

25th PRCM

1st September 2010, 2 pm

Minutes

25.1 Opening Remarks - Hon'ble Chair

Hon'ble Chair briefed the forum on his recent visit to Prince of Songkla University in Bangkok. During his visit, he met with the four Bhutanese doctors who are pursuing OBGYN and one doctor who is pursuing Epidemiology at the University, and discussed the problems and issues faced by them. It was informed that as proposed by the Hon'ble Chair to conduct the residency program for these Bhutanese doctors here at the JDWNRH, the management of the university has agreed to allow our Bhutanese doctors to do their elective course in JDWNRH, Thimphu. This arrangement will allow our doctors to handle cases in our own setting and supervising doctors will gain experience in the supervision of the residency students. Obviously, the problem of shortage of doctors will be eased in the hospital.

Hon'ble Chair also informed the forum on the unfortunate incident associated with the elevator of JDWNRH. The woman, who died due to the mishap in the lift, was the longest staying patient (26 years) in the hospital. He informed the forum that he takes the full responsibility of the mishap as the head of the ministry. The hospital management is equally responsible. It would be a good gesture if the officials from the Ministry could attend the funeral the next day.

25.2 Follow up actions on the decisions of the 24th PRCM

Reintroduction of Pentavalent Vaccine

The CPO-CDD informed the forum that as decided during the 24th PRCM, the press conference had been conducted. The rejoinder was not written as the press conference would suffice the need.

Installation of DVD players in JDWNRH

The Offtg. Chief, ICB informed the forum that specifications of DVD player and LCD have been made and request has been sent to UNICEF Country Office for budget amounting to USD 50,000 approximately.

25.3 Progress Report (Presentation and Discussion)

Secretariat

a. PPD- Offtg. CPO

The Offtg. CPO presented on the progress of the division for the month of July and August 2010.

The Offtg. CPO informed the forum that the Monitoring and Supervision Checklist has been pretested and soon printing of the checklist would be done. However, the forum, directed PPD to share the M&S checklist and the pretested results to the key officials of the Ministry before finalization and printing of the M&S checklist. It was also directed that only few copies of the M&S checklist to be printed to start off initially and post it on the Ministry's website so that any official intended to go tour could download and print the checklist. This would reduce the cost.

Concerns on frequency, coordination of visit and compilation of the filled up checklist and analysis were also raised. The forum directed PPD to work on the modality.

b. HRD- Chief HRO

The Chief HRO presented on the progress made by HRD for the last two months. Issues on coordination of in-country training were also raised. The Chief HRO also informed the forum that the last HRC had recommended on the need to establish a separate training unit within the HRD. This is being initiated in order to streamline the both ex-country and in-country trainings. Since the absence of health professionals from the health centers had become a subject of criticism, the forum noting that there is an urgent need to streamline the in-country trainings, the idea to establish a training unit within the HRD was acknowledged.

The Hon'ble Chair also directed PPD to share the report on the Moratorium and also on the detailed analysis of the training impact assessment for which a 300 words report was submitted by all the officials of the Ministry.

The forum directed that all the programs in-charges should submit to HRD the trainings/meetings/workshops planned for the FY 2010-11, for which funds are committed within two weeks or by 15 the September 2010. The training unit should then develop an appropriate plan and also maintain the inventory of the trainings.

The Director, RIHS also informed the forum that gradually RIHS aspires to establish a training unit within RHIS so that majority of the in-country training activities planned by the programs could be implemented by RIHS. The Hon'ble Chair, acknowledging the proposal put forward, instructed that the training unit of MoH should closely work together with RIHS. He also stated that MoH should support RIHS to build the capacity and capability of the lecturers to train the health professionals so that gradually all the training activities could be outsourced to RIHS.

