

# VISION 2020: The Right to Sight– India



Quarterly Report

October - December 2014



## Message from President and CEO

Dear Esteemed Members,

New Year Greetings from VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India

May the New Year bring all the success in achieving our common goal of reducing avoidable visual impairment.

This quarter VISION 2020: The Right to Sight India has completed a number of successful events and also demonstrated its proactive approach in advocacy. As a result of fruitful advocacy, VISION 2020 India celebrated World Sight Day in Delhi with the financial support from NPCB. We are indeed happy to have had officials from Ministry of Health and our member organisations actively participate in the event.

We received encouraging response from our partner organisations clearly identifying advocacy issues. VISION 2020 India plans to organise a day-long consultation to discuss these issues and set a roadmap for state and national level advocacy with the government and other stakeholders.

It is a privilege for VISION 2020 – India that the President, VISION 2020 India participated in the 2nd National Diabetic Retinopathy task Force meeting held in November.

We are also happy to share that the President and CEO - VISION 2020 India participated in WHO-IAPB regional meeting aimed at operationalising action plan (2014-19) for the prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in South East Asia region. VISION 2020 India will take lead in developing country action plan (2014-19) for improving eye health with the support from IAPB.

This year we are pleased to announce that the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of VISION 2020 India will be organised at CL Gupta Eye Institute, Moradabad and the dates for the conference are 6 & 7 June 2015.

This quarter VISION 2020 India organised two consultations - 1. *Adapting DR Protocol of ICO in Indian Context* and 2. *Developing an action oriented consensus on strengthening low vision services in India*. We came out with a VISION 2020 India guideline on DR adapted from ICO protocol which can be practiced by the member organisations and also we are in process to form a national level consortium for Low Vision to strengthen the low vision services throughout the country.

Team VISION 2020 India also visited a number of member organisations in Tamilnadu and Telangana

This year also, we look forward for your support in reducing avoidable visual impairment by ensuring comprehensive, quality and equity services in eye care.

**Dr Sara Varughese**  
President

**Phanindra Babu Nukella, Ph.D.**  
CEO

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## ADVOCACY

**Meeting with NPCB Officials:** On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014, Dr RD Ravindran and Mr Phanindra Babu met with the Joint Secretary, Mr KL Sharma. The following two points were discussed:

1. Issues related to HMIS under NPCB: Dr RD Ravindran presented software glitches in HMIS software and the problems that many NGO hospitals are facing in its implementation. Aravind Eye Care System (AECS) offered the ministry that it will resolve the issues and also fund it if MoH agrees. The Joint Secretary asked AECS to submit a proposal for its consideration.

2. MoU with DBCS for camps: Dr RD Ravindran informed the Joint Secretary that there are delays in renewal of annual MoU with DBCS. As a result, camps cannot be organised for 4 to 5 months. It was suggested that the MoU can be entered for 3 years or 5 years to avoid this problem. The Joint Secretary asked to send a letter to the Ministry for possible consideration.

**DR Task Force Meeting:** President, VISION 2020 India attended 2<sup>nd</sup> National Diabetic Retinopathy task Force at PHFI, Hyderabad on 21 November 2014. The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust (QEDJT) has approved the proposal submitted by the Public Health Foundation of India. The objectives of the 5 year are:

1. Policy change so the Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is included at all levels in the government health System.
2. Commitment to the implementation of a comprehensive programme for control of diabetes, where early detection and management to prevent vision loss from DR is assured.
3. National guidelines for the detection and management of DR are established and used widely across the country, for the first 6 months

The QEDJT will support 8 program areas:

1. Advocacy & communication strategy
2. Improve capacity of physicians to improve control of diabetes to prevent vision loss
3. Improve capacity of people with diabetes to improve control of diabetes to prevent vision loss
4. Implement and evaluate district control DR models
5. Increase awareness of professionals by disseminating situation analysis findings
6. Build capacity in OR/CEA/ implementation research
7. Monitoring and evaluation
8. Dedicated website for dissemination to different audience

The president Vision 2020 Right to Sight India suggested that the guidelines being prepared by Vision 2020 can be used for the project.

**WHO Meeting: President and CEO - VISION 2020 India participated in WHO**

-IAPB regional meeting to operationalise action plan (2014-19) for the prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in South East Asia region. The meeting was held in Hyderabad at LVPEI during 18-20 November 2014. Government and NGO representatives from eleven countries of SEA region participated. A draft country specific plan to operationalise blindness prevention programmes in line with Global Action Plan was prepared by the end of the meeting.

**Meeting with NPCB Officials:** CEO, VISION 2020 India met with the NPCB Officials on 7 October 2014 for preparatory meeting of World Sight Day 2014 observation.

**Meeting with India Vision Institute:** CEO, VISION 2020 India met with Mr Brien Holden and Mr Vinod Daniel of India Vision Institute on 8 October 2014 at Hotel Taj Ambassador, New Delhi. The meeting focused on explaining VISION 2020 initiatives and mutual cooperation in addressing the issues related to optometry.

## WORLD SIGHT DAY 2014

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India with support from the National Programme for Control of Blindness, Government of India organised a program to mark the World Sight Day on 9th October 2014 at the Constitution Club, New Delhi. The NPCB, MoHFW approved Rs.480,000 to VISION 2020 India to observe the day. Around 160 participants took part in the event.

The global theme for WSD this year was 'No More Avoidable Blindness'. At the national level, the focus of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India was on Diabetic Retinopathy.

Students from All India Confederation for the Blind and National Association for the Blind, who rendered the welcome song and three of the students with visual

impairment, shared their aspirations and a message to the nation.

