

Editorial

It is my pleasure to inform all about the successful conclusion of second SAARC conference on TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases in the month of December 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

“Working together to fight against TB, HIV/AIDS and Respiratory Diseases” was the theme of the conference which attracted over 700 participants not only from the eight member states of SAARC but also from other countries including Germany. The very first SAARC conference was held in Kathmandu, Nepal in the year 2004. The participation in the second conference was more than that of the first conference.

The abstract book published and distributed during the second SAARC conference contained scientific articles on important aspects of TB, HIV/AIDS, TB/HIV co-infection and other respiratory tract diseases prevailing in the SAARC member states.

Apart from others, one of the very interesting events of the second SAARC conference was the presentation on “Laboratory demonstration on molecular technique for rapid results in TB diagnostics” by a renowned Microbiologist from Gauting Laboratory, Germany and his colleagues. The participants in large numbers were attracted to attend the demonstration and acquired knowledge on practical aspects also.

The improvement of prevention and control of TB, HIV/AIDS and other respiratory diseases needs well controlled scientific research studies using innovative and cost-effective approaches. Successfully completed research studies need scientific fora to publicize the findings and share their experiences with the experts from different countries in the region and with the developed world. Naïve researchers need scientific platform to present their findings in order to build up their confidence and enthusiasm. Hence, we, the members of the SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre believe and emphasize that the future conferences on TB and HIV/AIDS will definitely provide a very good platform to enthusiastic scientific groups of the SAARC region to present and share their findings for the betterment of the beneficiaries, the infected and affected people in the world.