



Dear Esteemed Members,

Greetings from VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India

It has been a significant quarter for VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India especially on the advocacy front.

We had an opportunity to meet Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The meeting was to invite the minister for the World Sight Day event in Delhi.

It was a prospect for us to acquaint him with the national initiative and the work that we are doing. It is an initial step towards advocacy for the future especially as the minister has hit the ground running and is in the process of bringing in innovative ideas in the health care sector.

On the advocacy front, it is a privilege for VISION 2020 – India to be on the Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, for the prevention and control of Diabetic Retinopathy.

It is a recognition for VISION 2020 – India when the National Programme for Control of Blindness, Government of India requested us to submit a draft for a proposed manual on educating teachers and children on eye health. Dr Sara Varughese, President, VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India was invited among others for a meeting by NPCB to discuss and provide inputs for a proposal for declaring a Vision Care Day by the government.

After the overwhelming response for the 10th annual conference, we are working on improving the next conference based on the constructive feedback that we have received. The venue for the 11th annual conference is CL Gupta Eye Institute, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.

It is a continuous endeavour on our part to generate awareness on eye care among the policy makers, general public and others. Towards this, VISION 2020 – India invited innovative ideas as 'Innovative Excellence' reward. This was to coincide with the World Sight Day. We received an encouraging response. We do hope that such steps contribute towards the much needed awareness on eye problems.

An external midterm review of our 5 year strategy has just been completed as we have reached the midpoint. The report will suggest corrective measures.

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*Dr Sara Varughese
President*

*Phanindra Babu Nukella, Ph.D.
CEO*

ADVOCACY

A Meeting with the Union Minister

Dr Sara Varughese and Phanindra Babu Nukella, President and CEO respectively of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India met Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The purpose was to invite him for the World Sight Day event to be held at Delhi.

The opportunity was used to brief the minister about this national initiative and the work that VISION 2020 – India is doing.

Participation in NPCB meeting

Dr Sara Varughese, President-VISION 2020 India was invited for a consultative meeting by the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), Government of India. The meeting focused on observing Vision Care Day in India by the government annually and inputs were sought.

Mini Manual on Eye Care for Teachers

In a positive development on the Advocacy front with NPCB, Dr NK Agarwal requested VISION 2020- India to submit a draft for a mini manual on Eye Health and Children. The secretariat compiled it from various sources and sent it to the ministry meeting the very short deadline.

We were supported by Dr Kuldeep Dole, from HV

Desai Eye Hospital in compiling the manual and giving us his technical inputs.

Aravind Eye Care, Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, HV Desai Eye Hospital, NPCB, International Centre for Eye Health and Sight Life shared similar publications with us from where content was taken.

VISION 2020 – India link on NPCB website

VISION 2020 – India finds a place on the NPCB website. This positive advocacy effort will go a long way in promoting VISION 2020 – India. <http://npcb.nic.in/index1.asp?linkid=35&langid=1>

Meeting of DR Task Force

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has constituted a Task Force on prevention and control of Diabetic Retinopathy with clearly defined terms of reference. VISION 2020 – India as part of the task force participated in the first meeting held at Dr RP Centre, AIIMS. President, Dr. Sara Varughese and CEO, Phanindra Babu attended the meeting which had a total of 28 officials from government and non-governmental institutions across the country. The meeting was called for especially to discuss the proposal on "Reducing blindness from diabetic

retinopathy in India- Generating and using evidence for policy change and programme development" which is under consideration for onward submission to the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. The discussions focused on proposed program areas for Trust support, monitoring and evaluation framework, selection of districts for implementation, activities for engaging and capacity building of Physician/its team & district ophthalmic team, and engaging & empowering people with diabetes to lead healthier life.

VISION 2020 – India in FICCI newsletter

In another advocacy effort, this time reaching out a large number of corporate honchos in the country, a brief introduction about VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India was featured in the bi-annual CSR magazine of FICCI, which is an association of business organizations in India. This magazine is circulated to nearly 300 corporate CSR heads.

FICCI Newsletter



PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

Annual Conference is the flagship event of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India. This is an opportunity for all member organisations to share their best practices. The conference in its present avatar was initiated in 2012 when at Madurai conference a complete makeover was done to incorporate parallel tracks and also invites trade.

The 2014 annual conference of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India titled '**Advancement in Comprehensive Eye Care: Clinical and Managerial**' was a landmark one as it was the 10th. Held on July 5 & 6, 2014, the conference was convened by VISION 2020 – India and was hosted by our south zone member - Little Flower Eye Hospital and Research Centre, Angamaly, Kerala.

