



**SAARC TUBERCULOSIS AND
HIV/AIDS CENTRE
(STAC)**

At a Glance

**SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre
(STAC)
At a Glance**

2009

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre

Thimi, Bhaktapur

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Foreword

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS have emerged as a major public health and socio-economic problem affecting all the South Asian countries. In order to respond to the problem of TB and HIV/AIDS, Government of SAARC Member States have well functioning National TB Control Programmes and National AIDS Control Programmes. The Head of States or Government of Member Countries of SAARC at their Fifth Summit held in Male from 22-23 November 1990 decided to establish SAARC Tuberculosis Centre in Nepal. The Centre was established in 1992 and is working to meet its objectives. Considering the role played by the Centre through its activities, the Thirty-first Session of Standing Committee of SAARC held in Dhaka on November 9-10, 2005 approved the renaming of the Centre as SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre. The main objective of the centre is to work for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordination the efforts of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme and National AIDS Control Programme of Member Countries.



SAARC has established its Regional Centres in different areas of cooperation for overall development of the people of this Region. This Centre is one of SAARC Regional 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 Programme of the Member States.

Based on the recommendation of Eighteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC, the revision of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre at a glance is being published.

This document gives a brief introduction of STAC. This is aimed to provide a quick reference for policy and decision makers, health workers, visitors and anyone seeking basic information and facts regarding SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the Governing Board Members, National TB control Programme, National AIDS Control Programme of the Member States, different partners for their continuous support, coordination and contribution.

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.**



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

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.

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



Abul Ahsan
(Bangladesh)
(1987-1989)



K.K. Bhargava
(India)
(1989-1991)



Ibrahim Husain Zaki
(Maldives)
(1992-1993)



Y. K. Silwal
(Nepal)
(1994-1995)



N.U. Hassan
(Pakistan)
(1996-1998)



Nihal Rodrigo
(Sri Lanka)
(1999-2002)



QAMA Rahim
(Bangladesh)
(2002-2005)



Cherkhyab Dorji
(Bhutan)
(2005-2008)



Sheel K. Sharma
(India)
Present



Building- SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal

SAARC Regional Centres:

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 1. | SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Bangladesh | - 1988 |
| 2. | SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), Nepal | - 1992 |
| 3. | SAARC Documentation Centre (SDC), India | - 1994 |
| 4. | SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC), Bangladesh | - 1995 |
| 5. | SAARC Human Resources Development Centre (SHRDC), Pakistan | - 1999 |
| 6. | SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre (SCZMC), Maldives | -2004 |
| 7. | SAARC Information Centre (SIC), Nepal | - 2004 |
| 8. | SAARC Energy Centre (SEC), Pakistan | - 2004 |
| 9. | SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), India | - 2006 |
| 10. | SAARC Forestry Centre, Bhutan | - 2008 |
| 11. | SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC), Sri Lanka | - 2009 |

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 Programmes (NTPs) and National AIDS Control Programmes (NACPs) of Member Countries.

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.

2. Objectives

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

3. Functions of STAC

- To act as a Regional Co-ordination Centre for National Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes in the Region and function as centre for information change and related activities.
- 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 monitor incidence, prevalence and emergency of resistance strain of TB and HIV/AIDS in the region
- To establish a networking arrangement such as epidemiological network, laboratory network among the National Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes of Member States.
- To initiate, undertake and coordinate the Research and Training in Technical Biomedical, 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 Programmes.

4. The Governing Board

The Governing Board meets at least once in a year to plan the Programmes and Budget for the coming year. It also reviews the progress and activities of the previous year. The Governing Board recommends the policy decisions of the Centre and finalizes its programme, activities and budget. Governing Board is constituted by nominating the members from member countries for a period of three years. But the Member States, have authority to revise nomination its members. Director of the Regional Centre is the Member Secretary of the Governing Board. The Chairmanship of the Governing Board

rotates among Member Countries alphabetically for a period of two years. The current Chairman of the Governing Board of STAC is Dr. B.B. Rewari, National Programme Officer, National AIDS Control Programme (NACO), India.

