



## SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

At a glance



### **SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre**

Thimi, Bhaktapur

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### At a Glance

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2008

## Foreword

This publication, SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) at a glance is a booklet of brief introduction of STAC. I am very much pleased to introduce STAC and its activities through this booklet.

SAARC has established Regional Centres in different areas for overall development of the people of this Region. This Centre is one of those centres. Member States have given high priority for controlling TB and HIV/AIDS. STAC is working for the prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Program of the Member States. We appreciate all for their efforts to control TB and HIV epidemic in the Region as well as world wide.

Thank you



Dr. Kashi Kant Jha  
Director



## SAARC

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Comprises **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan** and **Sri Lanka**.

SAARC is a manifestation of the determination of the people of South Asia to work together towards finding solutions to their common problems in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding and to create an order based on mutual respect, equity and shared benefits. The SAARC Secretariat is situated at Thamel, Kathmandu, Nepal.



First SAARC Summit (Dhaka, 7-8 Dec. 1985)

**The SAARC was established when its Charter was formally adopted by the Heads of State or Government of Seven Countries on December 8, 1985.**

### Secretaries-General of SAARC



Building - SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu

## SAARC Regional Centres

1. SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka - 1988
2. SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Kathmandu - 1992
3. SAARC Documentation Centre (SDC), New Delhi - 1994
4. SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC), Dhaka - 1995
5. SAARC Human Resources Development Centre (SHRDC), Islamabad - 1999
6. SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre, Maldives -2004
7. SAARC Information Centre, Kathmandu - 2004
8. SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad - 2004
9. SAARC Disaster Management Centre, India
10. SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka
11. SAARC Forestry Centre, Bhutan

## SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

### 1. Introduction:

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre is one of the Regional Centres of SAARC working for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB Control Programs (NTPs) and National AIDS Control Programs (NACPs) of Member Countries. The Centre is functioning since 1994.

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

The Heads of State or Government of Member Countries of SAARC at their Fifth Summit held in Male from 22 to 23 November 1990 decided that SAARC Tuberculosis Centre would be set up in Nepal. In this way the SAARC TB Centre came into existence and started it functioning since 1994 as one of the Regional Centres of SAARC.

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

## 2. Objectives

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To work for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National Tuberculosis Control Programs and National AIDS Control Programs of the Member States.

## 3. Functions of STAC

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- To act as a Regional Co-ordination Centre for National Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Control Programs in the Region.
- To promote and coordinate action for the prevention of TB/HIV co-infection in the Region
- To collect, collate, analyze and disseminate all relevant information regarding the latest development and findings in the field of Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection in the Region and elsewhere.
- To establish a networking arrangement such as epidemiological network, laboratory network among the National Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Control Programs of Member States.
- To initiate, undertake and coordinate the Research in Technical, operational and other aspects related to Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co infection in the Region.
- To assist Member States for harmonization of policies and strategies on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection.
- To develop human resource capacity in the Region.
- To assist National TB Reference Laboratories in the Region in Quality Assurance of Sputum Microscopy and standardization of Culture and Drug Sensitivity Testing and implementation of bio-safety measures.
- To carryout situation analysis and other important works identified by the Technical Committees and Governing Board.
- To organize advocacy, awareness and Partnership Programs.

## 4. The Governing Board

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The Centre has a Governing Board consisting of 11 Members, as follows:

- One representative from each SAARC Member State
- Representative from SAARC Secretariat
- Representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal
- Director of STAC (Member Secretary)

### 4.1. Board Meetings:

First	-	March 24-25, 1992,
Second	-	April 21-22, 1993,
Third	-	February 8-9, 1994,
Fourth	-	January 31-Feb. 1, 1995,
Fifth	-	March 12-14, 1996,
Sixth	-	January 7-8, 1997,
Seventh	-	October 26-27, 1997,
Eighth	-	December 22-23, 1998,
Ninth	-	October 27-28, 1999,
Tenth	-	February 27-28, 2001,
Eleventh	-	November 20-21, 2001,
Twelfth	-	November 18-19, 2002,
Thirteenth	-	October 23-24, 2003,
Fourteenth	-	November 9-10, 2004,
Fifteenth	-	October 5-6, 2005,
Sixteenth	-	December 4-5, 2006,
Seventeenth	-	November 27-28, 2007.
Eighteenth	-	September 25-26 2008.

