

Board of Trustees Meeting
28 March, 2014

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 3.1f: South East Asia Report

IAPB SOUTH EAST ASIA UPDATE REPORT

ACTIVITIES

- Myanmar Situational Analysis. June
- India Eye Bank Standards Workshop. September
- Bhutan Eye Fact Meeting. October
- World Sight Day Celebration in Thimpu, Bhuta. October
- Nepal Cataract Surgery Outcome Meeting. December

INDIA EYE BANK STANDARDS MEETING. SEPTEMBER 2013. NEW DELHI, INDIA

India has improved significantly in eye bank activities in last few decades. The eye bank standards were laid down several years ago in India. In order to assess and bring them at par with the international standards, a one day workshop was held at New Delhi. This was a joint effort of IAPB, Eye Bank Association of India (EBAI), VISION 2020 India, and the Government of India.

Facilitated by Sight Life, Seattle, the committee finalized the new Eye Bank Standards for India. This is now submitted to the Ministry of Health, Government of India, for approval.



(Workshop in progress)



The attendees included the following:

IAPB: Taraprasad Das
EBAI: Usha Gopinathan, Radhika Tandon, Namrata Sharma, Sujata Das,
R Revati, and Samar Bask
Public Eye Hospital: Ritu Arora, J S Titiyal,
Private Eye Hospital: Umang Mathur, Sujata Das
Govt of India: Rajvardhan Azad, Narendra K Agarwal, V Rajshekar
Sight Life: Tom Miller, Jeremy Schuman, Tim Schottman, Manoj Gulati,
Mridula Singh.

BHUTAN EYE FACTS MEETING. OCTOBER 2013. THIMPHU, BHUTAN.



(Dr Das and Dr Rao on either side of Honorable Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan)

IAPB SEA Regional Chair visited the Kingdom of Bhutan. Dr Gullapalli N Rao, Former President of IAPB visited as an invited guest and advisor. The team called upon Honorable Health and Prime Minister. Bhutan Situational Analysis done in the offices of the Health Ministry was attended by both Government and non Government agencies. Dr Ngawang Tenzin presented the Bhutan Eye Facts.



- Total population: 634,982
- Rural: 69.1%; Urban- 30.9%
- Age Specific Distribution: 0-14 years 33.1%; 15-64 years 62.3%; 64+ years 4.6%
- Literacy rate: 66%
- Gender distribution: Male 59.1%; Female 49.9%
- Health Indicators: Crude Birth Rate 19.4%; Crude Death Rate 7%; Under 5 Mortality Rate 60.3%

- Health Care: Free and Government sponsored; Four levels of health care
- Blindness: Bilateral blindness 1.7%; Causes of Blindness - Cataract 67.6%; Refractive error 33.1%.

WORLD SIGHT DAY CELEBRATION. OCTOBER 2013. THIMPHU, BHUTAN.

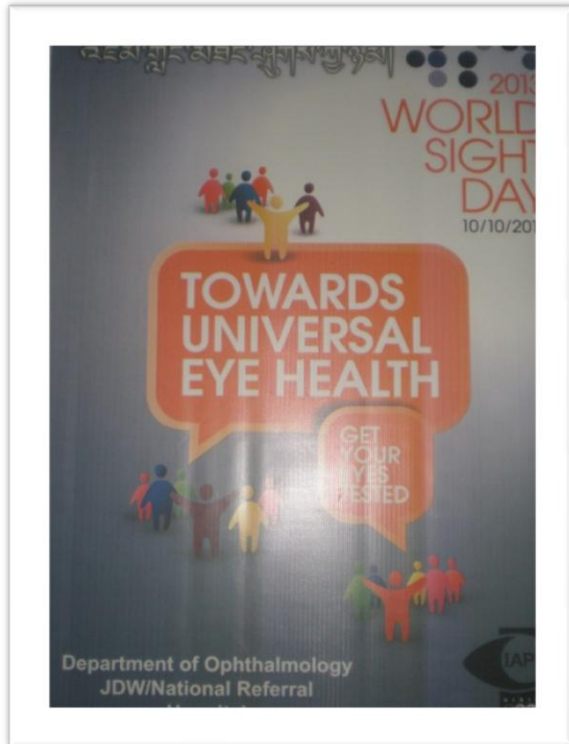


(Dr Das with Her Holiness Princess of Bhutan on World Sight Day 2013 at Thimphu)

The Regional World Sight Day 2013 for SEARO was observed on 10th October in Thimphu, Bhutan. It was jointly organized by the Regional IAPB office and Ministry of Health Royal Government of Bhutan.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Kezang Wangmo Wangchuck graced the occasion as chief guest. The Honorable ministers of Health and Agriculture attended the function as Government representatives. Other dignitaries included the senior Government officials, India Mission executives, representatives from international agencies and local NGOs. Dr. Gullapalli N Rao Former President of IAPB, Dr. Tara Prasad Das, Regional Chair of SEARO, attended the event as special guests of honor.

Dr. Ngawang Tenzin, the Vision 2020 focal person, in his welcome address, highlighted the blindness situation in Bhutan and stressed the need for support and cooperation at all levels. He expressed his deep appreciation for the political commitment, and support of the government for elimination of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in Bhutan by the year 2020.



Dr. Tara Prasad Das, in his address expressed his deep appreciation to the royal government Bhutan for the support to National Eye Care Program which is fully integrated with the national health care system. He expressed his confidence in Bhutan achieving the Vision 2020 targets.

The Chief Guest, Her Royal Highness, officially released the WSD 2013 report. The report was distributed to all the guests. Then, Her Royal Highness, other dignitaries and guests got their eyes tested.

As part of the advocacy to create awareness on WSD, banners and posters with WSD messages and

logos were put up in the prominent areas in the city and public buildings.

The event was widely covered by the national television and other media which immensely helped in disseminating the messages to the public across the nation.

The Ministry of Health had been able to organize the event at this scale, because of the support of IAPB which was a great success.