

The 7th Progress Report & Coordination Meeting (PRCM) was convened on the 26th of November 2008 at the Hon'ble Lyonpo's Chamber at 1430 Hours. The Hon'ble Lyonpo chaired the meeting.

General Discussions:

At the onset, the Chairman extended his appreciation to all the members and reiterated that with the institution of PRCM, information sharing and transparency within the Ministry has improved significantly, as manifested by the accomplishments achieved by the Ministry in providing Health Care Delivery. At the same time, he cautioned that instead of basking at the glory, the Ministry should further strive to achieve the obligations to serve the people.

The Hon'ble Chair informed the house that while attending the Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN III) in New Delhi, he took the opportunity to once again remind the Government of India (GoI) on the issues related to addressing the Human Resource Shortage and the Ambulances to be donated by the Indian Government. He stated that the output was forthcoming and fruitful and made the floor aware that the GoI will be providing 10 Ambulances (fully furnished) and initiate the admission of doctors for Post Graduate Programmes in Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh and Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore.

The Hon'ble Chair also made the floor aware about the developments related to the recruitment of Specialists from Myanmar and the demand for increase in pay. He stated that after a series of dialogues, the Ministry of Finance has agreed to increase the pay from US \$ 1000 to US \$ 1500 respectively to the Specialist coming from Myanmar. This, he indicated had to be done despite our government facing budgetary constraints as the health services to the people are more important than the monetary issues.

The Vice Chair stated that on behalf of the Hon'ble Lyonpo, he has signed the Delhi Declaration related to SACOSAN III on the 21st of November at Delhi. He also informed that the SACOSAN III concluded successfully.

The Vice Chair also informed that the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) has written to the Ministry to try and resolve the issue of resignation related to Dr. Duptho Wangmo. He pointed out that based on the directives; the Secretariat has written to Dr. Duptho to come to the Ministry to discuss regarding her resignation only after joining the

hospital, since she has not worked for three months upon submitting the resignation letter.

The Hon'ble Chair also said that Dr. Malgard has agreed to come as technical adviser to the MoH and instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to find and allocate an office for him. Further, he said that the committee formed to study the cost cutting measures should start developing a concept paper.

Specific Discussions and Recommendations for follow up:

After the presentation of progress report by the Director, DoPH, the following issues were further deliberated and were instructed by the Chairman to follow up:

The Hon'ble Chairman pointed out that as one of the priorities of the present government is related to Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS), the Public Health Engineering Division (PHED) under DoPH should undertake the following and present during the next PRCM:

To develop policies to find out alternative sanitation technology (pit or flush toilets) in the communities and start the implementation by the year 2009. - **DoPH**

Despite repeated request made by the MoH indicating that the drinking water quality in the Urban Areas are posing public health concerns, the concern agencies (municipalities) does not undertake any precautionary measures. This is further aggravated as the Urban Water Supply falls under the jurisdiction of respective municipalities. Thus, the Hon'ble Chair directed that this issue be appraised to the Cabinet Secretariat by the Health Secretary for further discussion at the CCM. – **DoPH & Secretariat**

Since the progress of RWSS is hindered in the Dzongkhags due to pooling of engineers under one unit, the Hon'ble Chair once again directed that dedicated engineers for RWSS be identified for enhancing the implementation of RWSS. The Hon'ble Chair also instructed that this issue be appraise in the Cabinet for consideration. **DoPH & Secretariat**

The Chair also directed that the DoPH & PHED present report on RWSS inventory during the coming PRCM. – **DoPH**

The Chair instructed that the status of corporatization of Pharmaceutical and Research Unit (PRU) under ITMS be put up in the Cabinet Secretariat for further discussions. – **DMS & ITMS**

As the Human Resource is vital for effective delivery of health care, the Chair directed that a comprehensive plan related to staffing for various health facilities be initiated. – **HRD/M & DMS**

It was pointed out at times many health workers are send for various trainings and conferences resulting in disruption of services. The Hon'ble Chair indicated that this is due to lack of coordination and communication between the HRD/M, DoPH and DMS. The Hon'ble Chair directed that a mechanism should be developed to stop the disruption of services and directed that the HRD/M, DoPH and DMS should sit together and thrash out the issue and present a brief during the coming HRC. - **HRD/M, DoPH and DMS**

Once again, the Chair instructed that all nomination related to trainings/seminars/workshops should be put up in the web which will enhance transparency. – **HRD/M**

Since information and communication is one of the most important tools to create mass awareness regarding health related issues, the Hon'ble Chair directed that ICB should be more innovative. Development of 3D animations related to health subject should be developed and aired time to time via multi media. – **DoPH/ICB**

Upon the presentation of the findings by the Internal Auditor, the Hon'ble Chair directed that all the concerned officials should value and take appropriate actions if required to rectify the findings as soon as possible. – **All Officials of MoH**

It was noticed that the right equipments for the designated BHUs and Hospitals are not distributed evenly. The Hon'ble Chair directed that as per the technical guide line developed, the right equipment should reach the right Hospital or BHU. - **DMS**

The Hon'ble Chair directed that given the current fiscal constraints, though the BHUs are provided with Microscopes, it is not being used properly. He directed that the DMS should carry a detailed study of the equipments and report to the Ministry. – **DMS**

After the presentation and findings made by the QASD on the private diagnostic centers in Phuntsholing, the Hon'ble Chair instructed that QASD & PPD should sit together a draw up a detailed policy on privatization of such centers and develop a guideline. - **QASD/PPD**

The Hon'ble Chair directed that PPD should review the previous policies related to privatization and put up the findings in the coming PRCM.- **PPD**