## 5. Functions of the Governing Board

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The Governing Board meets once in a year to plan the Programs and budget for the coming year and review the progress and activities of previous year.

## 6. Staffing of the Centre

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The Director, Deputy Director, Professionals and the General Services Staff are working to run the Centre.

## 7. Activities of the Centre

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The Centre develops regional strategies and coordinates implementation, organizes training, workshops, seminars, meetings conducts research on TB and HIV/AIDS, publishes documents, disseminates the information, support NTPs and NACPs of Member States in review and evaluation of their programs on request and carry out any additional activities identified by the Governing Board of STAC. STAC has been performing Quality Assurance of Sputum Smear Microscopy activities in National TB Reference Laboratories of SAARC Member States. STAC is supporting SAARC Member States in human resource development, quality control and advocacy & awareness activities for the control of TB and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

The Centre organized/conducted the following activities since its inception.

### 7.1. Training:

The overall objective of the training is to impart and/or strengthen the managerial skills necessary to manage the NTPs and NACPs. Training is a major component among the different activities of the Centre.

#### 7.1.1. Trainer's Training on TB Control Management in Member States:

- |                                    |   |           |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Kathmandu, Nepal                | - | July 1994 |
| 2. Kathmandu, Nepal                | - | July 1995 |
| 3. Kathmandu, Nepal                | - | June 1996 |
| 4. Male, Maldives                  | - | July 1998 |
| 5. Kathmandu, Nepal                | - | Dec. 1998 |
| 6. Thimphu, Bhutan                 | - | June 2000 |
| 7. Bangalore, India                | - | Dec. 2001 |
| 8. Colombo, Sri Lanka              | - | Dec. 2002 |
| 9. Islamabad, Pakistan             | - | Dec. 2003 |
| 10. Dhaka, Bangladesh              | - | May 2004  |
| 11. Islamabad, Pakistan            | - | Dec. 2005 |
| 12. Kathmandu, Nepal (DOTS Plus)   | - | May 2006  |
| 13. Colombo, Sri Lanka (DOTS Plus) | - | Nov. 2007 |
| 14. Kathmandu Nepal (DOTS Plus)    | - | July 2008 |

#### 7.1.2. Training on other aspects:

1. SAARC Regional Training on TB Bacteriology in NTI, Bangalore - April 1996
2. SAARC Regional Training on Strengthening IEC Activities on TB & HIV/AIDS, New Delhi - Feb 1998

3. SAARC Regional Training on Data Management Skills in TB Control, Kathmandu - Dec. 2002
4. SAARC Regional Training on Epidemiology and Integration of Gender Issue in Epidemiological Report Training, Kathmandu - Oct. 2003
5. SAARC TB Lab Management Course, Kathmandu - Dec. 2003
6. SAARC Training on Data Management of TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programs, Kathmandu - July 2005
7. SAARC Training of Trainers on QA in sputum microscopy, Bhutan - June 2006
8. SAARC Training on Leadership & Strategic Management, India - September 2006
9. SAARC Training on Data Management, Islamabad - October 2007
10. SAARC Regional Training of Trainers on essential Technical & Operational aspects of DOTS Plus Nepal - July 2008
11. SAARC Regional Training of Microbiologist for Sputum Culture/Sensitivity, Bangalore, India-July 2008
12. SAARC Training on Technical and Operational Aspects of Anti Retro Viral Therapy, Sri Lanka-August 2008
13. SAARC Training of Program Manager on DOTS Plus, Afghanistan - 2008 (proposed)
14. SAARC Training on Technical and Operational Aspects of Anti Retro Viral Therapy, Bangladesh - 2008
15. SAARC Training on Leadership and Management Skills at National/Regional Level, Bhutan - 2008 (proposed)

## 7.2. Seminars:

The Centre has provided platform for interaction, sharing experiences and new findings of research, implement policies and strategies in order to implement effective and successful TB and HIV/AIDS control in the Region. The Centre has organized following seminars:

