- II. Regional Meeting, Seminars, Training, Conferences in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS.
- III. Participation in NTP review in Member Countries.

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

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

**4. Purchase of books, journals and other publications etc. related to TB and HIV/AIDS for library.**

**5. Carry out situation analysis of quality assurance in TB and HIV/AIDS control activities, epidemiological & laboratory network in Bhutan and Pakistan.**

**6. Workshop to Develop SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (3 days) & Meeting of Managers of National HIV/AIDS Control Programme from SAARC Member States (1 day) in Nepal.**

**7. Second Regional Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection to identify research areas and to develop research protocol on identified areas and to visit TB/HIV pilot project sites in India – 4 days.**

**8. SAARC Training on Data Management of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programme**

**9. Second Workshop to Develop Regional Guidelines for Treatment of MDR-TB & Third Meeting of Laboratory Directors from 9 TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Region in Nepal.**

**10. Workshop to Develop Protocol for Quality Assurance in Culture and Drug Sensitivity Testing in National TB Reference Laboratory in Pakistan.**

**11. Regional Training for Laboratory Trainers on imparting training in Quality Assurance in Sputum Microscopy in Sri Lanka.**

**12. Third round External Proficiency Testing in 9 National TB Reference Laboratories.**

**13. To Identify barriers in seeking health care in TB Control Programme, an Institutional Based Pilot Study in Bangladesh/India.**

**14. SAARC Trainer's Training on TB Control Programme Management in Maldives (10 days)**

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

- I. Prevalence of HIV among diagnosed TB patients in Bangladesh/Nepal.
- II. Quality assurance of Microscopy in private laboratories in Nepal.
- III. Chemicals and other material for laboratory works

# Achievements of the Centre in 2004

## Activity No. 1

### Special activities organized in the observance of SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS (year 2004)

#### a) Audio-visual documentary on advocacy on TB and HIV/AIDS:

In observance of SAARC awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS, STC prepared and released an audio-visual documentary on advocacy for TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States. The documentary is focused on TB and HIV/AIDS control and prevention.



#### b) 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:

STC organized Regional level awareness programme related to TB and HIV/AIDS and their prevention through **ESSAY COMPETITION** among the high school level students on the topic "*The Role of School Students in Control and Prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS*" in the observance of SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS - 2004. Member States had sent three best essays from the essay competition organized at National level. The award of cash prize including shield, certificate and consolation prizes has been distributed to the following prizewinners:

The First prizewinner was Ms. Tanjeen Laila Jhilik from BAF Shaheen College, Jessore, Bangladesh, second prizewinner was Abhay Raj Shakya from Palpa Awasiya Secondary School, Palpa, Nepal and third prizewinner was Wishma Jeewanali Samaraweera from Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Other 12 students of the different schools received the consolation prizes.

#### c) 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:

As a part of campaign, STC published 2 documents " i) What is TB, what we should know about it? and ii) HIV/AIDS: What Everyone Should Know About it" in the form of books. Respective Member States translated these publications into their National language for wide dissemination.



## Activity Number 2

### First SAARC Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases:

SAARC TB Centre organized SAARC conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases in December 14-17, 2004 in Kathmandu.

The Hon'ble Minister for Health Mr. Ashok Kumar Rai, inaugurated the conference. The inaugural ceremony was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat.



Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC Tuberculosis Centre and National Tuberculosis Centre welcomed the Chief Guest, Chairperson and all participants at the conference. Dr. Klaus Wagner, WHO Representative to Nepal, Dr. Michael Han, Coordinator, UNAIDS, Dr. Faraha Usmani, Representative UNFPA, Mr. D. B. Pradhan, President, Nepal Anti-TB Association, Mr. J. P. Aryal, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal, Dr. M. B. Bista, Acting Director General, Department of Health Services, HMG, Nepal, and Dr. N. M. Shreshta, Acting Secretary, Ministry of Health, HMG, Nepal delivered their remarks in the ceremony.

Mr. Rai released special publications of STC, which were published in observance of SAARC awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS – 2004. An audiovisual documentary on advocacy on TB and HIV/AIDS was also launched during the ceremony. Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat delivered Chairperson's remarks. Dr. Vikarumnessa Begum (Chairperson, Governing Board of STC) from Bangladesh gave vote of thanks. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC conducted the inaugural programme. Hon'ble Minister also opened the exhibition organized by different organizations during the conference. More than 550 persons including facilitators, supporting persons and other officials participated in the conference.

#### Objectives of the conference were:

- ◆ To share experiences and strengthen knowledge of TB, HIV/AIDS and other Respiratory Diseases.
- ◆ To evolve practical proposal for dealing with problem of these diseases.
- ◆ To foresee the situation and strengthen the national programmes in the region.
- ◆ To build partnership between governmental, non-governmental organizations and all stakeholders working for control and prevention of these diseases.
- ◆ To provide platform for professionals and researchers to present their work and views to seek their advice from other colleagues.
- ◆ To share new inventions/advanced achievements regarding these issues.

## The recommendations of the Conference:

1. Appreciating the high TB load and emerging HIV threat in member countries, the conference emphasised urgent need for expediting the efforts of member countries in controlling TB and preventing HIV/AIDS so as to achieve the millennium development goals.
2. It was noted with appreciation that member countries of the region have already achieved/ are near to achieving the global target of 85% cure rate of New Smear Positive (NSP) cases. However, for achieving the global target of detecting 70% NSP cases in most of the countries of the region, innovative approaches acceptable and adoptable in the local and focal situations need to be identified and adopted. DOTS services need to be made available to the 'un-reached population'. Support from funding mechanisms like GFATM, FIDELIS (Fund for Innovative DOTS Expansion by Local Initiatives to Stop TB) and other such agencies could be explored for the purpose.
3. While appreciating the efforts made by member countries in fostering inter-sectoral coordination and Public-Private Mix, the conference urged for effective Public-Public, Private-Private and Public-Private partnerships. Social status of private sector also needs to be utilized for advocacy purposes.
4. The conference recommends intensive efforts to involve corporate sector in TB & HIV/ AIDS control programmes of member countries.
5. Conference noted that; although, there has been involvement of medical colleges and nursing professionals in TB control programme but the efforts need to be further intensified. Medical Colleges should be involved in training, research and service delivery. Nurses, and other allied professionals because of their patient caring attitude could be very effective in suspect identification and treatment compliance/ completion. DOTS strategy should be included in the teaching curriculum of Medical colleges, nursing and other paramedical courses being adopted by member countries.
6. The conference noted inadequate primary health care infrastructure, emphasis on curative services, floating population as some of the major problems of urban TB control programme in member countries. The conference recommends that member countries should provide extra inputs to take care of the constraints of urban TB control programme.
7. The conference is glad to note initiation of collaboration between HIV/ AIDS and TB control programmes in the member countries and recommends more cohesive actions by the two programmes and also to draw strategies to address, Young people, Cross-border and Gender issues.
8. It is estimated that 50% of all new HIV infection are among young people and that 30% of people living with HIV/AIDS are in the 15-24 years age group, so the importance of focusing young people has been recognized at a global and regional level. The conference notes that focusing the young people is likely to be the most effecting approach in confronting the epidemic.
9. Participants noted with satisfaction SAARC having signed MoU with WHO, UNAIDS, CIDA, UNDP, UNIFEM and UNICEF. It is recommended that SAARC should also made efforts to sign MoU with International Technical organizations like IUATLD, SIDA etc.
10. The participants note with concern increased consumption of tobacco amongst the population of SAARC region and recommends gearing of all possible anti-tobacco initiatives including ratifying of FCTC by all Member States.
11. To reduce the incidence of respiratory diseases, the conference recommends all possible actions including fostering technical partnership with all organizations like WHO, The Union, ALHA (American Lung Health Association) etc involved in the field of lung health.
12. Keeping in view the fact that the conference provided an excellent platform to experts, researchers, programmers and even planners to discuss various issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS, TB and respiratory diseases and derive future line of action, the conference recommends organizing such event by rotation every 3 years by widening its partnership with various organisations.

All the delegates adopted the recommendations unanimously.