The Centre's Governing Board consists:

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

4.1. Governing Board Meetings:

First	-	March 24-25, 1992,	Eleventh	-	November 20-21, 2001,
Second	-	April 21-22, 1993,	Twelfth	-	November 18-19, 2002,
Third	-	February 8-9, 1994,	Thirteenth	-	October 23-24, 2003,
Fourth	-	January 31-Feb. 1, 1995,	Fourteenth	-	November 9-10, 2004,
Fifth	-	March 12-14, 1996,	Fifteenth	-	October 5-6, 2005,
Sixth	-	January 7-8, 1997,	Sixteenth	-	December 4-5, 2006,
Seventh	-	October 26-27, 1997,	Seventeenth	-	November 27-28, 2007.
Eighth	-	December 22-23, 1998,	Eighteenth	-	September 25-26 2008.
Ninth	-	October 27-28, 1999,	Nineteenth	-	October 28-29, 2009
Tenth	-	February 27-28, 2001,			

5. Staffing of the Centre

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

6. Activities of the Centre

The Centre develops regional strategies and coordinates for endorsement and subsequent implementation, organizes training, workshops, seminars, meetings, conferences 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 Programmes 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.

6.1 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.

6.1.1. 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

6.1.2. 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 Programmes, 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 Microbiologist for sputum Culture/ sensitivity, Bangalore, India-July 2008
11. SAARC Training on Technical and Operational Aspects of Anti Retro Viral Therapy, Sri Lanka-August 2008	12. SAARC Training on Technical and Operational Aspects of Anti Retro Viral Therapy, Bangladesh – 2008
13. SAARC Training on Leadership and Strategic Management for National and Regional Level TB and HIV/AIDS Programme Managers, Bangladesh-June 2009	14. SAARC Regional Training for Operational Research, India, August 2009
15. SAARC Regional Training of Microbiologist for Culture /DST of M. Tuberculosis, India, August, 2009	16. SAARC Regional Training on data Management, Sri Lanka, Nov. 2009

6.2. 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. Surgical and Clinical Aspects of TB, Kathmandu, Dec.-1991	2. Socio-cultural aspects of TB, Kathmandu, Oct. - 1993
3. TB Programme managers, Kathmandu, Nov. – 1994	4. TB control Programme through PHC approach, Kathmandu, April – 1995
5. Pilot demonstration areas of TB control, Kathmandu, Jan. – 1997	6. Production, marketing/distribution and quality control of anti-TB drugs, Kathmandu, July. – 1997
7. Gender and sociological issues related to TB, Kathmandu July – 1999	8. Compilation and updating of advocacy and IEC material relating to TB and HIV/AIDS, Kathmandu, Sept. – 2000
9. SAARC Seminar to Collaborate and support Cross border activities in controlling TB and HIV/AIDS. Pakistan – June 2008	

6.3. Workshops:

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

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

6.4. Meetings:

Meetings on different technical issues of TB and HIV/AIDS control Programmes and its planning, policies were 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 Programme Managers Kathmandu, Dec.-1998.	4. Formulation of Urban TB Control Programme, 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 Programme 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 Programme Managers of the Member States. Maldives-May 2008	20. The meeting of the managers of the National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programs of the Member States Male, Maldives Dec. 2009

6.5. Research activities:

The Centre has conducted the following research and studies:

- Gender Differences among Tuberculosis Patients in National TB Control Programmes within SAARC Countries – 2004.
- Community based study to identify barriers in seeking health care in Tuberculosis Control Programme in Nepal -2004
- Barriers in Seeking health care in TB Control Programme, an Institutional Based Pilot Study in Bangladesh-2005
- 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
- Prevalence of HIV among diagnosed TB Patients in Bangladesh
- 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 counts in the adult population in Pakistan – 2009
- A study to determine the Constraints in involvement of Private Practitioners in Sri-Lanka - 2009