1. Socio-cultural aspects of TB, Kathmandu, Oct. - 1993
2. TB Program managers, Kathmandu, Nov. - 1994
3. TB control Program through PHC approach, Kathmandu, April - 1995
4. Pilot demonstration areas of TB control, Kathmandu, Jan. - 1997

5. Production, marketing/distribution and quality control of anti-TB drugs, Kathmandu, July. - 1997
6. Gender and sociological issues related to TB, Kathmandu July - 1999
7. Compilation and updating of advocacy and IEC material relating to TB and HIV/AIDS, Kathmandu, Sept. - 2000
8. SAARC Seminar to Collaborate and support Cross border activities in controlling TB and HIV/AIDS, Pakistan - June 2008

### 7.3. Workshops:

Through this method, TB and HIV/AIDS control Program managers could produce relevant, important and effective materials, guidelines, strategies etc. to help National TB Control Programs as well as National AIDS Control Programs.

1. Preparation of Health Education Materials to fulfill the need of the Member Countries, Kathmandu, Oct. - 1995.
2. Formulation of Guidelines for Coordination in Government and Private/NGO Sector Initiatives of TB Control, Kathmandu, June - 1997.
3. Relating to Research on TB and HIV/AIDS in Member Countries, Kathmandu Oct. - 1997.
4. SAARC-CIDA Workshop on HIV/AIDS/TB Control, Kathmandu, March-1999.
5. Operational Research for TB Control in Member Countries, Kathmandu, Dec.- 2000.
6. Preparation of Strategic Long-term plan of STAC for TB and HIV/AIDS, control in the Region, Kathmandu, Nov.- 2001.
7. Development of research protocol related to operational research, Kathmandu, May-2002.
8. Regional workshop of Nodal Officers of Member Countries under SAARC Canada, Regional TB & HIV/AIDS Project, Kathmandu, July-2003.
9. Workshop to Develop SAARC Regional TB, HIV/AIDS & TB/HIV Co-infection, strategy under SAARC-Canada Regional TB & HIV/AIDS Project, Kathmandu Oct.- 2003.
10. Regional Workshop on TB/HIV co-infection and Fixed Dose Combinations in TB Treatment Regimen/Protocol, Kathmandu, July-2004
11. Regional Workshop on TB Drug Management and to Develop Regional Guidelines for Treatment of MDR-TB, Kathmandu, Nepal - July 2004

12. Regional Workshop for Laboratory Supervisors on Quality Assurance in Sputum Microscopy Islamabad, Pakistan - August, 2004
13. SAARC Regional Workshop to Develop Protocol for QA on culture and DST in National TB Reference Labs. - Islamabad - July 2005
14. SAARC Regional Second Workshop on TB/HIV Co-infection to identify Research Areas & to Develop Research Protocol on the Identified Areas to TB/HIV Pilot Project Sites, Pune - 2005
15. SAARC Regional Workshop to revise regional guidelines for QA, Colombo - October 2006
16. Second Workshop to develop regional guidelines for treatment of MDR TB, Paro - August 2007
17. Third Regional Workshop on TB/HIV co-infection, India - September 2007
18. SAARC Regional Workshop on development of strategic mechanisms for cross border activities in control of TB and HIV/AIDS, New Delhi - September 2007
19. SAARC Workshop on Involvement of Media for Public Awareness and Advocacy on TB & HIV/AIDS, Islamabad - December 2007
20. SAARC Regional Workshop for development of Research Protocols for 2009 and observation TB/HIV coordination mechanism, Pune, India - May 2008

#### **7.4. Meetings:**

Meetings on different technical issues of TB and HIV/AIDS control Programs, its planning and policies are organized to take joint decision for the Region. The Centre has organized following meetings.

1. Consultative Meeting on TB & HIV/AIDS, Kathmandu, Sep.-1996.
2. Tuberculosis Experts for Compilation of TB Control training Manuals for Member Countries, Kathmandu, June-1997.
3. TB Program Managers Kathmandu, Dec.-1998.
4. Formulation of Urban TB Control Program, Kathmandu, Oct.-1999.
5. Standardizing Training Curriculum and Workshop on Operational Research Related to TB Control in SAARC Countries, Kathmandu, Nov.-2000.
6. SAARC-WHO meeting of potential consultants in TB control, Kathmandu, 2001.

