



Annual Report

2016

**SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre
Kathmandu, Nepal**



Annual Report 2016

SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

Thimi, Bhaktapur

G.P.O. Box No. 9517, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 00977-1-6631048, 6632477, 6632601

Fax: 00977-1-6634379

E-mail: saarctb@mos.com.np

Website: www.saarctb.org

Contents

Page No.

Preface

Executive Summary

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) ----- 1

SAARC & SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) ----- 2

Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC----- 4

- Recommended Programme of the Centre for year 2016 ----- 4

Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC ----- 7

- Recommended Programmes of the Centre for year 2017 ----- 8

Activities carried out by the SAARC TB and fHIV/AIDS Centre in 2016

1. Workshop on Piloting the SAARC Regional Pediatric Tuberculosis Guidelines and Training of Trainers (ToT) Manual ----- 10

2. Commemoration of World TB Day----- 15

2.1. World TB Day & SAARC TB Day----- 15

2.2. Activities:

2.2.1. Publication of Message ----- 16

**2.2.2. Interaction Programme on TB Control Management with
Students of Bachelor in Public Health (BPH)----- 16**

2.2.3. Participation in National Event on World TB Day 2016----- 20

3. Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2016 ----- 22

3.1. Participation in National Event----- 24

4. Celebration of SAARC Charter Day ----- 25

- **Publication of Message of His Excellency ----- 25**

- **Interaction on SAARC, STAC & TB and HIV/AIDS with School Students and Teachers
----- 25**

5. Development of the ToR of SAARC Supra-national Reference Laboratory for TB & HIV/AIDS and its Long Term Action Plan----- 28

6. Research Programmes ----- 28

7. Presentation and Dissemination of Research Findings on TB and HIV/AIDS through participation in International Conferences -----	30
- Participation in the 47 th UNION World Conference on Lung Health-----	30
8. Presentation & Dissemination of Research Findings on TB & HIV/AIDS and Capacity Building on the Technical and Managerial Skills of Professional of STAC by Participating in the Regional Conferences/Trainings, Workshops etc. in the Member States	
- 12 th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP 12)-----	30
9. Participation in the Review of Activity of NTPs and NACPs in the SAARC Member States	
- Regional Review Meeting of Far-western Region, Nepal-----	31
10. Meeting of Collaborating Institutions for Strengthening of Networking WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other Collaborating Institutions	
- Participation in 6 th Meeting in SEAR Technical Working Group on Tuberculosis (TWG-TB)	32
- Participation in 9 th Meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee on MDR-TB -----	32
- Participation in Regional Workshop on Introduction of New Drugs & Regimen for DR-TB treatment in SEAR, New Delhi -----	33
- Participation in Third International Conference of SEAR of the UNION -----	33
11. Thirteenth Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Member States -----	34
12. Conferment of SAARC Prize on HIV/AIDS 2016 -----	34
13. Publications and Distribution -----	35
14. Dissemination of Information on TB, HIV and AIDS on STAC Website -----	36
15. Resource Centre for TB & HIV/AIDS -----	36
16. Collection, Compilation and E-circulation of Published Scientific Articles and News --	36
17. Visit of Different dignitaries to STAC-----	37
Activities carried from 2015 and implemented in 2016	
1. Updating existing documentary on TB and HIV/AIDS and documentation of SAACR Goodwill Ambassadors Programme and other activities-----	39
2. Development of SAARC Regional Guidelines on Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric TB-----	39
18. Audit of Accounts of STAC for the year 2014-----	39
Activities could not be carried out in the year 2016-----	39

Preface

The Annual Report of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre is being presented indicating the programmes, activities and achievements of the year 2016.

This is the Twenty-first consecutive comprehensive Annual Report of the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC). This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Centre for the year 2016 along with introduction, goals, objectives, vision, mission and achievements of the Centre.



STAC implemented almost all regular activities assigned for the period of January to December 2016. The National Managers of the NTPs and NACPs are highly appreciable for their kind support to implement the activities.

Besides the regular activities, the Centre has performed its activities in publishing the different documents related to centre's activities and prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Member States under the work of SAARC Regional Strategy for Control/Elimination of Tuberculosis 2013-17 as well as SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS 2013-17. In this year an important workshop was conducted on piloting the SAARC Regional Pediatric Tuberculosis Guidelines and Training of Trainers Manual.

Let me take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Governments of SAARC Member States for their generous support. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the dignitaries of Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the SAARC Member States, His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General of SAARC and respected Members of the Governing Board of STAC. I would also like to offer my special thanks to Ms. Fathimath Najwa, Director, Social Affairs Division, SAARC Secretariat for her continued support and guidance to implement the programmes.

The Centre continues to look forward to receive suggestions, guidance and comments on our activities, publications, website etc. so we can improve our activities as per the need of the people of the SAARC Region.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma
Director, STAC

Executive Summary

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) was set up in 1992, as a SAARC TB Centre which later on renamed as SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, working for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National Tuberculosis Control Programmes (NTPs) and National HIV/AIDS Control Programmes (NACPs) of SAARC Member States (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka).

The Centre mainly coordinates for the activities related to control of TB and prevention of HIV & AIDS among the Member States, particularly in research, training, workshops etc. in technical, bio-medical, operational and other aspects to support Member States.

In this year 2016, STAC carried out almost all regular activities assigned to the Centre for the year.

In this year, STAC organized a two-day's workshop on piloting the SAARC Regional Pediatric Tuberculosis Guidelines and Training of Trainers Manual. The workshop was attended by eminent experts in childhood tuberculosis, renowned clinicians, dedicated health workers and officials. Participants were divided into 4 groups as per the topics of the guidelines to be discussed. Brainstorming discussion was held for both days to finalize the guidelines.

Dr. V. P. Myneedu, Microbiologist (SAG), Professor and Head of Department, National Institute for TB and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD), New Delhi, India appointed as a consultant and visited STAC for the purpose of development of Terms of References (ToR) for SAARC Supra-national Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS.

The laboratory has always played a critical role in diagnosis of tuberculosis and monitoring of treatment. The basic aim in tuberculosis laboratory is to generate accurate and reliable test results. The one of the components of quality assurance is proficiency testing of Sputum Smear Microscopy (SSM). STAC conducted its thirteenth round proficiency testing of SSM for National Reference Laboratories of SAARC Member States. Feedback has already been given to the participating laboratories to ensure their quality.

For the purpose of disseminating the information regarding TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Member States, STAC has prepared different documents such as, Newsletter, Journal,

Epidemiological Reports on TB and HIV/AIDS, Wall Calendar, circulation of Guidelines and Frameworks on HIV/AIDS available in the Member States.

A website has been maintained by uploading information related to TB and HIV/AIDS, as well as publications and information on activities of the Centre.

STAC Library has been set up as SAARC Resource Centre for TB and HIV/AIDS. The library is in the process of being developed as e-library.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

SAARC is an organization of eight countries located in the South Asia and it stands for the South Asian Association for Regional Corporation (SAARC). This is an economic and geopolitical organization, established to promote socio-economic development, stability, welfare economics, and collective self-reliance within the Region. The first summit was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 7–8 December 1985 and was attended by the Government Representatives and Presidents from Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Kings of Bhutan and Nepal, and the Prime Minister of India. The dignitaries signed the SAARC Charter on 8 December 1985, thereby establishing the regional association and to carry out different important activities required for the development of the Region. The summit also agreed to establish a SAARC secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal and adopted an official SAARC emblem. Due to rapid expansion within the region, Afghanistan received full-member status and some countries are considered as observers. SAARC respects the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and national independence as it strives to attain sustainable economic growth.

The 3% of the area of the world is represented by SAARC countries. It is around 1.72 billion of the people and it is 24% of the world population¹.

The objectives of SAARC, as defined in its charter, are as follows:

- a) to promote the welfare of the peoples of SOUTH ASIA and to improve their quality of life;
- b) to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potentials;
- c) to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of SOUTH ASIA;
- d) to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;
- e) to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;
- f) to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;
- g) to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and
- h) to cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes

SAARC has established permanent diplomatic relations with the European Union and United Nations as observers. Foreign Ministers of the SAARC counties are met twice a year and the official

¹ Data source: SAARC Epidemiological Response of Tuberculosis 2015

meeting of the leaders of the SAARC Member States is held once a year. The recent 18th SAARC Summit was held in the Kathmandu, Nepal on 26th and 27th November 2014. It is planned to organize 19th SAARC Summit in Pakistan. This 19th Summit has been postponed.

Regional Centers have been established in Members States in order to promote regional cooperation. These Centers are handled by Boards of representatives from all SAARC Member States and every year separate Governing Board Meeting is organized for the evaluation and monitoring of the activities of the Centres and formulation of the programmes and budget for the approval of Standing/Programming Committee of SAARC.

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC)

The Centre was established in 1992 as SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC) and started functioning from 1994. The Centre had been supporting the National Tuberculosis Control Programmes of the SAARC Member States. The Thirty-first session of Standing Committee of SAARC held in Dhaka on November 09th – 10th 2005, appreciating the efforts of the



(Office Building of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre at Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal)

centre on TB/HIV co-infection and other works related to HIV/AIDS discipline and approved the renaming of the Centre as SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) with additional mandate to support SAARC Member States for prevention of HIV/AIDS. Since then with its efforts and effective networking in the Member States the Centre is contributing significantly for control of both TB and HIV/AIDS.