## Activity Number 3

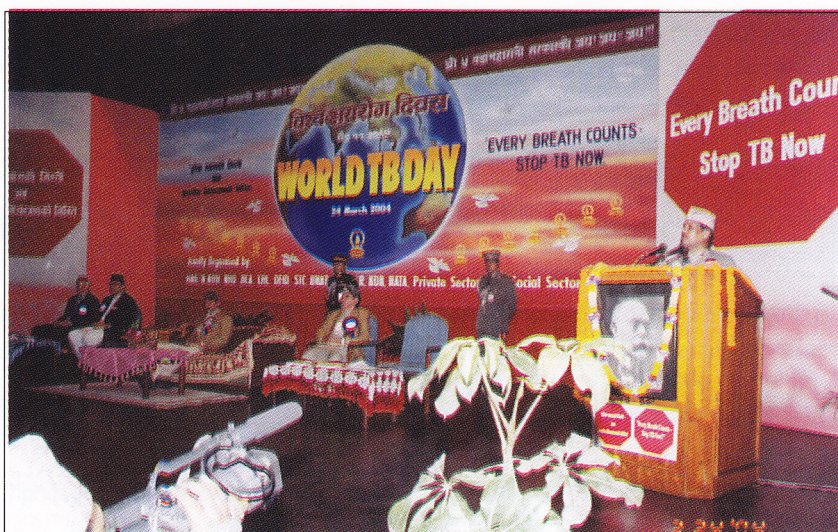
### Public Awareness, Advocacy & Partnership programmes on TB and HIV/AIDS

- a) World TB Day, World AIDS Day & SAARC Charter Day.
- b) Partnership programmes with School and Media in Nepal and in Bangladesh
- c) Involvement of Medical Colleges, private sectors, pharmacists & Industries.

#### a) World TB Day 2004:

**STC** commemorated World TB Day as an advocacy and awareness-creating event. This day is also considered as a worldwide occasion to spread the messages related to Tuberculosis, its control and information on available services for diagnosis and treatment under the umbrella of public health infrastructure of the country.

The day has been observed with various activities designed to create public awareness and momentum gain about TB and its control in the community through out the SAARC Region. SAARC Member Countries commemorated the day by organizing various activities at different level of the health services. This year the World TB Day theme was **"Stop TB Now – Every Breath Counts!"**



TB control programme managers use this day for advocacy, commitment and awareness to fight against TB and promoting the control activities by enhancing public awareness, which is considered as the most influencing factor in public health programme. It is considered that due to lack of awareness TB still remaining as a major public health problem in our Region.

## Activities Organized on the World TB Day:

### By SAARC TB Centre:

#### Display of Banners:

Attractive and colourful banners with informative messages were displayed at the prominent places of the city.

#### Release of Messages:

His Excellency Mr. Q. A. M. A. Rahim, Secretary General, SAARC released a message for TB free life of the people of Region. In his consequential message he reiterated the priority given by SAARC to control TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region. He expressed the happiness that SAARC has joined the global campaign to combat TB and HIV/AIDS.

Director, STC also gave a message. In his message he explained the selected theme of the Day and its importance in the life of the people.

#### Joint Function:

STC commemorated the day jointly with NTC, WHO, JICA, DFID, NLR, BNMT, INF, MDM, NATA and other NGOs & INGOs working in the field of TB control. A joint function was organized at Royal Nepal Academy on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev graciously inaugurated the function as a Chief Guest. At the inaugural ceremony welcome speech was delivered by then Secretary of Health Mr. L. M. S. Karki. The publications of STC and NTC were presented to the Chief Guest.

Director, STC delivered speech along with the current status of TB control in SAARC Member States.

#### Media Support:

On the occasion media supported the World TB Day 2004 by publishing, broadcasting and telecasting different materials regarding TB and its control in the community. STC has consolidated partnership with media.

#### Exhibition of TB Control Activities:

His Royal Highness kindly inaugurated the exhibition and observed it interestingly. SAARC TB Centre displayed the information regarding TB and HIV/AIDS.

#### Rally Programme:

A rally of students, social workers, sport personnel, politicians etc. was organized to mark the day.

#### In SAARC Member Countries:

World TB Day 2004 was organized in Member States. As per the report received by STC regarding the commemoration of world TB Day in the Member States, NTPs of SAARC countries commemorated the day by organizing various activities at different levels in association with different organizations working for TB control.

## World AIDS Day-2004:

On the occasion of SAARC awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS – 2004, SAARC TB Centre commemorated World AIDS Day 2004 by organizing a partnership programme with Pharmacists on HIV/AIDS prevention and control on December 2, 2004 at Nepal Chemist and



Druggist Association (NCDCA), Central Office, Kathmandu.

Mr. Parasmani Baral, President, NCDCA chaired the programme and Mr. Prakash Man Pradhan, President, NCDCA, Bagmati Zonal Office delivered the welcome address.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB Centre welcomed the participants and highlighted the objective of the Year – 2004 SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS. He also explained the situation of HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region and requested for the support from pharmacists to control the HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist of STC presented their presentations on role of pharmacists in control and prevention of HIV/AIDS and preventive strategy for HIV infection respectively.

Mr. Ram Chandra Sharma, General Secretary, NCDCA, Bagmati Zone, urged the need of the partnership programme for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the community.

At the end of the programme Mr. Baral assured the organizer for their support in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS from their aspect.

The programme was conducted by Dr. Basista Prasad Rijal, Microbiologist, STC.

## SAARC Charter Day:



On the auspicious occasion of 20<sup>th</sup> SAARC Charter Day, SAARC TB Centre organized an Interaction Programme with Media in control and Prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2004 at Kathmandu.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB Centre, Kathmandu delivered welcome address and

presented current status of TB control in the SAARC Region and objective of SAARC Awareness Year 2004 for TB and HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat explained the role of media in community mobilization to create awareness. He further added that high-risk behaviour among the people, poverty, illiteracy, open and porous borders, trafficking of women and girls for prostitutions and migratory trend as posing imminent threats for a total AIDS epidemic in the Region.

On behalf of the participating journalists Mr. Baikuntha Maskey, reporter from Reuters TV, thanked the organizer and expressed journalists dedication to cooperate for the prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist from STC presented the role and responsibility of media in the control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS the impact of HIV/AIDS on TB control respectively.

Interaction and discussion between TB and HIV/AIDS experts and journalists was also held.

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

Dr. Pushpa Malla, Senior Consultant Chest Physician, Dr. Rajendra Pant, Chest Physician from National TB Centre, Dr. Sugiyama, Chief, JICA/CTLHP and staff of SAARC TB Centre and National TB Centre also attended the programme.

At the end, Director, STC acknowledged the cooperation rendered by the Journalists. He also thanked them for their assurance and enthusiasm to write for the control of TB and HIV/AIDS.

## b) Partnership Programmes

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.

### Partnership programme with school and medical college:

Partnership with school is one of the strategies applied by STC to create awareness on TB in the community. This strategy was tested in year 2000 by developing a pilot project. The experiences from the past programmes suggest that STC has to expand this programme all over the SAARC Region.

#### Objectives of school partnership programme:

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

### School partnership programme held at:

#### i) Kavrepalanchowk district, Banepa, Nepal:

At the beginning of the year STC organized a partnership programme with schools of Kavrepalanchowk district, at Banepa in January 29, 2004.

Mr. Samundra Lal Kayastha, President, Nepal Red Cross Society, Kavre district branch chaired the programme.

STC Director welcomed all the participating students, teachers and other officials in the programme.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist of STC provided the detailed information on TB and HIV/AIDS respectively.

At the end, Mr. Bal Krishna Bhusal, Senior Public Health Officer, Kavrepalanchowk district assured the students for making availability of required IEC materials on TB and HIV/AIDS. The Director



of STC thanked all for participating in the programme with great enthusiasm. The programme was participated by the following schools:

- Pragati Prabhat Higher Secondary School
- Chaitanya Madyamik Vidyalaya
- Shikshya Sadan Madyamik Vidyalaya
- Himalaya Madyamik Vidyalaya
- Azad Madyamik Vidyalaya
- Shidartha Madyamik Vidyalaya and
- Bal Batika Boarding School

## ii) Chitawan district, Nepal:

Another school partnership programme was held at Chitawan district under the chairmanship of Mr. Bhim Raj Pathak, Chairman, Nepal Anti-TB Association, Chitawan district, in June 27, 2004. Dr. Chandra Dev Mehata, DPH Officer welcomed students, teachers, STC team and other participants in the programme.

Director, STC highlighted about SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS and explained the importance of partnership programme of STC for creating public awareness about TB and HIV/AIDS. In this connection the role of students was also explained.



Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC presented papers on general information on TB.

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC gave talk on mode of spread of HIV and its prevention.

On behalf of the participating schools Mr. Jayashwsar Poudel, Principal, Jhuwani High School thanked STC for organizing this programme at their place.

At the end Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist thanked all students, DPH Officer, NATA and community organizations for their invaluable support to organize this programme.

### Participant Schools:

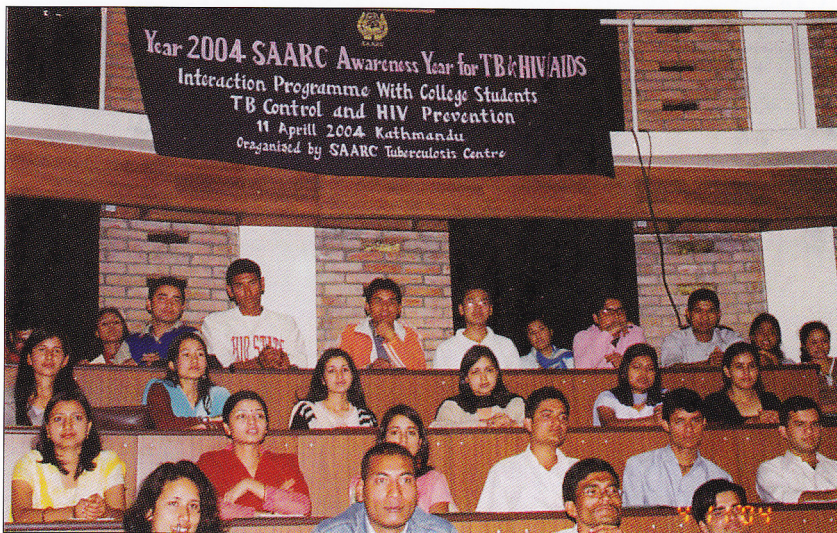
- Jhuwani High School, Jhuwani,
- Bachheuli High School, Bachheuli,
- Malpur Middle School, Sauraha and
- Nepal High School, Ratna Nagar

### iii) SAARC TB Centre, Nepal:

The declaration of SAARC awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS activated the Master-level students of Nepal Commerce Campus, Minbhawan, Kathmandu. They requested STC to arrange an awareness programme on TB and HIV/AIDS for them. Accordingly, an interaction programme was held under the chairpersonship of Mrs. Sarita Khadka, Asistant Campus Chief, in April 11, 2004.

Director, STC welcomed the participants and highlighted the objectives of the SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS and explained the role of students in TB control in the context of TB in SAARC Region.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC gave in-depth information about TB. He also highlighted the need of the partnership programme for the control of TB.



Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC presented the problem of TB/HIV co-infection in the Region.

At the end Mrs. Khada thanked STC for accepting their request and spearing the valuable time to familiar them with the diseases, which is prevailing commonly in our society.

### iv) Nursing Colleges, Dhaka, Bangladesh:

To expand the programme and promote the awareness campaign in TB and HIV/AIDS control and prevention at the higher-level students, STC organized a partnership programme at Nursing College, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh in May 13, 2004.

Principal of the College, welcomed participants, NTP Bangladesh authority and STC team at the programme. The Director, STC highlighted current status of TB control in the Region and need of students' contribution



to create public awareness about TB and HIV/AIDS at periphery level of the society.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC explained the objectives of the partnership programme and gave talk on TB and HIV/AIDS and its prevention & control. The participants also informed about the problem of TB/HIV co-infection.

Dr. Vikarunnessa Begum, Deputy manager, NTP Bangladesh highlighted TB control programme in Bangladesh.

At the end, Principal of the College thanked the organizers of this useful programme at their college and requested to provide IEC materials. STC handed over set of STC publications to the principal of the college.

### **v) Manipal Medical Colleges, Pokhara, Nepal:**

To spread the messages about SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS, STC organized a programme at Manipal Medical College, Pokhara, Nepal under the partnership programme with Medical College chapter in July 11, 2004. This programme was organized with cooperation of Regional TB Centre, Western region,



Pokhara, District Health Office, Kaski and Nepal Anti-TB Association, Kaski Branch.

Dr. S. K. Dhan, Dean of the Medical College chaired the programme and DHO Kaski delivered the welcome address.

Director, STC proceeded the programme by highlighting the objective of SAARC Awareness Year for TB and

HIV/AIDS and objective of partnership programme with medical college.

The experts on the subject Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist and Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist, STC informed the participants about the situation of TB in SAARC Region, HIV/AIDS and its impact on TB control programme and role of laboratory in NTP respectively. Dr. R. Pant, Senior Medical Officer, NTP, Nepal highlighted the urban TB control programme in Nepal. Simultaneously, Dr. S. C. Verma, Chief, RTC, Pokhara presented the activities of RTC and gave vote of thanks also.

After a long interaction between experts and participants, students and teachers Dr. Dhan gave concluding remarks and declared the end of the programme.

## **Partnership with Media**

### **Programme Held at:**

#### **➤ Gorkhaparta Sansthan, Kathmandu, Nepal:**

In observance of SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS, STC organized a partnership programme with media in February 1, 2004 at Gorkha Patra Sansthan, Kathmandu. The Gorkhapatra is a leading daily in Nepal. There are many sub-publications of this organization. Mr. Ganu Man Malla, General Manager, Gorkhapatra Sansthan chaired the programme. All journalists working in this organization participated.

Mr. Shiva Pd. Bhattarai, DCE welcomed the participants and STC team in the programme.

Director, STC explained the role of media and its importance in control of TB in the community. He explained the current situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in Nepal and in SAARC Region. He also explained how media could contribute to reduce the TB and HIV/AIDS problem in the community.



Dr. C. Gunneberg, MO, WHO for NTP Nepal presented talk

#### **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.

on global TB situation and role of journalists to create awareness in community.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist of STC highlighted the aim and objectives of the SAARC awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS, present status of TB in SAARC Region and problem of TB/HIV co-infection respectively.

At the end, the General Manager Mr. Malla, thanked organizer for making

them sensitive to use their pen for control of TB and prevention of HIV/AIDS. He also assured the organizer that the participant journalists certainly will write for control of TB and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

#### **➤ Radio Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal:**

For electronic media, STC organized a partnership programme at Radio Nepal in February 11, 2004. Mr. Durga Nath Sharma, General Manager, Nepal Television chaired the programme and Mr. Rajendra Sharma, Deputy Executive Director, Radio Nepal welcomed the participants and STC team. The journalists from Nepal Television and Radio Nepal participated in the programme.



Director, STC gave information about the declaration of year 2004 as a SAARC awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS. He started his talk about the role of media in control of TB and HIV/AIDS and requested to support for spreading the information about these diseases to create awareness in the community.

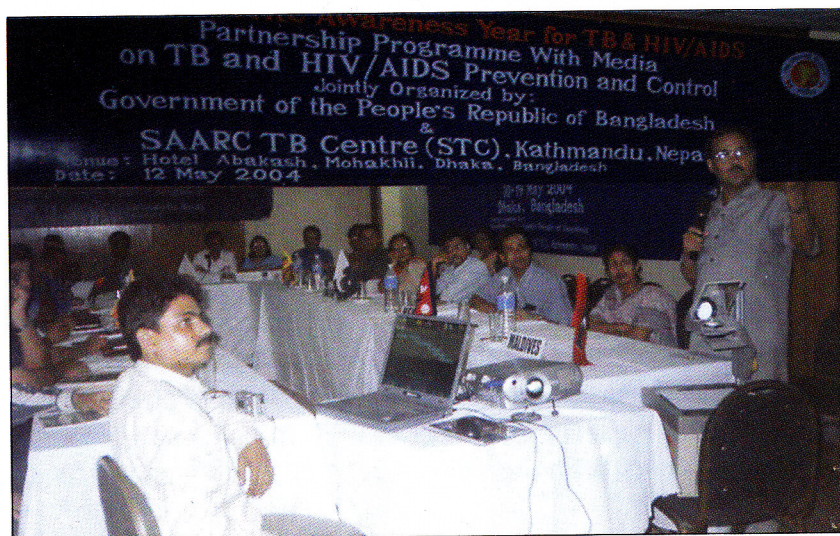
Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC appealed the people working in electro-media for their cooperation to observe the year 2004 as SAARC awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS. Simultaneously, he also presented an overview on the TB situation and current status of TB control programme in the Region.

