This document contains the follow-up actions on the recommendations of the 30th Session of WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research (SEA-ACHR) and the deliberations on research management in the WHO South-East Asia Region, review of global work of WHO on health research, research priorities in communicable diseases, research priorities in non-communicable disease, review of regional strategy on research for health during the 31st session of WHO ACHR in Kathmandu, Nepal on 21-23 July 2009.

It also covers the recommendations pertaining to the area of avian influenza, promotion of research and development in the area of drugs and vaccines, research management in the countries and WHO/SEARO, global work of WHO on health research and the overall four recommendations of 31st ACHR.
WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research

Report to the Regional Director
Contents

Page

1. Inaugural session ........................................................................................................... 1

2. Introductory session ...................................................................................................... 2

3. Business session .......................................................................................................... 3
   3.1 Follow-up actions on the recommendations of the 30th Session
       of WHO SEA-ACHR (Agenda item 3.1) ................................................................. 3
   3.2 Research management in the WHO South-East Asia Region
       (Agenda item 3.2) ................................................................................................... 5
   3.3 Review of global work of WHO on health research
       (Agenda item 3.34) ................................................................................................. 6
   3.4 Research priorities in communicable diseases (Agenda item 3.4) .............. 7
   3.5 Research priorities in noncommunicable diseases
       (Agenda item 3.5) .................................................................................................. 8
   3.6 Review of regional strategy on research for health
       (Agenda item 3.6) .................................................................................................. 8
   3.7 Adoption of the recommendations (Agenda Item 3.7) .................... 10

4. Closing session ........................................................................................................... 17

Annexes

1. Inaugural address by Dr Samlee Plianbangchang Regional Director, WHO
   South-East Asia Region ............................................................................................... 18

2. List of participants ...................................................................................................... 21

3. Terms of reference for the Thirty-first Session of WHO SEA-ACHR ............ 25

4. Agenda and working schedule ................................................................................. 26

5. List of working documents ....................................................................................... 30
1. Inaugural session

The Thirty-first Session of the WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research (SEA-ACHR) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 21-23 July, 2009. The Chief Guest, H.E. Mr. Umakant Chaudhary, the Minister for Health and Population, Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, inaugurated the meeting. Dr Mahesh Kumar Maskey, Executive Chairman, Nepal Health Research Council, welcomed the participants. In his opening address, Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, thanked the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal for co-hosting the meeting. He especially thanked the Chief Guest, H.E. Mr Umakant Chaudhary for being present at the inaugural session. He also thanked all the distinguished members of the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR), other distinguished invitees and the honourable guests.

The Regional Director in his opening speech went back down memory lane to 1959, when the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Medical Research (ACMR) was established by the World Health Assembly. He informed that the ACMR was renamed Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR) in 1986. The functions of the ACHR involve advising the Regional Director on regional health policies, strategies and research priorities as well as promotion of inter-institutional and intercountry collaborations in health research. He said the SEA-ACHR has been functioning for the past 33 years in the areas of infectious and non-infectious diseases, and highlighted its important contributions, particularly in furthering the mandate of the Global ACHR. Dr Samlee also commended the host country, Nepal for establishing the Nepal Health Research Council and mentioned that several experts have been associated with the work of SEA-ACHR as its members. The Regional Director indicated that several public health challenges such as climate change, the global influenza pandemic H1N1 2009, the endemicity of AI (H5N1) and uncontrolled outbreaks of dengue and chikungunya confront the Region and expressed that the hope that members and other participants would provide their expert advice on how to tackle these problems. He thanked all the participants for attending the meeting and urged them to make the meeting a grand success.
2. Introductory session

The Introductory Session was chaired by Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO SEA Region. The session was attended by 14 members of the SEA-ACHR, 12 special invitees and 12 staff members of the WHO Secretariat headed by the Regional Director, three members from WHO headquarters (HQ) and three resource persons (see Annex 2 for the complete list of participants).

In his introductory remarks, the Regional Director thanked all distinguished members of the SEA-ACHR, the special invitees and other dignitaries for attending the meeting. He recalled that the main theme of the 30th Meeting was “Emerging Infectious Diseases” and that as part of the ongoing effort, capability and capacity in the Region needs to be strengthened in the area of research and development (R&D) in pharmaceuticals and biologicals, especially regarding self-reliance in the area of drugs and vaccines. He said that in order to achieve self-sufficiency in the region, building partnerships among all stakeholders was essential. This would help in tackling problems such as the persistent endemicity of AI (H1N1). During the 31st Session of the ACHR, follow-up actions taken would be reviewed with special attention to three important areas: (i) avian influenza research, (ii) research management, and (iii) promotion of research and development in the area of drugs and vaccines. Dr Samlee indicated that the time had come to review the Regional Research Policy and Strategy, and added that there was a need to fine-tune regional research efforts to live with global public health challenges.

The Regional Director also stressed that proper and efficient utilization and management of research funds was a priority so that these funds were channelized to the research areas that needed most attention in the context of the Region. He also stressed that on the communicable diseases front, pandemic influenza H1N1, and outbreaks of dengue and chikungunya also need to be on the priorities list. Special attention to epidemiological and operational research that would ensure effective interventions through evidence-based programmes must also be given.

The Regional Director expressed his wish that at the 31st Meeting of the SEA-ACHR, the issue of “Research for Health” would be adequately addressed. Health research can efficiently reduce the health gap between the “haves” and “have-nots” Dr Samlee said.
The Regional Director thanked all participants and hoped the meeting would be productive with fruitful deliberations.

Dr Dorji Wangchuk, Chairman of SEA-ACHR, welcomed all the participants and congratulated all ACHR members for the outstanding team-work in the past. He looked forward to the active participation by all members as well as the special invitees and other dignitaries to make the 31st session successful.