6.5.1. Situation Analysis & Reviews

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Analysis of TB, HIV/AIDS and HIV/Co-infection in SAARC Region conducted in 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Analysis of Quality Assurance of Sputum Microscopy in Nepal and Bhutan conducted in 2003 and 2004 respectively
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Analysis of Anti-TB Drugs in use in National TB Control Programme (NTP) in SAARC Member States carried out in 2004. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Analysis of Training Materials/Guidelines in use in National TB Control Programme (NTP) in SAARC Member States.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Analysis of TB Control Activities and Observation of HIV/AIDS Control Activities conducted in Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bangladesh in 2004. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS Control Activities, Epidemiological and Laboratory network Activities conducted in Bhutan in 2005.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of Medical Colleges in National TB Control Programme (NTP) in SAARC Member States carried out in 2005. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS control Programmes in Nepal, December – 2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Analysis of TB and HIV/AIDS control Programmes and Laboratory in Pakistan – December 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of research activities as conducted by SAARC Member States in last five years pertaining to TB and HIV/AIDS - 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of available training facilities/manuals type of training for different level health workers in the field of TB and HIV/AIDS - 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Analysis of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Activities in Afghanistan-2009 	

6.6. Partnership Programme for control of TB & prevention of HIV/AIDS with School, Media, Medical Colleges, Private Practitioners, Pharmacists, Industry, Manpower Agencies and 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 Programmes with Schools, Media, Industry, Private Practitioner, Medical / Nursing College, Manpower Agencies, Travel Agencies and Teachers. Guidelines for partnership Programmes have been published:



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

6.7 Advocacy and Awareness

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 is one of the activities of the centre. The prominent personalities have given messages on the occasion of World TB Day and STAC had published a book of messages brochure and special Green Badge on the occasion of World TB Day and disseminated to the SAARC Member States and other interested persons and organizations.

	<p>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 2007</p>	<p>Brochure on facts and figures about TB and its control published and distributed by STAC on the occasion of World TB Day 2008</p>	
	<p>Sticker with TB information was published & distributed by STAC to enhance the public awareness about TB Diseases on the Occasion of World TB Day 2008</p>	<p>On this special occasion of World TB Day 2009, STAC produced and distributed special badges incorporating World TB Day Slogan, called as Green Badge Campaign to enhance the public awareness about TB disease.</p>	

On this special occasion of World TB Day 2008, STAC produced and distributed special Brochure on TB, Pocket Calendar, and Sticker with TB information to enhance the public awareness about TB disease. STAC has been organizing awareness and advocacy Programmes on the occasions of World TB Day and SAARC Charter Day.

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

7. 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.

- SAARC and CIDA signed a MoC in July 1997
- SAARC and WHO MoU 2002
- SAARC and UNAIDS signed a MoU for cooperation in April 2004
- SAARC and UNFPA signed a MoU for cooperation in June 2004

8. 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.

9. 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 Centre as WHO Collaborating Centre for TB Training and Research since 2001.



WHO/SEARO re-designated STAC as collaborating centre for TB and TB/HIV, Research and Training. The ToR of the collaboration are as 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.

10. Strategies:

10.1. 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 been developed in consultation with SAARC Member States, civil society in the Region, the relevant international organization with 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:

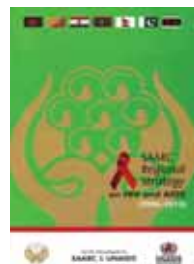
- Collaboration between National TB and HIV/AIDS Programmes established
- Regional and National epidemiological surveillance network for TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection strengthened.
- Operational Research on pertinent issues conducted
- Regional and National communication plans developed and implemented

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



10.2. 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 in close collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme 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.

10.2.1. SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS

Under the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS, Ms. Shabana Azmi, internationally acclaimed Indian Cine star and Mr. Sanath Jayasuriya, Internationally acclaimed SriLankan batsman have been nominated as SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for the programme "Uniting for HIV/AIDS".



Ms. Shabana Azmi
Internationally acclaimed Indian actress



Mr. Sanath Jayasuriya
Internationally acclaimed SriLankan Star Criketer

10.2.2. Visit of Ms. Shabana Azmi in Nepal

On the invitation of SAARC Secretariat and SAARC TB & HIV/AIDS Centre, SAARC Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS, Ms. Shabana Azmi visited Nepal, from 5th - 7th January 2009. Ms. Shabana Azmi, made a courtesy visit with Mr. Girirajmani Pokharel, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Population, Government of Nepal, in Ministry of Health & Population, Kathmandu. In the meeting, Ms. Azmi was informed about the status of National TB & HIV/AIDS Control Programme in Nepal.

