

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight—India



Quarterly Report

April-June 2013



Greetings to all members of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA.

It has been an eventful quarter to begin the year with. We successfully conducted the 9th annual conference at Bhopal. What we started in the previous conference in Madurai was continued this year as well. The conference had 8 tracks, 7 sessions in each track, and a total of nearly 520 participants.

We are thankful to Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital our member from Central zone for taking up this mammoth responsibility and conducting the conference with such aplomb.

Their effort needs a special thanks and appreciation as for the hospital this was first of such a conference at such a large scale. It is an example of team work that saw their other sister organisations: the Management College, Hirdaram Girls College and College of Naturopathy & Yogic Sciences put in their effort to make the conference such a grand event.

We are specially thankful to Ms. Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW); Dr. N. K. Agarwal, Deputy Director General (oph) MoHFW; Dr. (Prof) Rajvardhan Azad, Chief, Dr. R. P Centre, AIIMS; Dr. Pararajasegaram, Past President, IAPB; Dr. V. Rajasekhar, Ophthalmologist, Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. G. N. Rao, Chair, LVP Eye Institute; our Executive, Board and General Body Members and others for their valuable inputs and participating in the conference.

We also are grateful to Dr Ravichandran, Director, IIM, Indore and his team members for sharing their valuable inputs at the conference. We would also like to thank Mr Nitin Desai for being a part of the conference. We would like thank the state Health Department for encouraging participation.

But most importantly, we would like to thank our members and speakers who attended the conference in such a large numbers. Without their participation such a success would not have been possible.

We would like to thank the government of India and MoHFW for an increased budget allocation under the government's 12 five year plan for blindness programme in the country. At a global level the action plan for 2014 – 2019 was passed at the World Health Assembly. We are bringing you an interview with Mr Peter Ackland, CEO, IAPB explaining the details of the Action Plan.

We take this opportunity to congratulate Dr TP Das and Dr S Natrajan for being conferred with Padma Shri.

We are glad to share that the next year's conference which is a landmark year as it will be the 10th conference will be held on June 14 & 15, 2014 at Little Flower Eye Hospital and Research Centre, Angamaly, Cochin, Kerala. We hope to have an equally invigorating learning experience there .

Col (retd) Dr M Deshpande
President

Dr G V Rao
CEO

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9th annual conference

A platform for sharing of knowledge and best practices

Exchange of knowledge and sharing best practices across 8 tracks, 7 sessions in each track, and a total of nearly 520 participants that is the 9th annual conference in a nutshell that concluded in Bhopal recently.

The two - day conference 'Achieving Excellence in Comprehensive Eye Care Management' held on April 6 & 7 and hosted by Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital, Bhopal included a range of topics and received a tremendous response in terms of participation from our members.

"The sessions covered many areas of interest and I feel confident that it did stimulate a lot of enthusiasm especially among the young audience" said Dr Pararajsegram of the conference.

Commenting on the exclusiveness of the conference, Dr Santosh Moses, Assistant

"The sessions covered many areas of interest and I feel confident that it did stimulate a lot of enthusiasm especially among the young audience" said Dr Pararajsegram of the conference.



Seated from L to R: Dr GV Rao, Dr GN Rao, Dr (Col) Deshpande, Prof Azad, Sidh Bauji, Mr Kailash Joshi, Mr Jeetendra Daga, Dr Pararajsegram, Mr Nitin Desai and Dr TP Das. Dr Sashi Rai is at the podium.

Director - Eye Health, Operation Eyesight Universal (India) said, "This is perhaps the only conference in ophthalmology that provides an opportunity to the supporting staff in an eye hospital to attend a conference and more importantly, an opportunity to share their thoughts."

The participants for the conference included head of organisations, ophthalmologists, administrators, programme managers, optometrists and in addition to this, 123 management students from local host organisation!

In addition to the regular sessions, the conference hosted three special sessions: 'Forum of Visionaries in Eye Care' that featured Dr Pararajsegram, Consultant Ophthalmologist; Prof Rajvardhan Azad, Chief, RP Centre, AIIMS; Dr GN Rao, Chairman, LVPEI who deliberated on the road ahead for VISION 2020: The Right to Sight - India

A special session was by the management guru, Dr N Ravichandran, Director, IIM, Indore.

The third one was a two - hour hands on training session on the intricacies of HMIS from the master himself, Dr V Rajasekhar. The session was chaired by Ms Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary, MoHFW, Government of India.

Dr NK Agarwal, DDG (O), NPCB, Government of India Chaired a session in the Outreach track and participated in panel discussions.