3. Business session

3.1 Follow-up actions on the recommendations of the 30th Session of WHO SEA-ACHR (Agenda item 3.1)

Dr Myint Htwe, Director, Programme Management (DPM), WHO South-East Asia Region presented the implementation status of the broad major recommendations of the 30th Session of WHO SEA-ACHR held at Jakarta on 14-16 March 2007 (Agenda 3.1.1). The ACHR had proposed six major recommendations there. Dr Myint Htwe stressed the need for more investment in health research. The biennial workplan was presented. A research pool fund for US$ 500,000 was established in 2008. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and WHO were collaborating over a study on investment of funds for health research. As a step towards strengthening the research management capacity in Member countries, the first meeting of the Task Force was held in New Delhi on 6-7 March 2008. An Intercountry Workshop on Research Management was conducted in Bali, Indonesia on 3-6 June 2008.

Country-level workshops on research management have also been held subsequently in various countries of the Region. The Director, Programme Management also addressed the issue of promotion of ethical standards in conducting research in the Region. SEARO has had a fruitful collaboration with the Forum for Ethical Review Committees in Asia and the Western Pacific (FERCAP) and the Strategic Initiative for Developing Capacity for Ethical Review (SIDCER) under Special Programme for Research & Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) HQ. Five members from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal were certified as Regional Surveyors in July 2008. Six Ethics Review Committees (ERCs)/Institute Review Boards (IRBs) were accredited by FERCAP and SIDCER. A training course was held
in Indonesia from 18-22 March 2008, and an orientation programme on Ethical Review was organized by WHO in Bhutan in July 2008.

A Regional Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Avian Influenza was established in April 2007. The Expert Group made five recommendations ranging from strengthening surveillance, detecting cases early on and elucidating environmental factors in disease transmission to recording human avian influenza cases. A Regional Task Force Meeting (RTF) on Avian Influenza was held in Bali on 3-5 March 2008, to identify and address the priorities in AI research in the Region (Agenda 3.1.2). The issues of evaluation of the research infrastructure in the Region and networking between various research organizations was addressed at this RTF meeting. In this regard, the ICMR has prepared a directory of all health research institutions in India to facilitate collaboration in the Region.

Dr Jai P Narain, Director, Department of Communicable Diseases, WHO SEARO, provided an update on the current status of human cases of avian influenza A H5N1. He presented some questions on AI epidemiology and clinical aspects, and stressed on socio-behavioral and communication research needs. He also dwelled on the issues of laboratory diagnosis, vaccine development, and current level of oseltamivir production capacity in the Region. In conclusion, he addressed various issues related to the current pandemic influenza A H1N1.

Prof. N.K. Ganguly, distinguished Biotechnology Professor and Advisor, Translational Health Science & Technology, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi spoke on the issue of promotion of research and development in areas of drugs and vaccines (Agenda item 3.1.3). In a nutshell, he summarized the: (i) existing facilities and strengths; (ii) challenges that still exist; and (iii) possible ways forward. It emerged from his presentation that India is a major player in the area of drug development with 87% of drugs that achieve WHO prequalification from the SEA Region being manufactured in India. However, he also pointed out that there was a slowdown in pharmaceutical innovation after 2000, coupled with escalating costs for the manufacture of drugs and vaccines, as well as stringent regulatory issues on drug safety. Other challenges that he mentioned in his deliberation included: (i) access to essential medicines; (ii) escalating treatment costs; (iii) public funding; (iv) drug financing; (v) antimicrobial resistance; and (vi) global trade all of which have a direct or indirect bearing on drug and vaccine R&D.
Prof. N. K. Ganguly was, however, optimistic that solutions to be problems could be found. He indicated that neglected diseases should be high on the priority list for the SEA Region. Establishing more collaborative networks on the lines of DNDi, TB Alliance, Stop TB Partnership and others could facilitate R&D in the area of neglected diseases of high priority in the Region. He indicated that strong surveillance networks were essential for the Region. He also dwelled on the issues of promotion of clinical trials, both for drugs and vaccines in the Region and cited examples of successful collaborative vaccine trials.

Prof. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury spoke on the issue of research management in the member countries (Agenda item 3.1.4). He stressed on the issues pertaining to: (i) ethics in research; (ii) twinning of research centres; and (iii) manuscript preparation and dissemination of results. He indicated that since many investigators regard ethics as a hindrance to research, a change in the mindset of those involved was required. With regard to twinning of research institutes, more tie-ups and exchange programmes at all levels were required. He mentioned two success stories of twinning: (i) the Royal Hammersmith Hospital, London, with PGI, Chandigarh and (ii) Swiss Tropical Institute with BIFARA, Tanzania. He also stressed that dissemination of research findings was as important as research itself, and outlined some avenues on how to go about doing this.

3.2 Research management in the WHO South-East Asia Region
(Agenda item 3.2)

Dr Myint Htwe carried out an analysis of the WHO Biennial Workplan for 2008-2009, describing the achievements as well as the lacunae that were needed to be addressed by member countries of the Region. The DPM also presented a Framework for Improving Research Management in the SEA Region, highlighting the general objectives as well as the importance of self-learning materials. He reviewed the research management status of the various Member countries. He not only pointed out the constraints but also suggested strategies to overcome these constraints and outlined an action plan for the future.
3.3 Review of global work of WHO on health research

(Agenda item 3.34)

The global work and current situation update of WHO strategy on research for health was reviewed by Dr Abha Saxena (Agenda 3.3.1). She indicated that there was an ongoing global interest in issues pertaining to health research. There are many ongoing health initiatives globally, but Member States were looking for guidance and leadership from WHO. The World Health Organization recognizes research as central to progress in global health. Coming up with strategies for health research involves the participation of various stakeholders and the guiding principles include: (i) quality, (ii) impact, and (iii) inclusiveness. She highlighted that the WHO strategy on health research broadly encompassed the areas of (i) capacity (strengthening health research systems), (ii) priorities (meeting health needs), (iii) standards (good research practice), and (iv) translation (putting evidence into practice). She elaborated on each of the issues highlighted above. She finished off by talking about the mission of the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), the WHO Ethics Research Committee (ERC), and the Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet), also a WHO initiative.