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in collaboration with SAARC Secretariat organized Ms. Shabana Azmi's Press Conference with media for advocacy on TB and HIV/AIDS Control. Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre welcomed the media people and highlighted the objectives of the visit of SAARC Goodwill Ambassador to Nepal. Ms. Azmi addressed the media groups by presenting her views & objectives of being SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors. She highlighted the role of advocacy through media to control HIV/AIDS. She explained that the stigma, discrimination and other social issues of HIV/AIDS could be mitigated by increasing awareness among general population. Participants-journalists reiterated their solidarity to support National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes as they have already built partnership with SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre. The Press Conference was attended by over 60 journalists from different electronic and print media.



Interaction with media people during press conference

Ms. Azmi also visited Ketaketi Ashram and AIDS Care Centre being run by Nava Kiran Plus (NGO), Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu and discussed the status of care, support and facilities.

On 7th January, Mr. Rishi Ram Ghimire, officiating Secretary General, SAARC, Mr. Hassan Shifau, Director, SAARC Secretariat, Director SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Director, National TB Centre, Nepal, and all staff working for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS collectively congratulated and thanked Ms. Azmi for visiting Kathmandu & addressing different issues related to HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis.

11. Resource Centre

STAC 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
- Update of STAC Website is also one component of Resource Centre.

For the detailed information about TB, HIV/AIDS and the centre, interested people can visit the official website of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre- www.saarctb.com.np

12. Publications

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. The Centre also publishes all Programme 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.

12.1. List of Publications :

1. STAC Newsletter (biannually)
2. SAARC Journal of TB, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS (biannually)
3. Directory of TB Institutions & Specialists in SAARC Member Countries
4. General Information on TB & HIV/AIDS
5. Involvement Medical Colleges and Private Sector In Tuberculosis & HIV Control
6. Role of Schools in TB Control
7. Role of SAARC TB Centre
8. Role of NGOs in TB Control
9. Role of Private Practitioners and Medical Colleges
10. Articles on Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region, Vol. I
11. Tuberculosis in the SAARC Region
12. HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region
13. Commercial Sex Workers in SAARC Region
14. Gender Issue in Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region
15. TB and HIV/AIDS Co-epidemic in the SAARC Region
16. Detailed Situation Analysis of Quality Assurance on Sputum Microscopy in Nepal
17. Situation Analysis of TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection in the SAARC Region
18. Situation Analysis of Quality Assurance of Sputum Microscopy in Bhutan
19. Articles on TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region Vol. II
20. SAARC Regional Strategy for TB/HIV Co-infection
21. Gender Differences among Tuberculosis Patients in National TB Control Programmes with SAARC Countries
22. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Schools in Prevention & Control of Tuberculosis

23. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Media in Prevention & control of Tuberculosis
24. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Pharmacists in Prevention & control of Tuberculosis
25. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Travel Agency in Prevention & control of Tuberculosis
26. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Manpower Agency in Prevention & control of Tuberculosis
27. SAARC Guidelines for Partnership with Industry Workers in Prevention & control of Tuberculosis
28. National TB Control Programme and National AIDS control Programme of all Member States of SAARC Region
29. HIV AIDS in the SAARC Region (yearly update)
30. Tuberculosis in the SAARC Region (yearly update)
31. History of TB and TB Control Programme in the SAARC Region
32. History of HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region
33. Different activity reports and research reports

12.2. SAARC Journal of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS

SAARC Journal of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS is the official journal of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) which is published every six-months. It publishes original articles, review articles, short reports and other communications related to TB, Lung diseases and HIV/AIDS. The Centre has been publishing the Journal since 2004. The centre has planned to index the journal. Very soon Scientists/Researchers will be able to submit the articles through online submission.



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

Laboratory is the backbone of TB control Programme. 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 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.

