

Minutes of 24th PRCM

2nd August 2010

2.00pm-5.30pm

Conference Hall

24.1 Opening Remarks - Hon'ble Chair

The Hon'ble Chair informed that one of the many responsibilities of his PS will be to monitor the implementations of the decisions of PRCM together with PPD.

The Honorable Chair also informed the forum about the meeting with Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Prof. Jeffrey is also the Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. The Chair also informed that Professor Jeffery has advised the Ministry to take cautious steps in inviting privatization in health; both private provisioning and private Financing, since this would not be feasible in Bhutan.

24.2 Follow up actions of 23rd PRCM recommendations

a. Annual Health Conference 2010

The Annual Health Conference which was scheduled to be conducted in October 2010 was cancelled due to non-appropriation of budget and the change in the policy of the government, which is to conduct annual conference once in two years. However, the forum agreed to divert the fund kept by the WHO to Annual Clinical Conference. The Annual Clinical Conference will be renamed as **Annual Medical Conference** hereafter. The conference will focus on operational research in the fields as well as the prevalence of diseases. The analysis will gear towards addressing the problems of clinical services.

b. Reintroduction of Pentavalent Vaccine

The Chief Program Officer, Department of Public Health, raised the need to advocate the efficacy of the vaccine before reintroduction of the vaccine in June 2011.

Honorable Chair directed Director for Department of Public Health to do rejoinder about the vaccine in chronological order to regain the faith of people in reintroducing the vaccine.

Further, the Honorable Chair directed DoPH to organize a Press Conference/Press Release with the media personnel to educate them about the vaccine. The Press Conference/Press Release will be chaired by Honorable Lyonpo or Dasho Secretary.

c. Brief update on Public Expenditure Review

The Offtg. Chief, Policy and Planning Division briefed the forum on Public Expenditure Review. It was informed that the PER which was shared with the PRCM members did not receive any comments so far. The forum agreed to have presentation in one of the days in the following week.

d. QMAR :Late Reporting from Dzongkhags

On the late reporting of QMAR from the six Dzongkhags including Haa, Wangdue, Thimphu, Trashigang, Trongsa and Sarpang, the forum endorsed the action against the defaulters as well as the dealing officers in the Ministry as proposed by the Human Resource Committee.

e. ITMS Master Plan

Dasho Secretary briefed the forum for the need to provide Herbal Steam Bath on cost sharing basis. It was made clear that the charges will be imposed only on cost of the herbs.

Since the ITMS is under Royal University of Bhutan, the forum agreed to facilitate for their capacity development.

24.3. Revised International Health Regulations

The IHR focal person presented on revised International Health Regulations. The floor was informed that as a signatory to IHR (2005), Bhutan is required to implement and also fulfill core capacities required under these regulations by 2012 among others. The focal person also presented IHR areas of work based on IHR monitoring framework developed by WHO Geneva.

The forum endorsed that IHR will be a separate unit under the Secretariat and Mr. Tshering Dendhup will be the head of the IHR Unit with defined roles as per IHR (2005) requirements.

24.4. Gidakom Hospital to be designated as district hospital and Satellite Clinics to be handed over to Thimphu Dzongkhag

The Chief Program Officer, HCDD presented proposal to the forum. It was agreed that DMS will get a letter of undertaking from the Dzongkhag Administration clearly mentioning that a new district hospital will be constructed. Gidakom Hospital will be named as an interim district hospital till the completion of the new hospital construction.

Further it was agreed that Satellite Clinics will be monitored and supervised by the District Health Officers and will report to JDWNRH until the transfer of Gidakom Hospital to the Dzongkhag. Gidakom is and will be the Rehabilitation Centre for Chronic Diseases and Disabilities as well as Infectious Disease Control and Treatment Unit.

24.5. Infection Control Practices-An Assessment carried out by QASD and Implementation Status of Surgical Safety Checklist (SSCL)

The Sr. Program Officer, QASD presented on the Infection Control Practices of Paro, Puankha, Wangdi, Tsirang, Sarpang, Gelephu and Thimphu health facilities for the month of May 2010.

On the findings as shared by the Sr. PO, the Director of DoPH informed that there is still a scope for improvement.

The Honorable Chair congratulated Sr. PO for the initiative taken to do this important assessment. It was agreed that there is a need to familiarize health staff on the checklist and the concerned Sr. PO was asked to brief Medical Staff on the revised checklist in JDWNRH. Also, it was agreed that QASD will review Infection Control Practices every three months.

The forum also discussed as to how DHSP and ICWM under DMS could collaborate with QASD in promoting and improving Infection Control Practices in the health facilities. In line with this, the Honorable Chair directed DMS to submit the District Health Service Program and Infection Control and Waste Management Program Report to the Ministry.

24.6. Any other Matters

a. Procurement Rules and Regulations 2009 and Preservation of Financial Documents

On the sensitization of Tender Committee Rules, the Chief Internal Auditor informed of under representation in the recent tender carried out by DVED. The forum agreed to conduct tender as per the rules and regulations.

Further the forum was informed on preservation and disposal of financial documents. It was made clear that the financial documents will need to be preserved even after auditing. In case of disposing the documents, the forum was informed to involve the relevant officials.

- b. The Honorable Chair directed Medical Director and ICB, Chief to install DVD players in JDWNRH to broadcast Health Promotion messages. This must be done within the month of **August 2010**.
- c. The Medical Director is yet to submit the brochures of JDWNRH.
- d. The National Day Award known as Royal Award will be awarded on 17th December 2010. The theme for the award is *Culture and Values*. The nomination of relevant personnel must be done in time. Last year, Ministry of Health could not submit nominations in time.