The UNDP/World Bank/UNICEF/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) was represented by Dr Shenglan Tang (Agenda item 3.3.2). Dr Tang deliberated on the “Implementation of a Ten-Year Vision and Strategy” of the TDR. After providing a brief historical introduction of TDR, its mission and vision, Dr Tang went on to talk about the ways of implementation with special reference to (i) stewardship, (ii) empowerment, and (iii) innovation. The TDR Business Plan for 2008-2013 was mentioned. After citing the example of visceral leishmaniasis and TDR strategies for its elimination, Dr Tang concluded by highlighting the level of funding provided by TDR to the various WHO regions around the globe.

The UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) was represented by Dr A.M. Gulmezoglu (Agenda item 3.3.3). Dr Gulmezoglu gave a brief introduction of the Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) and revealed its overall goal, followed by details of various initiatives such as (i) the promotion of family planning, (ii) improving maternal and prenatal health, (iii) preventing unsafe
abortion, (iv) controlling STIs, and (v) gender issues and adolescent health. The objectives, mandate, financial commitments and research capacity strengthening by WHO/HRP were also summarized, followed by information on current ongoing research activities in the region.

3.4 Research priorities in communicable diseases
(Agenda item 3.4)

The issues of research priorities in communicable diseases were addressed by Dr Jai P Narain, Director, Department of Communicable Diseases, WHO SEARO. At the outset, Dr Narain highlighted the burden of communicable diseases in the SEA Region and the risk factors that may contribute to the escalation of the disease burden. He stressed that research was an essential component of the efforts towards tackling the burden of communicable diseases in the Region. He indicated that the underlying rationale for any research project should include the following components: (i) urgency, (ii) relevance, (iii) feasibility, (iv) impact, and (v) translatability. He mentioned the World Health Assembly resolutions of research priorities recalled the meeting concerning communicable diseases held in March 2009 and highlighted the research priorities and recommendations made at the meeting. Dr Narain also gave an overview of the actual diseases that require conspicuous attention in the South-East Asia Region. The issues pertaining to initiatives, opportunities, availability of grants, and assistance from WHO collaborating centres were addressed with special reference to South-East Asia. However, there was a need for more partnerships between academia, the public and private sector as well as NGOs, with the active participation of scientists of various categories and various levels.

Dr Narain concluded by stressing that knowledge creation by researchers alone will not suffice, but that there was a need for translating this knowledge into workable policies that required the active participation of all stakeholders, including technocrats and bureaucrats. He also said there was ample scope for the WHO to provide assistance by way of coordinating and supervising the gamut of research activities in the region.
3.5 Research priorities in noncommunicable diseases
(Agenda item 3.5)

The research priorities in noncommunicable (NCD) diseases were addressed by Dr Jerzy Leowski, Regional Adviser, Non-communicable Diseases, WHO. Dr Leowski commenced by highlighting the contribution of NCDs towards the total mortality statistics in the Region, followed by some of the risk factors leading to the development of the major NCDs. He indicated that NCDs were likely to increase as the developing countries got more and more industrialized and urbanized. Moreover, the projection of mortality figures resulting from NCDs would rise dramatically over the next five years. Hence, a research framework for the Region that addresses all the priorities was a prerequisite for a successful research agenda. The major research priorities that were identified were as follows: (i) epidemiological assessment, (ii) awareness generation and high-level advocacy, (iii) policy and programme development, (iv) capacity strengthening and infrastructure development, (v) multisectoral and multilateral action on risk factors in population, and (vi) health sector interventions. Dr Leowski concluded by proposing recommendations for Member countries, WHO and international partners, and presented the Global NCD Action Plan 2008-2013 while highlighting the fact that a Prioritized NCD Research Agenda was in the final stages of preparation.

3.6 Review of regional strategy on research for health
(Agenda item 3.6)

Dr Somsak Chunharas reviewed the Regional Strategy on Research for Health by highlighting the situation in various Member countries of future health research strategies the SEA Region (Agenda item 3.6.1). Dr Chunharas first provided an argument in favour of why a revised strategy on research was required for the Region. He then followed it with a synopsis of individual country situations, dwelling on issues such as (i) national research coordination, (ii) development of research policy documents, and (iii) prioritization of the national research agenda. Next, he enunciated the issue of functioning of the research machineries of various Member countries, with players like universities, institutes, NGOs, and ministries of health, and discussed how they fitted into the health research scenario.
It was indicated that there was a need for capacity-building for both researchers and research managers. Increased and converged funding from government and external sources was a requirement for the Region. Utilization of research findings was necessary for sound evidence-based policy-making. Dr Chunharas presented the future strategies encapsulated in the “Vision” and “Mission” and the expected outcomes. The five Country-Level Strategies presented were: (i) institutionalizing the national mechanism for national research stewardship; (ii) capacity-building in research, research management (RM) and knowledge management (KM); (iii) better resources mobilization and management; (iv) IT tools and infrastructure for effective KM in the case of all key stakeholders and not only just researchers alone, and (v) south-south collaboration and sharing of RM and KM through the twinning mechanism.

The following four SEARO-Level Strategies were also presented: (i) promoting RM and KM in countries (using already existing modules on RM); (ii) supporting national research stewardship mechanism; (iii) strengthening granting agencies in technical and ethical review; and (iv) an IT platform for KM by all key stakeholders (more than merely “databases”). Dr Chunharas concluded by sharing with the audience the action plan for implementation of the various strategies and presented a time-scale on how to go about achieving the goals.