### Observing the event:

The two and half hour programme held at the Constitution Club Annexe, New Delhi.

The programme included a panel discussion on: **Reaching 0.3% blindness prevalence by 2020: Reflections and Future Strategies** with an eminent panel representing all the stakeholders. The government was represented by Dr NK Agarwal, DDG(O), NPCB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India; the NGO sector by Dr Sara Varughese, President, VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India; private sector by Dr AK Grover, Head, Ophthalmology Department, Sri Ganga Ram Hospital, and the corporate sector by Mr Jayanth Bhuvanaraghan, Chief Corporate Mission Officer, Essilor.



### FM Radio:

Towards promoting the behaviour in order to have a regular eye check and to educate the common man on some of the major causes of avoidable blindness, VISION 2020 used the FM Radio medium to reach out to Delhi population of approx. 1.8 crores. Various messages focusing on DR, Glaucoma, Cataract, and Refractive Error were broadcast through Radio City and AIR FM (Gold and Rainbow) throughout the day on 9 October. Some messages were of 30 sec and some were of 60 sec, in addition to the mention by Radio Jockey.



***“Empathy and not pity or sympathy, We want to contribute to the nation’s Development”*** was the message on World Sight Day from students with visual impairment

## PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

### 11 Annual Conference:

Scientific committee comprising Dr RD Ravindran, Dr Umang Mathur and Dr Ashi Khurana has been formed to guide on scientific programme of 11 annual conference scheduled on 6-7 June 2015. Participants' feedback from 10 annual conference and scientific program details of previous conferences have been shared with the committee that will help develop better programme for 11 annual conference.

### District Planning Workshop:

President, CEO and Programme Manager, VISION 2020: The Right to Sight India participated in a two days workshop on District Planning at LAICO, Madurai from 31 October to 1 November 2014. The workshop was organised by LAICO. The participants were from Govt., NGO and INGO sectors. Dr Damodar Bachani, Mr Chakrapani, Mr Thulasiraj were the panelist for the discussions. 12 dis-

tricts are identified to take the situational analysis in 6 states (Bihar, Jarkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh) to identify the gaps to make an action plan for strengthening the eye care services. VISION 2020 India will support the situational analysis in Assam along with Orbis India Office.

### Program Development with LFW:

A Skype call with Irmgard Neuherz, LFW was held on 07 November 2014. The discussion was focused on development in Northeast states. CEO briefed her about the District Planning Workshop held at LAICO, Madurai and the way forward from the workshop.

Based on the discussion, VISION 2020 India has agreed to submit a proposal to conduct situational analysis and action plan development for Assam and Arunachal Pradesh..This is in line with five years strategic plan of VISION 2020 India.



Delegated of Low Vision Consultation

should be practiced by VISION 2020 India members & the guideline should be updated time to time based on the learning after its implementation

**Consultation on Low Vision:** A one day consultation on developing an action oriented consensus on strengthening low vision services in India was organised at HV Desai Eye Hospital, Pune on 12 December 2014. Around 25 experts in low vision and programme management participated in the event and provided their input. The programme was supported by CBM, hosted by HV Desai Eye Hospital and organised by VISION 2020: The Right to Sight India. Formation of a consortium was discussed during the programme. It was agreed to form 3 groups i.e: Steering group, working group & technical group to take forward the discussion points.

### Peer Review Quality Assessment Program:

A two days quality review was conducted by Dr Usha Gopanthan from 20 - 21 October 2014. CEO, VISION 2020 India also participated in the exercise.

## CONSULTATIONS & QUALITY ASSURANCE

### Consultation on ICO protocol for DR management:

A one day consultation on adapting DR protocol of ICO in Indian context was organised at Venu Eye Institute, New Delhi on 12 December 2014. Divyajyoti Trust took the lead in this assignment. Experts from different organisations participated in the event and provided their input.

### Key suggestions received during the consultation:

Group recommended that the guideline should be developed as a VISION 2020 India guideline on DR adapted from ICO DR protocol, the guideline



Delegated of DR Consultation

## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Board Meeting:** The 44<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting held at the office of Orbis India on 10 October 2014.

**Project Staff refresher Workshop:** Mr Mahaveer Jain, Finance and Admin Officer, VISION 2020 India participated in a 3 days workshop organised by Orbis India Office from 27- 29 October 2014. The workshop was organised by Orbis to brief the Operations and Programmatic aspects to the Orbis Project members. The workshop updated the participants on Orbis funded – Programmatic aspects and financial reporting. They also briefed about the activities

done by Orbis and their expectations from the partner organisations on different programmes.

**Executive Committee Meeting:** The Executive Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2014. The agenda points included: a) update on statutory compliances, b) LFW proposal, c) Office shifting, d) action document following the mid-term review, e) follow-up of district planning workshop held in Madurai, d) 11 annual conference, and e) advocacy plan

**Visit to Member Institutions:** CEO & Program Manager, VISION 2020 India met all member organisations in Tamilnadu state from 28 to 31

October 2014. The VISION 2020 India team visited Sankara Nethralaya "Medical Research Foundation" and Sankara eye Hospital in Chennai, K. G. Eye Hospital and Sankara Eye Care Institutions in Coimbatore, Arsan Eye Hospital in Erode and Institute of Ophthalmology Joseph Eye Hospital in Trichy.

**Members Meet:** CEO & South Zone Representative, VISION 2020 India met the member organisations in Hyderabad city on 17 November 2014. They together visited Sadharam Lions Eye Hospital and M.S. Reddy Lions Eye Hospital, and updated them on VISION 2020 activities.

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