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC gave talk on TB/HIV co-infection and its impact on TB control in the SAARC Region.

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Senior Consultant Chest Physician, National TB Centre presented a paper on global burden of TB and how the media could create awareness in community in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS.

At the end the chairperson, Mr. Sharma assured STC to support to mark the year 2004 as SAARC awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS.

### ➤ Dhaka, Bangladesh:



With objective to expand the partnership programme up to the Member States of SAARC, STC organized a programme with media in Dhaka in May 12, 2004. Dr. Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Director, CDC & NTP Manager, Bangladesh welcomed the participants and STC team at the programme. The leading journalists from News Network, the Daily Star, the Daily Prothom Alo, Jugantor,

Daily Lalsling, Daily Dinkal etc. participated the programme.

Director, STC presented technical paper, titled '*the role of media in control of TB and HIV/AIDS*' and urged their support in fight against TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

Interaction between the programme experts, such as Director, Deputy Director and Professionals from STC, NTP Manager & Deputy Manager of Bangladesh and WHO Medical Officer of Bangladesh and journalist was also held after the technical session.

## Partnership with Industry:

### Programme held at:

#### ✓ BCCI, Bhaktapur, Nepal:

STC organized a daylong talk programme on public awareness & advocacy on TB & HIV/AIDS control and prevention with the workers working in various industries in industrial complex at Byasi, Bhaktapur. The programme was held at Bhaktapur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) on January 22, 2004.

Mr. Bibek Man Karmacharya, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, BCCI welcomed participants and organizers. He highlighted about TB and HIV/AIDS and its bad effect in human life. STC Director and Professionals put light on different aspects of TB and HIV/AIDS, their prevention, control and treatment.

At the end of the programme Director STC thanked the BCCI and all participants for their active participation and cooperation.

### Objectives of the programme:

- to make organization and industry workers aware about causes, symptoms, spread and prevention & control of TB & HIV/AIDS
- to strengthen partnership with industry workers committed to spread messages of awareness about these diseases and
- to seek their co-operation and active involvement in control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS.

#### ✓ Biratnagar Industrial Estate, Eastern Region, Nepal:

STC decided to organize a programme in Eastern Region of Nepal, where a large industrial estate is located. It was Biratnagar where 1<sup>st</sup> industry of Nepal was established. With the help of DHO Morang, BNMT Biratnagar and Nepal Anti TB Association Morang Branch, STC organized a partnership programme with industry workers to mark the awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS in June 20, 2004.



Mr. Torendra Man Pradhan, President of NATA, Morang Branch presided the programme. Nearly 200 industry employees of Ashok Textile (Pvt.) Ltd. Rani, Morang participated in the programme. Director, STC welcomed the participants and guests in the programme. He also highlighted the need of partnership with industry workers in TB and HIV/AIDS programme. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist of STC provided the technical information regarding TB and HIV/AIDS.

Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist, STC delivered the vote of thanks and chairman of the programme Mr. Pradhan gave the closing remarks.

## ✓ Pokhara Industrial Estate, Western Region, Nepal:

Pokhara, Western Regional Headquarter of Nepal where newly grown up industries are located. A partnership programme at this place was necessary to inform the industry employees to escape from TB and HIV/AIDS and make them aware to keep their family, friend and community safe.

With this view STC organized a partnership programme with industry workers at Pokhara industrial estate in July 11, 2004.

Mr. Dil Bahadur Malla, Senior Officer of the Industrial Estate chaired the programme. Mr. Gopal Bhandari, Industry Official welcomed the participants and requested to proceed the programme.



Technical experts of STC Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist gave basic information about TB & HIV/AIDS and its mode of infection and method of prevention.

Director, STC explained about SAARC awareness year for TB and HIV/AIDS, its importance, involvement of industry workers in TB and HIV/AIDS programme etc.

Interaction or two-way communication is very important to know the awareness level of participants about TB and HIV/AIDS. The expert made a very good interaction and tried their best to pass on the knowledge about these diseases. All participants took active part in this segment of the programme.

At the end of the programme Dr. Sarat Chandra Verma, Chief, Regional TB Centre, Pokhara delivered the vote of thanks and Dr. Basista Prasad Rijal, Microbiologist, summarized the programme.

## Activity Number 4

### Collection & dissemination of information and experiences in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS through the participation in international/regional meetings, NTP review, seminar and conferences by the Director, Deputy Director and Professionals of STC:

The Director, Deputy Director, Epidemiologist and Microbiologist of STC visited Bangladesh to observe TB and HIV/AIDS control programme from Dec. 9 2004 to Jan. 5, 2005. During the visit, experiences on TB and HIV/AIDS control programme were exchanged.

## Activity Number 5

### Strengthening of STC Library

#### Purchasing of books, subscription of journals and acquiring of other related publications:

STC library received the following books/journals/reports/newsletter etc. during the year 2004:

#### Book purchased by STC:

S. No.	Name of the Books	Author	Edition	Published by
1	Crofton and Douglass's Respiratory Diseases Vol. 1 & 2	Anthony Seaton & Douglas Seaton	15th, 2004	Blakwell Science Ltd. Osney Mead Oxford OS2 OEL
2.	Oxford Text book of Public Health	Roger Detels	4th, 2004	Oxford University Press, New York
3.	Tuberculosis	Lipncot Williams & Wilkins	2nd, 2004	Lipincott Williams & Wilkins
4.	Manual of Clinical Microbiology	P.R. Murray	8th, 2003	ASM Press, Washington D.C.
5.	Tropology	James R. Munkres	2nd, 2002	Pearson Education Pte. Ltd., New Delhi, India
6.	Operations Research	Hamdy A.Taha	7th, 2003	Person Educatyion, New Delhi, India.
7.	Applied Multivariate Statistical Analysis	Richard A. Johnson	5th, 2002	Person Education, New Delhi, India.
8.	Introduction to Microbiology	A.S. Rao	2001	Prentice Hall of India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, India.
9.	AIDS and Home Care	D.B. Rao	2000	Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi, India.
10.	Prevention of AIDS	Gracious Thomas	2000	Kumar DTP System, New Delhi, India.

11.	Designing a Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Active Directory and Network Infrastructure.	Walter Glenn	2004	Prentice-Hall of India Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, India.
12.	Unfamiliar Relations	Indrani Chatterjee	2004	Permanent Black, D-28 Oxford Apartments, 11, I.P. Extension, Delhi-110092
13.	Combating AIDS	Arvind Singhal	2003	Sage Publications, New Delhi
14.	AIDS and the Human Survival	V. Ramamurthy	2000	India at Tarun Offset, Delhi, India.
15.	HIV Education and prevention	Gracious Thomas	2001	Shipra Publication, Delhi-110092, India.
16.	The Cure for HIV and AIDS	Hulda Regehr Clark	2001	Unisons Techno Financial Consultants (P)Ltd., New Delhi
17.	An Introduction to HIV/AIDS	D.B. Rao	2000	Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi-110002
18.	AIDS and Sexual Behaviour	Savita Sharma	2004	APH Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, India.
19.	Living with the AIDS Virus	Samiran Panda	2002	Sage Publications, New Delhi

#### Journal purchased by STC:

S. No	Name of the Journals	Duration	Remarks
1.	IUATLD Journals	Monthly	
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	
6.	Clinic in Chest Medicine	Quarterly	
7.	Current Medical Trend	Quarterly	
8.	Newsweek	(Weekly)	

