

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA



Quarterly Report

January – March 2015



Message from President and CEO

Dear Esteemed Members,

Greetings from VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA

This quarter VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-INDIA has completed a number of successful meetings and also demonstrated its proactive approach in advocacy.

In its priority area of advocacy, VISION 2020 India successfully brought out the Guidelines for Diabetic Eye Care. These guidelines have been adapted from ICO guidelines through a national consultation. ICO has recognised V2020's effort and gave its kind consent to adapt these guidelines in Indian context.

V2020 India was able to bring in senior officials from Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment along with INGOs and RP Centre under one platform at its office. Plans and approaches to strengthen low vision and rehabilitation services in the country have been deliberated. VISION 2020 India will convene the steering committee chaired by the Joint Secretary, MSJE.

VISION 2020 India shared the draft national health policy with members and coordinated, and provided collective and comprehensive V2020's [as on organization] feedback to MoHFW.

VISION 2020 India made its successful presence in AIOC 2015 through a technical session of 85 mins and a stall, and were able to reach 10,000 Ophthalmologists.

It is a privilege for VISION 2020 India that the CEO, VISION 2020 India has also become the Country Chair for IAPB at honorary capacity.

All the essential preparations are in the process to organise VISION 2020 INDIA's 11th Annual Conference to be held at C L Gupta Eye Institute, Moradabad on 6 & 7 June 2015.

This quarter a number of good practices have also been followed by our VISION 2020 India members across the country. A few of them are featured in this report.

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.
Chief Executive Officer

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ADVOCACY

Meeting at MoH: Meeting with Dy. Commissioner-DGHS focussed on providing the feedback on National Health Policy 2015 to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and understanding on how MoH is planning to finalise the national Health policy. Meeting with Dy. Secretary-NPCB focussed on informing them on upcoming 11th annual conference, VISION 2020 India plans of developing country action plan on the basis of GAP 2014-19. As suggested Dy. Secretary, brochures along with the invite have been sent to all the SPOs, RIOs, and Mission Directors. Plans of developing country actions are also encouraged, and suggested us discussing with the Joint Secretary.

VISION 2020 India feedback on Draft National Health Policy: Feedback on National Health Policy was asked by the MoHFW. VISION 2020 India shared the draft national health policy with members and coordinated, and provided collective and comprehensive V2020's [as an organization] feedback to MoHFW.

IAPB, Essential GAP Indicators: The IAPB is coming up with VISION Atlas in forthcoming world sight day 2015 publication. It shared data collection tool for the same and requested VISION 2020 India to furnish the data therein. Lot of desk reviews were done to gather the information requested. The Indicators on GAP was shared with SEA region IAPB.

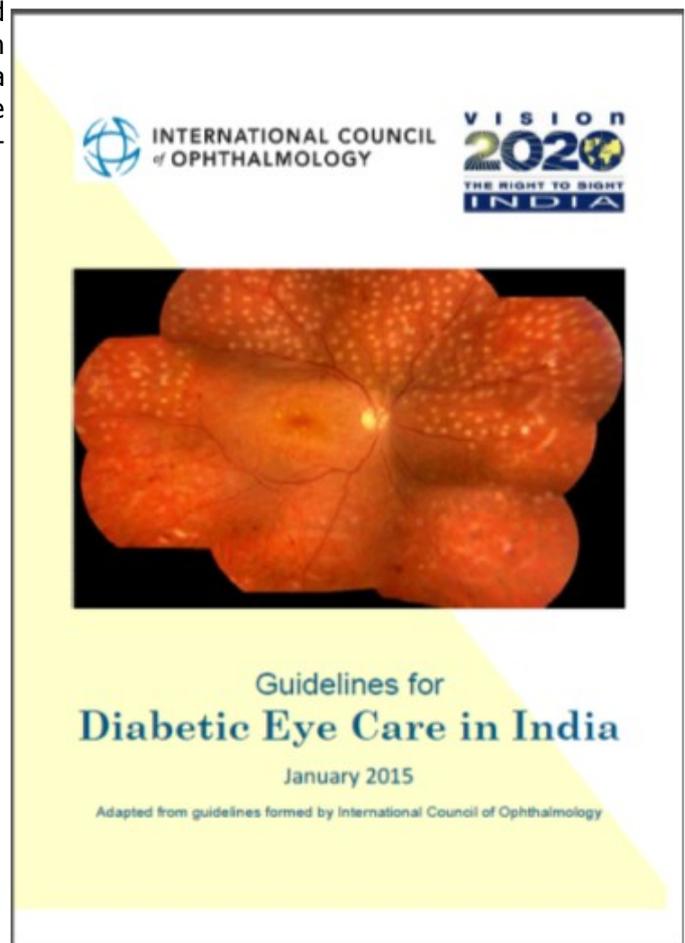
VISION 2020 India Guidelines for Diabetic Eye Care: While community interventions can be planned and implemented to ensure access to services, standard protocols are indispensable for program managers and Ophthalmologists to ensure quality treatment of diabetic retinopathy in a uniform manner across the country. Absence of such guidelines pose a critical challenge for all those in-