One more award instituted this year

While continuing with the award that was instituted last year: Shri Dharamsey Nansey Oman Award for Outstanding High Quality High Volume Comprehensive Eye Care Service Delivery, a new award to promote equity in eye care was instituted this year: Shri S.N. Shah award for Equity for providing comprehensive primary eye care screenings with a focus on women and children.

Both the awards were presented at the inaugural of the annual conference. The Shri Dharamsey Nansey Oman Award for Outstanding High Quality High Volume Comprehensive Eye Care Service Delivery award was given to Shri Sadguru Nethra Chikitsalya, Chitrakoot while the Shri S.N. Shah award for Equity: to provide comprehensive primary eye care screenings with a focus on women and children went to Pushpagiri Eye Institute, Hyderabad. We thank Mr N P Pandya for making the award possible.





Dr BK Jain receiving the Shri Dharamsey award and Mr Govind Hari receiving the SN Shah award.

Able support from our Members.

A conference of this magnitude is not possible without able support. And our members have made it possible. We thank all who have lent their time and valuable inputs to make the conference a success.

The track on 'Towards Quality Excellence in Operation Theatre' was made possible with the support from Dr Usha Gopinathan and Dr RR Sudhir.

The entire track on 'Optometry: advocacy, refractive errors and visual fields' was designed by Dr Lakshmi Shinde, CEO, Optometry Council of India with very valuable inputs from Dr RD Ravindran and Dr Asim Sil.

Mission for Vision designed session on Patient Auditing and Sight Life session on Eye Banking.

The VISION 2020: The Right to Sight - India members from central zone provided able support: Sri Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya; MGM Eye Institute; Choitram Eye Hospital; Sadguru Sankalp Netra Chikitsalaya; Gomabai Eye Hospital; INGO Sightsavers and many other central zone members gave their valuable inputs and were part of the core committee.

Dr Rajiv Raman, heading the scientific committee provided his support for screening and selecting the abstracts.

A new feature this year was on industry sessions. We thank Optomed and Bausch and Lomb for participating in the session.

Inaugural function of annual conference

The annual conference was inaugurated on the evening of April 6, 2013. Shri Kailash Joshi, MP & ex-Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh was the chief guest while Mr. Jeetendra Daga, MLA was the guest of honour and from the host organisation, Shri (rev) Sidh Bauji graced the occasion as special guest.

At the inauguration, Dr TP Das and Dr S Natarajan were felicitated for being conferred Padma Shri: one of the highest award by the government recognising professional excellence.



Dr Das (above) & Dr Natarajan (below) receiving being felicitated at the conference.



Manual on Leadership released

As part of our Resource Centre activity, the manual on



Leadership that was developed with the support from ORBIS International and was released during the conference inaugural. The manual was released by the Chief Guest for the evening in the presence of Dr Rahul Ali, India Country Director, ORBIS and other dignitaries present during the inaugural.

Trade Section inauguration



The annual conference saw a good participation from the industry: pharma, equipment manufacturers and related companies. The trade area was inaugurated by Ms Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary, MoHFW, Government of India. The stalls saw participation from nearly 25 companies, while a number of companies participated in the trade stall and also through advertisement in the souvenir brought out for the occasion.

Special Feature

An Interview with Mr Peter Ackland, CEO, IAPB



The 66th World Health Assembly (WHA) concluded on 27 May, 2013 with agreement on a range of new public health measures and recommendations aimed at securing greater health benefits for all people, everywhere.

At the WHA "Towards universal eye health: a global action plan 2014-2019" – was endorsed by delegates. This is an action plan that aims to further improve eye health, reduce avoidable visual impairment and secure access to rehabilitation services. The global target is to reduce the prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25% by 2019.

Mr Peter Ackland, CEO, International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) was at the WHA. We posed some questions to him to understand the global action plan better and what it means for India. Following is the text of the Q and A with Mr Peter Ackland.

V 2020 India: The global action plan 2014-2019 towards universal eye health for all was endorsed during the recently concluded WHA. This is a big achievement for the eye care fraternity. Can you share with our readers the importance of the action plan, especially with year 2020 approaching?

Peter Ackland: *The new Global Action Plan (GAP) is now the most important strategic document that we have in the field of eye health at global level. It builds upon and replaces previous VISION 2020 and 2009 - 2013 Action Plans. It is important because it keeps eye health and the elimination of avoidable blindness and visual impairment on the radar of health policy makers. With so much current international interest in the Neglected Tropical Diseases and the four priority non-communicable diseases (cancer, respiratory diseases, heart diseases and diabetes) we have to fight for attention for our cause of better eye health.*

V 2020 India: What are the unique features of this action plan?

