



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
APRIL 8-9 , 2013**

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 1.8: IAPB REGIONAL UPDATES – SOUTH EAST ASIA

**SOUTH EAST ASIA PROGRESS REPORT**

Based on workshop of 16 January 2013 and subsequent actions

Regional co-chairs from Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal and India met together with representatives of Vision 2020 India and INGOs to take stock of the current situation.

The following was the summary:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Highlights (Positives &amp; Challenges)</b>
<b>India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five times increase in budgetary allocations to eye care</li> <li>• 11<sup>th</sup> five year plan's targets have been achieved</li> <li>• There is overall reduction in prevalence of blindness and improvement in CSR</li> <li>• 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan is expected to increase budgetary allocation towards implementation of eye care activities under the NPCB</li> <li>• Challenges:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Limited advocacy</li> <li>○ Poor implementation of National Policies</li> <li>○ Low monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>○ Insufficient research</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Bangladesh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial commitment from the Govt. for subsidy of surgeries</li> <li>• HR challenges are many</li> <li>• Residency program is poor (takes 15 years for students to complete)</li> <li>• Cost of consumables is very high and taxes are also high</li> </ul>
<b>Nepal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success story – 50% reduction in prevalence of blindness in the last 30 years</li> <li>• Political will and leadership was resulted in the success experienced</li> </ul>

	<p>in Nepal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority area for IAPB – Advocacy</li> </ul>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of political will</li> <li>• Job of the society and not the government</li> <li>• Blindness is not a priority</li> <li>• Advocacy by the society to engage the government</li> <li>• 90% of the ophthalmologists work for private and only 10% of them are government</li> <li>• SEAR representatives should accompany the Indonesian Society to meet and advocate with the Government and explain about the seriousness of the problem</li> </ul>
<b>Thailand</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community participation is very high (health volunteers)</li> <li>• Success story which should be replicated by other countries in the region</li> </ul>

**Decision:**

- Country Focus on three countries: Indonesia, Bangladesh and Myanmar
- Issue based Focus in three countries: Nepal, India and Sri Lanka
- Situational analysis is planned for Myanmar in June 2013
- Focussed meeting on Pediatric Retinal Disease with special emphasis on Retinopathy of Prematurity in Indonesia is planned in June 2013
- Corneal Blindness with special emphasis on Eye Banking is planned in India in September 2013.