Vision, Mission, Goal and Objective of STAC

The vision of the Centre is to be the leading institute to support and guide SAARC Member States to make the region free of TB and HIV/AIDS and the mission is to support the efforts of National TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes through evidence based policy guidance, coordination and technical support.

The goal of the Centre is to minimize the mortality and morbidity due to TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region and to minimize the transmission of both infections until TB and HIV/AIDS cease to be major public health problems in the SAARC Region and the objective of the Centre is to work for prevention and control of TB HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB Programmes and National HIV/AIDS Programmes of the SAARC Member Countries.

Functions of STAC

- To act as a Regional Co-ordination Centre for NTPs and NACPs 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 TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region and elsewhere.
- To establish a networking arrangement among the NTPs and NACPs of Member States and to conduct surveys, researches etc.
- To initiate, undertake and coordinate the Research and Training in Technical Bio-medical, operational and other aspects related to control of Tuberculosis and prevention of HIV/AIDS in the Region.
- To monitor epidemiological trends of TB, HIV/AIDS and MDR-TB in the Region.
- To assist Member States for harmonization of policies and strategies on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection.
- 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 carry-out other important works identified by the Programming Committees/Governing Board.

Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC

Twenty-fifth meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) was held on 18th – 19th December 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan attended in the meeting from Member States participated in the meeting. Ms. Fathimath Najwa, Director (representative of SAARC Secretary General), SAARC Secretariat and Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (Member Secretary) also participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Afghanistan.

The Board reviewed the activities carried out by the Centre in 2015 and recommended the programmes & budget for 2016, which are as follows:

Recommended Programmes of the Centre for 2016:

1. SAARC Regional ToT on Tuberculosis and Drug Resistant TB Infection Control
2. SAARC Regional ToT on Clinical Management of Drug Resistance TB
3. SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control & SAARC Regional Expert Group Meeting and review of SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2013-2017)
4. SAARC Regional Training on Anti-Retroviral Therapy
5. SAARC Regional Training on TB for Microbiologist on Culture & DST, Gene Xpert / NAAT and its Maintenance
6. SAARC Regional workshop to address the cross border issues for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS
7. Development of the ToR of SAARC Supra-national Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS and its Long Term Action Plan
8. Preparatory work for SAARC Regional Third Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases - 2017
9. Study on challenges in diagnosis of DR TB by Gene X-pert in Bangladesh and Nepal
10. Research grants for studies on TB & Diabetes and HIV & HCV (co-infection)
11. Presentation & dissemination of research findings on TB & HIV/AIDS through participation in International Conferences
12. Presentation & dissemination of research findings on TB & HIV/AIDS and capacity building on the technical and managerial skills of personnel of STAC

13. Participation in the review of activities NTP and NACP in the SAARC Member States.
14. Technical Assistant support to the NTP/NACP, of SAARC Member States and STAC
15. Meeting of collaborating institutions for strengthening of networking WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other collaborating institutes
16. Thirteenth Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Member States
17. Conferment of SAARC Award on HIV/AIDS - 2016
18. SAARC Goodwill Ambassador's Programmes for HIV/AIDS
19. Public Awareness and Advocacy programmes on TB and HIV/AIDS by -
 - Commemorating World TB Day & World AIDS Day and Celebrating SAARC Charter day
20. Distribution/e-circulation of STAC publications
21. Review of articles for SAARC Journals of TB Lung Disease and HIV/AIDS
22. Strengthening of SAARC Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS
23. Update regional data on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection and analysis to generate evidence to the region
24. Identification and documentation of good practices (TB and HIV/AIDS) in the Region and widely circulation
25. Collection and sharing of all existing guidelines and frameworks (HIV/AIDS) relevant of the works of SAARC Member States
26. Preparation, development and Printings -
 - STAC Newsletters
 - STAC Journal of Tuberculosis Lung Disease and HIV/AIDS
 - SAARC Epidemiological Response on Tuberculosis & TB/HIV Co-infection 2015/2016
 - SAARC Epidemiological Response on HIV/AIDS Control 2015/2016
 - Annual Report - 2015
 - Revision of STAC at a Glance
 - Thirteenth Round proficiency Testing of SSM of NRLs of SAARC Members States
 - Wall Calendar - 2017 and other publications
 - Collection, Compile and e-circulation of published scientific articles and important news related to TB and HIV/AIDS in the National daily newspapers/journals

27. Strengthening of STAC Library by acquiring scientific books and journals on TB and HIV/AIDS and updating of library software

Under the SAARC- UNDP/UNAIDS/UNICEF support

28. SAARC Regional Workshop for Planning and implementation of safe & large city intervention for HIV/AIDS and develop a plan to fulfill these gaps in the SAARC Member States

Activities implemented forwarded from 2015

29. Development of SAARC Regional Programme Guidelines on diagnosis and management of pediatric TB
30. Training of Trainers (TOT) Manual on Pediatric Tuberculosis
31. Updating existing Documentary on TB and HIV/AIDS and documenting Goodwill Ambassador's Programme and others activities.

Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Governing Board of STAC



(Governing Board Members and Official)

Twenty-sixth meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) was held on 11th – 12th January 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Governing Board Members **Dr. Feda Mohammad Paikan**, NACP Manager, National HIV/AIDS Control Programme, Ministry of Public Health, Government of Afghanistan, **Mr. Sayed Jahid Shah Banoori**, Director of CARECs Colombo Plans, SAARC Division Member, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Afghanistan, **Mr. Mohammad Barikul Islam**, First Secretary & Head of Chancery, Embassy of Bangladesh, Kathmandu, **Mr. Namgay Tshering**, Chief Programme Officer, Communicable Disease Division, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan, **Dr. V. S. Salhotra**, Addl. Deputy Director General (TB), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, Government of India, **Mr. S. R. Patnaik**, Under Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, **Dr. Ali Nazeem**, Director, Medical Services, Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Kanbaa Aisa Rani Hingum, Government of Maldives, **Mr. Ramesh Prasad Adhikary**, Chief Public Health Administrator, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal, **Mr. Dornath Aryal**, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal, **Dr. Nasir Mahmood Khan**, Manager, National TB Control Programme, Government of Pakistan, **Ms. Fathimath Najwa**, Director, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu and **Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma**, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu participated in the meeting. Dr. Feda Mohammad Paikan, Governing Board Member

from Afghanistan chaired the meeting. The Board reviewed the activities carried out by the Centre in 2016 and recommended the programmes & budget for 2017, which are as follows:

Recommended Programmes of the Centre for the year 2017

1. SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers and Cross Boarder Issues on TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes
2. SAARC Regional Training on Operational Research on TB and HIV/AIDS
3. SAARC Regional Training on TB for Microbiologist on Culture & DST, Gene Xpert / NAAT and its maintenance
4. SAARC Regional Training of Trainers on Diagnosis, Treatment and Programmatic Management of Pediatric TB
5. Exposure visit to observe the best practices on TB in India
6. Exposure visit to observe the best practices on HIV/AIDS in Nepal
7. SAARC Training on Management of Information for Action
8. Development of framework and Guidelines for Private Public Mix by STAC
9. Participation in International Conferences by STAC
 - i. Union World Conference on Lung Health OR
 - ii. International AIDS Conference on HIV/AIDS
10. Participating in the regional conferences in the member States.
11. Participation in the Review of activities NTPs and NACPs/ in the SAARC Member States by STAC.
12. Meeting of collaborating Institutions for Strengthening of Networking WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other collaborating institutes.
13. Fourteenth Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Member States
14. Conferment of SAARC Award on Tuberculosis- 2017
15. Public Awareness and Advocacy programmes on TB and HIV/AIDS

i World TB Day- 2017

- Interaction Programme/Joint Activities
- Preparation and publication of advocacy materials and distribution to the Member States

ii World AIDS Day - 2017

- Interaction/ Joint Activities
- Preparation and publication of Advocacy materials/booklet and distribution to the Member States

iii SAARC Charter Day - 2017

- Awareness Programme/Joint Programme

- Preparation and publication related documents and distribution to the Member States.
- 16. E-circulation of STAC Publications, related documents and other materials
- 17. Review of Article for SAARC Journals of TB Lung Disease and HIV/AIDS
- 18. Procurement of chemicals and glassware for the STAC Laboratory work
- 19. **Printings/Bindings**
 - i. Binding of STAC Newsletters
 - ii. Printing STAC Journal of Tuberculosis Lung Disease and HIV/AIDS
 - iii. Binding of SAARC Epidemiological Response on Tuberculosis & TB/HIV Co-infection 2016- E-circulation
 - iv. Binding of SAARC Epidemiological Response on HIV/AIDS Control 2016 -E-circulation
 - v. Printing of SAARC Regional Training Manual for ART
 - vi. Printing of SAARC Regional Training Manual for Programme Management of Drug Resistance TB
 - vii. Printing of SAARC Regional Program Guidelines on diagnosis and management of pediatric TB
 - viii. Printing of the SAARC Regional Training Manual on pediatric TB
 - ix. Printing of SAARC Regional Training Manual for Infection Control at Health Facilities
 - x. Printing of Wall Calendar 2018 / promotional materials (500 copies)
 - xi. Binding of Annual Report- 2016
 - xii. Binding of Fourteenth Round proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs and SAARC Members States by STAC
 - xiii. Printing/binding of other Documents/ Publications;
 - xiv. Update regional data on TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection and analysis to generate evidence to the region
- 20. E-circulation/distribution of STAC Publications
- 21. **Strengthening of STAC Library**
 - i. Purchase and subscription of scientific books and journals on TB and HIV/AIDS
 - ii. Software maintenance (Alice Software)
 - iii. Digitalization of library resources (TB, HIV/AIDS and Laboratory) and link to STAC Website by STAC
 - Networking among the Medical Libraries in the Region
 - iv. Collection, Compile and e-circulation of published scientific articles and important news related to TB and HIV/AIDS in the national daily news papers/journals.