Dr Mahesh K. Maskey presented the implementation strategy for the next-medium term period (2010-2014) (Agenda item 3.6.2). Dr Maskey provided an overview of the development of the Regional Health Research Strategy Development, giving a glimpse of past experiences in implementing regional strategies. He stressed that scientific evidence should provide the basis for formulating national and international health policies and WHO was constitutionally mandated to conduct and promote research in health. The continuous evolution of the SEA-ACHR starting from the mid-seventies over a span of three decades to the present was highlighted.

Dr Maskey indicated that the Regional Strategy for Health Research should ideally encompass the following: (i) analysis of national and local health research systems; (ii) strengthening research capacity; (iii) knowledge management; (iv) support to the national health research system; and (v) ensuring good governance. After highlighting the major key issues that had been addressed at the 30th Session of the SEA-ACHR in 2007, he pointed out that there was a need for changing, modifying, and
streamlining the objectives in order to adjust with the changing health scenario brought about multiple factors.

Dr Maskey identified the key issues related to the strategy for implementation during 2010-2014. These issues pertained to: (i) devising strategies to make the national health research system a coherent centre that can function as the “brain” of the national health system; (ii) building research capacity in Member countries; (iii) communicating research findings; (iv) conducting outbreak investigation and field epidemiology studies; (v) conducting problem-based, utility-oriented, multidisciplinary research for health; and (vi) finding the guiding principle of a regional implementation strategy for health research. Dr Maskey then went on to present the framework of the regional strategy for implementation between the periods 2010-2014. He indicated that research for health should seek to “understand the impact on health of policies, programmes, actions or events originating in any sector assist in developing intervention that would help prevent or mitigate that impact, and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, health equity and better health for all”. He concluded his presentation by proposing 10 strategic objectives that all Member States should meet by 2014.

3.7 Adoption of the recommendations (Agenda Item 3.7)

Dr Dorji Wangchuk, Chairman, SEA-ACHR, summarized the key points of the presentations, discussions and recommendations of all the sessions held during the three-day meeting. ACHR members reviewed the Draft Summary Report and the recommendations were adopted by Dr Ong-arj Viputsiri, Regional Adviser (Operational Officer for ACHR), Research Policy and Cooperation, WHO SEARO.

Recommendations

The Thirty-first Session of the WHO SEA-ACHR made the following recommendations:
1. **Recommendations pertaining to the follow up actions on the recommendation of the thirtieth session of SEA-ACHR**

   (1) WHO country offices to be urged to increase allocation of funds in WHO biennial workplans for research and for research capacity strengthening activities.

   (2) Professional bodies to be involved in further strengthening the institutional mechanisms for improving ethical standards in research. Ethics, including research ethics, should be included in the curriculum of medical schools.

   (3) Special attention should be given to those countries where research infrastructure is weak.

   (4) As efficient and effective coordination mechanism must be developed by the ministries of health/WHO/appropriate coordinating bodies within the research institutions and service-providers of a country so that research resources are utilized efficiently.

   (5) There should be more advocacies for strengthening the Ethical Review Boards (ERB) in countries.

   (6) The WHO Representatives and staff need to be closely involved in research promotion activities in countries.

2. **Recommendations pertaining to the area of avian influenza research**

   (1) Review surveillance for avian influenza in Member countries and develop tools and methods for surveillance, including the use of sero-surveillance at sentinel sites.

   (2) Develop a system for sharing avian influenza information in the countries speedily and link such a system to surveillance centres.

   (3) Develop a multisectoral approach towards research in avian influenza that would include experts in animal health, sociology, behavioural services and management.

   (4) Organize a consultation to assess the progress being made in the Region regarding the development of a pandemic vaccine in the spirit of public-private partnership.
3. **Recommendations pertaining to the area of promotion of research and development in areas of drugs and vaccines**

(1) An expertise map of countries of the Region should be prepared outlining the centres of research and development of drugs and vaccines, both in the public sector and in the private industrial pharmaceutical centres.

(2) Capacity of research institutes to conduct quality clinical trials should be strengthened.

(3) Steps should be taken to harmonize the regulatory requirements of countries in the Region so that a drug or vaccine approved for use in one country could be speedily used in other countries.

(4) WHO should strengthen the promotion of the rational use of drugs in the management of avian influenza so as to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate use of medicine, reduce costs and ensure good therapeutics.

(5) Studies should be initiated for the possible development of traditional medicine for the prevention and treatment of avian influenza. Several claims for this type of activity have been made and these could be assured.

(6) Pharmacovigilence studies should be carried out whenever a new moiety or compound is introduced for treatment of avian influenza.

(7) WHO SEARO should establish an ACHR Subcommittee on Drugs and Vaccines Development to develop a strategic framework to strengthening research capacity in Member countries.

4. **The following recommendations pertaining to research management in countries**

(1) Funds provided for carrying out a research project should include provisions for publication of good quality papers.

(2) Twinning of research institutes in the Region should be facilitated by the Regional Office. Such twinning will help institutes improve the quality of research, enhance research capability and result in joint research programmes.
(3) Countries should organize workshops for media personnel to enable them to communicate accurately the results of research being carried out and the implications of research findings.

(4) Separate units in countries should be responsible for dissemination of research findings. This would help in better utilization of the results obtained through research projects.

5. **Recommendations pertaining to research management in WHO/SEARO**

   (1) A mechanism should be developed to coordinate all research being carried out in the country at medical colleges, research institutes and other laboratories, both in the public and private sectors.

   (2) Efficient utilization of resources available in the country should be ensured through an improved and coordinated approach.

   (3) The Regional Office should set up a mechanism to monitor and support countries in order to ensure that existing gaps in management of research are reduced.

   (4) Peer review of all research projects submitted to the Regional Office should be carried out as a routine.

   (5) An in-depth analysis of all the research activities funded by WHO SEARO should be carried out.

6. **Recommendations pertaining to review of global work of WHO on health research**

   (1) WHO headquarters should share the best practices followed in countries outside the Region with the Regional Office so that appropriate and proper use of sound practices can be made use of in countries of SEA Region.