7. SAARC-WHO inter-country meeting on cross border initiatives in HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and Kala-azar, Kathmandu, March-2001.
8. Formulate guidelines for Migratory Population for TB and HIV/AIDS Control in SAARC Countries, Kathmandu, Aug.-2001.
9. Meeting of Heads/Directors of the National TB Reference Lab. of SAARC Member Countries under SAARC-Canada Regional TB & HIV/AIDS Project, Kathmandu, Nov.-2002
10. SAARC Consultative Meeting for TB & HIV/AIDS Program Managers, Kathmandu, Nov.-2002
11. SAARC Regional Meeting of Directors of National TB Reference Lab, Kathmandu, Dec.-2003
12. Joint SAARC-UNAIDS Regional Expert Meeting to develop a SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS in Dhaka, 4-6 April 2005
13. Second Joint SAARC-UNAIDS Expert Meeting to develop a SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS, Dhaka - April 2006
14. Meeting of Managers of NTP from SAARC Member States, Male - September 2006
15. Regional Consultative & Strategic Planning Meeting of HIV/AIDS Programme Managers, Male - 2007
16. Third Meeting of Laboratory Directors of 9 Reference Laboratories, Paro - August 2007
17. Regional Meeting of Managers of NTP & NACP from SAARC Member States, Kathmandu - December 2007
18. Meeting of Group of Experts of Electronic & Print Media, Kathmandu - December 2007
19. Meeting of Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Program Managers of the Member States, Maldives-May 2008

### **7.5. Research Activities:**

The Centre has conducted the following research and studies:

- Gender Differences among Tuberculosis Patients in National TB Control Programs within SAARC Countries - 2004.
- Barriers in Seeking Health Care in TB Control Program:
  - A community based pilot study in Nepal - 2004
  - An institutional based pilot study in Bangladesh 2005

- External Proficiency Testing of Smear Microscopy in National TB Reference Laboratories in Member States:
  - First Round in 2003
  - Second Round in 2004
  - Third Round in 2005
  - Fourth Round in 2007
  - Fifth Round in 2008
- Quality Assurance of Sputum Microscopy in Private Laboratories in Nepal - 2005
- Prevalence of HIV among diagnosed TB patients in Nepal - 2005
- Prevalence of HIV among diagnosed TB patients in Pakistan 2006
- Community Risk Behaviour Study on HIV/AIDS, Targeting women in Nepal, 2007
- Quality Assurance of Sputum Microscopy in Private Laboratories in Dhaka - 2007
- Acceptability of HIV testing by TB patients in SAARC Member States - 2007
- Case control study to identify risk factors for MDR TB in Nepal - 2008
- Barriers to DOTS for MDR TB patients in Nepal - 2008
- Baseline CD4 count in the adult population in India - 2008

#### **7.5.2. Situation Analysis & Reviews**

- Situation Analysis of TB, HIV/AIDS and HIV/Co-infection in SAARC Region conducted in 2003
- Situation Analysis of Quality Assurance of Sputum Microscopy in Nepal and Bhutan conducted in 2003 and 2004 respectively
- Situation Analysis of Anti-TB Drugs in use in National TB Control Program (NTP) in SAARC Member States carried out in 2004.
- Situation Analysis of Training Materials/Guidelines in use in National TB Control Program (NTP) in SAARC Member States.
- Situation Analysis of TB Control Activities and Observation of HIV/AIDS Control Activities conducted in Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bangladesh in 2004.
- Situation Analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Activities, Epidemiological and Laboratory network Activities conducted in Bhutan in 2005.