#### WHO Global Publications Subscribed by STC:

S. No.	Name of the Books	Author	Published by
1.	WTO Agreements & Public Health		WHO & WTO
2.	Effective Drug Regulation A multi country Study	Ms S Ratanawijitrasin	WHO
3.	Risk assessments of Salmonella in eggs and		WHO

	broiler chickens		
4	Mobilizing Resources for TB Control A brief		WHO/SEARO
5	Evaluation of Certain Mycotoxins in Food (Technical Report)		WHO
6	Cardiovascular Survey Methods 3rd. Ed.	R V. Luepker	WHO
7	Neuroscience of Psychoactive Substance use and Dependence		WHO
8	Keep fit for life Meeting the nutritional needs of older persons		WHO
9	Healthy Villages A guide for communities and community Health Workers	Claus Bogh	WHO
10	Genomic and World Health		WHO
11	Climate Change and Human Health Risk and Responses	A.H. MC Michael,	WHO,WMO,UN EP
12	Controlling Diseases due to helminthes infections	D.W.T.Crompton	WHO
13	Basic Laboratory Procedures in Clinical Bacteriology 2nd Ed.	J. Vandepitte	WHO
14	Guidelines for the Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections		WHO
15	International Travel and Health		WHO
16	The International Pharmacopoeia 3rd Ed.		WHO
17	State of the World's Vaccines and Immunization		WHO/UNICEF
18	WHO Drug Information Vol. 1 2004		WHO
19	Quality Assurance of Pharmaceuticals A compendium of guidelines and related materials vol.2 Updated edition good manufacturing practices and inspections		WHO
20	IPCS (International programme on Chemical Safety) Environmental Health Criteria 230 Nitrobenzene		WHO
21	WHO Guide to Cost effectiveness Analysis	T. Tan -Torres Edejer	WHO
22	Managing Newborn Problems A guide for doctors, nurses and midwives		WHO
23	World Report on Road Traffic injury prevention	Margie peden,	WHO
24	WHO Guidelines on good agricultural and collection practices (GACP) for medicinal plants		WHO
25	WHO Long-Term Care in Developing countries the case studies.		WHO
26	WHO Model Formulary, Based on the 13 Model list of Essential Medicines 2003		WHO
27	Toman's Tuberculosis Case Detection, Treatment, and Monitoring (Second Edition)	T. Frieden	WHO

28	Prevention of Recurrent Heart Attacks and Strokes in low and Middle Income Populations		CVD (Cardiovascular Diseases)
29	Tobacco Control Legislation	D. Douglas Blanke	WHO 2004
30	Policy Recommendations for Smoking Cessation and Treatment of Tobacco Dependence	Dr. Vera Da Costa e Silva	WHO
31	Guidelines for Essential Trauma Care	-	WHO
32	Global Status Report, Alcohol Policy		WHO
33	Building blocks for Tobacco Control		WHO
34	World Report on Knowledge for Better Health		WHO
35	Pathogenic Mycobacteria in Water		WHO
36	Safe Piped Water Managing Microbial Water Quality in Piped Distribution Systems		WHO
37	Waterborne Zoonoses		WHO
38	Water Treatment and Pathogen Control		WHO

**Other Publications Received by STC at free of cost:**

S. No.	Name of the Books	Author	Published by
1	KNVC Tuberculosis		Netherlands
2	Annual Report TB/Leprosy Control Programme 2002-2003		Eastern Regional Health Directorate Dhankuta.
3	Care Ko Pratibimba (Health Special Edition)		Care Nepal Newsletter
4	Annual Report 2003		BP Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital
5	Community Medicine and public Health		RHM Publisher Dhaka
6	Prevention of Transmission of Blood Borne Infections HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in the Health Care Setting Manual	MD Bhattra	General Welfare Kathmandu, Nepal
7	Journal of the Nepal Medical Association		Nepal Medical Association Siddhi Sadan , Exhibition Road, Kathmandu.
8	Drug Information Bulletin		Department of Clinical pharmacology CMS, Bharatpur, Nepal.
9	Health Management 2004		NOC & HCMTSSN, Kathmandu, Nepal
10	Report on Outbreak Investigation Dec. 2003 to Apr. 04 Nepah Virus infections in Bangladesh		IEDCR, Dhaka, Bangladesh
11	Report on Outbreak Investigation July 2004 to Sept. 2004, Flood 2004 and Diarrhea		IEDCR, Dhaka, Bangladesh
12	Report on Outbreak Investigation March 2004 to September 2004		IEDCR, Dhaka, Bangladesh

13.	Report on Outbreak Investigation June 2004, Kala azar in Godagari.		IEDCR, Dhaka, Bangladesh
14.	JOPOSOM Journal of preventive & Social medicine Vol 2, Number 2 Dec. 2003		NIPSOM, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### Books received from NTC

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

## Activity Number 6

### Publication & distribution of:-

- i) STC Newsletter
- ii) SAARC Journal
- iii) SAARC Epidemiological Reports on TB & HIV/AIDS
- iv) World TB Day Report
- v) World AIDS Day Report
- vi) STC Annual Report
- vii) Publication/distribution of SAARC Regional Modules Guidelines for the Partnership Programmes

#### i) STC Newsletter:

Both the volume of STC Newsletter have been published and distributed as per the mailing list.

#### ii) SAARC Journal:

The first issue of SAARC journal of tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS has been published and distributed to the concerned parties. In this journal one review article, five original articles and four short reports have been included.

#### iii) SAARC Epidemiological Report on TB & HIV/AIDS:

The Tuberculosis in SAARC Region – an up date 2004 and HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region – an up date 2004 have been published and distributed.

#### iv) World TB Day Report:

The World TB Day Report 2004 has been compiled. This report is distributed to the NTP of SAARC Member States for dissemination of information regarding the commemoration of World TB Day in different ways.

#### v) World AIDS Day Report:

A report about the World AIDS day has been prepared.

#### vi) STC Annual Report:

STC annual report of the year 2003 has been published.

#### vi) Publication/distribution of SAARC Regional Modules Guidelines for the Partnership Programmes

SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Pharmacists in Prevention & Control of Tuberculosis has been published.

All the publications of SAARC TB Centre are available in the STC library located at New Thimi, Bhaktapur.

## Activity Number 7

### Trainers' Training on TB control Programme Management: Dhaka, Bangladesh, May 10-19, 2004,

The Government of Bangladesh and SAARC TB Centre, Nepal jointly organized a trainers' training on TB control programme management in Dhaka in May 10-19, 2004.

Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Honourable Minister for Health & Family Welfare of Bangladesh inaugurated the programme. Mr. M. Fazlul Karim, Director General, South Asia & SAARC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh gave welcome address. Mr. A.

F. M. Sarwar Kamal, Secretary, MoH & Family welfare also spoke in the inaugural ceremony. Participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan participated in the programme.

On behalf of the STC Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director expressed sincere thanks to the Government of Bangladesh for accepting the proposal to organize the programme in Dhaka and Member States for nominating participants for the course.



The inaugural ceremony was chaired by Prof. Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Director General, Department of Health Services, Bangladesh. At the function, Dr. M. Beex, WHO, Medical Officer, Bangladesh spoke on various aspects of TB control activities conducting in the World.

Dr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Director, PHC & Line Director, ESP gave vote of thanks.

### Objectives of the trainers' training on TB control

#### The objectives of the training course were:

- to strengthen the skills and update the knowledge for implementing and monitoring DOTS strategy to control TB in the Region effectively and efficiently.
- to share experiences about TB situation and DOTS implementation in Member States.

#### Proceeding of the Programme:

The programme began with the training on the following modules:

- Establish revised NTP strategy
- Ensure training
- Plan supplies and
- Revise recording and reporting system

In addition to training sessions on modules plenary session on following topics were held:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ✓ Principles and components of DOTS   | ✓ Quality assurance in smear microscopy                                  |
| ✓ Advocacy in TB control  | ✓ Supervisory visit in TB control  |
| ✓ Annual risk of TB infection (ARTI)  | ✓ Preparation and presentation of assigned action plan (by participants) |
| ✓ Role of media in TB control   | ✓ Management of extra pulmonary TB                                       |
| ✓ Partnership programmes – role of partners in TB control                   | ✓ MDR-TB its causes and prevention                                       |
| ✓ Public-private linkage in TB control                                      | ✓ Urban TB control programme   |
| ✓ TB and gender   | ✓ Report writing   |
| ✓ Introduction of FDCs in TB control  | ✓ Operational research   |
| ✓ Role of pharmacists in TB control   | ✓ Proposal writing   |
| ✓ HIV/AIDS, situation in the Region & impact of HIV on TB control programme | ✓ TB in children   |
| ✓ Role of sputum microscopy and culture & sensitivity in TB control         | ✓ Community education in TB control                                      |
|   | ✓ Role of NGOs in TB control   |

Dr. M. Mahbubur Rahman, Director, PHC & Line Director, ESP graced the closing session as Chief Guest. He distributed certificates to the participants and facilitators and urged to utilize the skill gained in the training.

On behalf of the participants Dr. Shahjahan Molla, MO, TB control and Training Institute, Dhaka and Dr. Iqtidar Ahmed, Director TB control programme, Sindh, Pakistan gave remarks.

