

Global Coalition for Hearing Health REPORT

Society for Sound Hearing International formalized the alliance with Global Coalition for Hearing Health for which a MoU was executed. The tentative terms were included:-

1. Sharing of best practices.
2. By becoming mutual members of each other's organizations.
3. Sharing of IEC material.
4. By participating in each other's Annual conferences and important meetings.

The 7th Annual Conference on the Coalition for Global Hearing was held in collaboration with Society for Sound Hearing on October 23rd -25th, 2016 in campus of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines to achieve the mission of the Coalition: **To promote and enhance hearing health services in low-resource communities.**

Abstracts for the Coalition for Global Hearing Health 7th Annual Conference were submitted in one of the tracks indicated below.

1. Best Practices (recommended practices for education and habilitation services, guidelines for humanitarian/outreach trips, recent advances in providing high quality care in low-resource settings)
2. Technology (e.g., enhancing hearing health through better use of current technology and preparing for what's next in areas such as affordable hearing aids, using donated equipment, telehealth, smart-phone technology, etc.)
3. Advocacy/Community Engagement (e.g., epidemiological data, societal and/or economic impact of hearing loss, enhancing public awareness through traditional or social media, collaborating with governmental organizations, etc.)
4. Empowering Families (e.g., promoting a family and community- centered approach to hearing loss, improving services via parent groups, community -based habilitation programs, involving families in government organizations and professional societies, resources and materials that equip and empower families, etc).
5. Training/Education (e.g., effectiveness of online or university-based education and training opportunities for hearing health professionals, innovative ways of training and supporting people to deliver services in low-resource settings, characteristics of effective training, etc.)

The Board Directors of Society for Sound Hearing International Dr. A.K. Agarwal and Dr. Suneela Garg presented poster and presentation. The poster was presented by Dr. A.K. Agarwal, President

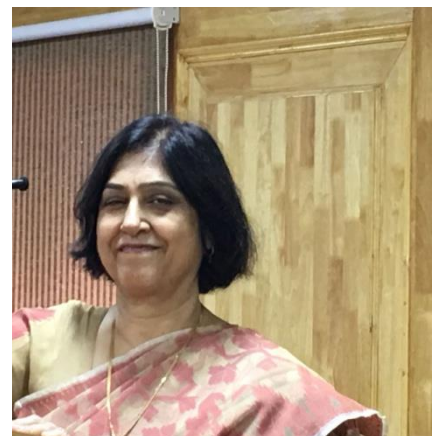
Sound Hearing 2030, Ex Dean Maulana Azad Medical College, Ex Additional Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India on the topic titled “Action towards Better Hearing- a Sound Hearing 2030 Initiative”. The poster included details on Society for Sound Hearing International & Hearing International. The Vision of Society for Sound Hearing International & Hearing International is to improve the quality of life in the Asian Region by including in developmental programs the ‘RIGHT TO BETTER HEARING’. The Mission of Society for Sound Hearing International & Hearing International is to eliminate avoidable hearing impairment by the year 2030 through development of sustainable and inclusive ear and hearing care systems. The details of Founder Members and Board of Directors were also included. The milestones included development of National strategy for Ear & Hearing Health Care for India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka; a dynamic and accessible website; prototype and field tested IEC material; recommendations for “Healthy Ear Districts” and “Less Noise Cities” drive; Inclusion Guidelines for Children with Hearing Impairment; Guiding Principles for Infant Hearing Screening and adaptation of the WHO Community Ear and Hearing Care training modules for four levels of trainings globally and seven levels of trainings in India. The First World Congress on Ear & Hearing Care on theme titled ‘Action towards better hearing’ was a landmark event organized by Sound Hearing 2030 under the aegis of Society for Sound Hearing in collaboration with CBM, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India, Ministry of Culture and Tourism Government of India, World Health Organization and Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India was organized at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India from 12th-14th Feb 2015. Details of symposia, meetings and research projects were also included. World Hearing Day was celebrated on 3rd March in India and other countries. Pilot projects were undertaken to develop a replicable model of integration of ear & hearing care services with existing eye care services carried out in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Dr. Suneela Garg, Secretary General SSHI, Director Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi presented on the Role of Ear and Hearing Care Situational Analysis Tool in Assessment of Countries with Hearing Loss. Dr. Garg focused on the fact that millions of people are living with disabling hearing loss, of which most causes of hearing loss are preventable. For the countries to assess status of ear and hearing care, there is a need to objectively formulate an assessment tool which will enable them to provide comprehensive care with evidence-based interventions. This tool will also facilitate the countries to develop dedicated policies and programmes with a vision and mission to address the hearing loss problem. The comprehensive Ear and Hearing Care Situation Analysis Tool (EHCSAT) developed by WHO provides lead to countries to facilitate planning and implementation of ear and hearing care services at national/ sub-national level. The aim of developing EHCSAT is to assess the available direct and indirect policies, services and human resources for ear and hearing care. EHCSAT covers general information of the country, health system capacity and stakeholder’s analysis. EHCSAT information will be collected based on interviews

