Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur organized the 9th Biennial SEAPHEIN Meeting between 13 to 15 November 2019 in Jaipur, India. Dr Neena Raina, Director, a.i., Department of Family Health, WHO, SEARO, New Delhi, India was the Chief Guest and Dr Rakesh Kumar, IAS, Additional Country Director, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), India was the Guest of Honour. Dr S D Gupta, President, SEAPHEIN and Chairperson, IIHMR University; Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, World Health Organization, South-East Asia Region.

The need is active participation of SEAPHEIN member institutions in WHO-SEARO region and building competencies in public health management and research.

Dr. Pankaj Gupta
President, IIHMR University, Jaipur, India

Meet is “Leveraging SEAPHEIN to promote Universal Health Coverage and achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030”. It attracted prominent educationalist from public health institutions across the South East Asian countries. The conference is focused on the need for aligning public health education and training to build and develop public health competencies and skills for enhancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to reach Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since its inception, IIHMR University has been engaged in important research work globally in health care. It has pioneered to create the ideal environment for cooperation and collaboration in SEAPHEIN.

Dr. Pankaj Gupta
President, IIHMR University, Jaipur, India
As a key speaker of the session, Dr Rakesh Kumar discussed about the investment in the public health systems for Immunization and Maternal and child health care. He discussed about the investments in the public health care system by SEARO countries and developed countries, and how this impact the health of community. He laid his emphasis on proper implementation of SDG-3 for Universal Health Coverage. The second key speaker of the session, Prof. Syed Masud Ahmed presented ‘Overview of universal health coverage and progressed towards SDGs’. He said, UHC is focused on poor and vulnerable population and reducing out of pocket expenses through cost sharing (Risk pooling and pre-payment). It reduces poverty, fuels economic growth, strengthens economy of the nation and catalyzes sustainable development and resilience. He focused on the AAA – Key (Align, Accelerate and Accountability) of global action plan to accelerate the UHC progress.

Dr Thomas Zapata spoke via a zoom-call on the topic - ‘To set a limit of global statistics in competencies, global health force, public health workforce to address the challenges to achieve sustainable development goals and rapidly changing public health needs.’ He shared WHO’s framework draft of 24 competencies for all health workers in primary health care across 6 different domains namely: People, Decision Making, Communications, Collaborations, and Evaluations from practice and personal conduct.

Dr Sanjay Zodpey touched upon leveraging SEAPHEIN to promote Universal Health Coverage & achieving sustainable development goals by 2030. He emphasized the role and development of core public health competencies in addressing challenges for achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). He concluded the session by saying “We have to advance the agenda of Health Assurance, that is, a state where everyone receives quality health services without suffering financial hardship for moving toward Sustainable Development Goals.”

Out of the 9 Meetings of SEAPHEIN, IIHMR Jaipur has organised 3 meetings. Now this is an active platform to come together and share wisdom and experience among partner institutions and member countries for including public health education and training in the region.
INTERACTIVE SESSION

Interaction Among Member Institutions for Exploring Partnerships to Strengthen Public Health Education in South-East Asia Region

All participants of the SEAR countries and the USA interacted with each other during the Interaction session. The objective behind this session was to facilitate institution representatives some time for exploring further opportunities to strengthen their network and explore more collaboration opportunities for research and teaching with other institutions.

GROUP WORK

Role of Public Health Education Institutions in Promoting Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goals

(Identify skill set for UHC and SDG3, identify gaps in current MPH curriculum, suggest steps to strengthen MPH curriculum to harmonize with required skill set for UHC and SDG)

A group work exercise was done on ‘Role of Public Health Education Institutions in Promoting Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goals’. All participants were divided among four core groups along with one facilitator for each group. The objectives of the exercise were to identifying a required skill set to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and SDG-3 for MPH students, to identify gaps in current MPH curriculum of your respective institutions, and to suggest steps to strengthen the ongoing MPH curriculum to harmonize with required skillsets for UHC and SDG. All groups were suggested to present their findings in a PPT format on day 2.

Moderators: Dr. D.K. Mangal with Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Professor, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi
Dr. J P Narain stated various facts and figures on this unfinished agenda of Millennium Development Goals. He said, “It’s no longer a disease of poor people or poor countries”. He emphasized on the facts that globally due to NCDs 100 million and in India about 60 million people pushed close to or below the poverty line. Dr. Anand Krishnan started that with the changing concept of 4 diseases and 4 risk factors to 5 diseases and 5 risk factors. Sharing the regional profile of SEAR countries on NCDs, he explained about the high-risk of Diabetes, Cancer, Chronic Respiratory Disease and Cardiovascular Diseases, and emerging issues of Mental health problems due to 5 specific risk factors namely tobacco, alcohol, diet, physical activity and new entered factor air pollution. He emphasized on the need of multisectoral action plan for NCD management and about use of policy instruments and multisectoral population-level interventions including fiscal, regulatory, information and communication, and structural measures.

Dr. Anna Kalbarczyk shared her reflection “Most of us are already making use of Implementation Science without sharing the clear language...”. She explained basic concepts of the science using the ‘Who’, ‘What’ and ‘How’ of UHC are relatable with that of implementation sciences, and about the different dimensions of outcome measures. Dr. Piyasha Majumdar shared her experiences of ‘Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovation in Polio Eradication (STRIPE)’ an ongoing Implementation Science Project at IIHMR, Jaipur. She explained the methodology and challenges faced during the project and set an example in front of the SEAPHEIN group members.

Dr. Chandrakant Laharia, National Professional Officer WHO, India mentioned, Implementation Research is always given less weightage than other areas in public health research, also young blood and energetic people are required to invest in it. On UHC, he said that it is still not a clear concept even for practitioners. He discussed about three dimensions of UHC and mentions that our focus should be on all the three dimensions: population coverage, service coverage and financial coverage. And ended his note by saying: “Unless we are not going to ask the most difficult question, it may not be going to work.”

Dr. Neyang Wangmo, Director Research, KG University of Medical Science, Bhutan
Dr. Dr. Piyasha Majumdar
IIHMR University
Dr. Dr. Anna Kalbarczyk
Assistant Director, Johns Hopkins University, USA

All groups encompassing all participating member institutions of the SEAPHEIN countries presented their ideas on the role of public health education institutes in promoting UHC and achieving SDGs. They identified core skills and competencies i.e. effective communication, critical thinking, program management, leadership, scientific writing, financial management, monitoring and evolution of public health problems, community mobilization, planning and conflict resolution among others for MPH curriculums. More emphasis was laid on new learning methods of training, e-learning, case-based learning and hands on workshops.