Dr. Vikarunnessa Begum, DPM, TB expressed her views as a special guest in the session.

Dr. R. M. Piryani, Deputy Director, STC, Kathmandu, Dr. Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Director & Programme Manager, CDC, DGHS, Dhaka also gave their remarks.

Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC gave vote of thanks in the closing session.

## Activity Number 8

### Situation analysis of Regional activities by staff of STC in Member Countries:

STC carried out situation analysis of TB control activities and observation of HIV/AIDS control activities in Sri Lanka & Maldives from 10 to 18 August 2004.

*The objectives of this activity were:*

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

*The team applied the following methodologies to perform the activity:*

- ✓ Information retrieve/gather from documents,
- ✓ Information collected from NTP and NACP during the visit
- ✓ Information collected by field trip

A team comprising of Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist and Dr. Basista Prasad Rijal, Microbiologist performed the task, prepared report and submitted it to the concerned authority with recommendations.

## Activity Number 9

### Community based study to identify barriers in seeking health care in Tuberculosis Control Programme:

National TB Control Programmes in the SAARC Region have been in operational since the early 1960's but still TB is a major public health problem. Reports of TB cases suggest, virtually in all countries, fewer female than male are notified. Community based epidemiological studies have established that males have a higher prevalence of TB infection and a higher rate of progression from infection to active disease than females. Yet there are concerns that females suffering from TB are underreported due to various socio-cultural factors e.g. reduced access to health care services, under reporting of respiratory morbidity and greater stigmatization. Moreover profound gender differentials existing in SAARC Member Countries may create barriers for women in seeking health care leading to under reporting of female TB cases in this Region.

Considering all these information, SAARC TB Centre proposed a community-based study to identify barriers in seeking health care in TB control in the programme of year 2004.

The thirteenth meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB Centre recommended to conduct it.

Accordingly the study has been carried out in a densely (urban) area of Kathmandu Metropolitan City and in a sparsely (rural) area of Bhaktapur district of Nepal. The total number of 3,830 households was surveyed and population covered was 18,947. Information on socio-demographic characteristics, health seeking behaviour and barriers in seeking health care for identified tuberculosis suspects were collected through house-to-house survey using pre-tested semi-structured questionnaires.

The detailed report has been prepared.

### The objectives of the study

- To identify TB suspects and their health seeking behaviour in the selected area
- To explore the barriers in seeking care (among the identified TB suspects)
- To find out gender differences in health seeking behaviour and the barriers in seeking health care (among the identified TB suspects)

## Activity Number 10

### Regional Workshop for Laboratory Supervisors on QA in Sputum Microscopy:

SAARC TB Centre organized a workshop for laboratory supervisors on quality assurance (QA) in sputum microscopy from August 27 to 29, 2004 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Participants from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan participated in the workshop.

Lieutenant General (R), K. A. Karamat, Executive Director, National Institute of Health inaugurated the workshop. In inaugural speech, he expressed his view regarding the TB problem in Pakistan.



#### Objective of the Workshop:

**To enhance the knowledge and skill of TB laboratory supervisors to conduct the QA programme on sputum microscopy independently**

Mr. Sayed Abrar Husein, Director SAARC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan highlighted the current activities of SAARC regarding regional peace, stability and social development. He reiterated the commitment of Government of Pakistan for every activity of SAARC and STC.

On behalf of NTP, Pakistan, Dr. Hassan Sadiq, Deputy Manager, NTP as well as Chairman, Governing Board of SAARC TB Centre welcomed the distinguished guests and participants.

On behalf of STC, Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director welcomed the participants and guests in the workshop. In continuation to welcome speech Dr. Piryani explained the objectives and modalities of the workshop.

Dr. Sabira Tahseen, NTP Pakistan gave vote of thanks.

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

In the first technical session Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC and Dr. Basista Prasad Rijal, Microbiologist, STC, Dr. Hassan Sadiq, NTP, Pakistan and Dr. Lara Gillini, Stop TB, WHO Consultant, Pakistan gave talks on Introduction of STC & burden of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region, role of lab network in NTP, current status of NTP and lab network in Pakistan and lab in the context of DOTS: key role for diagnosis as quality indicators, respectively.

The second session, comprised of modular training in which lab network in NTP, objectives & planning of QA, internal supervision and quality control were discussed. Participants also discussed on proficiency testing of sputum smear microscopy module and solved the exercises given in the module. The module session was followed by country presentation session.

The participants prepared the check-list for field visit and performed the field visit at Microscopy Centre, named Mandra Rural Health Centre, Rawalpindi where both diagnostic and treatment facilities of TB are available.

In this session, Dr. Jahanara Begum from National TB Reference Lab, Shymoli, Dhaka presented current situation of TB lab network and QA activities in Bangladesh. Dr. Md. Nowfel Islam from National Institute of Disease of the Chest and Hospital, Dhaka delivered paper on the lab services for diagnosis of TB. Ms. Khadheeja from Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Kanba Asia Rani, Higun and Fathimah Liusha Hussain from Public Health Lab, Majeedhee Magu, Maldives jointly presented microscopy network and QA on sputum microscopy in Maldives. Mr. Rambabu Shrestha from National TB Reference Lab., Nepal presented National network of TB Lab and QA activities in Nepal. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, F. J. General and Chest Hospital, Quatta presented TB lab network of Balochistan, provincial reference lab and current QA activities in Pakistan.

### **Recommendations of the Workshop:**

- i. STC has to arrange more trainings /workshops on QA and bio-safety measures for reference laboratory staff
- ii. STC has to facilitate/coordinate experience sharing visits among Member Countries regarding QA activities and
- iii. Member Countries need to strengthen National TB Laboratory Network and QA activities in sputum microscopy.

Dr. Hassan Sadiq, Deputy Manager, NTP, Pakistan chaired the closing session. Dr. Md. Nowfel Islam gave remarks on behalf of participants. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC gave vote of thanks on behalf of STC. He thanked all staff members of NTP Pakistan for their cooperation.

## Activity Number 11

### SAARC Regional Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection & Fixed Dose Combinations in TB Treatment Regimen/Protocol



SAARC TB Centre organized workshop on TB/HIV co-infection and fixed dose combinations in TB treatment regimen/protocol from July 6 to 8, 2004 in Kathmandu. Participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan participated in the workshop.

The Director, STC inaugurated the both the workshop and welcomed the

participants from SAARC Member States and representatives from WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF/ROSA and JICA.

Dr. Teja Ram, Chief Medical Officer (TB), DGHS, Government of India addressed the workshop on behalf of participants.

#### Objectives of the Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection

- ✓ To review the trend of TB, HIV/AIDS & TB/HIV co-infection and their impacts – regionally
- ✓ To share experiences of managing TB, HIV/AIDS & TB/HIV co-infection
- ✓ To identify the main technical and managerial challenges for control of TB/HIV co-infection
- ✓ To strengthen the epidemiological Networking system
- ✓ To develop and recommend a short term and long term plan of action on the basis of the approved Regional Strategy on TB/HIV co-infection

Dr. C. Guneberg, Acting WR Nepal, Mr. Michael Hann, UNAIDS Country Coordinator, Mr. Ian Macleod, Regional HIV/AIDS Advisor, UNICEF/ROSA, Mr. Akira Naruse, JICA/CTLHP Coordinator and Dr. James Newel, Leeds University, UK also addressed the workshop.

All speakers expressed their concern regarding the TB/HIV co-infection and appreciated the initiative taken by the SAARC TB Centre. They also stressed the need of collaborative approach by both TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes and building-up partnership for control of TB/HIV co-infection. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC delivered the vote of thanks.

#### Proceeding of the Workshop on TB/HIV co-infection:

Dr. Saifullah Jogezi, Programme Manager, AIDS Control Programme, Pakistan chaired the scientific session and the Director, STC gave the presentation on role of STC in TB control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC presented the objectives & methodology of the workshop and HIV/AIDS, TB/HIV co-infection & impact of HIV in TB control. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director presented the TB situation in the SAARC Region and Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist, STC presented

a paper on overview of present status and future plan of SAARC regional reference laboratory.

Dr. Teja Ram, CMO (TB), DGHS, Central TB Division in MOH & FW, Government of India chaired the country presentation session.