Peter Ackland: *The GAP has an overall target – which is to reduce the prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25% by the year 2019 from the baseline of 2010. This is important as once achieved it will continue the downward trend we have seen in the age standardised prevalence rate of both blindness and moderate & severe visual impairment in the period 1990 to 2010.*

The GAP is structured around three clear objectives:

The first objective focuses upon generating evidence on the magnitude and causes of visual impairment and on the state of eye health services and using this evidence to advocate for greater political and financial commitment by national governments to eye health.

Objective two encourages the development of policies, plans and programmes to enhance universal eye health. It refers to the need for integration of eye health into strengthened health systems.

Objective three stress the need for multisectoral engagements and effective partnerships.

Each objective has a number of proposed actions for national governments, the WHO Secretariat and International Partners – IAPB and VISION 2020 India would fall into this latter group.

Overall the GAP summarises well current thinking within IAPB and its' Members as to how we are most likely to raise the profile of eye health, vision impairment and rehabilitation and establish the services required to bring eye health to the most marginalised and poorest groups in society.

V 2020 India: Can you briefly describe the steps towards drafting the action plan and who all were involved in the entire exercise?

Peter Ackland: *The first important step was that made at the World Health Assembly Executive Board meeting of Jan 2012 when a decision was made to ask the WHO Secretariat to prepare a new Action Plan to succeed the 2009 -13 Action Plan. A few months prior to this meeting IAPB had established a work group to advocate to Member States represented on the Executive Board for a new Plan, so we were very happy with this outcome. The WHO then prepared a discussion document and invited stakeholders to express their views as to what should be included in the new Action Plan. IAPB and many of our Members responded to this online consultation. At the World Health Assembly in May 2012 the Australian delegation and IAPB hosted a lunch time seminar which was very well attended. By June, WHO had posted a "zero draft" of the new Action Plan and established a web-based consultation process. By September the "First draft" had been prepared followed by two*

Interview contd.....

a web-based consultation process. By September the "First draft" had been prepared followed by two meetings in October where Member States and NGOs in official relations with WHO, including IAPB, were able to comment on the content and the targets. The penultimate draft was then prepared for the Executive Board meeting of January 2013 where it was heartily endorsed and recommended for adoption. This subsequently happened at the WHA in May 2013.

Overall the consensus has been that the process was genuinely consultative, that views and comments were taken on board throughout the process, and that the final draft adopted at the WHA was very good content wise.

V 2020 India: The preparation involved several stakeholders. Were there any challenges that you faced while the proposal was being drafted?

Peter Ackland: The key challenge was to ensure that the process to develop and promote the new GAP was driven by Member States. WHO has over the past couple of years been engaged in a reform process that has stressed that the WHO is accountable to the 194 Member States and not to civil society or private sector interests. Thus it would have been counter-productive if IAPB had been seen to be at the forefront. Accordingly our advocacy strategy was to build relationships with Member States and encourage them to promote the GAP at the meetings. At this point I should pay tribute to the work of Lesley Podesta, the Chair of the IAPB work group, and Sanjeev Commar, a consultant engaged to help with the work in Geneva – both know the WHO system very well and their political antennae meant we were able to get the balance right. At the IAPB 9th General Assembly in Hyderabad in September 2012 VISION 2020 India arranged for us to meet senior Indian government officials and we were able to talk about the new GAP. Likewise we met the high level Chinese delegation that attended the 9GA. Getting the support of these countries and the leadership displayed by Australia, Mexico and Saudi Arabia in particular was the key to success.

V 2020 India: You in your blog have mentioned that now it is time for implementation. So what are the next steps? And how will this plan be implemented universally?

Peter Ackland: Important though the new GAP is it will only add value if it is now taken up seriously at country levels and national governments take responsibility for implementing the GAP in their country. Future IAPB advocacy work will now shift to country level – though we would hope all countries will take action the reality is that if we are to make impact on the global prevalence of blindness and visual impairment some big countries just have to succeed.

Very obviously India would be amongst those important target countries where we must see real progress. To this end we are lucky to have VISION 2020 India that is already well established in-country, plus a positive relationship with the government and many eye health leaders and champions. The development of eye health already included in the 12th National five year plan of India already lay a good foundation for implementing aspects of the new GAP. Unfortunately in many other countries these coalitions and plans to promote eye health are less well established. Part of IAPB's future role will be to help establish strong local capacity to advocate for change.