Activities carried out by the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre in 2016

1. Workshop on Piloting the SAARC Regional Pediatric Tuberculosis Guidelines and Training of Trainers (ToT) Manual



1.1. Introduction

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre organized a workshop on Piloting the SAARC Regional Pediatric Tuberculosis Guidelines and Training of Trainers (ToT) Manual in Dhulikhel, Kavrepalanchowk, Nepal from 5 to 6 Sept. 2016, for the purpose of serving as a field testing (piloting) prior to full-scale operation of both documents (Guidelines and Manual).

1.2. Objective

The objective of the workshop was piloting of the Pediatric TB Guidelines and ToT Manual as well as to build the capacity of health workers on management of Pediatric TB at their work station.

1.3. Participation

The workshop was participated by 27 participants and 10 resource persons from children hospitals, teaching hospitals and TB treatment centres of Nepal. (see annex)

1.4. Opening session

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC open the workshop by delivered the welcome address. He briefly explained the need of the piloting of the Pediatric TB Guidelines and ToT Manual. He also highlighted the urgency of the guidelines on pediatric TB control, care and support and ToT manual in SAARC Region which have been developed by the Centre.

Prof. Dr. Ramesh Kant Adhikari, Professor of Pediatrics, Kathmandu Medical Collage and resource person for the workshop highlighted the importance of scaling up the pediatric TB activities in the SAARC Region. He appreciated the efforts made by the Centre for control and prevention of pediatric TB.

Prof. Dr. Laxman Shrestha, Pediatrician, Head, Dept. of Pediatric, Tri-bhuvan University, Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal, briefed about the importance being given to pediatric TB diagnosis and treatment in National TB Control Programme is remarkable steps by the Centre. As the children are always been neglected in TB control programme and though that they will not be infected by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. He emphasized the development guidelines and manual could be strengthened of overall quality of programme. He appreciated the role being played by the STAC and thanked the organizer for organizing this important workshop in time.

Dr. Bhabana Shrestha, Chief Medical Officer, German Nepal Tuberculosis Project, Nepal Anti-TB Association, Kathmandu shared her experience in diagnosis and treatment of childhood TB, as well as childhood DR TB. She elaborated the challenges faced during the diagnosis and treatment of DR TB in Children.

Dr. Prashant Rijal Assistant Professor Pediatric Pulmonologist, Nepal Medical College and Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu thanked SAAC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre for organizing this important workshop. He appreciated the efforts of the Centre towards pediatric TB and also

urged the Centre to develop child TB management and prevention as a shared responsibility under National health infrastructure.

1.5. Technical Session

Dr. Ajith Weerakoon, Epidemiologist, STAC explained the Objectives and Methodology of the Workshop. He highlighted the epidemiology of pediatric TB in SAARC region as additional information to the participants which may help them to work out on document.

Dr. Ashish Shrestha, WHO NTP, Nepal presented his presentation on Epidemiology of Tuberculosis (adult and pediatric) globally and SEA Region. He highlighted the WHO efforts for prevention and Control of Pediatric TB in the World as well as SEA Region.

Dr. Prashant Rijal, Associate Professor and Pediatrician, Nepal Medical College, Kathmandu presented his paper on “Pathology and Pathogenesis of Pediatric TB”. He explained about the difficulties occurred during the time of diagnosis of child Tuberculosis.

Dr. Ramesh Kant Adhikari, Pediatrician, Kathmandu Medical College, presented his paper on “Diagnosis and Management of the case of Pediatric TB”. Dr. Adhikari highlighted childhood tuberculosis and its important facts. He also elaborated on approach to diagnose TB in children. Dr. Adhikari also highlighted about types of pediatric TB found during the case-handling on children.

Dr. Bhawana Shrestha, Chief Medical Officer, GENETUP, Kathmandu presented her paper on MDR TB in Children. She shared her unforgettable experiences gained during the treatment of MDR TB in Children. She also discussed about the doses of TB medicine given to the children having TB as well as MDR TB also.

Prof. Dr. Laxman Shrestha, Tri-bhuvan University, Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu presented his presentation on “TB and HIV/AIDS Co-infection in Children”. His presentation was based on approach to diagnosis of TB in Children having HIV/AIDS and their proper treatment along with the management of ART for them.

On behalf of Director, NTC, Dr. Mohan Kumar Prasai, Senior Chest Physician highlighted the activities of National TB Centre in connection with the pediatric TB.

After the discussion sessions, the participants were divided into four groups i.e. Group A, B, C and D. Each group was led by experts as Resource Persons. The groups were assigned to review the following major topics:

- Introduction of Epidemiology of Pediatric TB
- Prevention of Pediatric Tuberculosis
- Pediatric TB Management within the NTP
- Pathology and Pathogenesis
- Case taking in Paediatric TB
- Child TB Album Work
- Case Demonstration Work
- Specimen Sampling and Microbiology
- Drug resistant TB in Children and TB-HIV Co-infection
- Management of TB in Children living with HIV/AIDS
- Approach to Diagnosis of Childhood TB
- Investigations
- Radiology of Paediatric TB
- Treatment of Pediatric TB
- Counseling in Pediatric TB

They discussed, exercised and read the Guidelines and Manual in detail. Brainstorming discussions were held during the two days group discussion. The Guidelines and Manual reviewed/revised in accordance with the objectives and requirements.

1.6. Closing Session

On behalf of the participants Dr. Ganesh Shrestha, Pediatrician from Kanti Children Hospital, Kathmandu delivered his opinion about this workshop. He committed to provide support for the activities of STAC relating to Pediatric TB and also thanked organizer for organizing this type of useful and fruitful activities.

Dr. Ramesh Kant Adhikari, on behalf of the Resource Persons congratulated to the Director, STAC and his team for organizing this important event. He expressed view and said that “as you all know children can present with TB disease at any age, however most commonly they present the disease in TB-endemic countries, like Nepal. Pulmonary TB is

the commonest type of TB in children. Extra-pulmonary disease is also common and can present in a wide variety of anatomical sites". He also shared his past clinical experiences regarding Pediatric TB.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC delivered vote of thanks. He appreciated the efforts of resource persons and participants for bringing remarkable feedback to be incorporated in the Pediatric Guidelines and ToT Manual. He also thanked to all the officials Institutions for sending participants and resource persons as desired by STAC. He thanked to all the Staff of STAC and NTC, Nepal for their hard work to organize this programme successfully.

1.7. Outcomes of the Workshop

- Pediatric TB Guidelines and Training Manual refined and ready for use in the SAARC Regional Training.
- Participants acquainted with the problem of Pediatric TB and its consequences in the region
- Participants trained for diagnosis and management of pediatric TB

At the end of the workshop, participants were awarded by certificates and resource persons honored by Certificate of Appreciation.



Some pictorial view of activities of participants during workshop



Commemoration of World TB Day 2016

2. World TB Day & SAARC TB Day

2.1. Introduction

The theme of **World TB Day & SAARC TB Day** of this year was “**Unite to End TB**”. The slogan was “**Unite to End TB Strategy**” which aims to address social and other barriers by eliciting a strong, systemic response to end the TB epidemic, drawing on the



opportunities provided by the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**, especially those goals aimed at achieving universal health coverage and social protection from disease. The theme also offers a message of urgency in continuation of sustained effort and shared responsibility. Through unified action at all levels, we have to accelerate work to move towards a world free of Tuberculosis. The theme emphasizes that although TB is a curable disease, still it remains a major public health problem. Achieving the TB-focused targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) depends on effectively raising and addressing country-level challenges through a unified global campaign and multi-sectoral approach. By mobilizing communities, raising awareness, encouraging governments and donors to invest in TB control, and calling for strengthened commitment, we can ensure that TB is eliminated by 2035.

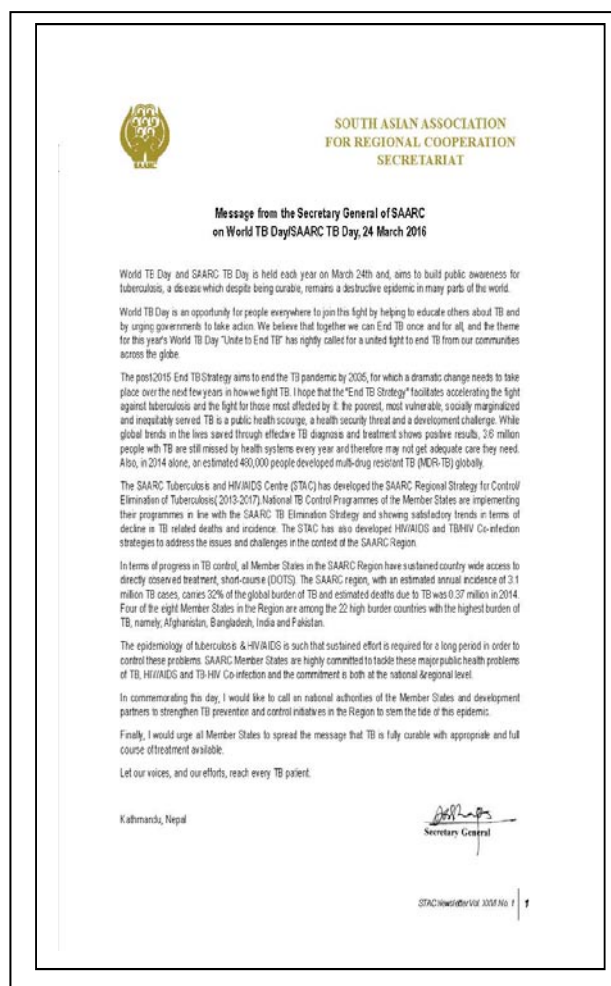
SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) and its partners are committed that the **Region free of TB**. STAC is one of the Regional Centres of SAARC working for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the region with an objective to coordinate the efforts of the National TB Control Programmes (NTPs) and National AIDS Control Programmes (NACPs) of SAARC Member States.

