



Indian Society for Malaria and Other Communicable Diseases

Proceedings of XIII Annual Conference of ISMOCD held at Kochi (29th Nov. to 1st Dec. 2019)

The XIII Annual conference of Indian Society for Malaria and other communicable diseases was inaugurated on 29.11.2019 by Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey ji, Hon.Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India, as Chief Guest, scheduled for three days at IMA House Cochin.

Dr. Sujeet K Singh, Director NCDC, President ISMOCD and Co-Chairperson of Central Organizing Committee and Dr Neeraj Dhingra, Director NVBDCP and Co-Chairperson of Central Organizing Committee presided over the function.

The President, ISMOCD welcomed Hon. MoS and briefed about the objectives of ISMOCD, its activities being carried out and the contributions made by the life members in public health programmes at National and State levels.

During the inaugural address, Hon. MoS highlighted the achievements of ISMOCD so far after having established since 1964 and appreciated the contribution made by ISMOCD life members towards eradication of Polio, Small Pox, Guinea worm and Yaws from the country. He mentioned about the recent outbreaks of Scrub Typhus, CCHF, Nipah, Swine Flu, Zika and Dengue in various parts of the country. He expressed his concern about the large vacuum being created in infrastructure in the field of entomology due to the large number of vacancies at the centre, state, zonal and district level. He assured that letter shall be written to all the states / UTs for immediately filling the vacant posts. He also reiterated the organizers to share the proceedings with key recommendations as outcome of the conference and assured that the same shall be taken up for action at his level in the govt. for its urgent action.

Hon. MoS conferred 9 ISMOCD awards and 12 FISCD Fellowships during the inaugural session.

Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon. State Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India gave away the ISMOCD awards and honored the following distinguished persons for their immense contributions in the field of public health in the country.

1. ISMOCD Oration Award: Dr. Leonard I. Ortega, WHO Hqr. Geneva
2. Life Time Achievement Award in Public Health: Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, Director NVBDCP
3. Late Chaman Lal Gugnani Memorial Award: Dr. V. Meenakshy, Additional Director (Public Health), Kerala
4. Dr. A.P. Ray Memorial Medal: Dr. Gagandeep Singh Grover, Joint Director and State Programme Officer (VBDs), Punjab
5. Dr. S. Pattanayak Memorial Award: Dr. Ujjwala Oturkar, Program Officer (VBDs), Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation
6. Dr. P.K. Rajagopalan Award in Medical Entomology: Dr. S.N. Sharma, Former Joint Director, NVBDCP
7. Dr. S.K. Dasgupta Memorial Medal: Dr. K. Regu, Joint Director, NCDC Branch Calicut
8. P.S. Gill Memorial Medal: Dr. R. Rajendran, Deputy Director, NCDC Branch, Calicut
9. Glorious Personality of ISMOCD: Dr. Sukhvir Singh, Joint Director NVBDCP

A total number of 350 delegates have attended this conference from various parts of the country including representatives from WHO, CDC India, DNDi, NCDC, NVBDCP, NIMR Delhi, NIRTH Jabalpur, VCRC Pondicherry, States / district program managers, Municipal Corporations, Medical Colleges, research organizations, University, Military and Para-military forces including PG students of medical college, besides formal Directors joint Directors and program managers.



The conference focused on the theme, “Combating Vector Borne Diseases: Need for Paradigm shift”.

The following diseases were discussed during the presentations made by the different speakers in the plenary/ technical sessions on the different topics pertaining to Disease epidemiology and surveillance, diagnostic tools, treatment protocols, vector control tools and implementation plans including outbreak investigations and disaster management including floods.

- Malaria, Filariasis, Dengue, Chikungunya, JE, Visceral Leishmaniasis, Scrub Typhus, KFD, CCHF, Nipah, Zika, Leptospirosis, Swine Flu, Water and Food Borne Diseases
- Drug and Insecticide Resistance
- Vector Control
- Rodents Management Strategy
- Climate Change and Human Health
- Stakeholders, public private partnership and community engagements.
- Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

There were 3 plenary sessions, 3 technical sessions, 9 sessions for oral presentations and one session for poster presentations.

The General Body Meeting of ISMOCD held during the conference was apprised of the activities being performed by ISMOCD during 2019-20 at Chandigarh and Delhi with financial statement of expenditure. The same was endorsed by the GBM with the decision to hold the election of next executive body of ISMOCD during next conference

Based on the detailed deliberations and discussions during the technical sessions on various aspects by the delegates, the gaps were identified to improve upon and add further to the implementation plans at National and State levels. The following key recommendations are made as an outcome of three days conference and the same is forwarded to Central Govt. with the request to take action on urgent basis.

1. ISMOCD fully supports the implementation plans and steps being taken by the Govt. towards the elimination of malaria, filariasis and kala-azar and join hand with the Centre/ State Govts. to be associated by its life members at any stage for public health cause.
2. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India may consider to include at least two members of ISMOCD executive body into the technical committees of NCDC, NVBDCP, ICMR institutions and Other Communicable Diseases Control Programmes.
3. One or two executive members of ISMOCD may be invited by MoH & FW (all public health programmes) in the action plan meetings, PIP/ RoPs/ Common Review Missions/ National, Regional Level workshops/ program evaluations / monitoring and supervision and outbreak investigations.
4. Strengthening of epidemiological and entomological surveillance with real time authentic data base for an early action and response at local level.
5. All the vacant posts of entomologists at the centre/ state/ zonal and districts levels may be filled up on priority basis and the same was agreed upon by Hon. MoS for urgent action on his level to be taken up by the Govt.
6. Regularization of all the contractual posts of consultants at NCDC, NVBDCP, ICMR Institutions on priority basis.
7. Undertake effective implementation of action plans in mission mode for the VBDs targeted for elimination under close monitoring and supervision.
8. Capacity building in diagnostic tools, treatment regimens, vector control and drugs and insecticide resistance monitoring.
9. Need for Community Engagement Plans through IEC, Social Mobilization and awareness campaigns for involvement and participation.
10. Strong Advocacy for Intra and Inter-sectoral coordination for the prevention and control of communicable diseases specially among the Municipal Corporations and Local Health Authorities.
11. National Institute of Rural Development under Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India is in process of developing Employable Skill Oriented Training programs in Pest/ Vector Control and the same may be utilized to develop more skilled manpower of Technicians and Supervisors for vector control in local bodies and also for the seasonal spray personnel deployed for IRS in NVBDCP in the rural areas.