

[Draft]
Minutes of the meeting on
Promoting Vision2020
Date: August 16, 2009
Venue: Sightsavers Country Office.

On behalf of INGO Forum a meeting was organized at Sightsavers Country Office on August 16, 2009 at 12:00 on promoting Vision2020 with the following persons.

01. Prof Rabiul Husain, Chairperson, IAPB, SEA Region
02. Prof. Deen Mohd Noorul Huq, Line Director, National Eye Care
03. Dr. M. Mostafa Zaman, WHO, Dhaka
04. Dr. Nazneen Anwar, WHO, Dhaka
05. Dr. Wahidul Islam, Sightsavers and Chairperson, INGO Forum
06. Dr. Abu Raihan, ORBIS
07. Mr. Moshi Uddin Ahmed, CBM
08. Dr. Zareen Khair, Fred Hollows Foundation
09. Dr. Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Coordinator, National Eye Care
10. Dr. Alamgir Hossain, Sightsavers.

The meeting agenda included the following:

- a. Finding-out a process of information sharing and collaboration
- b. Discussion on joint celebration of upcoming events : WSD
- c. Priority areas for promoting Vision 2020

Dr. Wahidul Islam, INGO Forum Chair, opened the meeting by greeting all with welcome address. He thanked everybody for coming to the meeting; he also looked forward for everybody's valued inputs to hold an effective meeting. Dr. Wahid mentioned that he felt very happy to be able to organize this meeting with participation from the Line Director, WHO and Regional Chair of IAPB

At the onset of the meeting Dr. Wahid made a presentation on INGO Forum activities and gave an update. It was mentioned that District Vision2020 Committees have been formed in 15 districts. Dr. Zaman was requested to participate in one of the upcoming meeting for District Vision2020 committee. Dr Wahid also mentioned that Vision2020 website for Bangladesh has been updated and been linked related websites.

Spontaneous discussions were welcomed as such the meeting agenda was not followed as mentioned above, rather discussions were cross-cutting in covering all the issues.

a. Process of information sharing and collaboration.

It was highlighted by Prof. Deen Mohd that District Comprehensive Eye Care to be taken by each INGO Forum member in collaboration with National Eye Care. He also



mentioned that district will be covered in phases. Performance will be monitored by the NEC. At this stage he also mentioned on the proposed operation of Community Clinic through which primary eye care is planned to be provided. He also shared his recent experiences of Sri Lanka's eye care services including its planning and operation.

Prof. Rabiul Husain shared his experiences of Pilot project on primary and secondary eye care services undertaken by CEITC and Mymensingh.

Dr. Wahid mentioned Sightsavers' experiences working with the Government including training of health workers and its outcome.

It was informed that lack of commitment on the part of district health administration is observed. In this connection Dr. Zaman mentioned that information gaps do exist with Civil Surgeons and others (functional system) that there is Line Director, National Eye Care. He also shared WHO's experiences of Keraniganj project.

Dr. Abu Raihan shared ORBIS experiences of demand side financing.

Concerns were raised by the members for holding eye camps by different service clubs and organizations and thereby doing cataract surgeries at the camp. It was recommended that this practice is to be stopped. Line Director was requested to take appropriate measures. Discussion was also held that time has come to analyse all experiences and developed one replicable model for eye care service provision.

Decisions:

- i. Sharing of experiences is a must, and the group to meet on quarterly basis.
- ii. One consultant to be hired for assessing all trails currently undertaken by NGOs/WHO and put forward one model for replication. Dr. Zaman mentioned, WHO can support Line Director in hiring the consultant. DR. Zareen also expressed that FHF to support in hiring consultant if required & in dissemination of findings, model.
- iii. Eye care to be incorporated into HNPHP, and Line Director would take initiatives in assistance with INGO Forum members.
- iv. Line Director, NEC will issue letter to Civil Surgeons in stopping conducting cataract surgeries at eye camps without having dedicated facilities.

b. Briefing on IAPB by its SEAR Chair

Prof. Rabiul Husain gave a short brief on IAPB and informed that one Coordinator will be appointed soon at SEARO jointly WHO and IAPB. He also mentioned that Prof. Deen Mohd. Nurool Huq has been included in the Technical Sub-Committee for Eye Care at WHO Regional level. He would soon contacted by WHO.

Prof. Husain also informed the meeting that IAPB AGM is held every fourth year and its next meeting is scheduled to be organized during 2012 within SEARO countries. He expressed that as a regional chair he wished to have next IAPB AGM in Bangladesh

and asked the responses from the members. All the members opined to hold the next IAPB AGM in at Dhaka in 2012. The meeting discussed the different steps and challenges in organizing such prestigious event. Everybody opined that it can be possible with full support from the Government under the current leadership.

Decision:

This will be discussed as a side meeting during the meeting for national planning of Vision2020 during first week of September 2009. By this time Health Minister and Adviser to the prime Minister, Prof Modasser Ali, will be informed and updated on this in getting their consent. One national committee is to be formed with its secretariat. Line Director informed that space for secretariat can be given at NIO.

c. Vision2020 National Planning meeting

The meeting discussed the issue that current national plan will expire next year, and next five year plan is to be developed which include infrastructure development, HR development, resources available, primary eye care integrating into primary health care. It was mentioned that by mid next year the document is to be finalized to fit into the next five year plan of national Economic Council.

Decision:

Line Director, NEC will organize a National of Visison2020 Advisory Committee meeting during first week of September 2009.

d. Observance of World Sight Day 2009

The meeting decided to discuss the day observance as a side meeting during national Vision2020 Advisory Committee meeting and form a sub-committee in observance of the day. Dr. Zaman informed that an amount of taka 117,000 is available with WHO for the day observation.

Finally all the participants expressed their satisfaction on the outcome of the meeting and wished to meet on quarterly basis. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to all.

Minutes prepared by:
Dr. Alamgir Hossain
August 19, 2009.