Considering the situation of the problem of TB, the Centre organized Advocacy and Awareness Activities to generate the knowledge on TB, specially its prevention and control strategy on the occasion of World TB Day/SAARC TB Day of this year which were as under:

2.2. Activities:

2.2. 1. Publication of Message of H. E.

Message issued by His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General, SAARC was published on Centre's website and circulated to the National TB Control Programmes (NTPs) of SAARC Member States for publication on National daily Newspapers on the occasion of Word TB Day 2016.



2.2.2. Interaction Programme on TB Control Management with Students of Bachelor in Public Health (BPH)

Introduction:

Medical students can play an important role in the National efforts to manage TB patients and save lives. They are in a unique position to reach various levels of health care providers. They have the potential to create a new generation of health professionals who have updated knowledge about priority communicable diseases such as TB. On this occasion a one-day Interaction Programme on Tuberculosis and its Prevention & Control Strategy with Students of Bachelor in Public Health (BPH) was organized by STAC at Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal on 18th March, 2016.



The objectives of the programme were:

- to create public awareness on tuberculosis control,
- to discuss the role of college students on spreading of awareness in community
- to disseminate updated information on TB and its control and
- to seek coordination and cooperation for controlling efforts on TB

Participation

About 100 students and teachers participated in the programme as participants from the college. Staff working in NTP Nepal also attended the programme. The programme started with arrival of the students, teacher, resource persons and guests. The participants registered their names and obtained STAC publications as resource materials, awareness materials and stationeries.

Methodology

1. Power Point Presentations
2. Discussion
3. Participatory interaction

Proceedings of the programme

To enhance the community involvement & active participation of the people in TB control, STAC has developed its strategy to initiate partnerships with different stakeholders by

organizing interaction programmes on the special occasions of World TB Day, World AIDS Day and SAARC Charter Day every year.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC, welcomed all the dignitaries, participants and highlighted the Introduction of STAC objectives of commemoration of World TB day and current situation of TB in SAARC Region. He emphasized high priority on Public Private Mix programme in TB control. Dr. Verma highlighted the ways how to reach to un-reached and marginalized population. He also highlighted the End TB Strategy and its vision to eliminate TB. He thanked to the officials from the different organizations and students/teachers for participating the programme.

Dr. Bikash Lamichhane, Director, National TB Centre, Nepal presented a paper on National Scenario of Tuberculosis in Nepal and efforts being made by NTP Nepal.

Dr. Bhesh Raj Pokheral, Sr. Integrated Medical Officer on behalf of Dr. Tarun Poudel, Director, National Centre for AIDS & STD Control, Nepal presented a paper on current situation of HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV Co-infection in Nepal. He informed that Isoniazid Prophylaxis treatments are available in all ART sites in Nepal. He said, at present, there are 2.4% of TB patients are infected with HIV and 11% of PLHIV are infected with TB He urged to be strengthened the collaboration between TB and HIV/AIDS Control Programmes.

Dr. Keshav Yogi, WHO focal Person for NTP Nepal, highlighted the Global Scenario of TB control with its burden, achievements and efforts for stopping the tuberculosis.

Mr. Dhrub Khadka, Microbiologist, National TB Centre, Nepal explained about the development of TB diagnosis, Lab Net-work and Gene-Xpert services in Nepal.

Discussion

After technical presentation, a discussion session was held. Participants raised different queries about TB control status in Nepal as well as in the world. Mainly, the discussion was focused on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Childhood TB and Urban TB Programme. Resource Persons/Directors of National TB Control Programme, Nepal and National AIDS Control Programme, Nepal explained the situation.

On behalf of the participating Colleges, Mr. Nawaraj Pandey, Chairman, Nobel College of Health & Education Foundation expressed his views and thanked STAC for inviting them to attend the programme. Mr. Pandey proposed during his speech to develop a MoU between STAC/NTP Nepal and Nobel College to take TB control programme to door-to-door in the community.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director STAC delivered the vote of thanks and closing remarks and awarded the Souvenir to the representatives of participating colleges. He also delivered the closing remarks and vote of thanks.

STAC publications related to tuberculosis were distributed to all the participants.

Outcomes

- Participants were made aware of about different issues in relation to TB
- Students and Teachers were committed to provide support for controlling TB in their respective fields.



(Interaction with Students)



(Presentations)



(Interaction of Participants)



(Dr. S. C. Verma, Director welcoming Mr. Nawaraj Pandey, Chairman, Nobel College of Health & Education Foundation)

2.2.3. Participation on National Event on World TB Day- 2016



(Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC delivering speech on the occasion of World TB Day 2016, National Event held at Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal)

On Thursday, 24th March 2016, NTP, Nepal in collaboration with its collaborative partners organized the main function at National TB Centre, Thimi Bhaktapur. Honorable, Ram Janam Chaudhari, Minister for Health graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

The programme was chaired by Ms. Pushapa Chaudhary, Director, General, Department of Health Services, Government of Nepal.

Dr. Bikash Lamichhane, Director, National TB Centre, delivered welcome speech. He also presented a paper on activities of national TB Programme Nepal. He highlighted the efforts being made by the NTP for controlling TB, MDR and XDR TB in Nepal.

During the programme a song related to awareness about TB disease was sang by artist Mr. Kamali Kant Bhetwal.

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC highlighted the introduction, activities, functions & achievements of STAC during the session. He quoted the Message of His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, SAARC Secretary General.

The Chief Guest released the annual Report of NTP, Nepal as well as distributed the NTP Dixa Daxa & Rana sumandra Award to National contributors to NTP Nepal. During the function TB related cultural programme was performed by artists.

Mr. Shanta Bdr. Shrestha, Secretary, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal appreciated the activities of National TB Centre. He highlighted the challenges faced by Government of Nepal to combat this disease. Dr. Jos Vandelaer, WHO representative to Nepal highlighted the global scenario of TB control programme. Dr. G. D Thakur Ministry of Health spoke on the various aspects of TB control strategy. A street drama was also performed by artist Mr. Ajaya Regmi and his team to create awareness on TB control.

The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Ramjanam Chaudhari, Minister for Health, Government of Nepal appreciated the efforts made by NTP, Nepal for prevention and control of tuberculosis throughout the country. Closing remarks was delivered by Dr. Pushpa Chaudhari, Chairperson of the programme.

The programme was attended by the representatives of Government officials, JICA, NATA, USAID, SAARC and large number of people from I/NGOs and journalists from electronic and print media.

2.2.4. Display of Exhibition

An exhibition of STAC was organized at the premises of NTC, where different NGOs, INGOs displayed their activities and progress related to the TB control programme. STAC displayed the introductory flex of organization, its progress, publications and awareness materials. The progress of SAARC Member States on TB and HIV/AIDS control, current status of TB and HIV/AIDS control and activities of SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS were also exhibited in the exhibition. The exhibition was observed by high level National dignitaries.



(Displaying of STAC Publications to the Health Secretary by Director, STAC)



(Director, STAC briefing about STAC to Hon'ble Health Minister of Nepal)

2.2.5. Displaying of Flexes, Banners and Hoarding Board

STAC prepared flex, banners and hoarding board with information about STAC and its activities for TB and HIV/AIDS control in SAARC Member States and displayed at the main venue of World TB Day function and hoarding board at the entrance of STAC.



3. Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2016

Theme: HANDS UP FOR, #HIV PREVENTION

World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year since 1988 is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection, and mourning those who have died of the disease. Government and health officials, non-



governmental organizations and individuals around the world observe the day, often with education on AIDS prevention and control.