involved in diabetic retinopathy management. In view of the commitment from the government and readiness of the civil society institutions to scale-up DR management and improve its quality treatment across the country, VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA took the lead to review currently available tools. No guidelines are found to be available for India. Fortunately, there exist guidelines developed by International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) in 2014.

- VISION 2020 India held a consultation on possible adaptation of ICO guidelines in Indian context with the active participation of institutions and experts working in DR management in the country. Suggestions and inputs have been sought and incorporated to set guidelines in the national context based on their practical experience of both Diabetic retinopathy management and community programs.



Discussion during DR Consultation



D R Guideline

ADVOCACY

V2020's guidelines are then made for Diabetic Eye Care in India. Before its final adaptation at national level, VISION 2020 India strongly feels the need of testing the guidelines among its partner institutions and other agencies interested for a considerable time period. Further consultations will be held to take in the e feedback from implementation of the present guidelines, and develop final guidelines.

ICO gave their consent to VISION 2020 India to adapt these guidelines in India context. The DR Guidelines adapted from ICO have been uploaded on VISION 2020 India's website and also uploaded on IAPB & ICO website.



Delegates of DR Consultation

CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA as a Country Chair of IAPB: The CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA is the India Country Chair for IAPB, at honorary capacity, till September 2016.

Meeting with Media Lab Asia: Two Sr. Research Scientists and one Research Director from Media Lab Asia, visited our office on 8th January. They briefed about their work and also discussed the areas to be explored for a partnership with VISION 2020 India.

Media Lab Asia has been promoted by Department of Electronics and Information technology, MCIT, Govt. of India as a not for profit company. The objective of the company was set to bring the benefits of ICT to the common man. It started with the functional activity areas such as World Computer (Affordable, ubiquitous computing and access devices), Bits for All (Low Cost, High bandwidth connectivity) and Tomorrow's Tool (Rurally relevant applications). Objective of the meeting was to:

- Clearly understand the work of V2020 member organizations
- Explore the areas of partnership for strengthening Hospital based management information system

AIOC 2015

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-INDIA had an overwhelmed response in AIOC 2015 held at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi. With the support of AIOS, VISION 2020 India could make a successful representation in AIOC 2015. AIOS supported VISION 2020 India by providing an 85 minutes scientific session and also a stall on prime location. AIOS also supported us by providing a hall for VISION 2020 India's 45th Board Meeting. Around 10,000 brochures of VISION 2020 India were also distributed to the delegates through delegates kit. AIOS kindly supported us placing these brochures into the delegates kit.

VISION 2020- India had an 85 minutes scientific session in AIOC. The topic of the session was **EYE HEALTH CHALLENGES IN INDIA- 'HOW THEORY MEETS PRACTICE'** and the purpose of the session was to identify and correlate how theoretical concepts of clinical medicine (or public health) are transformed into field level programmes. Participation in the session was around 70 and it was a very interactive session. Lot of discussion took place at the end of the session.

