Dear Members,

Greetings from VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA.

At the onset, we would like to thank all who made the 12th annual conference, which concluded recently at Pune a resounding success: the delegates, resource persons, the scientific committee and most importantly, the team at HV Desai Eye Hospital, led by Col Deshpande. It was truly a platform for sharing learning and networking and also advocacy. Thank You.

There have been several significant developments towards contributing to improvement in eye health in the country. Following the discussions of V2020 with NPCB, the much awaited HR mapping has been launched by NPCB. This will be a survey across the country to be carried out by the SPOs and DPMs and has been designed to collect information on all types of eye care facilities in the country. The earlier such exercise was done on year 2001. Need for HR and infrastructure mapping was identified during our national consultation held in October 2015.

Towards improving eye health in the north east region, we have developed the State Action Plan for Arunachal Pradesh. The timelines and the organisations responsible for implementing the plan in the state have been identified. We have already begun our work in the next identified state: Assam. A preliminary meeting with the SPO was held in June and two districts have been identified for the situational analysis.

Our advocacy with the ministry has borne some fruits as the issue of DBSC dues has met with some success in some of the states with partial due clearance. Our meeting with the Joint Secretary and due to our continued efforts with the NPCB, a third DO letter has been issued to all the states. We do hope that this will help in releasing payments to states where our members have not received payments as yet.

Dr Sara Varughese                                      Phanindra Babu Nukella, Ph.D.
President                                              Chief Executive Officer

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Planning for 13th Five Year Plan is Underway

Planning for government’s 13th Five Year plan is underway. NPCB has constituted an Advisory Committee for 16 members to review the existing Plan and finalise the 13th Five Year Plan under NPCB.

The committee is headed by the Joint Secretary, NPCB. The committee also includes DDG, NPCB; Assistant Commissioner, NPCB; SPO’s from six states, three other senior ophthalmologists from premier government eye institutes in the country. Dr T P Das, Vice Chair, LVPEI; Dr RD Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care Systems and Dr B K Jain, Chairman, Sadguru Nethrachikitsalya also in the committee. In the committee, VISION 2020 – INDIA is represented by Dr Sara Varughese, President, VISION 2020 – INDIA.

Fruitful meeting with Joint Secretary and DDG(O)

DBCS dues: the Joint Secretary has issued a DO letter to Principal Health Secretaries of all states to speed up the process of DBCS payments to NGOs as per NPCB norms. This will be helpful for our members and others to receive their pending DBCS amount, if any. Some of our members and non-members already received pending amounts some time in April as a result of letters issued by NPCB to all states following a series of consultations by VISION 2020 – INDIA at the central level.

Data verification by DPM: data verification by DPMs was discussed at the meeting. Whether it is possible for the verification to be done in a stipulated time period and payments disbursed at state level in the future, after due data verification at district level by DPMs.

There was in principle consensus that there needs to be a specific time period (say 3 months from date of data uploading in HMIS) for DPMs to verify the data, else, consider it to be deemed approved.

HR Mapping: With the next five year plan in the making, it is imperative to conduct HR mapping to cover ophthalmologists, PMOA, specialties, infrastructure, equipment across NGOs, private hospitals and the government facilities. The last HR mapping in the country was done in year 2000. As a result of this discussion initiated by VISION 2020 – INDIA, NPCB has launched a nation-wide infrastructure and human resource mapping. The survey will cover all types of eye care facilities in the country similar to the one in year 2002.

The 12th annual conference – Eye Care for All

The 12th annual conference – Eye Care for All – was successfully held at Pune on 4 & 5 June 2016.

It convened nearly 600 participants from across the country bringing together senior government officials from the Centre and State health ministry, policy makers, heads of eye hospitals, allied organisations, ophthalmologists, optometrists, hospital managers and other important cadre who are the backbone of an eye hospital.
Some Highlights of the conference:

- A free-wheeling interaction with the Joint Secretary, NPCB, Ms Dharitri Panda, where she outlined areas in which the national programme was focusing and also responded to several questions by members.

- The unveiling of a special Sightsavers logo on their 50 years in India at the inauguration.

- A talk by CEO of Health Sector Skill Council and this takes importance in today’s emerging scenario of building skills and collaborating of all allied sectors for an improved health care in the country.