The forum also discussed on the need to re-institute the BSc Nursing conversion course so that it would minimize the health workers availing study leave to study privately and further to address the shortage of nurses in the country.

c. AFD- CAO

Since the CAO was attending the DVED tender opening meeting, the Budget Assistant, presented on the progress of AFD. It was informed that the regular audit for Secretariat was not carried out for the FY 2008-09 and 2009-10. The Hon'ble Chair directed AFD to remind the RAA to conduct audit for 2008-09 and 2009-10 for those Departments and Projects accounts for which audit has not been carried out. The forum was also reminded to submit the work plan of all the capital works planned during the FY 2010-11 to the Budget Unit latest by 8 September 2010 in order to facilitate the budget release.

d. QASD- CPO

The CPO, QASD presented on the progress of the division for the month of July and August 2010. He also raised the following issues/challenges:

- Service standards needs to be developed for all departments
- Difficulties in development of service standards owing to the hectic schedule of the HoDs of JDWNRH

The forum directed QASD to develop standards of services by level of health centers. It was also pointed out that QASD should discuss with the Medical Director on the service standards for the respective departments of JDWNRH.

The Hon'ble chair also directed QASD to work together with DVED and ensure that distribution of drugs and equipments is not affected for want of quality inspection.

e. Internal Audit- Chief Internal Auditor

The Chief Internal Auditor briefed the forum on the overall progress of the unit for the two months. He also reported on the forum that he has observed that one of the computers was missing. However, he informed the forum that detailed and physical verification has not been carried out. The forum directed ICT unit to act and follow up on the observation made by the Chief Internal Auditor.

DoPH

f. CDD-DoPH- CPO

The CPO briefed the forum on the progress of the Division for the months of July and August 2010. Shortage of fund of almost Nu. 3.13 million for the 2nd round of HPV mass campaign due to which TA/DA for the health workers still not being paid was raised as one of the major issues. The forum recommended to propose to Merck, WHO and BHTF

to support the campaign. The CPO informed the forum that GAVI is supporting tetravalent for this year while GAVI will continue to support pentavalent from next year once it is re-introduced till 2013. However, he also informed the forum that GAVI has indicated that GAVI will not be able to support the new vaccines from 2013 onwards since Bhutan has already graduated from the low income group.

Hon'ble Chair directed to put up a note informing about the decisions of GAVI to be submitted to the Cabinet for information.

g. NCDD-DoPH- CPO

The CPO informed the forum on the progress of the division for the last two months. He also informed the forum that implementation progress of the division has been impeded due to the late release of fund and also since many of the program officers were in the Districts as National Supervisors for the HPV mass campaign. Concerns were also raised on inadequacy of budget for the Life Style Related Diseases and Comprehensive School Health Program.

Hon'ble Secretary informed the forum that such kind of reviews should be done on a regular basis, as this is the platform where progress, issues and challenges of the respective Divisions/Departments can be shared and discussed collectively. Hon'ble Secretary also directed to explore areas for re-appropriation of funds from within the overall budget of the Ministry.

Since NCDs are on the rise, the forum directed the Department on the need to create awareness and sensitize by distributing appropriate information brochures and pamphlets. It was also recommended to explore the possibility of improving the access for NCD related checkups.

h. ICB- Offtg. Chief

The Offtg. Chief, ICB informed the forum on the progress of the division for the last two months. He also informed that during the recent workshop on Development of Health Communication Strategy with technical advisor from UNFPA, a need to form Advisory Group to ICB was recommended.

Hon'ble Chair also directed ICB to develop information on the seasonal diseases and its prevention to be broadcast at the onset of the seasons.

i. PHED- Executive Engineer

The Executive Engineer briefed the forum on the progress for the months of July and August 2010 of the Division. The absence of focal persons on RWSS in three Dzongkhags (Bumthang, Chukha and Samdrup Jongkhar) was raised as an issue by the division.

PHED was also directed to follow up with GNHC on whether the Ministry can avail the fund of Nu.300 millions indicated by GNHC, for improving the safe drinking water supply for both rural and urban areas.