AIOS provided a stall to VISION 2020 India on a prime location. The stall was visited by around 500 delegates and the manuals published by VISION 2020 India were distributed. Around 300 delegates collected the VISION 2020 India manuals from the stall and many more requested for the manuals when it was completely distributed. All the visitors who requested for the manual were requested to visit VISION 2020 India's website to download the manuals which can be download free of cost.



Visitors at VISION 2020 INDIA Stall

Manuals/Guidelines distributed at the stall:

- Guidelines for the Management of Cataract in India
- Manual for planning Tertiary Eye Care Services
- Leadership- Learning from Successful Practices
- VISION Screening in School Children
- NPCB News Letter
- Guidelines for Comprehensive Management of Low Vision in India
- Guidelines for the Comprehensive Management of DR in India
- The VISION 2020 Handbook on Equipping Secondary Eye Hospital

1000 brochures on 11th Annual Conference of VISION 2020 India were also distributed at AIOC through stall of VISION 2020 India.



VISION 2020 INDIA Technical Session at AIOC 2015

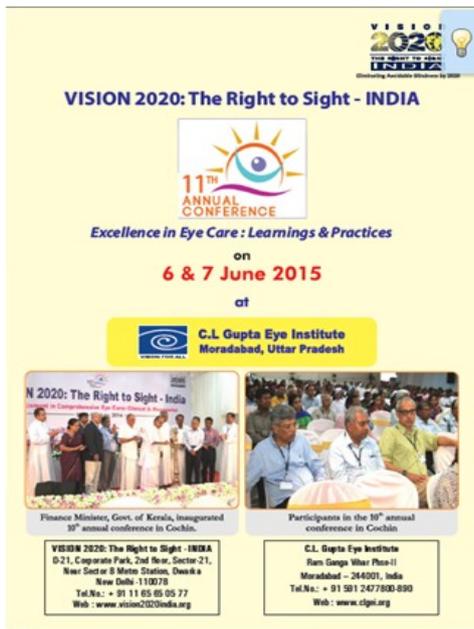


Visitors at VISION 2020 INDIA Stall

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT



11th Annual Conference: Draft scientific program has been prepared and is in process of finalization. All the information related to 11th Annual Conference has been uploaded on VISION 2020 INDIA's website. CEO & Programme Manager also visited CL Gupta Eye Institute to discuss operational issues and further plans regarding Annual Conference.



Programme Development with LFW: A skype call was done on 12th March with Ms Irmgard Neuherz, LFW on the proposal submitted to LFW for situational analysis and Action plan development in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The queries raised by Ms Irmgard Neuherz were discussed in detail. The proposal was revised and submitted addressing the comments.

Low Vision and Rehabilitation Meeting: Consultation on [developing an action oriented consensus on strengthening low vision services in India](#) was organised at HV Desai Eye Hospital on 19th December 2014 with the financial support of CBM and technical support of Sight-savers. Group work and discussions were done to come out with the realistic, specific and

achievable action points. Experts from different part of countries had actively participated in this programme. The workshop was ended with draft mission and vision statements for low vision, forming a consortium and suggested to form committees. Draft roles and responsibilities of each of these committees have also been made.

Following this meeting, a Whatsapp group of low vision is also formed for sharing the ideas and for a collective approach.



Delegated of Low Vision Meeting in Pune

Low Vision and Rehabilitation—Follow-up meeting

Following to the above consultation a [Follow up meeting on Low Vision & Rehabilitation Consultation](#) was organized on 20th March 2015 at VISION 2020 INDIA office. Senior officials from Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment, INGOs & RP Centre. Plans and approaches to strengthen low vision and rehabilitation services in the country have been deliberated. VISION 2020 India will convene the steering committee chaired by the Joint Secretary, MSJE.



Follow Up Meeting—MSJE, MoH, MHRD, INGOs and RP Centre

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

Objectives of the follow-up meeting were:

- Revisit the outcome of the consultation held on 19th December 2014
- Discuss national consortium formation and develop clarity on its modus operandi
- Identify members of Steering Committee, Working Committee and Technical Committee
- Discuss and fine-tune the TOR for the committees
- Arrive at a clarity on how to involve the government and take its support

Action Points:

- Develop TOR for the Steering Committee and share with all three ministries for formation of Steering Committee.
- Once Steering Committee formed a meeting of the Committee will take place immediately.

