

MYANMAR CONFERENCE REPORT

The ENT Conference at Myanmar in collaboration with Society for Sound Hearing International (SSHI) was held on 12th- 13th January, 2017 in Taw Win Garden Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar. The agenda of meeting was to develop strategy of National Committee in Myanmar.

The tentative agenda was as given below:

1. SSHI Mission and Vision by Dr. Bulantrisna Djelantik - 5 mins
2. Ear and Hearing Care Strategy :Case Study from India by Dr Arun Agarwal -15 minutes
3. Need for Ear and Hearing Care in Nepal by Dr Rakesh Shrivastav - 15 mins
4. Need for Ear and Hearing care Strategy in Myanmar: Dr. Khin Khin Phyuyster - 15 minutes
5. WHO's Situation Analysis Tool in assessing Ear and Hearing care in developing countries by Dr. Suneela Garg - 15 minutes

Dr. Bulantrisna Djelantik highlighted about the founder members, Executive members and board members of the Society for Sound Hearing International. Her presentation also focused on the Mission, Vision and Goal of Society for Sound Hearing International. She highlighted on the **Mission** of Society for Sound Hearing International's – "To eliminate avoidable hearing loss by the year 2030 through development of sustainable and comprehensive ear and hearing system"; **Vision**- "To improve health and well- being of people of South East Asia through better hearing" and **Goal** – "To reduce hearing impairment in the region to 50% by 2015 and 90% by year 2030". She told to work in close cooperation with various international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) for the prevention of deafness and hearing impairment and countries to promote formation of National committee and guide to develop National and sub-National Programmes. She talked about community based approach Healthy Ear and Hearing Care. She also indicate about the SH2030 – Programme concepts of Healthy Ear Districts, Less Noise Cities, Helping Hands for Ear Surgery, affordable Hearing Aids, Eye, Ear and Hearing Care, School Ear and Hearing Check and developing awareness material.

Dr. Suneela Garg, Director Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi presented on the WHO's situation Analysis tool in assessing Ear and Hearing care in developing countries. Dr. Garg highlighted that in formulating strategy the countries need to undertake a situation analysis and assess the existing situation of the country regarding ear and hearing care. The need for development of comprehensive Ear and

Hearing Care Situation Analysis Tool (EHCSAT) was strongly realized which would facilitate planning and implementation of ear and hearing care. The objectives of developing EHCSAT are to assess the available direct and indirect policies, services and human resources for ear and hearing care; to describe the framework and functioning of the health care system, in context of ear and hearing care, within the country; to assess the need for ear and hearing care services and to 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. She highlighted on the process of EHCSAT development, methodology, content and benefits of EHCSAT. Dr. Garg concluded the presentation by highlighting on the fact 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.

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 presented on the Case Study On Ear And Hearing Care Strategy Of India. He focused on the magnitude of hearing loss in India, implementation of National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD). He highlighted on the objective of NPPCD- to prevent hearing loss due to disease or injury, do early diagnosis, treatment, medical rehabilitation, strengthening linkages, creation of database and facilitation of need based research; strategies of NPPCD- To strengthen the service delivery including rehabilitation, to develop human resource for ear care, to promote outreach activities and public awareness through innovative and effective IEC strategies with special emphasis on prevention of deafness and to develop institutional capacity. NPPCD was implemented as National Programme in eleventh Five Year Plan 2008 and was expanded gradually to include 410 districts in 35 states and Union Territories at present. He focused on the main components of NPPCD- Manpower training, Manpower generation, Capacity Building, IEC activities, Service Provision and Screening Camps; Activities proposed under NPPCD in 2016-17- Up gradation of ENT department of Medical College, service delivery to be started in 50 new districts and existing activities to be continued in the existing districts. He also highlighted on the way forward for NPPCD- Prevention through Behaviour Change Communication (BCC); Capacity building through Training, Manpower support, Equipment, Rehabilitation and Hearing Aid provision, Screening for Hearing Impairment; Monitoring and Supervision; Public Private Partnership; Operational Research & Evaluation; Financial assistance for setting up Upgraded 4 Station Temporal Bone Laboratory in Tertiary Sector in 13 Medical colleges; Assisting selected medical colleges in procuring equipments for strengthening the National Programme and Gap analysis of existing availability of infrastructure and Equipment.

