

2nd Forum of National Stop TB Partnerships from the South-East Asia, Western Pacific and Eastern Mediterranean Regions

Summary:

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a major global health problem. In 2012 an estimated 8.6 million people developed TB and 1.3 million died from the disease (including 320 000 deaths among HIV-positive people). The number of TB deaths is unacceptably large given that most are preventable.

WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2013 and accompanying supplement countdown to 2015 assess progress have been made towards the 2015 targets and top priority actions are needed to achieve and/or move beyond them for TB care and control.

These five priority actions required to accelerate progress towards the 2015 targets include:

1. Reach the missed cases
2. Address MDR-TB as a public health crisis
3. Accelerate the response to TB/HIV
4. Increase financing to close all resource gaps
5. Ensure rapid uptake of innovations

The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) and Western Pacific Region (WPR) collectively accounted for 58% of the world's TB cases in 2012¹. Half of the High Burden Countries (HBCs) are in South- East Asian, Western Pacific and Eastern Mediterranean region (EMR) i.e. 11 out of the 22 HBCs.

The 2nd **Forum of national partnerships** working in TB care in the SEA, WP and EM regions focussed on the urgency to **find, treat and cure the 'missing cases'** through the involvement of the private sector and wider communities. Organized on the **3-4 March 2014** and financially supported by the **Stop TB Partnership Indonesia**, the Forum represented a platform for representatives from **13** governments, NGOs, private sector and national partnerships from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam, to meet and discuss how they can overcome their challenges in properly addressing TB.

After extensive discussion on various important issues and challenges TB control the meeting proposed the following key **recommendations** in order to forward the dialogue:

1. Create or strengthen structures/platforms/partners/ forums/ partnerships at National level with assistance from Global Stop TB partnership in order to ensure that there are effective, efficient and inclusive structures engaged in TB control in countries.
2. Actively engage the private sector to contribute substantially to support TB control through any or all of the mechanisms, advocacy, constructing business case and funding.
3. Ensure a national enabling environment for TB programmes and TB control,
 - a. Advocate for political commitment with a Presidential decree or similar high level declaration as a best possible outcome.
 - b. Establish and implement regulation of TB mandatory notifiable disease by;
 - i. Advocate and develop friendly environment for TB Mandatory notification
 - ii. Set up the information system to support TB mandatory notification
 - iii. Piloting of the information system and roll out
 - b. Establish regulation to control over the counter sale of TB Drugs

¹ WHO, Global Tuberculosis Report 2013