World AIDS Day is one of the eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO), along with World Health Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Immunization Week, World Tuberculosis Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Malaria

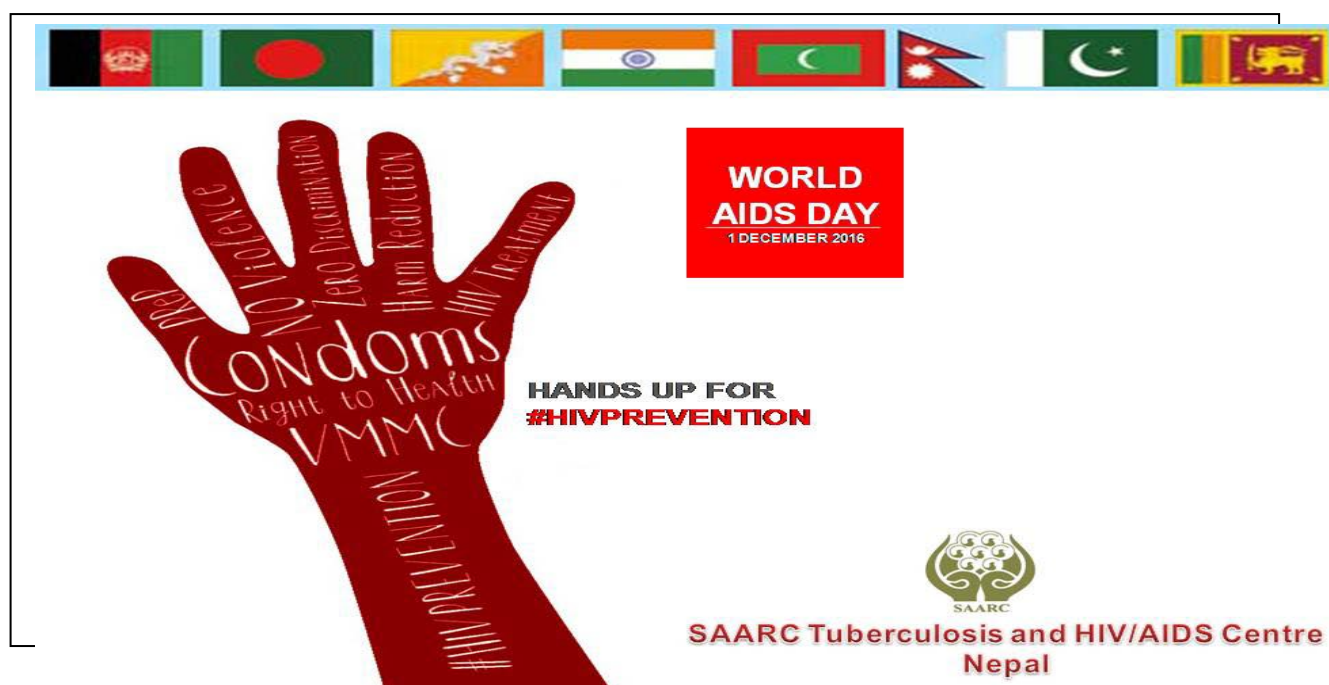
Day and World Hepatitis Day. Since 1995, the President of the United States has made an official proclamation on World AIDS Day.

Themes of the World AIDS Day

2016	Hands up for #HIV Prevention	2006	Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise – Accountability	1997	Children Living in a World with AIDS
2015	On the fast track to end AIDS	2005	Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise	1996	One World. One Hope
2014	Close the gap	2004	Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS	1995	Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities
2013	Zero Discrimination	2003	Stigma and Discrimination	1994	AIDS and the Family
2012	Together we will end AIDS	2002	Stigma and Discrimination	1993	Act
2011	Getting to Zero	2001	I care. Do you?	1992	Community Commitment
2010	Universal Access and Human Rights	2000	AIDS: Men Make a Difference	1991	Sharing the Challenge
2009	Universal Access and Human Rights	1999	Listen, Learn, Live: World AIDS Campaign with Children & Young People	1990	Women and AIDS
2008	Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise – Lead – Empower – Deliver	1998	Force for Change: World AIDS Campaign Young People	1989	Youth
2007	Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise – Leadership			1988	Communication

3.1. Display of Hoarding Board

STAC displayed a Hoarding Board with awareness messages in Centre's premises, which can observe by the people who visit STAC.



3.2. Participation STAC in National Event



(Function organized by National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Government of Nepal in City Hall, Kathmandu)

SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) commemorated World AIDS Day on the 1st December 2016 by participating in a function organized by National Centre for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC), Government of Nepal at City Hall, Kathmandu.

Hon'ble Minister Mr. Gagan Kumar Thapa, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal graced the function as Chief Guest and Hon'ble State Minister Mr. Tara Man Gurung, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal Chaired the function. Dr. Senendra Raj Upreti, Secretary, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal and Director General, Department of Health Services, Government of Nepal Dr. Pushpa Chaudhari, present at the function.

Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre along with the Professional Staff and GS Staff attended the function.

Director, NCASC, Representatives from INGOs, NGOs, PLHIV and high level dignitaries also attended the function.

STAC displayed a Hoarding Board with awareness messages in Centre's premises and supported NCASC, Nepal for organizing the function by providing the backdrop.

4. Celebration of 32nd SAARC Charter Day

4.1. Message of His Excellency

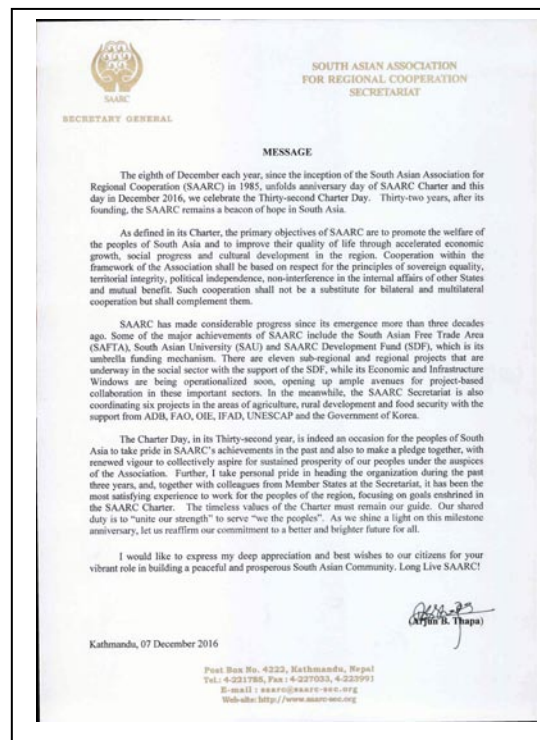
A message of His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General, SAARC was released by SAARC Secretariat and received a copy in STAC, which was published on STAC website on 8th December 2016.

4.2. Interaction on SAARC, STAC & TB and HIV/AIDS with School Students & Teachers:

Introduction

On the auspicious occasion of the 32nd SAARC Charter Day, SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) organized an **Interaction Programme with School Teachers and Students at Pharping Higher Secondary School, Pharping, Dakshinkali, Kathmandu** under the School Partnership Programme on 7th December 2016. The programme was based on Introduction of SAARC and STAC along with the status of TB control and HIV/AIDS control programmes in Global and SAARC level. Students are considered as revolutionary forces to change the community and they are also considered as Child Ambassadors to spread the messages for the control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the society. Schools are the focal points of the community, especially in the remote and rural areas to discuss the issue on different matters.

Therefore, it is the suitable sector to build the partnership to make the community aware



L – R (Dr. Ashish Shrestha, WHO, Nepal, Dr. Naveen Prakash Shah, Consultant Chest Physician, NTC, Nepal, Dr. Tarun Poudel, Director, NCASC, Nepal, Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC, Mr. Krishna Kumar Shrestha, Principal, PHSS, Mr. Dashrath Balami, Chairman, School Management Committee, Dr. Ajith Weerakoon, Epidemiologist, STAC)

on TB and HIV/AIDS as well. Regarding the HIV/AIDS, still many young people cannot talk about AIDS either at home or in the community. Nor they can talk about the risk behaviours which lead to HIV infection. However, most young people do attend school at some point. Hence school can be considered as an entry point where these topics can be addressed. The strengths of a school setting are that children have an education curriculum, teachers and a peer group for discussion. School can also help to shape the attitudes of children towards positive directions.

The objectives of the programme were:

- To make students & teachers aware about situation of TB & HIV/AIDS
- To build a cadre of child ambassadors through Programme Managers and School Teachers
- To know about SAARC, its Charter and benefit of SAARC to its Member States.

Participation

Over 100 students of grade 10, 11 & 12 along with the concerned teachers participated in the programme.

Opening Session

Mr. Krishna Prasad Shrestha, Principal welcomed all participants, resource persons, Director and staff of STAC.

Technical Session

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC made his presentation on Introduction, functioning and objectives of SAARC and STAC.

Dr. Ashish Shrestha, World Health Organization (WHO), Nepal presented situation of TB in the World and South East Asia. Dr. Ajith Weerakoon, Epidemiologist, STAC, presented his presentation on Situation of TB and HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region. Dr. Naveen Prakash Shah, Consultant Chest Physician, National TB Centre (NTC), Government of Nepal presented his presentation on General Information on TB and Current Situation and Achievements of National TB Control Programme of Nepal. Dr. Tarun Poudel, Director, National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Government of

Nepal presented his presentation on General Information on HIV/AIDS and Current Situation and Achievement of National HIV/AIDS Control Programme in Nepal. Dr. Ajith Weerakoon, Epidemiologist, STAC presented his second presentation on Role of Students and Teachers in Control and Prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS.

Closing Session

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC delivered concluding speech and thanked school family for their support and co-operation. Dr. Verma also thanked Director, NCASC Nepal, WHO/NTP Nepal, NTC Nepal, Professional from STAC for their informative presentations and support to make the programme fruitful specially to the students and teachers.

Miss Manisha Maharjan, Grade 12 gave her remarks on behalf of participating students

Mr. Shyam Bahadur KC, Teacher gave his remarks on behalf of participating teachers

Mr. Dasharath Balami, Chairman, School Management Committee gave his remarks and concluded the programme. STAC's publications were handed over to Principal for use in School Library. Participants were provided publications of STAC as resource materials along with stationery.