   (2) WHO headquarters should help in the development of national laboratories carrying out research in a particular area, e.g. pandemic (H1N1) influenza and avian influenza.
3. WHO headquarters should plan for and develop more collaborating centres for research, particularly in countries having none presently.

7. **Recommendation pertaining to UNDP/World Bank/UNICEF/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases**

TDR should consider increasing the quantum of funding for the SEA Region, specifically for the small-scale grant programme that has been found useful.


Based on an appropriate review, more funds for research in human reproduction and for training in human reproduction should be provided to countries in the Region.

9. **Recommendations pertaining to research priorities in communicable diseases**

   (1) Assist Member countries in identifying research priorities in communicable diseases.

   (2) Ensure that 5% of the WHO Budget for communicable diseases is utilized for research-related activities.

   (3) Ensure the use of Global Fund resources for building research capacity in Member countries.

10. **Recommendations pertaining to research priorities in non communicable diseases**

   (1) Intersectoral collaboration between the different health-related programmes should be explored. There is a need to involve sectors other than health that have a role to play in the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases.
(2) Surveillance for noncommunicable diseases as well for their risk factors should be carried out on a priority basis so that appropriate interventions can be carried out on time.

(3) Health promotion and interventions for noncommunicable diseases prevention and control should be identified and studies should be carried out to validate the efficiency and feasibility of these measures.

(4) As research on noncommunicable diseases is poorly funded, there should be a programme to generate awareness on these diseases.

(5) Advocacy programmes based on research results should be carried out to reduce changes in risk behaviour.

11. **Recommendations pertaining to review of the Regional Strategy on Health Research**

(1) National health research strategies of each Member country should clearly define the goals and purposes of the strategy.

(2) Countries in the Region are at different stages of development of their health research systems and, therefore, need different strategies, though some features may be common.

(3) Emphasis should be placed to determine whether the existing mechanisms for various research management activities are actually functioning effectively. If not, efforts should be made to make them effective.

(4) Involvement of other sectors and disciplines having an impact on health research of national health systems should be encouraged.

(5) There should be an enabling research culture and supportive environment for researchers.
12. The overall recommendations

(1) WHO Representatives should play a pivotal role in supporting health research system in countries by:

- Making use of the WHO Regular Budget (Assessed Contribution) and Voluntary Contribution) to support research activities in line with national research priorities.
- Coordinating with other key actors in health research, e.g. the Global Fund to provide funding for research in priority areas.
- Working with national stewardship mechanisms, e.g. Medical Research Council to coordinate and mobilize key stakeholders in the national health research system so that they work in a concerted manner.
- Assisting the development of good review mechanisms for project evaluation and for assessing the utilization of research results.

(2) Countries should develop national health research strategies that fit into their own national health systems.

(3) The Regional Office should develop at least the following three strategies to supplement national health research strategies:

- Support research management in countries;
- Create a platform for knowledge management and for sharing knowledge; and
- Support the establishment of mechanisms to ensure an ethical review of projects. The Regional Office should strengthen the infrastructure for ethical review and for supporting quality research.

(4) At least 5% of the WHO Regular Country Budget should be made available to support all types of research activities. The Regional Office should also try and mobilize additional resources from international donors and nongovernmental organizations.
4. Closing session

Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, in his closing remarks to the 31st Session of the SEA-ACHR, thanked the Nepal Health Research Council, Ministry of Health and Population, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, for hosting the session and for their kind hospitality. He also extended his thanks to the Honourable Minister of Health and Population for inaugurating the opening session. He also thanked all the ACHR members, the special invitees, colleagues from RPC, HRP and TDR of WHO headquarters for their valuable contribution and active participation. He indicated that the WHO Regional Office would immediately follow up with appropriate actions on the key recommendations that had been put forth at the 31st Session, ensure “satisfactory progress” in implementation of the same, fully support the countries in their efforts to develop/strengthen national health research, and ensure efficient use of WHO resources to strengthen national health research capacity. He stressed that a lot had to be done until the next session of ACHR that is scheduled for 2011.

Dr Samlee thanked H.E. Khadaga Bahadur Basyal, State Minister of Health and Population, Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, for attending the closing session of the 31st ACHR Meeting, and also thanked all ACHR members and special invitees and other staff and colleagues for providing full support to the Kathmandu session.

The Chairman of SEA-ACHR, Dr Dorji Wangchuk, thanked H.E. Khadaga Bahadur Basyal for attending the closing session. He also extended his thanks to all ACHR members, special invitees and staff of WHO for their active participation and cooperation that contributed to the success of the 31st session.
Annex 1

Inaugural address by Dr Samlee Plianbangchang
Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region

Excellency Umakant Choudhary, Minister of Health and Population, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Dr Dirga Singh Bam, Honourable Health Secretary, Nepal, Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal. Dr Mahesh Kumar Maskey, Executive Chairman, Nepal Health Research Council, distinguished members of the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR), distinguished special invitees, honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of WHO, I am pleased to welcome you all to the Thirty-first Session of the WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research (SEA-ACHR). I must thank all ACHR members and special invitees and others for sparing their valuable time to attend this session. I gratefully thank the Ministry of Health and Population, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, for agreeing to co-host this meeting. My special thanks go to the Nepal National Health Research Council for taking the initiative for this agreement from the government. I gratefully thank His Excellency Umakant Choudhary, Minister of Health and Population, Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, for attending the inaugural session.

Excellency, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

In 1959, the World Health Assembly established the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Medical Research (ACMR). This Committee was mandated to review the WHO research programme, and advise the Director-General on WHO research polices and priorities. The WHO Global ACMR was renamed in 1986 as the WHO Global ACHR.