Dr. Jalal Uddin Ahmed, NTP Manager, Bangladesh, Mr. Kinley Penjore, PMW/TB/Leprosy Control Programme, Regional Referral Hospital, Bhutan, Dr. Teja Ram, CMO (TB) DGHS, India, Ms. Shameema Hussain, Deputy Director, Chest Clinic, Male, Maldives, Dr. Mohammed Rameez, Programme Coordinator, HIV/AIDS Control Programme, Maldives, Dr. Rajendra Pant, MO NTP Nepal & Mr. Madhusudan Koirala, Senior Public Health Officer, National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Nepal and Dr. Syed Ghulam, Murtaza, MO NTP, Pakistan & Dr. Saifullah Jogezeai, Programme Manager, AIDS Control Programme, Pakistan presented their country presentations. After the country presentations a detailed discussion was held.

Technical session on review/discussion on SAARC Regional TB/HIV Co-infection Strategy were held, in which Dr. Md. M. Rahman briefly presented the strategy for TB/HIV co-infection developed by STC in October 2003 and approved by the 12th SAARC Summit.

Dr. Rajendra Pant chaired the session for discussion on TB/HIV Co-infection Strategy.

Dr. Jalaj Uddin Ahmed chaired the technical session on preparation of Action Plan, in which participants prepared the draft action plan for implementation of strategy.

#### The Recommendations of the Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection

- ✓ Each Member Countries will develop a 5-year action plan to implement the TB/HIV co-infection control collaborative activities.
- ✓ Member Countries will exchange/share experiences on TB/HIV co-infection control by country visit(s).
- ✓ STC will organize workshop for identifying areas of operational research, development of research protocol and identification of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of TB/HIV control collaborative activities.
- ✓ HIV diagnostic facilities should be made incorporated at SAARC Regional TB Reference Laboratory.
- ✓ TB/HIV control collaborative activities need to be reviewed annually in Member Countries.

**The second component of the workshop was the Workshop on Fixed Dose Combinations in TB Treatment Regimen/Protocol, which was conducted to meet the following objectives:**

#### Objectives:

- to discuss current status of treatment regimen for tuberculosis control in Member Countries,
- to share experiences and discuss pros and cons in using separate drugs and FDCs treatment regimen for Tuberculosis,
- to recommend DFCs regimen for Tuberculosis treatment in the Region.



### Proceeding of the Programme:

Mr. Mohamed Rameez, Maldives chaired the first technical session. The Director, STC presented introduction of FDCs and its overview. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, presented paper on situation analysis of anti-TB drugs in use in TB control in SAARC Member Countries.

Mr. Kinley Penjore, Bhutan chaired the second technical session. Participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan presented about the FDCs policy in the country.

Dr. Syed Ghulam Murtaza, Pakistan chaired the third technical session. Participants discussed the problems related to FDCs and prepared the draft recommendations.

### Recommendations of the workshop on fixed dose combinations:

- Fixed dose combinations are considered preferably in the treatment of TB; however, the final decision in this regard is with the respective Government.
- The bioavailability of Rifampicin FDCs needs to be monitored regularly.
- To use standardized formulation of FDCs i.e. those included in WHO essential drugs list.
- To make available FDCs, suitable for paediatric use.

## Activity Number 12

### SAARC Regional Workshop on TB Drug Management and to Develop Regional Guidelines on Treatment of MDR-TB:

SAARC TB Centre organized a regional workshop on two important issues, - TB drug management and development of regional guidelines on treatment of MDR-TB from July 29 to 31 2004 in Kathmandu.

The Director of SAARC TB Centre declared both the workshops open by delivering the opening address.

Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat extended a warm welcome and conveyed the greetings of His Excellency Mr. QAMA Rahim, Secretary General of SAARC for the pleasant stay of the participants and success of the workshop.



AKM Rahim Uddin Bhuiya, Deputy Director, Mycobacterial Disease Control, Government of Bangladesh thanked the STC on behalf of the participants. Participants from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan participated in the workshop.

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

### **Objectives of the Workshops on TB Drug management and to develop Guidelines on MDR-TB**

- to review drug management policy in the SAARC Region,
- to review the situation of anti-TB drugs production and prices
- to identify and recommend ways how to make anti-TB drugs available at a minimum possible cost uninterruptedly and
- to develop regional guidelines for treatment of MDR-TB

The scientific session started with the presentation of Director, STC on Role of SAARC TB Centre in control and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region. Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist, STC presented objectives and methodology of the workshop. Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC delivered talk on TB drug management and managing drug supply in NTP. Mr. Radharaman Prasad Teli, Senior Drug Administrative Officer, Department of Drug Administration, His Majesty's Government of Nepal and Dr. Pushpa Malla, Senior Chest Physician, National TB Centre gave their comments on the presentations.

This scientific session was chaired by Dr. Dr. AKM Rahim Uddin Bhuiya, Deputy Director, Mycobacterial Disease Control, Government of Bangladesh.

The scientific session was followed by the country presentation. Dr. AKM Rahim Uddin Bhuiya, Deputy Director, Mycobacterial Disease Control, Bangladesh, Ms. Shameema Hussain, Deputy Director, TB Control Programme, Maldives, Dr. Pushpa Malla, Senior Chest Physician, National TB Centre, Nepal, Mr. Zaheer Faradi, First Secretary, Embassy of Pakistan, Kathmandu and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani took part in country presentations.

### **Recommendations from the workshop on TB drug management:**

- ✓ Strengthening of monitoring system at all steps of drug management cycle to ensure/assure quality of anti-TB drugs.
- ✓ Secure funds for anti-TB drugs on a long term basis
- ✓ Formulation and /or implementation of legislation regarding sale of anti-TB drugs with prescription only.
- ✓ Ensure uninterrupted supply of sufficient anti-TB drugs
- ✓ Both public and private sectors should follow the NTP treatment policy
- ✓ Training/orientation to all practitioners (public and private) on NTP policy
- ✓ Create awareness about proper utilization of anti-TB drugs among chemists/druggists

## **The Second component of the workshop was on DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL GUIDELINES ON TREATMENT OF MDR-TB:**

On the third day the workshop discussed to develop Regional guidelines for treatment of MDR-TB. Director, STC raised the issues – the problem of MDT TB and its consequences and need for Regional guidelines for the treatment of MDR-TB. Mr. Prakash Subedi, Under Secretary, MoFA, HMG, Nepal also gave his remarks on these issues.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, Dr. Basista Prasad Rijal, Microbiologist of STC presented paper on DOTS plus and current situation of MDR-TB in SAARC Region respectively.

Mrs. Aishath Ibrahim from Maldives chaired the country presentation session. The first presentation on MDT TB was from Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Bangladesh, then Ms. Shameema Hussain, Deputy Director, TB Control Programme, presented the situation of MDR-TB in Maldives. Mr. Zaheer Faridi and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani jointly presented the current situation of MDR-TB in Pakistan. Dr. Pushpa Malla, Senior Chest Physician, NTC presented paper on MDR-TB in Nepal.

### **Recommendations of the workshop on to develop guidelines for the treatment of MDR-TB**

- ✓ To collect update and compile the data of drug resistance to anti-TB drugs in Member Countries
- ✓ Collect information on treatment protocol/s used both in public and private sectors in Member Countries for treatment of MDR-TB
- ✓ Collect the information regarding production, prices and availability of second line anti-TB drugs from Member Countries.
- ✓ Collect the information from Member Countries regarding the list of laboratories performing Drug Sensitivity Testing (DST) in public and private sector.
- ✓ To develop/strengthen anti-TB drug resistance surveillance system and conduct at National Level on regular basis by Member Countries.
- ✓ Ensure quality of DST at National Reference Laboratories and/or laboratories identified by NTP in Member Countries and SAARC Regional TB Reference Laboratory at STC
- ✓ Prepare outlines for Regional guidelines for treatment of MDR-TB and organize a workshop to finalize the draft.

## **Activity Number 13**

### **Chemicals & other materials for laboratory works (purchase):**

Required chemicals and reagents have been purchased for the SAARC TB Reference Laboratory established in STC.

## **Additional Activities:**

### **Activity Number 14**

#### **Situation Analysis of Existing training modules/guidelines of the Member Countries:**

Training is a key element in a successful National TB Control Programme (NTP). The revised NTP strategy involves many activities such as case detection by microscopy, standardized directly observed short course chemotherapy and improved recording and reporting. Quality training for the health personnel involved in TB Control Programme is therefore critical to successful strategy implementation. Member States have accorded high priority to effective TB control; progress will ultimately depend on the availability of trained manpower from National to periphery level of NTPs.