- Involvement of Medical Colleges in National TB Control Program (NTP) in SAARC Member States carried out in 2005.
- Situation Analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS control programs in Nepal, December - 2006
- Situation Analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS control programs and Laboratory in Pakistan - December 2007.
- Collection of information/data and publish book on epidemiological trend of last ten years on TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States (analytical study book on TB and HIV/AIDS) - 2008
- Review of research activities as conducted by SAARC Member States in last five years pertaining to TB and HIV/AIDS - 2008
- Review of available training facilities/manuals type of training for different level health workers in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS - 2008

#### **7.6. Partnership Program for control of TB & prevention of HIV/AIDS with Schools, Media, Medical Colleges, Private Practitioners, Pharmacists and Industry, Manpower Agencies, Travel Agencies**

STAC has been supplementing to Member States in their efforts by taking initiative to develop partnership and/or strengthening partnership with various stakeholders by organizing partnership Programs with Schools, Media, Industry, Private Practitioner, Medical / Nursing College and Manpower Agencies. Guidelines for partnership Programs have been published:



The partnership Programs with the stakeholders support NTPs and NACPs to achieve the desired target.

## 7.7. Advocacy and Awareness

### 7.7.1. Commemoration World TB Day, World AIDS Day and Celebration of SAARC Charter Day

These are the major events for advocacy & awareness to control TB, prevent HIV/AIDS and promote SAARC as a common forum to work together for the benefit of the people of the Region. The prominent personalities have given messages on the occasion of World TB Day and STAC had published a book of messages and brochure on the occasion of World TB Day and disseminated to the SAARC Member States and other interested persons and organizations.



Compilation of Messages given by H.E. Secretary General of SAARC and high level dignitaries from SAARC Member States on the occasion of World TB Day

Brochure on facts and figures about TB and its control published and distributed by STAC on the occasion of World TB Day



STAC has been organizing awareness and advocacy Programs on the occasions of World TB Day and SAARC Charter Day.

Since 2004 the Centre has also been organizing similar Program on the occasion of World AIDS Day.

## 8. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of SAARC with other agencies dealing TB and HIV/AIDS issues: \_\_\_\_\_

SAARC has signed on the MoU with different organizations for collaboration and bilateral support in the technical aspects of research, human resource development and implementation of decisions. After signing on MoUs, SAARC has benefited in different aspects such as resource materials, consultations, development of Regional strategies, physical facilities etc.

### SAARC and CIDA signed a MoC in July 1997



MoC signing between SAARC and CIDA

- SAARC and UNAIDS signed a MoU for cooperation in April 2004
- SAARC and UNFPA signed a MoU for cooperation in June 2004

### 9. SAARC-Canada Project: \_\_\_\_\_

SAARC-Canada Regional TB and HIV/AIDS Project was formulated to strengthen the capacity of the Centre and to support Regional & National responses to TB & HIV/AIDS epidemic. The project started in April 2000 and completed in March 2004, and achieved its goal.

### 10. Collaborating Centre of WHO: \_\_\_\_\_

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SAARC and WHO/SEARO was signed on 23 August 2000 to work collectively for TB & HIV/AIDS and to continue active collaboration with WHO and STAC. Subsequently WHO designated STAC as **WHO Collaborating Centre**.



**WHO/SEARO designated STAC as collaborating centre for TB, TB/HIV, Research and Training, ToR follows:**

1. To support human resource development and capacity building through pre-service and in-service training of health personnel to undertake all priority TB control interventions as proposed under the new expanded Stop TB Strategy.
2. To assist in operational research on innovative ways to implement strategies and interventions for new areas and evolving priorities, such as addressing TB/HIV, community involvement and cross-border disease control.
3. To collaborate as a resource centre through maintaining a database of available training and technical materials, ongoing research, and technical expertise available for TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.
4. To provide technical and operational assistance for better implementation of TB and HIV control activities in Member States including through advocacy at SAARC Regional forums.

**11. Strategies:** \_\_\_\_\_

**11.1. SAARC Regional Strategy for TB/HIV Co-infection:**

According to the mandate given by the Eleventh SAARC Summit, a Regional Strategy on TB/HIV Co-infection has developed in consultation with SAARC Member

States, civil society in the Region, the relevant international organization and with technical support from Health Canada in 2003. The strategy presents an overview of interaction between the two epidemics and the impact of the co-infection on the epidemiology and control of both the diseases. The expected outcomes were:

- Collaboration between National TB and HIV/AIDS programs 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

It also provides guidelines for tackling the co-infection problems in the Region through collaborative efforts of both the Programs.