Outcome

The participating students/teachers became aware on TB and HIV/AIDS and its control mechanism and available services in the country. Simultaneously, they also gained knowledge on SAARC, its importance in the country for the all round development of the people of the Region as a whole.



5. Development of the ToR of SAARC Supra-national Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS and its Long Term Action Plan

Dr. V. P. Myneedu, Microbiologist (SAG), Professor and Head of Department, National Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD), New Delhi, India as a visited STAC, Kathmandu for development of Terms of Reference (ToR) of



(Meetings of the visiting Expert Dr. V. P. Myneedu with Director, NTP Nepal, Director, NPHL Nepal, previous Microbiologists, STAC and Director/GS Staff of STAC prior to develop the ToR)

SAARC Supra-national Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS and its Long Term Action Plan from 1st – 5th February 2016. He discussed with Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC on various records pertaining to laboratory plans, decisions taken in the meetings of various committees over the last several years.

He visited National TB Centre (NTC), which is the focal point for NTP, Nepal and interacted with Director, Microbiologist and Laboratory Staff. He discussed the issues in detail for various ways to start the laboratory activities.

He also visited National Public Health Laboratory and BSL – 3 facility to observe the functioning of laboratories and discussed with the concerned authorities.

A meeting was organized in STAC to interact with members of Internal Advisory Committee of STAC and senior officials who were connected directly or indirectly with STAC which are as follows:

- Dr. Bikash Lamichhane, Director, National TB Centre, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal,

- Dr. Gita Shakya, Director, National Public Health Laboratory, Ministry of Health Government of Nepal,
- Dr. B. P. Rijal (Ex-microbiologist – Professional Staff of STAC) Professor and Head of Department of Microbiology, Institute of Medicine, Tri-bhuvan University, Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu and
- Mr. D. K. Khadka (Ex-Microbiologist – Professional Staff of STAC), Microbiologist & In-charge, National TB Reference Laboratory, National TB Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal

Dr. Myneedu made a presentation on how to overanalyze the laboratory services of STAC and suggested that the short term and long term plan as required for the development of SAARC Supra-national Reference Laboratory for TB and HIV/AIDS.

6. Research Programme:

The status of research activities of the year are as follows:

1. Study on challenges in diagnosis of DR TB by Gene X-pert in:

- **Bangladesh**
- **Nepal**

This research activity is conducting in both the country Bangladesh and Nepal and the tentative date of the completion is March 2017.

2. Research Grant Study on

- i. TB and Diabetes and**
- ii. HIV and HCV (co-infection)**

The status of the activities – Information was circulated widely in the SAARC Member States through e-mails and internet. No any Member State applied for the research except Nepal. National Tuberculosis Centre (NTP as well) applied, however did not continue the process even several notification of STAC.

7. Presentation and Dissemination of Research Findings on TB & HIV/AIDS through participation in International Conferences

- Participation in the 47th UNION World Conference on Lung Health

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC participated in the 47th UNION World Conference organized in Liverpool, UK from 26th to 29th Oct. 2016. In the Conference most of the National Programme Managers of TB Control in SAARC Member States participated, congregated and utilize the opportunity to share their experiences and renewal their cooperation required for the control of TB in the Region.

8. Presentation & Dissemination of Research Findings on TB & HIV/AIDS and Capacity Building on the Technical and Managerial Skills of Personnel of STAC by Participating in the Regional Conferences/trainings, workshops etc. in the Member States

Under this programme Director, STAC had participated in different National and International Events related to TB and HIV/AIDS, which are as follows:

i. 12th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP I2) 12th – 14th March, 2016, Dhaka Bangladesh

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC participated in the 12th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP I2), Dhaka, Bangladesh on 12th – 14th March 2016. The visit was performed at the invitation of UNICEF, ROSA. The STAC has its aim to disseminate new research findings, and achievements by participating in Regional Conferences in the Member States as well as in other countries.

The Director Co-chaired a satellite session under the title "Improving Access and Coverage of HIV Prevention, Testing and Treatment Services for Adolescents, Asia and Pacific ("ALL IN" ADOLESCENTS)". The facts of the session were; adolescents (aged 10-19 years) are the only age group where AIDS-related deaths are not decreasing, among adolescents, AIDS the second most common cause of death globally, seeks to reduce AIDS-related deaths by 65%, reduce new HIV infections by 75% and eliminate HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination among adolescents by 2020.

The vision of ICAAP12 was an opportunity to firmly entrench communities' efforts to promote the game changers with respect to AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support

in the Asia Pacific region that will lead to shared vision in the post 2015 agenda and end AIDS by 2030.

The objectives of participation in ICAAP12:

- To provide the information on current status of HIV and AIDS in the SAARC Region.
- To advocate the SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS in international forum.

ii. Participation in PPM Workshop, NTP Nepal

Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC participated in the Public-Private Mix (PPM) workshop in TB Control organized by NTP Nepal in different parts of central region of Nepal from 5th to 8th July 2016. The objective of the workshop was to provide TB orientation to Medical Officer from government as well as private hospitals, Medical Colleges, Nursing Homes etc. One of the major functions of STAC is to support Member States in strengthening/updating the knowledge and skills of existing manpower working in control of TB and HIV/AIDS upon the request of Member States. Dr. Verma contributed in the workshop as a TB expert and main resource person. The workshop was conducted at Birgunj, Janakpur and Chitawan districts of Nepal.

9. Participation in the Review of Activities NTPs and NACPs in the SAARC Member States

Regional Review Meeting of Far-western Region, Nepal

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC participated in the Annual Performance Review Meeting at the invitation of the Far Western Regional Health Directorate, Dipayal, Dhangadhi, Nepal held from 19th to 21st February, 2016. The objective of the participation was to support Member State to carry out the review of TB and HIV/AIDS programmes. STAC has regular programme to support Member States to review the NTP and NACP upon their request.

10. Meeting of Collaborating Institutions for Strengthening of Networking WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA & other Collaborating Institutions

i. Sixth meeting in SEAR Technical Working Group on Tuberculosis (TWG-TB), 12th – 13th April 2016, Male, Maldives

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC participated in the sixth meeting in SEAR Technical Working Group on Tuberculosis (TWG-TB) was in Male, Maldives from 12th - 13th April 2016 at the invitation of WHO/SEARO. The objective of the meeting was to provide guidance on the implementation of the “End TB Strategy” for TB care and control interventions in countries of the Region.

The General objective of the meeting was to provide guidance on the implementation of the “End TB Strategy” for TB care and control interventions in countries of the Region and the specific objectives were as follows:

- to review the progress and identify challenges and constraints in implementing activities based on recommendations of TWG meeting (2014) in the countries of the Region;
- to review and discuss the Regional Strategic Plan 2016-2020;
- to provide guidance on adopting and applying revised WHO policies and guidelines for more comprehensively addressing in the specific context of countries in the Region;
- to provide technical guidance on identification of specific need of technical support from WHO and other partners in relation with the activities proposed for the 2016-2017 biennium in the countries of the region.

ii. Participation in 9th Meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee on MDR-TB

Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC participated at the 9th Meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee on MDT-TB organized by WHO/SEARO held in Kathmandu, 17th - 19th Oct. 2016. Since, STAC is only one Collaborating Centre (CC) of WHO in Nepal.

iii. Regional Workshop on Introduction of New Drugs & Regimens for DR-TB treatment in SEAR, New Delhi, India, 18th – 19th August, 2016

Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC participated in the above mentioned workshop organized by The Union East Asia (USEA) in collaboration with KNVC, Challenge TB, and with support from CDC and USAID in New Delhi, India from 18th to 19th August

2016. The objectives of the workshop were to provide updates on current WHO policies related to new drugs and regimens for DR TB and mechanisms to access these drugs; to discuss preparatory activities for the introduction of new drugs and regimens under programmatic conditions and to share experiences of countries and partner organizations who have introduced new regimens for the treatment of DR TB cases.

The recent WHO recommendations on the use of shorter treatment regimens and Second Line Drug Susceptibility Testing (SL DST) are expected to radically change the management of DR TB. Several countries in the South-East Asia with high burden of DR TB stand to benefit from these new recommendations. However, it will be critical that the countries take necessary steps to adopt and implement them quickly. This workshop brought together the National TB Programme (NTP) Managers, NTP focal persons for DR TB, TB partners and experts; and provided an opportunity to provide updates to ensure strengthening of capacity to rapidly introduce shorter regimens and new drugs for the treatment of DR TB with a focus on the **Bedaquiline** and **Delamanid** containing regimens and 9 month shorter treatment regimen

iv. 3rd International Conference of South East Asia Region (SEAR) of the UNION, 26th – 27th May 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal

The 3rd International Conference of South East Asia Region (SEAR) of The UNION was organized from 26th to 27th May 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal.

People from the South-east Asia Region and abroad participated in the conference. The theme of the conference was “TB and Lung Health”, which reflects that TB; to a great extent is a lung disease. SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre supported for organizing the conference.