As far as this Region is concerned, the WHO SEA ACMR was established in 1976 and renamed ACHR in 1987. The SEA-ACHR advises the Regional Director on regional research policies and strategies as well as on the criteria for determining research priorities for the Region. Also, it promotes inter-institutional and intercountry collaboration in health research. This is in addition to advising on the identification of research activities that are socially relevant and goal-oriented for the SEA Region.
During the past 33 years, the work of SEA-ACHR has contributed significantly to the development and management of WHO collaborative programmes in areas falling under both infectious and non-infectious diseases as well as in health services and health systems development.

The following are some of the important contributions made by the SEA-ACHR in the early stages of its work:

- research in chronic liver diseases;
- studies on the treatment of snakebite;
- studies on chronic respiratory diseases; and
- research in and development of the dengue vaccine.

These were the significant activities initiated at the beginning of the ACHR’s work in the SEA Region, which was the first to pursue dengue vaccine development up to the third phase of field trials. This development was entirely backed by WHO support. Moreover, this development took place under the guidance of the Regional ACHR. The SEA-ACHR works in coordination with, and in the process contributes to the work of the Global ACHR.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are here at the Thirty-first Session of the SEA-ACHR in Kathmandu. This country has a long history of systematic development of health research. The country has successfully established the Nepal Health Research Council as the apex body for health research. It has contributed significantly to WHO’s research work in many specific areas at the regional and global level. Several experts from Nepal have been associated with the work of SEA-ACHR as its members. I hope that the degree of fruitful contribution from this country to the work of SEA-ACHR would be maintained in future.

Distinguished participants,

This session of the SEA-ACHR is being convened at a time when we face several important public health challenges such as:

- climate change.
- influenza pandemic H1N1 2009.
- persistent endemicity of AI (H5N1) in the Region.
- uncontrolled outbreaks of dengue and chickungunya.
These challenges are in addition to several persisting scourges such as of TB and HIV/AIDS, which are intractable to available interventions. I am sure that as usual we will receive useful advice and guidance from the SEA-ACHR on the relevant research agenda on moving forward to tackle these public health challenges.

I once again thank all participants for their interest and time in attending this meeting. I wish the Thirty-first session of the SEA-ACHR all the best. I also wish all participants the most productive deliberation and a fruitful outcome from the meeting. And I wish them all an enjoyable stay in the city of Kathmandu.

Thank you.
Annex 2

List of participants

ACHR members

Professor Shah Monir Hossain
(Unable to attend)
Director-General
Directorate-General of Health Services
Mohakhali, Dhaka Bangladesh

Prof. Dr Harun-Ar-Rashid
Director
Bangladesh Medical Research Council
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr Dorji Wangchuk
Director-General
Department of Medical Services
Ministry of Health
Thimphu, Bhutan

Dr Pak Song Chol
Director
Department of Science and Technology
Ministry of Public Health
Pyongyang, DPR Korea

Prof. N. K. Ganguly
Distinguished Biotechnology Professor & Adviser, Translational Health Science & Technology Institute
National Institute of Immunology
New Delhi, India

Dr V.M. Katoch
Director-General
Indian Council of Medical Research and Secretary Department of Health Research
Government of India
New Delhi, India

Dr Shiv Lal
(Unable to attend)
Special Director-General of Health Services (PH) and Director,
National Institute of Communicable Diseases
New Delhi, India

Prof Dr Agus Purwadianto
(Unable to attend)
Director-General
National Institute of Health Research and Development
Ministry of Health
Jakarta, Indonesia

Dr Hasbullah Thabrany
(Unable to attend)
Former Dean and Professor
Faculty of Public Health
University of Indonesia
Jakarta, Indonesia

Dr Abdul Azeez Yoosuf
(Unable to attend)
Physician, Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital
Ministry of Health
Male, Maldives

Dr Khin Pyone Kyi
(Unable to attend)
Director-General
Department of Medical Research
(Lower Myanmar), Myanmar

Dr Kyaw Zin Thant
Deputy Director-General
Department of Medical Research
(Upper Myanmar), Myanmar

Dr Htun Naing Oo
Director-General
Department of Medical Research
(Central Myanmar), Myanmar

Dr Mahesh Kumar Maskey
Chairman
Nepal Health Research Council
Ministry of Health
Kathmandu, Nepal
Dr Govind Prasad Ojha  
Director-General  
Department of Health Services  
Ministry of Health and Population  
Kathmandu, Nepal  

Dr H A P Kahandaliyanage  
(Unable to attend)  
Secretary  
Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition  
Colombo, Sri Lanka  

Professor Dulitha N. Fernando  
Senior Professor of Community Medicine,  
Faculty of Medicines  
University of Colombo  
Colombo, Sri Lanka  

Dr Somsak Chunharas  
Secretary-General  
National Health Foundation  
Bangkok, Thailand  

Dr Somchai Chakrabhand  
(Unable to attend)  
Director-General  
Department of Disease Control  
Ministry of Public Health  
Bangkok, Thailand  

Professor Pirom Kamol-Ratanakul  
(Unable to attend)  
President  
Chulalongkorn University  
Bangkok, Thailand  

Professor Adisorn Patradul  
Dean  
Faculty of Medicine  
Chulalongkorn University  
Bangkok, Thailand  

Mr Carlos Boavida Tilman  
Director (Academic),  
General Director and Academic Director  
Institute of Health Science  
Ministry of Health  
Dili, Timor-Leste  

Dr Somchai Chakrabhand  
(Unable to attend)  
Director-General  
Department of Disease Control  
Ministry of Public Health  
Bangkok, Thailand  

Dr Rajesh Kumar  
Professor and Head, School of Public Health  
Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER)  
Chandigarh, India  

Dr I Nyoman Kandun  
(former Director-General  
Disease Control and Environmental Health,  
Ministry of Health)  
Jakarta, Indonesia  

Mr Ahmed Khaleel  
Deputy Director-General  
Decision Support Division  
Ministry of Health and Family  
Malè, Maldives  