DMS

j. HCDD- DMS- Offtg. CPO

The Offtg. CPO, HCDD informed the forum on the progress of the division for two months. He also presented on the M&S checklist for the District Health Officers while visiting the health centers within their jurisdiction. The forum, however, directed that a detailed presentation should be made in the next PRCM for further endorsement.

k. DVED- CPO

Since the DVED Tender opening process was going on, the CPO could not participate in the meeting. The representative from DVED informed on the progress of the division with majority of the staff being involved in floating, compilation and evaluation of the annual tender.

l. HIDD- Project Director

The Project Director, HIDD briefed the forum on the status of implementation pertaining to the major infrastructures planned during the 10th FYP. He also informed the forum that the division is proposing to hire one architect for GoI projects. The Hon'ble Chair directed that the architect can be hired but the cost may need to be charged to the Project. HIDD was also directed to discuss during the PMC on this issue as unless there is a cost allocated as establishment cost, it would be difficult to hire personnel.

Concerns were also raised on how construction of additional structures along with the existing structures is going to be initiated. The example pointed out was the case of up-gradation of Betikha BHU II -I. The forum directed HIDD to get information on what are the facilities to be provided in each kind of health center so that a generic concept/design could be shared accommodating the requirements as per the standards.

In case of up-gradation of BHU II-I, the HIDD was instructed to develop means on how to incorporate new structures if the old structure is being used at the same time. It was also instructed that the construction guideline which was developed and distributed to the districts should once again be re-visited and discuss with QASD.

Autonomous and other agencies

m. JDWNRH (including BIMS)- Medical Director

The Medical Director briefed the forum on the progress of JDWNRH and BIMS. Shortage of manpower in the maintenance unit and only 4 operation theatres being

used out of the 8 as the rest not being equipped was raised as the issues faced by the hospital. He also added that there is also shortage of OT nurses.

n. RIHS- Director

The Director presented on the progress of RIHS for the months of July and August 2010. He also informed the forum that currently the total student strength is 355 against the capacity of 200 students. Space constraints for both the faculty and students, need to develop the capacity of the faculties and supervision of technicians trainings were raised as major issues faced.

The forum directed RIHS to develop a format to supervise the trainee technicians while they are attached with the concerned departments in the JDWNRH. It was also highlighted that MoH will continue to facilitate in building the capacity of the RIHS as it would directly impact the quality of health workers graduating from the institute.

o. ITMS, PRU and NTMH - Superintendent, Offtg. Director and Head-PRU

The Superintendent, NTMH briefed the forum on the progress for last two months.

The Offtg. Head, PRU informed the forum on the progress, particularly in terms of production and marketing of its products.

The representative from ITMS briefed the forum on the progress of the institute for 2 months. He highlighted that the revised curriculum for sMenpas have been submitted to RUB for endorsement and concept of GNHC have been incorporated in their curriculum. He also informed the forum that under the instruction of His Majesty the King, a proposal to establish an indigenous institute for Dratshang in Domkhar Dzong, Bumthang has been developed. In this line, Hon'ble Secretary directed the Institute to submit a copy of the proposal to the Ministry prior to further submission.

It was also informed that the institute is challenged with the space constraint for the students and also on the need to develop the capacity of the lecturers. It was proposed on the need to develop an institutional linkage with the indigenous institute in Varanasi, India whereby the Drungtsho's could avail master courses. Hon'ble Chair informed the forum that masters courses for Drungtshos could be discussed separately and explore the possibility of funding support from GoI and TICA. Hon'ble Chair also directed ITMS to discuss further on incorporating applied courses in the sMenpas curriculum before its finalization.

25.4 Closing Remarks- Hon'ble Chair

In his concluding remarks, Hon'ble Chair informed all the members present to not to think that you are being forced to attend such review meetings. He added that everyone in the Ministry should be aware of what is happening within the Ministry in order to be aware of the progress as well as issues holistically.