



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, YEAR 2009

... our first and foremost commitment is to do services and action for comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable ear and hearing care at national and sub-national levels in the SE Asian countries...

Background Information

The Society for Sound Hearing (SSH) and its SOUND HEARING 2030 initiative, was promoted and initiated by the Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation (DPR) unit of WHO-SEARO for the prevention and elimination of hearing impairment in the South East Asia region, and ratified at the Bangkok WHO consultative meeting in December 2005. The key functions of the SOUND HEARING 2030 initiative is to promote and recommend policy change, provide technical support, act as a resource centre, and activate pilot projects in countries.

The organization's activities were mainly establishing the Society's organizational and office set up, and developing awareness materials. Two recommendations have been distributed as focus activity of the Sound Hearing 2030 initiative, namely the "Healthy Ear District (HEARD)" and the "Less Noise Cities" program. Meetings have been organized for sharing experiences of individuals and professionals at all levels of all the countries. Networks have started to be established with focal persons of WHO SEA, WHO, WWHEARING and CBM. Main financial supporters are CBM, WHO SEA and WHO country offices.

Through all these efforts, National Committees (NCs) for Prevention of Hearing Impairment have been formed in three countries, namely India, Indonesia and Bangladesh and more countries are hoped to follow in the near future. The key role of NCs is to supervise the various activities at the country levels, to provide inputs for the development of resources and prototype material, to discuss ways and means of taking the initiative forward at the country level and to support the countries in development of suitable plans.

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Organizational activities 2009

1. **Meetings with WHO SEARO at regular intervals.** Discussions were in relation to developing a formal MOU between the SSH and the WHO SEA and avenues of collaboration in the 3rd General Body meeting.
2. **Workshop for Development of a comprehensive Five-year Plan** with guidance and support of CBM SARON –North in Bangalore, 24-26 March 2009.
3. **Submission and sanction of a five-year funding proposal to CBM,** June 2009
4. **Registration:** The SSH is registered as an Indian society in India and the FCRA clearance is pending.
5. A **Core Committee meeting** to discuss and plan regarding furthering the process of registration of the Society for Sound Hearing was held in New Delhi on the 9th of October 2009. The meeting was attended by Dr. Bulantrisna Djelantik, Ms. Silvana Mehra, Dr. Suneela Garg, Dr. Shelly Khanna Chadha and a legal advisor, Mr. Sunil Fernandes
6. **Dr Bulantrisna Djelantik (President) meet the CBM Director Dr Allen Foster** in Bensheim Germany, 15th October 2009. Guidance was sought regarding the registration issue and the path SSH will take in the future.
7. **Development of the Sound Hearing 2030 flyer 2005-2009**
8. **Election of the new EC, Special Invitees and Advisory Board** for the next term 2010-2014:

PRESIDENT: Prof. Arun Agarwal

PAST PRESIDENT: Dr. Bulantrisna Djelantik

VICE PRESIDENT 1: Dr. Madan Upadhyay

VICE PRESIDENT 2: Prof. M. Alauddin

VICE PRESIDENT 3 : Mrs. Silvana Mehra

TREASURER: Dr. Suneela Garg

SECRETARY GENERAL: Prof. Shelly Chadha

JOINT SECRETARY: Prof. Rakesh Prashad Shrivastava

MEMBERS: Prof. Suchitra Prasansuk, Dr. U Than Sein, Dr. Ronny Suwento, Prof A. H. Joarder, Dr. M.N.G. Mani

SPECIAL INVITEES: RA-DPR WHOSEA, Dr. Chaimapan Santikam, PDH-WHO, Dr. Young Ah-Ku

ADVISORY BODY: Dr. J. J. Grote, Prof. Pran Gopal Datta, Dr. Andrew Smith

Activities

1. A **6th Executive Committee (EC) meeting** was held at the Maulana Azad medical College in New Delhi, India on the 19th-20th January 2009.
2. An **Expert Committee meeting for 'Developing guidelines regarding Infant Hearing Screening in India'** was held on the 18th of January 2009 at the Maulana Azad Medical College. It was attended by ENT experts and audiologists from all over India as well as members of the EC of SSH. The meeting was held in collaboration with the WHO India country office.
3. A **7th Executive Committee (EC) meeting** was held in Rayong Thailand, 8-10th August 2009. Along-with this meeting, the members of the EC also attended the.....conference and HI meeting at Bangkok, Thailand.
4. **Dr Shelly K Chadha (Joint Secretary), represented SSH at the WWHEARING General Assembly in Geneva, on 12th-13th of November 2009.** Dr. Chadha was also invited as an expert and a representative of SSH to the WHO Informal Consultation meeting on Neonatal/Infant Hearing screening held at WHO HQ, Geneva on 9th-10th of November 2009
5. The **WHO SEA-SSH Inter-Country Consultative Meeting to Develop Guidelines of Infant Hearing Screening** in the region was held at Kathmandu, Nepal on the 8th of December 2009. The meeting was attended by experts from the different countries of the region as well as representatives of WHO SEARO. The meeting discussed the existing concepts of Neonatal/Infant hearing screening in the world. It also highlighted the various issues that are unique to this part of the world. A report on the meeting containing some "guiding principles" has been prepared and circulated to all members as well as submitted to WHO SEARO.
6. The **3rd General Body (GB) meeting in Kathmandu, 9th December 2009.** The existing status of hearing loss, ear diseases and national activities in the different countries were reviewed. This has helped create a better understanding of the issues within different countries, including the status of human resources, educational deficiencies and political problems. This helped the experts from the member countries to share experiences and gain from each other. It was an opportunity to also share resources such as awareness material, methodologies and expertise in many fields. This was accompanied by election of a new Executive Committee for Sound Hearing
7. The **8th Executive Committee (EC) meeting, on the morning of the 10th December 2009.** The new members discussed registration issues, and ways to promote Sound Hearing 2030 in the future.
8. **The Symposium on 'Infant and Children Hearing Screening'** was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on the afternoon of the 10th December 2009. It was supported partly by the WHO Representative to Nepal. It was attended by all the participants from the 8 countries of the region as well as local participants from within Nepal.

Around 100 participants attended the symposium. It helped to create awareness regarding Sound Hearing 2030 amongst the participants and to impart knowledge regarding causes, identification, diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss among infants and children. This was also accompanied by a **Photo-exhibition** on themes related to ear & hearing care, deafness and hearing aids. Most of the member countries participated in the event and prizes were given to the best three photographs.

Other

Role played by officers of Sound Hearing in India :

- a. Implementation of the National Program for Prevention and Control of Deafness in India. This activity, which is based on the 'Healthy Ear District' concept is being guided by the secretariat.
- b. Development of a model of school screening program in India with support of Rotary International and WHO India office. Through this program, over 15000 children of primary school going age have received ear and hearing care services.
- c. Assessment of effect of aircraft noise on the residents of Delhi, was undertaken in collaboration with Govt. of Delhi.
- d. Development of training material in relation to trainings for Ear & Hearing care. The training material developed includes training manuals and training presentations.
- e. Development of IEC material including posters, flip charts etc
- f. Development of the concept of 'Eye, Ear & Hearing care' for integration of Ear & hearing care with Eye care services.