We have been discussing with WHO how we can catalyse local interest in the new GAP. One thing we have thought of is to encourage the development of an approved WHO eye health service assessment tool which can be used in each country as a situational analysis of current provision and identify areas that need strengthening. Another proven approach has been to encourage localised prevalence surveys, such as RAABs. Global data or even national level data in big countries like India, can easily seem distant to policy makers and politicians whilst a local survey that identifies the size and causes of blindness and visual impairment is harder to ignore and more likely to interest people to want to do something about the situation.

V 2020 India: Vision 2020 India participated toward preparing the draft proposal along with other Vision 2020 programmes. What role do you think all the Vision 2020 programmes around the world can play to take this forward? What are the steps that they can take to successfully implement this action plan?

Peter Ackland: Local advocacy to promote national implementation of the new GAP is the key to success. The national VISION 2020 bodies are perfectly placed to be the organisations that lead the advocacy in their country. To a large extent advocacy work is very locally based – it is about knowing how political and policy decisions are made and who the key people are to build relationships with and to seek to influence. Much of this is culturally specific. There is no way that this can be led from outside the country.

Interview cont.....

Though IAPB can share resources and promote learning useful for advocacy based upon experiences of VISION 2020 organisations across different countries, ultimately it is local action that will win the day for us. These are exciting times and the new GAP provides us with the opportunity to make a lasting impact – I hope everyone reading this will feel they have something to offer to make this all happen – because you all do!

V 2020 India: Thank you Mr Ackland.

Programme Development



Strategic Planning and Team Building

With a view towards building the capacity of our member organisations and developing effective and efficient operations, we conducted five Strategic Planning and Team Building workshops in the last quarter:



PBMA's Kantaxmi Shah Eye Hospital, Nadurbar expresses our sincere appreciation for conducting such an inspiring Strategic Planning workshop.

We are in the sixth year of operation. Business review and Strategic Planning was very necessary for us.

The Strategic Planning helped us to understand our vision, mission, objectives, strengths, weaknesses, opportunity, threats, gaps, values. Further, the strategic planning inspired us to change our mindset to build strengths, resolve weaknesses, explore opportunities and overcome threats.

The workshop brought management and employees together and helped both understand each other in a better way and everyone felt that they are part of the process. This will go a long way in bringing our strengths and values together to make us greater than the sum of our part.

The action plan formed not only directs us for the next five years but shall also shapes our future for many more years. Our team is motivated to start the journey towards excellence with renewed zeal.

The demonstrative skills of Col Deshpande and you are excellent.

*NA Gaikwad
Director – Administration*

*Dr Siddharth Kamble
Chief Medical Officer*

- Kota Eye Research Centre Society, Kota on. Col (ret'd) Dr Deshpande, Dr GV Rao and Mr Mahaveer Jain conducted the programme.



Role play: an integral part of Strategic Planning workshop: at Kota Eye Research Centre Society.

Strategic Planning held at:

- Arunodhya Deseret Eye Hospital, Gurgaon.
- Tejas Eye Hospital, Divya Jyoti Trust, Mandvi, Gujarat.
- Rotary Eye Institute, Navsari, Surat, Gujarat.

Visit to Member Organisations

The visits of team from VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India to member organisations across the six zones is a regular feature. These visits provide an opportunity to us understand the working of our member hospitals, view their facilities and try and understand areas where they require our assistance.

- Col (retd) Dr Deshpande and Dr GV Rao visited Rotary Eye Institute, Navasari, Gujarat. They saw their facilities at the hospital especially their new OT construction. We agreed to provide further technical inputs for strengthening quality and sustainability of their eye care services.
- The team of Col (retd) Dr Deshpande and Dr GV Rao visited Sewa Sadan eye hospital to discuss with the management team on their plans to construct a new eye hospital as well as strengthening the existing facility for quality services.
- Dr GV Rao visited few potential members in Chennai, Tamil Nadu: Gremaltes Eye Hospital and Sankara Eye Hospital, Pammal, Chennai. He also met Sankara Netralaya team members Dr. S.S. Badrinath, Dr. T. Surendran, Dr. RR Sudhir and had discussions on V2020 India programs.