The 50 years Sightsavers logo was unveiled by chief guest S. B. Mujumdar, Founder and President, Symbiosis University.

Dr Promilla Gupta, DDG, NPCB; Mr D Nagarajan from Seva, Mr RN Mohanty, CEO, Sightsavers India and Mr Rajiv Bajaj, MD, Bajaj Auto look on.

VISION 2020—INDIA Awards

The two awards instituted by VISION 2020 – INDIA – Shri Dharamsey Nensey award and Shri SN Shah awards were presented at the conference.

This year’s Dharamsey Nansey Award was presented to Pushpagiri Vitero Retina Institute, Hyderabad and the SN Shah Award to Udaygiri Lions Eye Hospital, Udaygiri, Latur.

We congratulate both the organisations.

The complete conference report can be accessed at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8V7OUBMPkpU3FpdWgzNXYxT0U/view?usp=sharing
Programme Development

State Action Plan for Arunachal Pradesh

The final State Action Plan for the prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in Arunachal Pradesh is ready for implementation.

In a one day meeting on 22nd April, 2016 at Itanagar, attended by all concerned stakeholders, the final Action Plan for the prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in Arunachal Pradesh was developed. The process for this was started during November 2015 when VISION 2020 INDIA conducted a Situation Analysis in Changlang and Lower Subansiri districts of Arunachal Pradesh in November 2015.

This was in close collaboration with State NPCB and other stakeholders and was followed by a meeting by VISION 2020 – INDIA with government officials of Arunachal Pradesh [Commissioner-Health, Joint Secretary-HFW, Joint Director-Medical Education, Nodal Officer-CM Health Insurance Scheme, Director Health Services] to brief the findings of situational analysis in 2 districts and also to plan the State Action Plan Development.

Dr Taba Khanna, SPO, Arunachal Pradesh, who had been involved in the planning of the exercise from the inception, having had meetings at the pre-planning stage, played an active role in guiding the team and participating in the exercise throughout.

Situational analysis in 2 districts of Assam

Continuing our efforts towards providing improved eye care in the north east region, Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella met with Dr Bhupen Nath, SPO, NPCB, Assam to plan for conducting situational analysis in 2 districts of the state and thereafter developing action plan for the 2 districts aimed at improving the eye health in the state. As an outcome of the discussions two districts – one from upper Assam and another from lower Assam – Sivasagar and Nalbari have been suggested for the situation analysis.

Organisational Development

AGBM Held

The 12th Annual General Body Meeting of VISION 2020 – INDIA was held on 4th June, 2016 at the HV Desai Eye Hospital, Pune.

Board Meeting Held

On 3rd June 2016, the 50th Board meeting of VISION 2020 – INDIA was held.
New Finance and Admin officer joined

Mr Ajeet Singh Bisht has joined as the Finance and Admin Officer at VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA.

Ajeet has a MBA specialising in Finance & HR from one of the top management institutes. He has 14 years of experience in the field of finance, accounts and administration.

News From Members

A Sankara Eye Hospital opens in Ganjam district in Odhisha

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday, June 11, 2016 inaugurated a 100-bed super specialty eye care hospital in Ganjam district. The hospital has been set up at Samarjholoa village under Hinjilicut block. The hospital will offer modern eye care services to the people of Ganjam and nearby districts.

The complex is totally green, environment-friendly, energy and water self-sufficient. The complex would get 150 kW of solar power generated through solar panels fixed on roofs of buildings of the complex and its water needs would be met from rainwater harvesting and recycling of used water.

Congratulations to some of our members

Dr Vikas Mahatme is now a MP

We congratulate Dr Vikas Mahatame, founder of Mahatme Eye Bank and Eye Hospital, on being nominated to the Rajya Sabha.

Dr Atul Kumar is Honorary Consultant to Govt. of India

Dr Atul Kumar, Chief Dr RP Centre, AIIMS has been appointed as honorary ophthalmologist consultant to the government of India.

Dr TP Das is Regional Chair-SEAR/IAPB for South Asia

Dr TP Das, Vice Chairman, LVPEI has been unanimously appointed as Regional Chair-SEAR/IAPB.