## 11.2. SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS

The countries of the Region are linked to age-old cultural, social and historical traditions that enrich the interaction of ideas, values, cultures and philosophies among the people and the states. The commonalities constitute solid foundations for regional cooperation in more effectively addressing the economic and social needs of the people. The size of the region, its diversity, the multitude of social and economic forces at work in SAARC presents both opportunities and challenges to a regional approach against HIV and AIDS.

On the directive of the Twelfth Summit of SAARC, a Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS has been developed through a consultative process and close collaboration with the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in 2005, which has been approved by 31st Session of Standing Committee of SAARC held in Dhaka on November 9-10, 2005 and is under implementation.

## 12. Library

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A library has been established as a resource centre. It acquires medical books, journals, reports and dissertation and other publication related to TB and HIV/AIDS. It also acquires books and newspapers for general reading. All the documents are classified, cataloged, indexed and arranged according to National Library of Medicine Classification (NLMC) and Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) scheme.

- The Centre regularly subscribes National and International journals on TB and HIV/AIDS

- An audio visual section is developed for the use of audio visual materials
- The library uses SOFTLINK ALICE software to automate all its resources

### 13. Publications

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The Centre publishes important documents on the priority areas on TB & HIV/AIDS control. STAC Newsletter and **SAARC Journal of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS** are published twice in a year. The Centre publishes annual **epidemiological reports** on TB as well as HIV/AIDS and **Annual Reports of STAC** activities yearly basis. The Centre also publishes all Program activities report, **research report** and **special publications**. All publications are distributed to TB and Chest Specialists, experts in HIV/AIDS, library of Medical/Nursing Colleges and concerned authorities of SAARC Member States, bilateral partners and interested person who request to supply the same.

#### 13.1. Publications:

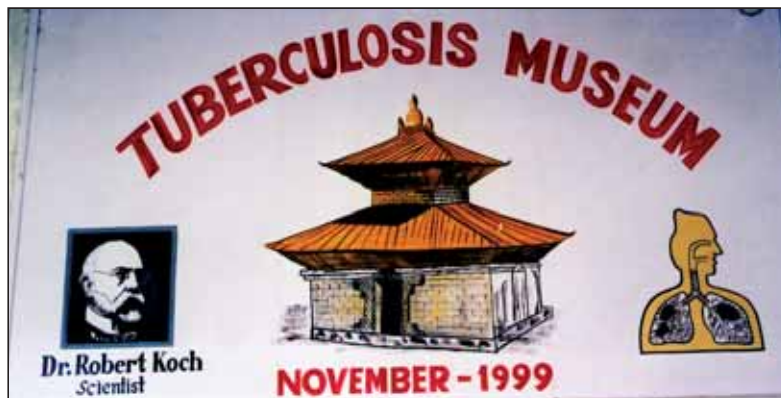
1. STAC Newsletter
2. SAARC Journal of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS
3. Directory of TB Institutions & Specialists in SAARC Member Countries
4. General Information on TB & its Control in SAARC
5. Role of Students in TB Control
6. Role of SAARC TB Centre
7. Role of NGOs in TB Control
8. Role of Private Practitioners and Medical Colleges
9. Articles on Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region, Vol. I
10. Commercial Sex Workers in SAARC Region
11. Gender Issue in Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region
12. TB and HIV/AIDS Co-epidemic in the SAARC Region
13. Articles on TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region Vol. II
14. SAARC Regional Strategy for TB/HIV Co-infection
15. Gender Differences among Tuberculosis Patients in National TB Control Programs with SAARC Countries
16. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Schools in Prevention & Control of Tuberculosis

17. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Media in Prevention & control of Tuberculosis
18. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Pharmacists in Prevention & control of Tuberculosis
19. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Travel Agency in Prevention & control of Tuberculosis
20. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Manpower Agency in Prevention & control of Tuberculosis
21. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Industry Workers in Prevention & control of Tuberculosis
22. Epidemiological reports, yearly update - TB update and HIV update (separate book)
23. Different activity reports and research reports

#### 14. TB Museum

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A small TB Museum has been established in the Centre.