Dr. S. C. Verma, Director, STAC chaired “Free Paper Presentation Session VIII on Tuberculosis, “Symposium on Tobacco Control in the SAARC Countries Where are We for Achieving WHO FCTC Recommendations” and “Symposium on Tobacco Cessation into Regular TB services from TB patients in Low income countries”

Dr. Ajith Weerakoon, Epidemiologist, STAC co-chaired the Symposium, Oral presentation on Adult & Child Health related to TB epidemiology. He also presented papers on “Constraint of Involvement of General Practitioners in the National TB Control Programme in Sri Lanka” in plenary sessions.

11. Thirteenth Round Proficiency Testing of SSM for NRLs of SAARC Member States

SAARC TB Reference Laboratory (STRL) has a good networking for Quality Assurance of Sputum Microscopy with the Ten National TB Reference Laboratories (NRLs) of the Member States under NTP. STRL has been supporting NRLs in the area of Quality Assurance (QA) of microscopy network. Standardization of culture and Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST) and the implementation of international Bio-safety measures are the other challenges. Panel Testing is one of the three components for External Quality Assessment (EQA) or proficiency testing. STRL conducted first round of proficiency testing in Member States in 2003. Since then STRL has been conducting the annual rounds of Proficiency Testing on its own. STRL has completed the Thirteenth Round of Proficiency Testing in 2016.

National TB Reference Laboratories in SAARC Member Countries

Afghanistan – National TB Reference Laboratory, Kabul

Bangladesh – National TB Reference Laboratory, Dhaka

Bhutan – Public Health Laboratory, Dept. of Health, Thimphu

India – Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai and National TB Institute, Bangalore

Maldives –Public Health Laboratory, Male

Nepal – National TB Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur

Pakistan –Ojha Institute of Chest Disease, Karachi and Federal TB Centre, Rawalpindi

Sri Lanka – National TB Reference Laboratory, CH, Welisara

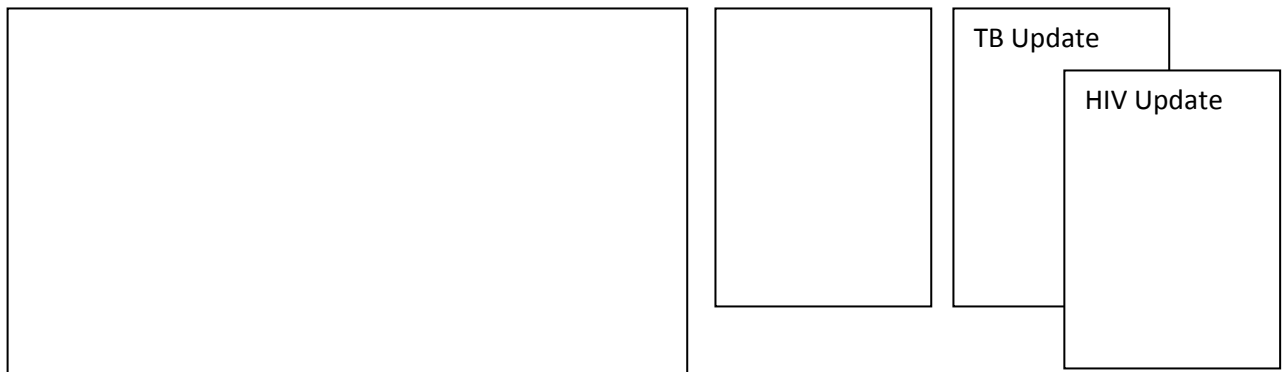
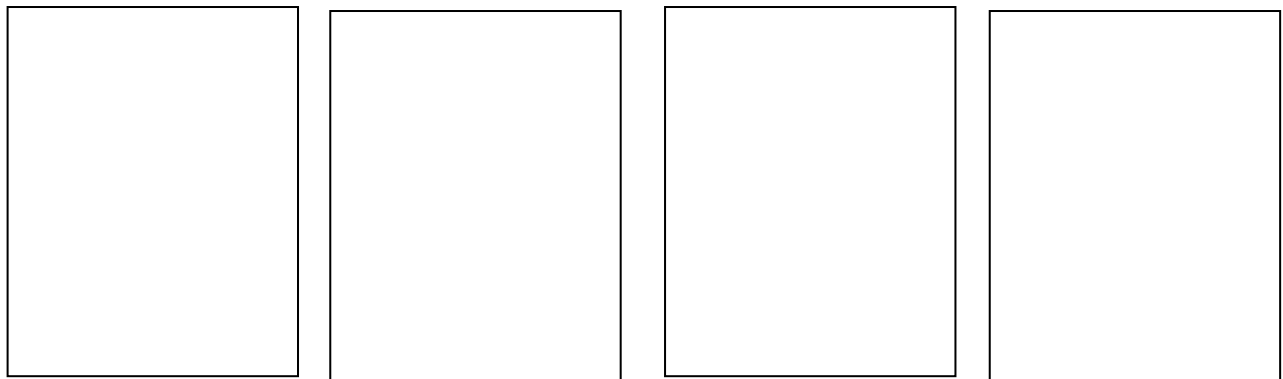
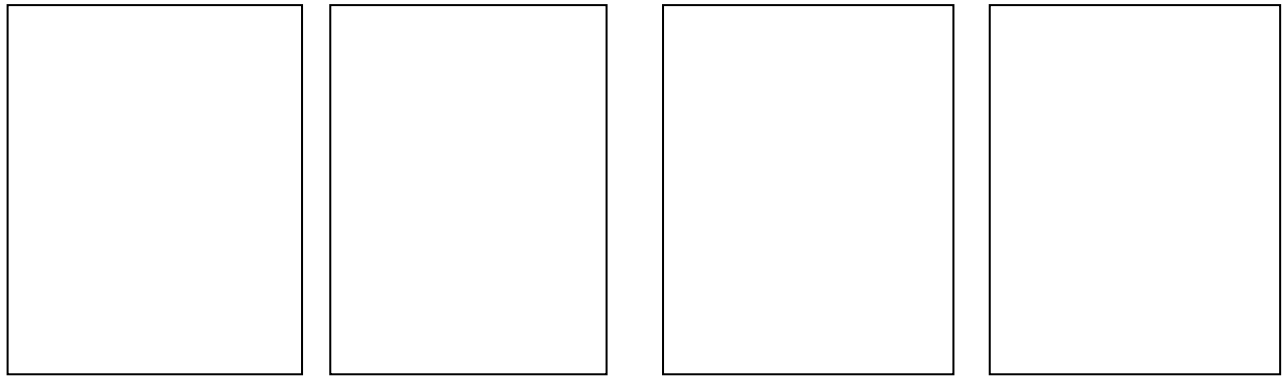
12. Conferment of SAARC Award on HIV/AIDS 2016

The award has not conferred.

13. Publication and Distribution

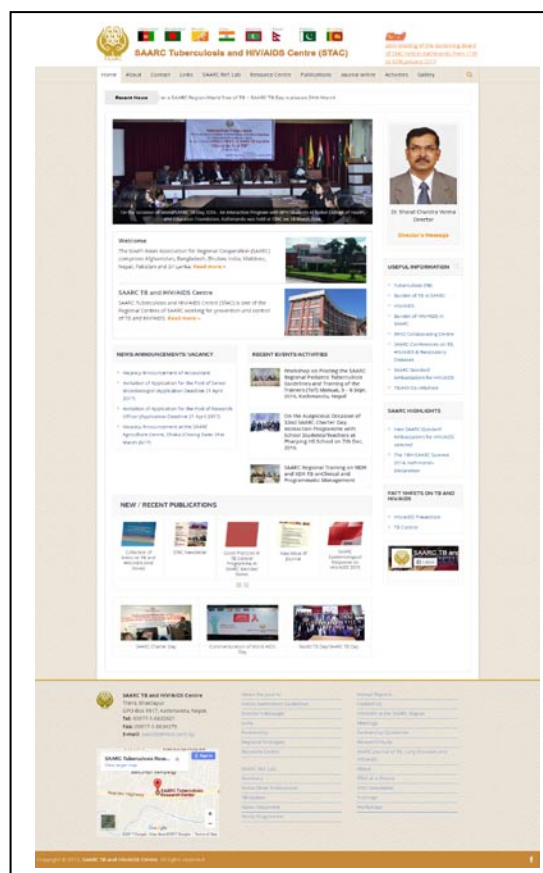
STAC publications contains reports on activities, updated information on TB and HIV/AIDS, articles related to TB, HIV/AIDS and Lung Diseases on new findings, case reports, awareness messages etc. news on TB and HIV/AIDS along with the information on related matters of the SAARC Member States of the concerned year. These publications are distributed to the SAARC Member States, experts and concerned international agencies, such as WHO, UNAIDS etc. through electronic circulation as

well as by surface mail on the basis of their necessity. Almost all publications are uploaded on STAC website (www.saarctb.org) which can be downloaded freely for non commercial purpose.



14. Dissemination of Information on TB, HIV and AIDS by updating STAC Website (www.saarctb.org)

An official website of STAC is available in internet under the web address, of www.saarctb.org. On this website recent information about TB control, HIV prevention, information on programmatic management, informative articles, news & announcement of the Centre, support to other SAARC Regional Centres by publishing the information upon their request, uploaded publications of STAC etc. are being published. Periodically and timely updating for the purpose of giving updated information has been done. Timely modification is being done to make the website more users' friendly, compatible to almost all web browsers used in internet browsing. A simple and user friendly online submission system of articles is being also managed.