Other Highlights

- Dr GV Rao attended a CSR workshop on April 16 & 17, 2013 at Mumbai. The aim was an opportunity to network with like-minded organisations.
- Dr GV Rao and Ms Sridevi Sunderarajan visited one of our member organizations: Arunodhya Deseret Eye Hospital, Gurgaon to participate in a felicitation programme for volunteers from the USA who had come to study the problem of eye care in India.
- Dr G V Rao and Ms Sridevi Sunderarajan attended the ACOIN 4th national CME at Amritsar, Punjab. The one day CME had ophthalmologists from across the State and also from Haryana. Dr Rao made a presentation outlining the role of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India in eliminating avoidable blindness.

9th AGBM

The 9th AGBM was held in conjunction with the 9th annual conference at Bhopal. Fifty three organisations participated in the AGBM. Some of the highlights of the AGBM were: **The MoA** committee presented their recommendation that had been presented in the 36th board meeting.

Life Membership: To strengthen the mission of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight - INDIA, and to ease the members of paying annual subscription the life membership option is made available for any member who would like to opt for. Policy for signing limit for Vision 2020—India was discussed.

Action points agreed were: To share the audited financial reports with all the members; Submission of MoA Amendments to the Society registrar office Madurai; Approach paper on Corporate social responsibility and how to tap the CSR Funds ; World Sight Day in Meghalaya; 10th Annual conference 2014 - Kerala.

The services of voluntary faculty for HBP were recognized and were presented with mementoes.

For further information, please refer to the detailed minutes that has been sent to all members.

Advocacy

In March 2012, a one day workshop was held in Ahmedabad to develop a Diabetic Retinopathy plan for Gujarat. The workshop was led by National Programme for Prevention of Blindness (NPCB) and Dr. Pran Nagpal, Retina Foundation and facilitated by VISION 2020: The Right to Sight - INDIA. Dr. R.P. Centre was the technical advisor for the workshop.

Now a year later a workshop was held at Anand on April 28, 2013 to disseminate the developed plan. The workshop was hosted jointly by Anand & Nadiad Ophthalmic Society, All Gujarat Ophthalmic Society, National Programme for the Control of Blindness and Vision 2020:Right to Sight Gujarat Chapter.

Dr Uday Gajiwala, President, Vision 2020 Gujarat Chapter revealed that the Government of Gujarat has already started implementing the action plan initially in four districts and later plan to expand to the whole State. Col (retd) Dr Deshpande and Dr GV Rao attended the workshop.



News from Members

Vision 2020: Right to Sight Gujarat Chapter held two workshops - one for the Ophthalmic Assistants at Drashti Netralaya with 110 participants. The second workshop was for Ophthalmic nurses at Cornea Foundation, Ahmedabad. Both workshops were first of their kind and particularly for that cadre.

Announcements:

LAICO's 27th batch of Management Training and System Development for Hospital Administrators & Managers is scheduled from Aug 15th – Sep 14th, 2013 at LAICO. **The last date for submitting applications is August 5, 2013.** Visit their site for application.



WORLD SIGHT DAY • 10th October 2013 • Universal Eye Health
www.iapb.org

World Sight Day 2013 (WSD13) this year falls on **10 October 2013** (the second Thursday of October). After two years without any global theme, this year IAPB has decided – on popular demand – to revisit the global theme idea. 2013 is an important year, as it will mark the launch of a new WHO Action Plan on the prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment 2014-19.

In keeping with the main thrust of this new Action Plan, the theme for World Sight Day 2013 is:

Universal Eye Health

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight—India will be observing the WSD at Bansara Eye Care Centre, Shillong.



Member's Page

It is our constant endeavour to provide information to our members that can benefit them. In the past quarter, we shared news about NPCB's new budget, opportunity for funding and fellowship:

The budget allocation for NPCB under the governments' 12th Five Year Plan was announced in May 2013. A total amount of Rs 2800 crore has been earmarked for NPCB for in the 12th Five Year Plan. The detailed information was shared with all our members.

We also shared with our members some information they can use:

- Seeing is Believing of Standard Chartered Bank is providing US\$3mn fund to support innovation in eye health. The deadline for applying for the fund is: 12.00 GMT, 22 July 2013. <http://seeingisbelieving.org/innovationfund/>
- The British Council for Prevention of Blindness is calling for applications for its Fellowship programme. These will build research links between hospitals and universities in developing countries and UK universities or NHS Trusts, with the goal of building research capacity. <http://www.bcpb.org/training.html>.

We are on Facebook

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight—India now has its facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/vision2020.righttosight.india>

Like the page. We hope to make the page an interactive one to share information, views and debates on eye health.

We thank our Supporters



This quarterly e newsletter is brought by

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight—India

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