#### 15. Networking with National TB Reference Laboratories of SAARC Member States:

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Laboratory is the backbone of TB control program. Quality laboratory services reflect the quality of diagnosis. The SAARC TB Reference Laboratory (STRL) has been established in 2002 to coordinate the National TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Member States by developing laboratory networking in the areas of Quality Assurance of sputum smear microscopy, to standardize the culture and drug

susceptibility testing and to implement bio-safety measures up to the international standard.

STRL is supporting National TB Reference Laboratories of the Member States by coordinating and conducting laboratory activities to improve quality assurance on sputum smear microscopy, standardize the culture and drug susceptibility testing and implementation of internationally accepted bio-safety measures. At present, the network is comprised of Ten National TB Reference Laboratories. The STAC is in the process of developing STRL as Supra-National TB Reference Laboratory for the Region.



STAC Reference Laboratory

## 16. Epidemiological Networking

Since 1994 STAC has been collecting TB related data and preparing regional data. In order to have quality regional reports on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection Regional Epidemiological Networking has been developed.

## 17. Observation of SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS (Year 2004)

The STAC observed the year 2004 as the **SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS** by organizing different awareness activities at the Regional level.

### 17.1. An audio-visual documentary on advocacy on TB and HIV/AIDS

**"Burden of TB & HIV/AIDS in SAARC Member Countries: Success & Future Challenges"** an audio-visual documentary on advocacy on TB and HIV/AIDS

related to Member States was prepared and distributed to the Member States. The duration of this CD is 1.2 hours in English version.

### **17.2. Awareness Program related to TB and HIV/AIDS control through Essay Competition focusing the issues of TB and HIV/AIDS was organized.**

Member States selected three best essays written by students of secondary schools on the identified topic "**Role of School Children in Control and Prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS**" and sent to STAC. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Governing Board announced the Prizes for First, Second and Third winners of Essay Competition and also decided to provide shield and certificates to all participants which have been presented to them.



1st Prize  
Miss Tanjeen Laila Jhilik  
BAF Shaheen College  
Bangladesh



2nd Prize  
Mr. Abhay Raj Shakya  
Palpa Awasiya Secondary School  
Nepal



3rd Prize  
Wishma J. Samaraweera  
Visakha Vidyalaya  
Sri Lanka

### **17.3 Special publications regarding SAARC awareness year 2004 for TB and HIV/AIDS in English language as well as in seven national languages.**

The Centre has published the English version of special publications on TB and HIV/AIDS. Most of the Member States have translated and published the document in their National languages. The documents have widely been circulated.

### **17.3. First Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases - 2004**

STAC organized the **First Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases** in December 14-17, 2004 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Around 600 participants from Member States and other countries participated in the conference.

#### **17.4. SAARC Second Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases - 2008**

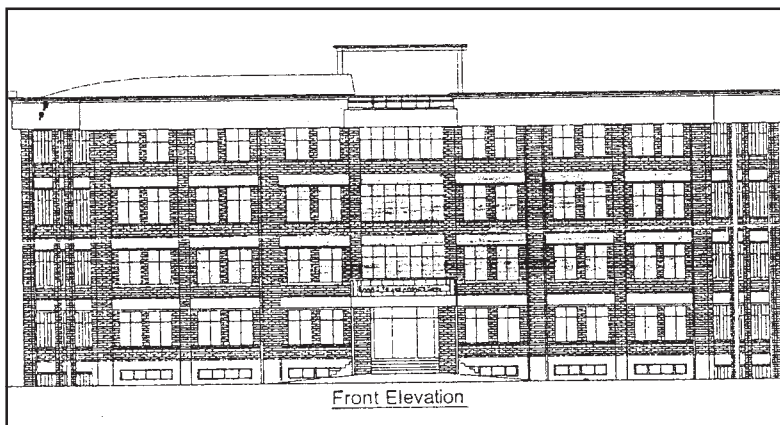
SAARC Second Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS & Respiratory Diseases will be organized in Kathmandu from 15 - 18 December 2008. The theme of the conference is "Working together to fight against TB, HIV/AIDS & Respiratory Diseases". SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre requests stakeholders to contact us to be a partner in the battle against TB and HIV/AIDS.



