Combating AMR: India International Conference Feb 23-25

A 3-day International Conference on “Combating Antimicrobial Resistance: Public Health Challenge and Priority” was held in New Delhi, India. “The meeting brought together 350 participants from 16 countries, across all fields and related expertise, to agree on a roadmap to combat antimicrobial resistance,” said Dr Roderico Ofrin, Director, Health Security and Emergencies, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office. Ministries of Health from the Region emphasized their engagement and political commitment to address the threat of AMR. Countries undertook to develop a dedicated focal point institution, responsible for coordinating AMR-related activities at the national level. They agreed to review the AMR situation in their respective countries in 2016, and to identify challenges and needs relevant to tackling it.

From this review, a National Action Plan for AMR in line with the Global Action Plan will be developed by May 2017. For more information, click here. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare India and WHO South-East Asia Regional Office.

Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership (GARD) Scientific consultation Paris Feb 29

Following on from a meeting held in November 2015, the WHO/DNDi GARD Partnership has been established and will initially be incubated by DNDi. Over the next two years, the partnership will develop a small pipeline of
possible drug development projects, that will help meet
global needs in addressing the threat of antibiotic resistance.
The partnership will focus on linking drug development
with a strategy to slow the development of resistance and
ensuring access for those who need treatment most. At the
Paris meeting, a wide range of candidate projects were
presented. Discussions focused on combining drugs to slow
the development of resistance; achieving a better
understanding of how drugs behave in combination; and
optimizing the mix and formulation of medicines. Equally,
the importance of learning how to use “old” drugs better and
addressing the need for new formulations for children and
neonatal infants was highlighted. Several proposals focused
upon novel approaches to treating gonorrhoea. GARD is in
the process of developing a scientific committee, and a
collaborative process to develop ideas into business
propositions by the autumn of 2016.

**UPDATE**

**22nd Tripartite Annual Executive Coordination Meeting**

This meeting between FAO, OIE and WHO was held on 11-12
February 2016 in Rome. Senior management discussed common
priority health issues at the human–animal–ecosystem
interface and food safety, including AMR.

The meeting agreed to consolidate inter-agency collaboration through
a variety of activities: raising awareness; developing a common
Tripartite presentation to advocate for action; including FAO and OIE
in a Member States consultation to develop an AMR stewardship
framework; ensuring that National Action Plans for AMR reflect a
“One Health” approach; and publishing, once meaningful data is
available, a joint report on the use of antimicrobials.

The three organisations agreed that promotion of the “One
Health” approach is among the priorities of their organizations.

AMR Technical Coordination Group

The first face-to-face meeting of the Technical Coordination Group
on AMR took place in Geneva on Feb 18-19 2016. This fruitful two-
day meeting was opened by Dr Keiji Fukuda, Special representative
for Antimicrobial Resistance, who highlighted the need for WHO to
act as one body and to explain AMR in a way that is understandable
to all, both internal and external to WHO. Topics covered over the
two days included the challenges of matrix working and solutions to
ensure its success; awareness raising; surveillance; infection
prevention and control; monitoring and reporting; resource
mobilization; prioritized planning; and working with FAO and OIE.

There was a good exchange of useful information gained from
Regional and country experiences, acknowledgement of the complexity of the task of
planning and managing across both objectives and
programme areas, and the need
for HQ and Regional staff to
support countries. It was
agreed that the Secretariat
model of coordinating across different sectors will be mirrored at the
Regional level.
Meet your colleague  Sirenda Vong is the Regional Technical Lead for AMR in the Regional Office for South-East Asia. A Medical Epidemiologist, Sirenda has worked in a variety of international positions in South-East Asia and several African countries; at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and at the WHO Office in Beijing, China. His expertise over the past 15 years lies in research methodology with a focus on viral and bacterial infectious diseases, strategic information to guide public health policy, risk analysis and health system analyses. In his present position, Sirenda seeks to “achieve better evidence for informed decision making through multidisciplinary teamwork”.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar14-17</td>
<td>First inter-country meeting for national AMR focal points</td>
<td>Casablanca, Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar14-17</td>
<td>EMRO National Action Plan workshop</td>
<td>Dubai, Abu Dhabi</td>
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<td>Mar15-17</td>
<td>EURO National Action Plan workshop</td>
<td>Istanbul, Turkey</td>
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<td>Mar16-17</td>
<td>Meeting to review EML chapter on antibiotics</td>
<td>WHO HQ</td>
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<td>Mar21-25</td>
<td>GLASS training</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
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<td>Mar23-24</td>
<td>SEARO National Action Plan workshop</td>
<td>Bali, Indonesia</td>
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<td>Mar29-Apr1</td>
<td>Global consultation:methodology for consumption &amp; use of antibiotics</td>
<td>WHO HQ</td>
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<td>Mar30-Apr1</td>
<td>WHO Core Components for IPC Programmes Guidelines: meeting of the Guideline Development Group</td>
<td>WHO HQ</td>
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<td>Apr6-8 (tbc)</td>
<td>AMRO National Action Plan workshop</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
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<td>Apr16</td>
<td>Asia Ministerial meeting on AMR</td>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
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<td>Apr25-26</td>
<td>Wellcome Trust meeting “Integrating science and policy for decisive action on AMR”</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
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<td>May10</td>
<td>Nordic Health Summit “Antibiotic resistance—are we responding too late?”</td>
<td>Oslo, Norway</td>
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Please let us know of your upcoming events for inclusion in the newsletter. The Secretariat may be contacted at whoamrsecretariat@who.int.

Members of AMR Steering Group  : Keiji Fukuda, Chair; Bruce Aylward, Flavia Bustreo, FWC; Marie-Paule Kieny, HIS; Ren Minghui HTM; Ibrahima-Socé Fall, AFRO; Marcos Espinal, AMRO; Jaouad Mahjour, EMRO; Nedret Emiroglu, EURO; Takeshi Kasai, WPRO; Roderick Ofrin, SEARO

Members of Technical Coordination Group  : Work stream leads; Karin Weyer, HQ; Yahaya Ali Ahmed, AFRO; Pilar Ramon Pardo, AMRO; Ali Maft, EMRO; Danilo Lo Fo Wong, EURO; Sirenda Vong, SEARO; Klara Tisocki, WPRO