Prof. Khin Khin Phyu, Manager, Prevention of Deafness Project presented on the Ear and Hearing Care in Myanmar. He highlighted on the Prevention of Deafness Project in Myanmar, prevalence of Hearing Impairment as per the Deafness Survey conducted in States & Divisions of Myanmar from 2005-2009 and the various Causes of Deafness. Prof. Khin Khin Phyu said that the project in 2015 focused on early detection of deafness in Newborn and Infant as it is one of the important aspects to promote the quality life of these children and conduct of Newborn and infant hearing screening (NIHS) workshop and development of Guideline for NIHS. In 2016, hospital based NIHS was developed using OAEs in some states and divisional hospitals and conduct of training workshop on NIHS in Mandalay. He said that for 2016 the focus areas were Shan state, Magway division, Mandalay division and Sagaing division. He said that the future plan is to implement NIHS training in the rest of state and divisions, to do hearing screening in all kindergarten in collaboration with school health teams and to train ENT surgeons for secondary prevention. The project limitations included- shortage of audiology facility and shortage of human resources (audiometrists, ENT surgeons).

Prof. Dr. Rakesh P. Shrivastav MS, FRCS, Chairman, IMPACT Nepal, Former Dean, Tribhuvan University, Faculty of Medicine, Former Head, Department of ENT-HNS, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal presented on the topic titled- Need for Ear and Hearing Care in Nepal. Prof. Dr. Rakesh focussed on the prevalence of Deafness and Hearing Loss (%) in Nepal, Prevalence of Adult and Childhood Onset Deafness and Prevalence of Various Ear Diseases. He highlighted on the Human Resources For Ear & Hearing Care Services in Nepal (Shortage of ear professionals, Skewed geographical distribution, ratio of ENT specialists per million as 0.21, Number of audiologists and audiometry technicians). The ear care services at primary health care level include Ear & Hearing Care Workers provide primary ear care services in Ear Care Centres run by NGOs in rural areas; Tuning forks, otoscopy and hearing screening is almost non-existent at the PHC level but are done in Ear Care Centres set up and run by NGOs such as IMPACT Nepal and BRINOS (British Nepal Otology Service); Otology Assistants working in Ear Care Centres set up and run by NGOs in Mid & Eastern Nepal, NGO sector namely IMPACT Nepal, BRINOS, INF (International Nepal Fellowship) and Ear Aid Nepal provide support to Government of Nepal in providing ear care services to the population in the community and has also conducted approximately 14 Mobile Ear Surgery Camps throughout the country in rural areas; deployment of trained primary ear care workers (1 to 4 months initially followed by refresher trainings); Community based Primary Ear Care service through Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS), an NGO established network of eye care system in community where both preventive and curative eye care services are provided through District Eye Care Centre (DECC). Prof. Dr. Rakesh concluded his presentation with the way forward - Prioritization of ear

diseases and causes of hearing loss in National Health System; Providing minimum infrastructure and manpower at all levels in Government sector; More institutes providing quality ear care professionals need to come up in the region; incorporating models of integration of ear care needs in the health system; involving all key persons from district/province to grassroots level and to orient them towards prevention of deafness and hearing loss; training of all concerned personnel to undergo relevant training programmes at regular time frames; Strengthening existing institutions and setting up new training institutions and Data on hearing impairment should be periodically updated and used as evidence by National Committees for developing effective strategies for prevention and control of deafness.

MYANMAR CONFERENCE PHOTOGRAPHS