Prof. G.P. Acharya  
Chairman  
Department of Medicine  
KIST Medical College  
Lalitpur  
Kathmandu, Nepal  

Dr S M Samarage  
Deputy Director-General of Health Services (Planning)  
Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition  
Colombo, Sri Lanka  

Special invitees  

Prof Mahmudur Rahman  
Director  
Institute of Epidemiology (IEDCR) & National Influenza Centre (NIC) Disease Control & Research  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  

Dr Ranjit Roy Chaudhury  
Former Chairman  
International Clinical Epidemiology Network and National Professor of Pharmacology (INCLEN)  
New Delhi, India  

Dr S D Gupta  
Director  
Institute of Health Management Research  
Jaipur, India  

Dr Rajesh Kumar  
Professor and Head, School of Public Health  
Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER)  
Chandigarh, India  

Dr I Nyoman Kandun  
(former Director-General  
Disease Control and Environmental Health,  
Ministry of Health)  
Jakarta, Indonesia  

Mr Ahmed Khaleel  
Deputy Director-General  
Decision Support Division  
Ministry of Health and Family  
Malè, Maldives  

Prof. G.P. Acharya  
Chairman  
Department of Medicine  
KIST Medical College  
Lalitpur  
Kathmandu, Nepal  

Dr S M Samarage  
Deputy Director-General of Health Services (Planning)  
Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition  
Colombo, Sri Lanka  

Page 22
WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research

Dr H R U Indrasiri
Deputy Director-General of Health Services (Education, Training & Research)
Ministry of Health Care & Nutrition
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Prof. Kraisid Tontisirin
Senior Advisor
Institute of Nutrition
Mahidol University
Nakkon Pathom, Thailand

Prof. Surasak Taneepanichskul
Dean
College of Public Health
Chulalongkorn University
Bangkok, Thailand

Dr Supachai Rerk Ngarm
Senior Expert in Preventive Medicine
Department of Diseases Control
Ministry of Public Health
Bangkok, Thailand

WHO SEARO
Dr Samlee Plianbangchang
Regional Director

WHO Secretariat
Dr Myint Htwe
Director, Programme Management
Dr Dini Latief
Director, Family Health and Research
Dr Jai P. Narain
Director, Communicable Diseases
Dr Gunawan Setiadi
Acting WHO Representative, Nepal
Dr J. Leowski
Regional Adviser, Noncommunicable Diseases
Dr Ong-arj Viputsiri
Regional Adviser (Operational Officer for ACHR)

Dr Oratai Rauyajin
Temporary International Professional
Research Policy and Cooperation
Dr Kim Son Il
National Programme Officer in Charge of Health Research Programme
WHO Country Office DPR Korea

Prof. Surasak Taneepanichskul
Dean
College of Public Health
Chulalongkorn University
Bangkok, Thailand

Dr Supachai Rerk Ngarm
Senior Expert in Preventive Medicine
Department of Diseases Control
Ministry of Public Health
Bangkok, Thailand

WHO/ HQ
Dr Abha Saxena
Scientist, WHO ERC
Research Policy and Cooperation (RPC)

Dr Shenglan Tang
Scientist, Stewardship
Special Programme for Research & Training Tropical Diseases (TDR)

Dr Ahmet Metin Gulmezoglu
Medical Officer
Technical Cooperation with Country Team
Department of Reproductive Health and Research

Resource persons
Professor Dharma Sharna Mandhar
President & Executive Director
Mother and Infant Research Activities (MIRA)
Head, Department of Pediatrics
Kathmandu Medical College
Kathmandu, Nepal

Dr Abha Saxena
Scientist, WHO ERC
Research Policy and Cooperation (RPC)

Dr Shenglan Tang
Scientist, Stewardship
Special Programme for Research & Training Tropical Diseases (TDR)

Dr Ahmet Metin Gulmezoglu
Medical Officer
Technical Cooperation with Country Team
Department of Reproductive Health and Research

Resource persons
Professor Dharma Sharna Mandhar
President & Executive Director
Mother and Infant Research Activities (MIRA)
Head, Department of Pediatrics
Kathmandu Medical College
Kathmandu, Nepal
Mr Arjun Karki
Vice-Chancellor
Patan Academy of Health Sciences
Kathmandu, Nepal

Dr Kedar Prasad Baral
Department of Community Health Sciences
Patan Academy of Health Sciences
Kathmandu, Nepal
Annex 3

Terms of reference for the
Thirty-first session of WHO SEA-ACHR

To advise the Regional Director on the following matters relating to research for health:

(1) To review actions taken on the recommendations of the 30th SEA-ACHR,

(2) To develop regional strategy for implementation on research for health,

(3) To review research management of WHO in South East Asia Region, and

(4) To identify research priorities in communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases
Annex 4

Agenda and working schedule

1. Inaugural session

2. Introductory session
   2.1 Introductory remarks by Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region
   2.2 Introduction of participants
   2.3 Nomination of Chairperson / Co-Chairperson
   2.4 Establishment of report drafting group

3. Business session
   3.1 Follow-up actions on the recommendations of the thirtieth session of WHO SEA-ACHR
      3.1.1 Broad major recommendations
      3.1.2 Avian influenza research
      3.1.3 Research management in countries
      3.1.4 Promotion of research and development in areas of drugs and vaccines
   3.2 Research Management in WHO South-East Asia Region
      3.2.1 Regional and country level
   3.3 Review of Global Work of WHO on health research
      3.3.1 Review of global work and update of WHO Strategy on research for health
      3.3.2 UNDP/World Bank/ UNICEF/ WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)
      3.3.3 UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP)
   3.4 Research priorities in communicable diseases
3.5 Research priorities in non-communicable diseases

3.6 Review of Regional Strategy on Research for Health
   3.6.1 Country situation towards future health research strategy in SEAR
   3.6.2 Strategy for the next medium term period (2010-2014)