15. Resource Centre for TB and HIV/AIDS (STAC Library)

This is a specialized library for TB and HIV/AIDS. Available books, journals, newspapers, reports, dissertations, audio-visual materials related to TB and HIV/AIDS have been collected and computerized for the use of people. This library is in the process of being developed as e-library.

16. Collection, Compilation and e-Circulation of Published Scientific Articles and Important News Related to TB and HIV/AIDS in the National Daily Newspapers/Journals

Important information related to the TB and HIV/AIDS published on different websites has been browsed and downloaded within the download parameter and compiled and placed on STAC website for the information to the website users.

17. Visit of different dignitaries to STAC

Visit of an Official Team from Bhutan

A team from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan visited STAC office on 3rd June 2016. The team observed functioning of the Centre and available infrastructure and progress made by the Centre. The team members, Ms. Yangchen Lhamo and Tshewing Pelden gave their remarks. They also expressed their happiness by observing the activities of STAC.



(Director, STAC discussing with the team members in his chamber at STAC)

Visit of STAC by Executives from Johnson & Johnson

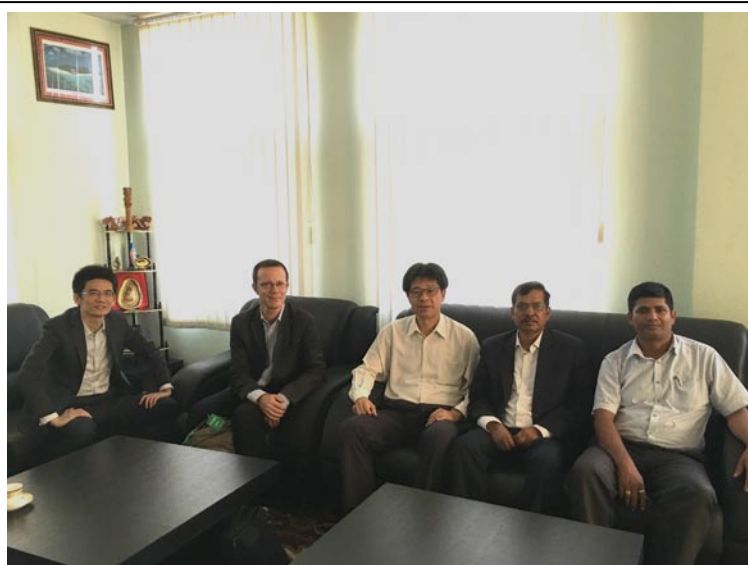
A new Anti-TB drug **Bedaquiline**, is used to treat multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). It was launched in India on World Tuberculosis Day 2016. For the initiative, the Government of India has joined hands with U.S. based healthcare firm Johnson & Johnson (J&J).



Mr. Jason Williams and Mr. Anand Rishi from J & J, India visited SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal on 3rd March, 2016 as Nepal is also going to launch Bedaquiline shortly. The purpose of their visit was to discuss with the Director, STAC Dr. S. C. Verma about the initiatives STAC may take with the new drugs for the management of MDR-TB, XDR-TB in the SAARC Region.

Visit of STAC by International Dignitaries

Dr. Chen-Yuan Chiang, IUATLD (The UNION), Dr. Russell Dacombe, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Dr. Hsien-Ho Lin, Institute of Epidemiology Preventive Medicine, National Taiwan University and Mr. Gokul Mishra, LHLI Focal Person to Nepal visited STAC and



discussed with Dr. S. C. Verma, Director about the functioning of the Centre and role played in SAAC Region for the control of TB and prevention of HIV/AIDS September 2016.

Visit of STAC by Experts from KNCV & Global Fund

Visit of Dr. Remi Verduin, Public Health Consultant, KNCV and Dr. Tushar Kanti Ray, KNCV Technical Advisor to Global Fund Tuberculosis Programme, Nepal to STAC on 23rd November 2016 and observed the facilities and functioning of the STAC and



discussed with Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma, Director, STAC about future activities of the Centre and establish KNCV related collaboration/coordination.

Pending/additional activities carried out in 2016

1. Updating existing documentary on TB and HIV/AIDS and documenting SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors Programmes and other activities

The 3rd issue of documentary has been prepared and presented in the 53rd Session of Programming Committee of SAARC held 1- 2- February 2017 in Kathmandu.

2. Development on SAARC Regional Programme Guidelines on Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric TB

The Guidelines have been prepared and tested by organizing a workshop of experts, health workers and concerned officials from 5th to 6th Sept. 2016 at Dhulikhel, Kavrepalanchowk, Nepal.



Documentary CD

12. Audit of Accounts of STAC for the year 2015

A joint audit team (JAT 15) for the year 2015 comprising auditors Mr. Kamal Prasad Silwal, Director, Office of the Auditor General of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal and Mr. Muhammad Ajmal Gondal, Director General, Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan carried out the audit of the accounts and operations on 19th July 2016 of the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal for the period of 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2015.

Activities could not be carried out in the year 2016

The following activities could not be carried out due to lack of quorum/confirmation from the Member States and other unforeseen circumstances:

1. SAARC Regional ToT on Tuberculosis and Drug Resistant TB Infection Control
2. SAARC Regional ToT on Clinical Management of Drug Resistance TB
3. SAARC Regional Meeting of Programme Managers on TB and HIV/AIDS Control & SAARC Regional Expert Group Meeting and review of SAARC Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2013-2017)
4. SAARC Regional Training on Anti-Retroviral Therapy
5. SAARC Regional Training on TB for Microbiologist on Culture & DST, Gene Xpert / NAAT and its Maintenance

6. SAARC Regional workshop to address the cross border issues for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS
7. Preparatory work for SAARC Regional Third Conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases - 2017
8. Presentation & dissemination of research findings on TB & HIV/AIDS and capacity building on the technical and managerial skills of personnel of STAC
9. Technical Assistant support to the NTP/NACP, of SAARC Member States and STAC
10. SAARC Goodwill Ambassador's Programmes for HIV/AIDS
11. Collection and sharing of all existing guidelines and frameworks (HIV/AIDS) relevant of the works of SAARC Member States

Under the SAARC- UNDP/UNAIDS/UNICEF support

12. SAARC Regional Workshop for Planning and implementation of safe & large city intervention for HIV/AIDS and develop a plan to fulfill these gaps in the SAARC Member States

Piloting the Training of Trainers (ToT) on SAARC Regional Pediatric Tuberculosis Guidelines and Training Manual

5-6 September, 2016, Dhulikhel, Kavrepalanchowk, Nepal

Resource Persons

1. Dr. Sharat Chandra Verma
Director, STAC, Bhaktapur
2. Dr. Ajith Weerakoon
Epidemiologist, STAC, Bhaktapur
3. Dr. Prashant Rijal
Assistant Professor Pediatric Pulmonologist
Nepal Medical College and Teaching Hospital, Katmandu
4. Dr. Bikash Lamichhane
Director, National TB Centre, Bhaktapur
5. Prof. Dr. Ramesh Adhikari,
Pediatrician, Nepal
6. Dr. Laxman Shrestha
Nepal Pediatric Association, Nepal
7. Dr. Bhabana Shrestha,
Director, German Nepal TB Project (GENETUP), Kathmandu
8. Mr. Sujit Shah
Public Health Expert,
National TB Centre, Bhaktapur
9. Dr. Ashish Shrestha
National Consultant for TB, WHO, Bhaktapur
10. Dr. Ram Krishna Chandyo,
Pediatrician, Siddhi Memorial Hospital, Bhaktapur

Participants

National Tuberculosis Centre (NTC), Bhaktapur, Nepal

- 1 Dr. Mohan Kumar Prasai, Senior Consultant Chest Physician
- 2 Dr. Naveen Prakash Shah, Consultant Chest Physician
- 3 Dr. Pramod Bhattarai, Medical Officer

- 4 Dr. Rajendra Bikram Khadka, Medical Officer
- 5 Mr. Anil Thapa, Statistician, Under Secretary
- 6 Mr. Gokarna Raj Ghimire, Medical Lab Technologist
- 7 Ms. Yasoda Rajbhandari, Training Co-ordinator
- 8 Ms. Pushpa Kshetri, PHN
- 9 Mr. Hari Narayan Shah, HA
- 10 Ms. Kamala Wagle, PHN
- 11 Ms. Mira Shrestha, Sr. ANM
- 12 Ms. Sarita Mainali, Sr. ANM
- 13 Mr. Hari Kunwar, Training Coordinator

Kanti Children Hospital, Kathmandu

1. Dr. Renu Prasai
2. Dr. Ganesh Shrestha
3. Dr. Siddharth Verma
4. Dr. Anupama Adhikari

Bhaktapur Hospital

1. Dr. Sarita Shrestha
2. Dr. Poma Thapa

Siddhi Smriti Children Hospital, Bhaktapur

1. Dr. Manju Ulak, Pediatrician

Central Regional Health Directorate, Makawanpur

1. Mr. Bishnu Jaisi, RTLO

District Public Health Office, Kathmandu

1. Mr. Chitra Jung Shahi, DTLO
2. Ms. Janak Kumari Dhakal, DTLO

District Public Health Officer, Lalitpur

1. Ms. Devi Gurung, DTLO

District Public Health Office, Bhaktapur

1. Ms. Tara Sharam Gyawali, DTLO

District Public Health Office, Kavrepalanchok

1. Mr. Raja Ram Adhikari, DTLO

Kalimati Chest Hospital, Kathmandu

1. Ms. Jyoti Panta