As a part of networking with National TB Reference Laboratories of SAARC Member States, STAC has been conducting External Proficiency Testing of Smear Microscopy in National TB Reference Laboratories. So far, Six round of proficiency testing have been conducted for the National Level TB Reference Laboratories under the Laboratory networks.

- o First Round in 2003
- o Second Round in 2004
- o Third Round in 2005
- o Fourth Round in 2007
- o Fifth Round in 2008
- o Sixth Round in 2009



SAARC Regional TB Reference Laboratory

14. List of National TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Member States under SAARC Laboratory Networks:

1. National TB Reference Laboratory, Kabul, Afghanistan
2. National TB Reference Laboratory, Dhaka, Bangladesh
3. Public Health Laboratory, Department of Health, Thimphu, Bhutan
4. Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC), Indian Council of Medical Research, Chennai, India
5. National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI), Bangalore, India
6. Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital Laboratory, Male, Maldives
7. National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory, National TB Centre, Bhaktapur, Nepal
8. National TB Reference Laboratory, Ojha Institute of Chest Diseases, Karachi, Pakistan
9. National TB Reference Laboratory, Federal TB Centre, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
10. National TB Reference Laboratory, Welisara Ragama, Colombo, Sri Lanka

15. 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. SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre have prepared **“An Analytical Study Book on TB & HIV/AIDS in SAARC Member States” by collecting data from SAARC Member States.** This document has been prepared to share information on TB and HIV/AIDS to the people of the SAARC Region. The epidemiological Trend of ten years on TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region has been incorporated in this document.

16. 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.

16.1 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 documentary is 1.2 hours in English version.

16.2 Awareness Programme related to TB and HIV/AIDS control through Essay Competition focusing the issues of TB and HIV/AIDS was organized.

Member States forwarded short listed three best essays written by students of 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 who are from Bangladesh, Nepal & Sri-Lanka respectively and also decided to provide shield and certificates to all participants which have been presented to them.

17. 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 Persons including facilitators, supporting persons and other officials participated in the conference.



18. SAARC Second Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases - 2008

SAARC Second Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases was organized in Hotel Yak and Yeti, Kathmandu, Nepal, 15-18 December 2008. The theme of the conference was “Working together to fight against TB, HIV/AIDS & Respiratory Diseases”. More than Six hundred participants and 50 Regional and International Resource Persons and Programme Managers participated in the conference. More than 200 scientific papers were presented in the conference.

The Inaugural Session of the Conference was Chaired by Hon'ble Minister for Health & Population, Mr. Girirajmani Pokharel. The Conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal by lighting the Traditional Lamp. The Chief Guest Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the Chairperson, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Population Mr. Girirajmani Pokharel and His Excellency, Secretary General SAARC, Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma released the publications of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre - TB & HIV Updates.



Inauguration of SAARC Second Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases by the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal



Dr. Kashi Kant Jha, Director, STAC
addressing the participants & Guests, in the inaugural Session of SAARC Second Conference on TB,
HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases

19. Senior Dignitaries visit in the Centre:

Visit of H. E. Ms. Susan Grace, Ambassador of Australia to Nepal

On 31st, March, 2009, H. E. Ms. Susan Grace, Ambassador of Australia to Nepal, Ms. Elaine Ward, Director of South Asia Section, Aus AID, Mr. Mark Bailey, Regional Counselor for South Asia, Aus Aid and Ms. Tara Gurung, Country Manager, Aus AID Nepal, visited the Centre. Her Excellency Ms. Grace was briefed on the activities and challenges faced by the Centre, in prevention and control of Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

Visit of Hon'ble Mr. Girirajmani Pokharel, Health Minister, Nepal

On 28th November 2008, Hon'ble Mr. Girirajmani Pokharel, Minister for Health and Population, Government of Nepal, laid the foundation stone of new building of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre at National Tuberculosis Centre premises, Thimi, Bhaktapur.