- MSJE suggested to involve RCI & NIVH into the committee as both the organizations are under MSJE.



Follow up Meeting



Delegates of Follow Up Meeting-MSJE, MoH, MHRD, INGOs, RP Centre, V2020

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

Team Building Exercise: On request of VISION 2020 INDIA member, Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology a two days Team Building Exercise was conducted at Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology, Kakinada.

The exercise was facilitated by Col (Retd) Dr M Deshpande and CEO. All the staff participated in this exercise. The exercise was well appreciated by the hospital administration and staffs as well.



Team Building Exercise at Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Board Meeting:

45th Board Meeting held on 7th February 2015 at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi.

Executive Committee Meeting:

Two Executive Committee meetings were held:

- 16th January 2015
- 19th March 2015

MEMBERS MEET

Visit to Ratan Jyoti Netralaya: CEO & Program Manager visited a member organization, Ratan Jyoti Netralaya, Gwalior, MP. Discussions on various issues related to the organisation's development were held. At the end of the meeting, it was decided that Ratan Jyoti will prepare a draft strategic plan based on internal discussions. VISION 2020 India offered its support to strengthen and finalise it. Membership kit (All manuals/ guidelines) were also provided to Ratan Jyoti.

Visit to Goutami Eye Institute: CEO visited a member organization, Goutami Eye Institute at Rajahmundry on 13th March 2015. Discussions held on issues related to the organisation's development and VISION 2020's support.

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

IVI Outreach Initiative: This screening program was conducted as part of an IVI outreach initiative on the occasion of World Optometry Day that was celebrated on 23rd March 2015. To commemorate World Optometry Day, India Vision Institute (IVI) launched a two-day vision screening program for the inmates of Puzhal Prison in Chennai during 23-24 March, in association with Krupa Foundation.

"On the occasion of the World Optometry Day, IVI reiterates its commitment to advance optometry education and practice in India through its wide-ranging initiatives" IVI CEO, Vinod Daniel said.

"Through this Vision screening program, IVI is pleased to meet the eye care needs of the inmates in Puzhal Prison", he added.



Screening for the inmates of Puzhal Prison in Chennai

World Optometry Day by Giridhar Eye Institute & SSM Eye Research Foundation, Cochin: On the occasion of World Optometry Day, Giridhar Eye Institute & SSM Eye Research Foundation organized an exhibition and public awareness camp at Oberon Mall, Cochin (Oberon being our supporting partners) on Sunday the 22nd March 2015. The optometrists focused on five sub-specialties viz. Paediatric Ophthalmology, Oculoplasty & Orbit, Contact Lens & Lasik, Cataract-Glaucoma-Retina, and Ocular Emergency in this day-long program.

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

They shared information on refractive errors and spectacle correction, contact lenses, eye infections, visual disorders in children, facial aesthetics/oculoplasty, age related problems such as cataract, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy, eye donation, computer vision syndrome, refractive surgery and the like. Public were also educated about various diseases related to the eye, their symptoms, precautions to be taken, the treatment options available and consequence of neglects. A stage show was also presented on eye donation.



WOD by Giridhar Eye Institute & SSM Eye Research Foundation

Management of Nystagmus at Goutami Eye Institute, Rajahmundry: A renowned pediatric Ophthalmologist Dr Richard W. Hertle of Akron Children Hospital, Ohio, USA visited Goutami Eye Institute and updated the knowledge and skills of 9 ophthalmologists in treating "Nystagmus". There are only about 35 ophthalmologists worldwide and 5 in India who can intervene for Nystagmus, mentioned in report of Goutami eye Hospital. Dr Hertle is well known for his decades of research in Nystagmus. He worked for almost 14 hrs every day during this trip. 514 children and adult with Nystagmus were examined and 32 surgeries were performed.

Different ranks of people in every district administration played a vital role in identifying and referring children with Nystagmus. The Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, District Medical and Health Officers, District Coordinators for JBAR and RBSK and IERTs supported in getting the children the services at Goutami.

This quarterly newsletter is brought out by

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