Seasons Greetings

I am sure you had a good year 2017 and have good plans for 2018.

Our organization VISION 2020 INDIA also had a good record. I am happy to share the salient activities of past 6 months:

1. We represented the ophthalmology community to the Finance Ministry, Government of India for consideration of reduced GST. We had varied success and the effort is continuing.

2. We successfully represented to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India to continue the 2-year Allied Ophthalmology Personnel courses beyond year 2020.

3. We are working with the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment to increase the grant-in-aid for cataract surgery.

4. We have planned four skill development workshops- in OT techniques, in Optical Dispensing, in Effective Patient Counseling, and in Essential Ophthalmic Techniques between November 2017 and April 2018.

5. The newly Knowledge Hub is working to creating a knowledge repository for all of us.

One of the closest desires of mine is to collect and analyze Big Data on common eye disorders in the country. We are at the preliminary stage of planning and hopefully will be able to present the final product when we meet for our annual meeting in Guwahati June 8-10, 2018.

So long then

Wish all of you a very happy and productive year.

Dr Taraprasad Das
President

Phanindra Babu Nukella, Ph.D.
CEO

Announcing 14th Annual Conference

Advocacy & Inclusive Partnership
For Eye Health
9 & 10 June 2018
Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya
Guwahati. Assam
Diploma courses to continue beyond 2020

In a significant decision, the ministry of Health & Family Welfare, India has agreed in principle to extend the diploma course for optometry beyond year 2020.

VISION 2020 INDIA had made several representations to the ministry at various meetings and had also made a detailed written representation to the Economic Advisor, the ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India.

The inprinciple agreement was conveyed by Shri Arun Kumar Jha, Economic Advisor, ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India on a meeting convened on 9 October 2017. Dr T P Das, President and Mr Phanindra Babu, CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA attended the meeting.

Representatives of optometry associations, ophthalmic assistance associations, optical associations and others also attended the meeting.

World Sight Day 2017

On World Sight Day, in what can be termed as a momentous result of advocacy, the Odisha government, in a first, launched the Universal Eye Health programme in Odisha for an Odisha free of avoidable blindness by 2022.

The WSD programme in Bhubaneswar was organised by government of Odisha with active participation of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA and LVPEI Bhubaneswar and other members.

The Chief Minister of the state, Shri Naveen Patnaik formally launched the programme at Jaydev Bhawan at Bhubaneswar on World Sight Day. The state government committed a whopping Rs 600 crores towards Universal Eye Health programme in the state.
The Ministry of Health, Odisha government was strongly represented at the WSD event by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Law, Mr Pratap Jena; Dr Pramod Meherda, Commissioner cum Secretary, Minister of Health and Family Welfare department; Director, Health Services, Odisha.

Dr TP Das, President, VISION 2020 INDIA and Vice Chair, LVPEI is the Chairman of the Empowered Committee to implement the programme in the state.

The events on the WSD at Bhubaneswar were kicked started by ‘Walk for Vision’ in the morning. A 2kms walk from Capital Hospital to Jaydev Bhawan in Bhubaneswar through the main part of the city witnessed nearly 250 participating including majority of the board members of VISION 2020 INDIA.

The walk was flagged off by Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Odisha government, Dr Pramod Kumar Meherda.

The walk concluded at Jaydev Bhawan where the next leg of the WSD event was scheduled.

On the occasion of WSD, Shri Naveen Patnaik also launched a comic book brought by Orbis India’ titled ‘ Singing Tree’ on refractive error.
Skill Enhancement Workshop Series

Workshop on Standard Protocol for Operation Theatre (SPOT)

Two workshops on skill enhancement were held in this quarter. This is in a series of totally 4 workshops to be held in the financial year 2017-18.

The first in this series was on Standard Protocol for Operation Theatre (SPOT) conducted on 3 & 4 November, 2017 at LVPEI, Bhubaneswar.

The workshop was designed by LVPEI, Bhubaneswar and supported by Operation Eyesight Universal. Forty five participants, largely OT nurse and OT in-charge from 23 hospitals across 12 states participated in the workshop.

Dr Savitri Sharma, Director, Laboratory Services-LVPEI network and Dr Varsha Rathi, Director, Secondary Centres, LVPEI Network were the lead faculty for the workshop. They were supported by the LVPEI team from Indian Oil-(LVPEI) Center for Rural Eye Health (CREH), Bhubaneswar.

Full report can be accessed at http://www.vision2020india.org/
With the rapid trend changes in eyewear technology and an ageing population, well-trained optical dispensers are needed to meet the demands of this growing & demanding sector. With an aim of building capacities of technicians and optical personnel in dispensing spectacles in different settings (Base hospital, Vision Center, Screening Programme etc.), a two day workshop on Optical Dispensing was held on 08 & 09 December 2017 at Vittala International Institute of Ophthalmology, Bengaluru, Karnataka. The workshop was designed by Essilor India.

Encouraging participation was observed in the workshop with 43 delegates from 20 organizations from 11 states participated in the workshop. Professionals/personnels involved in optical dispensing benefited from the workshop.

Participants at the workshop

Organisational Development

Board Meetings

Two board meetings were held in this quarter. The 55th board meeting was held 12 October 2017 at LVPEI, Bhubaneswar (below) and the 56th board meeting was conducted on 15 December 2017 at Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Guwahati (right).
The Future is Inclusive: CBM celebrates its golden jubilee

CBM celebrated 50 years of work in India at New Delhi on 31, October, 2017. While a number of programmes were held during the year, the event on 31st October included a partners meeting, thematic discussions and a celebration with partners, government and other associates.

The first session introduced the participants to some aspects of CBM’s perspective on inclusion. While the afternoon session featured talks by representatives from the government and intergovernmental organisations.

CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA, Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella attended the inauguration of Sankara Eye Foundation India eye hospital in Jaipur. The hospital is the 10th hospital for the group across India was inaugurated on 7 December 2017. The 255 bedded hospital aims at delivering affordable super-specialty eye care services under one roof for benefitting the rural and urban sections of the society. INGO-Mission for Vision supported the hospital for the outreach wing of the hospital.

Siliguri Greater Lions hospital opened another eye hospital in Siliguri, West Bengal. A 100 bedded eye hospital—Shri VidyaSagar Oswal Eye Hospital was inaugurated by Lion Dr. Naresh Agarrwal, international President Lions on 14 December 2017. The new hospital also has a training centre.
A large number of our member organizations across the country observed World Sight Day in a number of ways. We bring you a glimpse of it in pictures.

World Sight Day 2017 by Member Organisations

Aditya Jyot Eye Hospital, Mumbai
Alipurduar Lions Eye Hospital, West Bengal
Shankar Eye Foundation, Odhisha
Gomabai Netralaya, Neemuch
Little Flower Eye Hospital, Angamalli
Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital, Bhopal
News from Members

World Sight Day 2017 by Member Organisations

Sitapur Eye Hospital, Uttar Pradesh

Sri Lions Eye Hospital, Patna

Vittala International Institute of Ophthalmology,
World Diabetes Day

November is observed as a day to raise awareness on diabetes, its prevention, and organs that can be affected if the disease is left unchecked. Eye is one of the organs that can be affected with Diabetic Retinopathy. A number of member organisations observed the day, organising various events to raise awareness on the issue. We bring you the pictures from a few of the events.

All branch hospitals of Aravind Eye Hospital across Tamilnadu observed the day with various events.

Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital observed the day with a walkathon.