Visit of Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO/SEARO

On 7th July 2008, Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, World Health Organization, South East Asia Region visited the Centre. He discussed progress of the collaborative activities of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre and WHO/SEARO, with Director and STAC staff

Visit of Members SAARC Division, MoFA, Afghanistan

On 19th June, 2008, Mrs. Latifa Wali Rahimi, and Mr. Abdul Ahad Hadeef, Member of SAARC Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Afghanistan visited the Centre. They observed the functioning of the Centre and discussed different issues related to the Programmes.

Visit of Mr. Shridhar Gautam, Director, SAARC Information Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal

On 28th March, 2008, Mr. Shridhar Gautam, Director, SAARC Information Centre, Kathmandu, visited the Centre. He appreciated the progress and development of the Centre.

Visit of Mr. Hassan Shifau, Director, SAARC Secretariat

On 20th March, 2008, Mr. Hassan Shifau, Director, Social Affairs Division, SAARC Secretariat, visited the Centre. He observed the functioning of the Centre. Mr. Shifau observed all sections of the Centre and appreciated the progress made and activities undertaken by the Centre.

Visit of WHO/SEARO Team

On 25th February 2008, Dr. Alexander Andjaparidze, WHO representative & Chief of Mission to Nepal, Dr. Richard Stern, Dr. Krongthong Thimasarn, Dr. Nani Nair, Dr. Sangay Thinley and Dr. Rajesh Bhatia from WHO/SEARO visited the Centre. They discussed on various activities undertaken by the Centre as a WHO collaborating Centre.

Visit of Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Foreign Secretary, Government of Nepal

On July 4, 2007, Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Foreign Secretary, Government of Nepal with his team visited the Centre. Mr. Acharya observed the functioning of STAC and discussed various issues related to the Centre and its activities. He expressed his delighness to be at the Centre and said, "Despite its constraints; the Centre is making best efforts to achieve its objective of excellence for the SAARC Region". He also expressed his best wishes for intensifying the efforts in the days ahead and expressed the commitment of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of Nepal to support and strengthen SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre.

Visit of Mr. Lila Prasad Sharma and Dr. Narayan Govinda Amatya

On 28 May 2007, Mr. Lila Prasad Sharma and Dr. Narayan Govinda Amatya, visited the Centre during their official assignment related to the Performance Audit of SAARC Regional Centres. Who contributed significantly for establishment of SAARC Tuberculosis Centre in Nepal in 1992. Mr. Sharma and Dr. Amatya expressed their happiness and appreciated the progress made by the Centre.

Visit of His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General, SAARC

On 17 May 2007, His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, previous Secretary General, SAARC visited the Centre. His Excellency observed the functioning of the Centre. His

Excellency appreciated the activities performed by the Centre and encouraged the staff to work more efficiently in future.

Visit of Health Dignitaries from Afghanistan

On 22 March 2007, Dr. Hayat M. Ahmadzai, Director, NTP, Mr. Mirwais Sarah, Programme Officer, UNDP, Dr. Stanekzai, Director General, MRCA, & Dr. Saifur Rehman, Director, NACP, visited the Centre. The team observed and discussed on the activities of the Centre.

Visit of WHO Evaluation Team

On 5th November 2006, WHO Evaluation Team consisting Mr. Deepak Thapa, Dr. Madhu Ghimire, and Dr. Sailesh Upadhyay, National Professional Officer (NPO) visited the Centre for a meeting to discuss about the implementation, progress, achievement, problems and constraints for collaborative activities.

Visit of NTP authorities from India

On 9th December, 2005, Dr. L. S. Chauhan, NTP Manager, India, Dr. P. Kumar, Director, National TB Institute, Bangalore and Dr. V. S. Salhotra, Chief Medical Officer, Central TB Division, New Delhi visited the Centre. They appreciated the progress and work done by the Centre.

Visit of Hon'ble Mr. Neekshya SJB Rana, Health Minister, Nepal

On August 11, 2005, Hon'ble Mr. Neekshya SJB Rana, Assistant Minister for Health and Population of Nepal visited the Centre. Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha as Acting Secretary accompanied Hon'ble Minister for Health and Population. Hon'ble Minister observed the functioning of the Centre with interest and gave his remarks for making further progress in future.