With a large participation of INGOs, NGOs, Trade and community health related experts, the national conference aims at:

- Sharing best practices for enhancement of skill in all departments
- Opportunity for networking towards contributing for improving eye care in the country



Led by a stellar roster of renowned speakers, the two-day program included topics that were a balanced mix of both clinical and non clinical. The conference included six tracks that were designed to be highly practical focused on drawing best practices from successful eye care organisations and other institutions across the country.

Over 600 participated in the conference from VISION 2020 – India member organisations from across the country. We saw participation from the Health Ministry, Government of

India; World Health Organisation, India; Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Trivandrum; premier eye institution, Dr RP Centre; Centre of Excellence in eye care in India. International participation from organisations: SEVA Foundation, IAPB.



- The conference was designed to include 6 tracks and one common session:

- Inspirational Leadership for Achieving Challenging Goals
- Quality & Excellence in OT, OPD and Allied Departments of an Eye Hospital
- Community Outreach: towards Equitable, Accessible, Affordable Eye Care Delivery
- Comprehensive Approach and Advancement in Eye Care: Practices, Techniques & Technology
- Optometrist: First Line of Eye Care Providers
- Project & Operations Management for Effective Hospital Management

Shri K.M. Mani, Honourable Finance Minister, Government of Kerala was the chief guest for the inaugural function. It was presided by Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath, Auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam – Angamaly Archdiocese. Dr NK Agarwal, DDG (O), NPCB, MoHFW, Government of India was the Special Guest for the function.

Father Paul Madan, Director, Little Flower Eye Hospital; Dr Elizabeth Joseph, HOD, Department of Ophthalmology, Little Flower Eye Hospital; Col. (Dr.) M. Deshpande, President, VISION 2020 – India, Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 – India, Dr Tony Fernandez, Senior Ophthalmologist, Kerala were on the dais.

AWARDS

VISION 2020 – India has instituted two awards to honour the work done by our members in the field of eye care. One is Shri Dharamsey Nansey Oman Award for Outstanding High Quality High Volume Comprehensive Eye Care Service Delivery and the other is Shri S. N. Shah award for Equity: to provide comprehensive primary eye care screenings with a focus on women and children.



For 2014, the Shri Dharamsey Nansey Oman Award for Outstanding High Quality High Volume Comprehensive Eye Care Service Delivery was awarded to Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. The award carries a cash component for Rs.100,000 and a memento.

Mr AK Arora, CEO, Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital received the award at the inauguration.

This is the 3rd year for this award.



The Shri S. N. Shah award for Equity: to provide comprehensive primary eye care screenings with a focus on women and children for 2014 was awarded to Sitapur Eye Hospital, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh. The award carries a cash component of Rs. 10,000 and a memento. Col Bahaduria, Chief Administrator, Sitapur Eye Hospital received the award.

This is the 2nd year for this award.

To mark the 10th year of the annual conference, in 2014 a special award 'Visionary Award' was instituted. This was to be given for life time achievement in the field of community eye care.

The first 'Visionary Award', which was decided by a committee specially constituted for the purpose was awarded to Dr GN Rao, Chairman, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

THE VISIONARY AWARD

The award carries a cash component of rupees one lakh and a memento

The award was given by another legend in eye care, Dr Pararajsegram, joined by Dr NK Agarwal, Col M Deshpande and Dr C S Shetty.



Hon'able Minister KS Mani Lighting the Inaugural Lamp



PRESS MEET FOR THE CONFERENCE



Programme Development

Workshop on Visual Rehabilitation

A two day national workshop on 'Rehabilitation of Persons with Visual Impairment' was held at Blind People's Association, Ahmadabad, who also hosted the workshop. A total of 52 persons participated in the workshop. An action plan was developed at the end of the workshop which has been shared with stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Identify the gaps in rehabilitation services for Person with Visual Impairment
- Map legal/constitutional rights and schemes and benefits for persons with visual impairment
- Revisit and redefine vision standards for jobs for visually impaired
- Identify advocacy issues for action and offer recommendations to relevant stakeholders towards improving rehabilitation services.

At the workshop students with visual impairment spoke on challenges faced by them. Groups work focussed on giving suggestions for strengthening measures and identify advocacy issues.

For full report and action plan please visit website: vision2020india.org

West Zone Meeting

On 10th September, the first West Zone meeting after the new Board took over was held on 10th September at Blind People's Association, Ahmadabad. Col Deshpande, zonal representative, West Zone presided over the meeting.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The 43rd Board meeting of VISION 2020 – India was held on July 4, 2014 at Hotel Lotus 8, Angamaly, Kerala.

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