with relevant stakeholders and desk-based data collection facilitated and supervised by WHO. The desk based data collection will be demand driven and aim at collecting structured information with focus on ownership by countries and will use six building blocks of health systems viz health services, health workforce, HMIS, equitable access, health financing, leadership and governance. Grading questions will be included at end of each section which will help to record progress of country in different aspects of ear and hearing care services. EHCSAT has been pretested in Egypt, Fiji, India, Kenya and New Zealand and has been revised with inputs from stakeholders across the globe. EHCSAT will facilitate review of EHC services; highlight gaps and needs for provision of integrated EHC services and give empowerment and flexibility to member countries to be adopted to their local situation. The information compiled from EHCSAT can be used for advocacy and development of new/update existing strategic plan of EHC. Dr. Garg concluded the presentation by saying that the creation of EHCSAT will be helpful in reviewing ear and hearing care services and also address problem of avoidable hearing loss in developing countries; describe the framework and functioning of the health care system, in context of ear and hearing care, within the country; assess the need for ear and hearing care services and identify available opportunities for promoting and sustaining integrated ear and hearing care along the continuum of care, across all levels within the health system using universal health coverage.

Dr. Suneela Garg also presented on the Need for Skilled Primary Ear-Care Workers in Developing Countries. She said that globally, about 360 million people (5.3% of total population) suffer from disabling hearing loss and the prevalence is greatest in South Asia, Asia Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa. This high rate of prevalence can be attributed to lack of awareness regarding importance of ear care and inadequate resources for addressing these issues. The doctor-to-population ratio is less than the WHO recommendation of one doctor per 1000 persons. The ratio is worse for ENT specialists. As a result, there was a need to develop a cadre of skill-based primary ear-care workers for delivering essential ear-care services. A skilled primary ear-care worker can perform certain clinical and administrative duties and play a significant role right from early identification, awareness generation, screening, and making adequate referrals. Dr. Garg focused on the activities which will be carried out by the primary ear-care worker- obtain and record the history of patients having ear morbidities, including family history of ear diseases, social history, exposure to industrial or occupational hazards, trauma, and any surgical procedures; carry out basic examination to screen and recognize patients with common ear diseases (e.g., wax, simple foreign body, discharging ear etc.); counsel and refer patients requiring further medical/surgical care; carrying out hearing assessment and counseling of patients using an audiometer or voice tests; promotion of ear health by creating awareness through community based actions; regarding the rehabilitative aspect, he/she would be responsible for informing the populace about available options for inclusion and integration of people with hearing loss in the community. She concluded the presentation by highlighting that creation of a cadre of skilled

primary ear-care workers would not only reduce the burden on the scarce ENT specialists but also help address the problem of avoidable hearing loss in developing countries.







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Exhibitors





Action Towards Better Hearing- A Sound Hearing 2030 Initiative

Society for Sound Hearing International & Hearing International

Presenters: Dr A. K. Agarwal,



Authors: Dr Suneela Garg, Dr Suchitra Prasansuk, Dr Norberto Martiniz, Deeksha Khurana , Dr. (Col.) Vipra Mangla, Dr. M.M. Singh, Ms. Janki Mehta

Vision & Mission

VISION: To improve the quality of life in the Asian Region by including in development programs the RIGHT TO BETTER HEARING.
MISSION: To eliminate avoidable hearing impairment by the year 2030 through development of sustainable and inclusive ear and hearing care systems.

Founder Member

- Representatives of nine lead organizations
- ◆ Dr. Madan P Upadhyay (WHOSEARO)
 - ◆ Dr. Andrew Smith (WHO)
 - ◆ Prof. Arun Kumar Agarwal (IOS)
 - ◆ Late Prof. M. Alimuddin (SAARC-ENT)
 - ◆ Dr. Indraneel Deyanick (SIP-WHOSEARO)
 - ◆ Ms. Sibhana Induraman (CBM)
 - ◆ Prof. Suchitra Prasansuk (IH)
 - ◆ Dr. Savant Rambhau (WHO SEARO)
 - ◆ Late Dr. Padmanabhan (SMPACT)



Board of Directors

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Milestones

- ◆ National strategy for Ear & Hearing Health Care has been developed for India (2006), Indonesia (2007) and Sri Lanka (2012) with facilitation from Sound Hearing 2030. National strategy in Bangladesh (2011) was developed with inputs from Sound Hearing 2030 core team. An Ear and Hearing Care Center and Healthy Ear District program has been initiated in Huzhou, China. Assessment of status of ear & hearing care in Timor Leste has been completed in the year 2014. In India, the National programme for prevention and control of deafness was launched in the year 2006. In the pilot phase, the programme was launched in 25 districts of the country. At present, this programme is being implemented in 419 districts (out of 640 districts) across India. In Indonesia, National Committee for Prevention of Hearing Loss & Deafness (Komnas PGPKT) was launched by Ministry of Health in year 2007. Forty eight regional committees have been constituted in Indonesia covering 19 (out of 33) provinces and 29 (out of 463) districts/ cities across the country. The committees are facilitating the government to expand the programme to different parts of the country.