Considering these facts SAARC TB Centre organized a daylong meeting to prepare SAARC Regional Training Modules Guidelines for TB Control Programme on 24 October 2003 in Kathmandu. The meeting recommended carrying out situation analysis of training modules/guidelines in use in Member Countries. In compliance to this decision, STC conducted situation analysis on training modules/guidelines in Member States.

A questionnaire incorporating various aspects of training activities pertaining to TB control programme was developed and transmitted to all Member States. Responses received from Member States compiled and analyzed. Following are the suggestions:

- Development of training network in the Region to have Regional level technical guidelines for TB control considering the current challenges in TB control.
- Development of SAARC training modules/guidelines for different levels health workers involved in TB control.
- Development of SAARC modules/guidelines for different types of partners seeking their cooperation in TB control programme.
- A Regional workshop of experts to strengthen the training activities in the Region.

### **Activity Number 12**

#### **Situation Analysis of Anti-TB Drugs in use in NTP in SAARC Member Countries:**

The SAARC TB Centre carried out the situation analysis of anti-TB drugs in use in NTP in SAARC Member Countries. A questionnaire based situation analysis was conducted. A format containing various questions

regarding anti-TB drugs in use in NTP was developed and sent to Member Countries in April 12, 2004. By July 6, 2004 all Member Countries submitted their responses to STC. The responses were compiled and presented in SAARC Regional Workshop on Fixed Dose Combinations in TB treatment regimen protocol held in Kathmandu in July 8, 2004. The information were reviewed by the participants during the presentation.

***On the basis of received information, STC made the following conclusions:***

- Member Countries adopted DOTS and have been using WHO recommended regimens in their NTP.
- Five countries Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have been using daily regimen in both the Intensive and Continuation phases, while India has been using Intermittent Regimen in both the phases and Bangladesh is using daily regimen in Intensive phase while Intermittent Regimen in Continuation phase.
- Patients are categorized as Cat. I, II and III in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives and Nepal while in Pakistan and Sri Lanka as Cat I and Cat II and children below 6 years as Cat. III in Sri Lanka.
- Maldives has been providing RHZE in Intensive Phase for both Cat I and Cat III and RHE in Continuation phase of CAT I, II and III.
- Different weight bands are in use in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Different strengths are in use in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Pakistan has introduced 4 FDC in some area in 2000, Nepal has introduced 2 drugs FDC in 2002, Bangladesh has introduced 4 FDC in Jan. 2004, Sri Lanka has planned to introduce FDC in 2 districts in 2005 and Maldives in 2005.

## **Other Activities:**

### **Fourth JSC Meeting of SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project:**

The fourth Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting was held at SAARC Secretariat under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. QAMA Rahim, Secretary General, SAARC in March 15, 2004.

Director, STC presented the achievement report of the project for the period of 2003/04. Ms. Jacinthe Desmarais, Project Manager



presented overview of the project & expenditures till the end of the project.

Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director and Dr. Md. M. Rahman, Epidemiologist of STC presented other important issues of the project.

Mr. Jean-Marc Mangin, First Secretary, Consul and representation of CIDA express his satisfaction over the achievements made by the project.

Dr. Chris Archibald, Director, HIV Epidemiology and Research Division, Health Canada appreciated the achievements of the project.

Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat and Dr. B. P. Rijal, Microbiologist, STC also attended the meeting.

### **Completion of the SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project:**

SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project completed its final year in March 2004, which was signed for the period of April 2000 to March 2004. The project was initiated with the purpose of strengthening the capacity of SAARC TB Centre, Kathmandu and to support Regional & National responses to the TB & HIV/AIDS epidemics.

Evaluation report of the project has been prepared and submitted by Francine Lamontagne, International Consultant in September 2004 in Ottawa, along with the recommendations.

### **Joining of New Director:**

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, (M.B., B.S.; D.T.C.D.; M.C.P.S.; D.T.C.E, Senior Consultant Chest Physician, National TB Centre, HMG, Nepal and more than two decades in Government Service) joined the SAARC TB Centre as a Director in October 2004.

### **Audit of the Accounts of STC:**

Joint Audit Team (JAT) of Mr. Md. Zaharul Islam, Director, Defence Audit, Directorate, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Mr. Muhammad Iqbal, Director General Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan audited accounts of the SAARC TB Centre for the year 2003 from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2004 in Kathmandu.

### **Director and Deputy Director visited different institutions and organization in Bangladesh:**

During the trainers' training programme in Dhaka, the Director and Deputy Director visited different organizations & institutions and observed their activities. During their visit interaction were held among the authorities of the organization for the development of SAARC TB Centre's activities in the Member States in future.

### **UNAIDS team visited STC:**

UNAIDS team along with Mr. M. Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat visited SAARC TB Centre. The team observed the functioning of the Centre and updated the information on TB and HIV/AIDS activities. This visit was performed in April 19, 2004, after signing in MoU between SAARC and UNAIDS. The team has identified different areas of collaboration with SAARC regarding TB and HIV/AIDS activities, such as:

- ✓ Develop a joint strategy and work-plan for HIV prevention care & support for HIV/AIDS affected persons.
- ✓ Carryout advocacy & awareness programme jointly.
- ✓ Strengthen linkage between SAARC & ASEAN to combat HIV/AIDS problem collectively.
- ✓ UNAIDS will collaborate with SAARC and STC in resource mobilization for the TB/HIV co-infection e.g. through the Global fund.
- ✓ Strengthening STC library.

### **SAARC-UNFPA signed MoU:**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SAARC and UNFPA has been signed in June 17, 2004. In memorandum it is mentioned that the two organizations should work jointly through mutual consultation endeavour to promote many programmes including HIV/AIDS.

### **Director, STC participated in IUATLD Conference:**

Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC participated 35<sup>th</sup> IUATLD World Conference organized in Paris from October 28 to November 1, 2004 in capacity of the Director, NTC. He presented the activities of STC and current status of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States in the conference.

### **Meeting with SAARC/STC and UNAIDS:**

A meeting was held in SAARC Secretariat under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat in October 12, 2004. The meeting was participated by Mr. Mohammed Ali Bhuiyan, Coordinator APFL, UNAIDS, SIAT, New Delhi and Dr. Rano Mal Piryani, Deputy Director, STC.

*The meeting discussed the following issues:*

- ✓ Assist the development of SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS
- ✓ Support SAARC Regional Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases, Dec. 14-17, 2004 in Kathmandu.
- ✓ Support HIV/AIDS awareness campaign
- ✓ Support the resource mobilization for implementation of SAARC Regional Strategy for TB/HIV co-infection (proposal development and submission for Global fund)
- ✓ Staff support

The follow up meeting to review the above issues was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STC in October 13, 2004 in Kathmandu. Mr. Bhuiyan and Dr. Piryani participated the meeting.

### **Published Documents in the year 2004:**

1. SAARC TB Centre an introduction – a pamphlet
2. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Pharmacists in Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis
3. What is TB, What we should know about it
4. HIV/AIDS: What every one should know about it
5. TB in SAARC Region – an update 2004
6. HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region – an update 2004
7. SAARC Journal of TB & Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS Vol. 1, No. 1.
8. Both volume of STC Newsletter
9. STC Annual Report 2003
10. Book of Abstracts (related with First SAARC Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases held in Dec. 14-17, 2004, Kathmandu)
11. SAARC Regional Strategy for TB/HIV Co-infection
12. Situation Analysis of Quality Assurance of Sputum Microscopy in Bhutan
13. Gender Difference Among TB Patients in National TB Control Programmes with SAARC Countries
14. Report of Second Round External Proficiency Testing of Smear Microscopy in National TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Region

### **Computer Training organized in SAARC Member Countries:**

The computer training was planned in year 2003 but some of them were held in the year 2004, under the SAARC-Canada Regional Tb and HIV/AIDS Project, which are as follows:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Date and Duration</b>	<b>No. of Participants attended</b>
Bangladesh	Scheduled to be held on 3-7 March 2004	8
India	Scheduled to be held on 3-8 March 2004	4
Maldives	Scheduled to be held on 9-15 February 2004	7
Nepal	Scheduled to be held on 22 Feb.-6 March 2004	9
Sri Lanka	Scheduled to be held on 23-27 February 2004	8

The computer training in Bhutan and Pakistan was held in 2003 and report has been included in annual report of 2003.