Visit of PANOS South Asia:

On July 28, 2005, Journalists from PANOS South Asia visited the Centre. Discussions were held on role of Media for TB Control in the region. They expressed different views during the discussion. They said that the objective of their visit was to learn about the Centre's activities in the South Asian Region.

Visit of Dr. Kantun, WHO Representative to Nepal:

On 27th June 2005, Dr. Kantun, WHO Representative to Nepal, visited the Centre and discussed on the progress of the collaborative activities.

Visit of His Excellency Mr. Lyonpo Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General, SAARC:

On March 11, 2005, His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Previous Secretary General, SAARC and Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director SAARC Secretariat visited the Centre. His Excellency observed the office, resources and Laboratory of the Centre. He also observed the functioning and performance of the Centre.

Visit of UNAIDS team

On April 19, 2004, UNAIDS team along with Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, SAARC Secretariat, visited the Centre, after signing the MoU between SAARC and UNAIDS at the SAARC Secretariat on 19 April, 2004. The team observed the Centre and were briefed on TB and HIV/AIDS activities conducted by the centre.

Visit of Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat

On 11th March 2004, Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Director, Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat, visited the Centre. He appreciated the activities done by the Centre and wished all success for the further development of the Centre.

Visit of His Excellency Mr. K. H. Doh, Ambassador of Republic of Korea in Nepal

On 9th March 2004, His Excellency Mr. K. H. Doh, Ambassador of Republic of Korea in Nepal visited the Centre. His Excellency appreciated the activities done by the Centre. His Excellency wished for further development of the bilateral relations between Korea & Nepal.

Visit of Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director, SAARC Secretariat

On 4th June 2003, Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Director (Maldives), SAARC Secretariat visited the Centre. Mr. Sareer appreciated the progress made and activities undertaken by the Centre. He gave his remarks for making further progress in future.

Visit of Hon'ble Dr. Upendra Devkota, Health Minister, Nepal

On 31st October 2002, Hon'ble Dr. Upendra Devkota, Minister for Health, Nepal visited the Centre.

Visit of Md. Akram Hossain, Director, SAARC Metrological Research Centre, Bangladesh

On 16 April 2002, Md. Akram Hossain, Director, SAARC Metrological Research Centre, Bangladesh visited the Centre. He appreciated the activities done by the Centre and appreciate the benefits of the Centre, for all the SAARC Member States.

Visit of Mr. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, Hon'ble State Minister for Health, Government of Nepal

On 19 November, 2001, Mr. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, Hon'ble State Minister for Health, Government of Nepal visited the Centre. Hon'ble Minister appreciated the progress and work done by the Centre.

Visit of Mr. Yaqub Malik, Director, SAARC Human Resources Development Centre, Pakistan

On 10th October 2001, Mr. Yaqub Malik, Director, SAARC Human Resources Development Centre, Pakistan visited the Centre. The Director and Deputy Director of STAC briefed them about the activities of the Centre.

Visit of Hon'ble Mr. Sharat Singh Bhandari, Minister for Health, Government of Nepal

On 4th September, 2001, Hon'ble Mr. Sharat Singh Bhandari, Minister for Health, Government of Nepal visited the Centre. Hon'ble Minister observed the functioning and activities of the Centre and gave his commitment for necessary support and cooperation for strengthening of the Centre.

Visit of Hon'ble Mr. Ramkrishna Tamrakar, Minister for Health, Nepal

On 20th June 2001 Hon'ble Mr. Ramkrishna Tamrakar, Minister for Health, Government of Nepal visited the Centre. . Hon'ble Minister observed the functioning and activities of the Centre and gave his remarks for making further progress in future.

Visit of Dr. A. Kochi, Director, Stop TB Initiative, WHO, Geneva

On 20th October 2000, Dr. A. Kochi, Director, Stop TB Initiative, WHO, Geneva visited the Centre and observed the activities carried out by the Centre.

Visit of Dr. Jai P. Narain, WHO/SEARO, New Delhi

On 20th September 2000, Dr. Jai P. Narain, WHO/SEARO, New Delhi visited the Centre. Issues related to Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Control in the region along with collaborative activities were discussed, during the visit.