- ◆ A dynamic and accessible website developed professionally and is being updated on a regular basis (www.soundhearing2030.org)
- ◆ Developed prototype and field tested IEC material including posters, pamphlets and flip charts regarding Sound Hearing 2030 concepts. The material is readily available for download on the website.
- ◆ Developed recommendations for "Healthy Ear Districts" and "Low Noise Cities" drive since 2006.
- ◆ Developed Indian Guidelines for Infant Hearing Screening which has been adopted, translated and distributed in Hindi, Bahasa, Indonesian, and Bengali.
- ◆ Developed Guiding Principles for Infant Hearing Screening in consultation with experts through a consultative meeting of WHO SEARO facilitated by CBM in 2009 followed up with expert meetings, and a pilot in collaboration with WHO India, Maulana Azad Medical College, Ganga Gohand Singh Hospital & Ideal Society for Deaf (U.K.).
- ◆ Adoption of the WHO Community Ear and Hearing Care training modules for four levels of trainings globally and seven levels of trainings in India. The modules include a series of pre-recorded lectures for each of the levels of training. These have been field tested and validated by experts and is available on the website.
- ◆ MoU signed with Vision 2020.
- ◆ MoU signed with Alpo International for provision of hearing aids at subsidized rates in Sound Hearing 2030 partners.

- ◆ MoU signed with Late S N Mukherjee Memorial ENT Foundation, Krasarp.
- ◆ MoU executed with Medtronic Inc. for upscaling Shanti project for delivering primary ear care in India
- ◆ MoU executed with Coalition for Global Hearing Health.

World Congress

(www.soundhearing2030.org) on theme titled "Action towards better hearing" was a landmark event organized by Sound Hearing 2030 under the aegis of Society for Sound Hearing in collaboration with CBM, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India, Ministry of Culture and Tourism Government of India, World Health Organization and Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India. It was organized at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India from 12th-14th Feb 2015. This event had special focus on Primary ear and hearing care across different regions of the globe. Discussions spanned around all aspects of the early diagnosis, management and rehabilitation of hearing loss. With participation of over 450 eminent otolaryngologists, audiologists, public health experts and policy makers from across 32 countries, the World Congress aimed at:

- ◆ Promoting sustainable community hearing care
- ◆ Facilitating early diagnosis, management and rehabilitation of hearing loss
- ◆ Providing a platform to bring together stakeholders from across the globe
- ◆ Sharing the best practices
- ◆ Facilitating incorporation of better actions of deliberations in policy & programmes of different countries.

Distinguished faculty from across the world attended the three-day program included topics that covered a spectrum of topics related to community ear and hearing care. During the Congress, state of the art information was provided along with the opportunity of hands-on experience through two workshops on Hands on wet cadaveric temporal bone training and Current Perspectives in Hearing Aids held at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi.



Symposia & Meetings

- ◆ Organized symposium on "Otitis Media: Total Solution; Primary to Tertiary"
- ◆ Organized stakeholders meeting on "Inclusion of children with hearing loss in mainstream schools"
- ◆ Developed alliances and partnerships with other like-minded organizations. Disabled people's organizations, audiologists and teachers for hearing impaired through participation in various activities such as "TechShare 2016 & 2014", "AIA Expo in 2013" and "2nd Deaf Expo" held in 2010.



Research Projects

- ◆ Facilitating survey on "Optimal experience of the difficulties and choices faced in using a hearing device" for DishaMV Knowledge Solutions Research projects
- ◆ State of art review of Eubolia
- ◆ Profile of hearing morbidity and identification of barriers and challenges for access to ear and hearing care services in children of urban and rural areas of Delhi
- ◆ Neonatal Hearing Screening Program



World Hearing Day

- ◆ Celebration of World Hearing Day in India and other countries
- ◆ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India telecasted TV spots related to National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness through National New Channel (Doordarshan News)
- ◆ Panel discussions on All India Radio & Doordarshan with the eminent experts on the theme of preventable cause of childhood-deafness in India
- ◆ Organization of Cochlear Implant Conclave in New Delhi, India
- ◆ Organization of screening camp using handheld mobile devices (telemetry) in collaboration with Medtronic Inc.
- ◆ Organized Mini Marathon: Run for Better Hearing
- ◆ Demonstration of paramilitary forces and their families
- ◆ Community and school level screening and awareness programmes



Integrated Eye Ear Project

Pilot projects to develop a replicable model of integration of ear & hearing care services with existing eye care services carried out in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.



Alliance with WHO

- ◆ Review of status of ear and hearing health care in SEAR
- ◆ Participation in meeting at WHO-HQ Geneva regarding promotion of ear and hearing care in Member States.
- ◆ Participation in meeting held at WHO-HQ Geneva to develop Ear and Hearing Care Situation Analysis Tool.
- ◆ Participation in WHO ad hoc consultation on national strategies and indicators for Ear & Hearing at WHO, HQ, Geneva.
- ◆ Participation in Stakeholders' meeting for the WHO program on prevention of deafness and hearing loss at WHO, HQ, Geneva.
- ◆ Field testing of the WHO ear and hearing survey protocol in India.