## Photographs of different activities



Hon'ble Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokharel, Minister for Health and Population, Government of Nepal is laying foundation stone of the new building of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre at Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008



New Building of STAC under construction



Hon'ble Federal Minister for Health Mr. Ejaz Rahiem Government of Pakistan gracing the Inaugural Ceremony of SAARC Workshop organized by SATC in Islamabad



Discussion about TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region in Maldives  
Hon'ble Minister for Health, Director General, Department of Public Health Government of Maldives and Director, STAC, Kathmandu



Participants of Meeting of Regional TB & HIV/AIDS Program Managers of SAARC Member States, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives and Officials of SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu in Maldives - 2008



The then His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General, SAARC visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre and discussed about the progress of the Centre



Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang  
Regional Director, WHO/SEARO visited STAC & NTC and observed the functioning of the STAC and discussed about the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region as well as in Nepal



Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya  
Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal visited STAC and NTC and discussed about the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region as well as in Nepal



Mr. Hassan Shifau  
Director, SAARC Secretariat visited STAC and observed the functioning of the STAC and  
discussed about the situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in SAARC Region



Celebration of SAARC Charter Day  
An opportunity to build up partnership with Media for spreading of awareness messages  
about TB control program & HIV/AIDS prevention and control



Mrs. Latifa Wali Rahimi and Mr. Abdul Ahad Hadif,  
Members of SAARC Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Afghanistan and  
Director, Deputy Director and Professionals of STAC in Kathmandu



School Teachers and Students with TB and HIV/AIDS Control officials of  
Bhutan and officials from STAC in Bhutan



ToT on DOTS Plus - Kathmandu



Participants of SAARC Workshop for Development of Research Protocol for 2009 and Observation of TB/HIV Coordination Mechanism, 6-9 May 2008, Pune, India



Participants from SAARC Member States and officials from NTP & NACP Pakistan and staff from STAC in a program jointly organized by STAC and Government of Pakistan in Islamabad, Pakistan



Activity organized in Bangladesh on ART Training  
Dr. K. K. Jha, Director, STAC, Kathmandu addressing the participants in Dhaka



Partnership program with Industry organized in BCCI, Bhaktapur, Nepal



World AIDS Day, 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Interaction Program on HIV/AIDS and TB was jointly organized by  
Shree Padma Higher Secondary School, Bhaktapur, Nepal



World TB Day 24<sup>th</sup> March  
Joint program was organized in Kathamndu

## Directors, Deputy Directors and Professionals of the Centre



Dr. K. K. Jha  
Director  
(Present)



Dr. D. S. Bam  
Director  
(1995-2004)



Dr. T. M. Shakya  
Director  
(1992-1995)



Late Dr. N. G. Amatya  
Director  
(1991-1992)



Dr. V. S. Salhotra  
(India)  
Deputy Director  
(Present)



Dr. R. M. Piryani  
(Pakistan)  
Deputy Director  
(2003-2006)



Dr. P. Kumar  
(India)  
Deputy Director  
(1994-2002)



Dr. Lochana Shrestha  
(Nepal)  
Epidemiologist  
(Present)



Dr. Ajith P. Weerakoon  
(Sri Lanka)  
Research Officer  
(Present)



Dr. Md. M. Rahman  
(Bangladesh)  
Epidemiologist  
(2002-2006)



Dr. R. M. Samarantunga  
(Sri Lanka)  
Research Officer  
(2002-2003)



Mr. Dhruva K. Khadka  
(Nepal)  
Microbiologist  
(Present)



Dr. B. P. Rijal  
(Nepal)  
Microbiologist  
(2002-2005)



**SAARC Second Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases**  
**Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**15 - 18 December 2008**

*Theme -  
Working together to fight against  
TB, HIV/AIDS & Respiratory Diseases*

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre requests stakeholders to contact us to be a partner in the battle against TB and HIV/AIDS.