Visit of Health Ministers of South East Asian Countries

On 24th August 2000, Hon'ble Health Ministers of South East Asian Countries along with the Secretaries of Health, Director Generals of Health Services, Directors of Health Planning of South Asian Countries and WHO Secretariat staff visited the Centre. The Director of the Centre welcomed the delegates and briefed about the situation

of Tuberculosis, progress in the SAARC Region and role played by the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre for Control of Tuberculosis in the SAARC Region.

Visit of Hon'ble, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister for Health, Republic of Maldives

On 20th April, 1999 Hon'ble Minister for Health Republic of Maldives Mr. Ahmed Abdullah visited the Centre. He appreciated the progress made and activities undertaken by the Centre.

Visit of Diplomats from SAARC Member Countries

On 21, August 1997 diplomats from SAARC Member Countries visited the Centre. They observed the activities carried out by the Centre.

Visit of His Excellency Mr N.U. Hassan, Secretary General SAARC

On 7th February 1997, His Excellency, Mr. N.U. Hassan, Secretary General SAARC, Mr. Tahir Iqbal Butt, Director SAARC Secretariat and K. C. Namgyel Director SAARC Secretariat visited the Centre and observed the activities carried out by the Centre. His Excellency advised the Centre to work in the field of TB/HIV co-infection and HIV/AIDS also due to a burning issue for the Region.

20. New Building of STAC under Construction

Currently SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre is situated in the building of National Tuberculosis Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal. Hon'ble Mr. Girirajmani Pokharel, Minister for Health and Population, Government of Nepal laid foundation stone of new building, on 28th November 2008 at National TB Centre Premises Thimi, Bhaktapur. The Building is under construction and is likely to be completed by June, 2010.

Present Director, Deputy Director and Professionals of the Centre



Dr. K. K. Jha
Director



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



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



Mr. Dhruva K. Khadka
(Nepal)
Microbiologist



Dr. Ganga C. Pathirana
(Sri Lanka)
Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS)

Former Directors, Deputy Directors and Professionals of the Centre



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Dr. Lochana Shrestha
(Nepal)
Epidemiologist
(2006-2009)

PHOTO GALLERY OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES



Hon'ble Mr. Girirajmani 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 28th November 2008

Partnership programme with school teacher on the occasion of World TB Day 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal.



Joint Function with National TB Centre, at Nepal Academy Hall, Kathmandu, On the Occasion of World TB Day, 24th March 2009



Participants, Facilitators, Resource Persons, Organizer from SAARC Member States, in the SAARC Regional Training for Operational Research, 4-7 August 2009, Jaipur, India

Participants of the SAARC Regional Training of Microbiologist for Sputum, Culture and Drug Sensitivity, 20-28 August, 2009, Bangalore, India



Participants of SAARC Training on Leadership and management Skills at National/Regional Level, 1-5 June, 2009 Dhaka, Bangladesh,



H. E. Ms. Susan Grace, Ambassador of Australia to Nepal, Ms Elaine Ward, AusAID's Director of South Asia Section and Mr. Mark Bailey, AusAID's Regional Counselor for South Asia and Ms. Tara Gurung, Country Manager, AusAID Nepal, visited the Centre on 31st March 2009

Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang Regional Director, WHO/ SEARO visited STAC & NTC on July 2008.



Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal visited STAC and NTC on July 2007.



The then His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General, SAARC visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre.

A team of journalist from PANOS South Asia visited STAC on July 28, 2005



Dr. L. S. Chauhan, NTP Manager, India, Dr. P. Kumar, Director, NTI, Bangalore, Dr. V. S. Salhotra CMO, Central TB Division, New Delhi visited STAC on Dec. 9, 2005



Ms. Shabana Azmi
SAARC Goodwill
Ambassador for HIV/AIDS
at the child care centre,
Kathmandu on 6th January
2009.

Participants at Partnership
Programme with Industry in
Maldives 31 May 2008.



Hon'ble Federal Minister for
Health Mr. Ejaz Rahiem
Government of Pakistan
gracing the inaugural
Ceremony of SAARC
Workshop organized
by STAC in Islamabad,
December, 2007



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