3.7 Adoption of the recommendations

4. Closing session
   4.1 Reflection of SEA-ACHR members
   4.2 Closing remarks by RD
   4.3 Closing statement by the Chief Guest H.E. State Minister of Health and Population, Nepal
   4.4 Closure by chairperson of SEA-ACHR
Working schedule

21 July 2009 (Tuesday)

08:30–09:15  1. Inaugural session

09.45–10.15  2. Introductory session
              (Chairperson: Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, WHO/SEA Region)
              2.1 Introductory remarks by RD
              2.2 Introduction of participants
              2.3 Nomination of Chairperson and Co-chairperson
              2.4 Establishment of report drafting group

10:15–12:30  3. Business session
              3.1 Follow-up actions on the recommendations of the 30th session of WHO SEA-ACHR
                      3.1.1 Broad major recommendations
                           by Dr Myint Htwe (SEA/ACHR/31/5)
                      3.1.2 Avian influenza research
                           by Dr Jai P. Narain (SEA/ACHR/31/6)
                      3.1.3 Promotion of research and development in areas of drugs and vaccines
                           by Prof. N.K. Ganguly (SEA/ACHR/31/8)

14:00–15.30  3.3 Research management in WHO South-East Asia Region
              3.2.1 Regional and country level
                   by Dr Myint Htwe & Dr R. R. Chaudhury
                   (SEA/ACHR/31/9)

15:45–17:00  3.1 Follow-up actions on the recommendations of the thirtieth session of WHO SEA-ACHR (Contd…)
              3.1.4 Research management in countries
                   by Dr R. R. Chaudhury (SEA/ACHR/31/7)
22 July 2009 (Wednesday)

09:00–10:30  **3.3 Review of global work of WHO on health research**

3.3.1 Review of global work and update of WHO strategy on research for health
by Dr Abha Saxena (SEA/ACHR/31/10)

3.3.2 UNDP/World Bank/UNICEF/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)
by Dr Shenglan Tang (SEA/ACHR/31/11)

3.3.3 UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) by Dr A. M. Gulmezoglu
(SEA/ACHR/31/12)

10:45–12.30  **3.4 Research priorities in communicable diseases**
by Dr Jai P. Narain (SEA/ACHR/31/13)

14:00–15:30  **3.5 Research priorities in noncommunicable diseases**
by Dr J. Leowski (SEA/ACHR/31/14)

15:45–17:00  **3.6 Review of Regional Strategy on Research for Health**

3.6.1 Country situation towards future health research strategies in SEAR by Dr Somsak Chunharas
(SEA/ACHR/31/15)

23 July 2009 (Thursday)

09:00–10:30  **3.6 Review of Regional Strategy on Research for Health**
(continued)

3.6.2 Strategy for the next medium-term period (2010-2014)
by Dr Mahesh K. Maskey (SEA/ACHR/31/16)

14:00–15:30  **3.7 Adoption of the recommendations**
by Dr Ong-arj Viputsiri

15:30–16:00  **4. Closing session**

4.1 Reflections of SEA-ACHR members

4.2 Closing remarks by RD

4.3 Closing statement by the Chief Guest H.E. State Minister of Health and Population, Nepal

4.4 Closure by chairperson of SEA-ACHR
Annex 5

List of working documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Document Name</th>
<th>Document No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Terms of reference for the thirty-first session of WHO SEA-ACHR</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Provisional agenda</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Provisional programme of work</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>List of participants</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Follow-up actions on the recommendations of the thirtieth session of WHO SEA-ACHR</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Broad major recommendations</td>
<td>(Agenda Item 3.1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>• Avian Influenza Research</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Agenda item 3.1.2)</td>
<td>(Agenda item 3.1.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>• Research Management in countries</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Agenda Item 3.1.3)</td>
<td>(Agenda Item 3.1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>• Promotion of research and development in areas of drugs and vaccines</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Agenda item 3.1.4)</td>
<td>(Agenda item 3.1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Research Management in WHO South-East Asia Region:</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Regional &amp; Country level</td>
<td>(Agenda Item 3.2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Review of Global Work of WHO on health research:</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review of global work and update of WHO strategy on research for health</td>
<td>(Agenda Item 3.3.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>• UNDP/World Bank/ UNICEF/ WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)</td>
<td>SEA/ACHR/31/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Agenda Item 3.3.2)</td>
<td>(Agenda Item 3.3.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP)  
   SEA/ACHR/31/12  
   (Agenda item 3.3.3)

13. Research priorities in communicable diseases  
   SEA/ACHR/31/13  
   (Agenda Item 3.4)

14. Research priorities in non-communicable diseases  
   SEA/ACHR/31/14  
   (Agenda item 3.5)

15. Review of Regional Strategy on Research for Health:  
   Countries Situation towards Future Health Research Strategies in SEAR  
   SEA/ACHR/31/15  
   (Agenda item 3.6.1)

16. Strategy for the next medium-term period  
   (2010-2014)  
   SEA/ACHR/31/16  
   (Agenda item 3.6.2)

17. Adoption of the recommendations  
   SEA/ACHR/31/17  
   (Agenda item 3.7)

Information documents


d. Report of the Meeting of the Regional Task Force Meeting on Avian Influenza Bali, Indonesia, 3-5 March 2008


f. Report of the Thirtieth Session of WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research organized at Jakarta, Indonesia from 14-16 March 2007

g. Report of National Consultation on Avian Influenza Jakarta, Indonesia, 8-9 November 2007

h. Strategies for Health Research Systems Development in South-East Asia Region, 2001 (SEA-RES-117)

i. Report on Meeting of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on Management and Coordination of Health Research Activities in the Countries, 2000 (SEA-RES-111)

k. Meeting of the WHO Scientific Working Group on Criteria for Setting Health Research Priorities, 2000 (SEA-RES-113)

l. Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Management of Health Research Information, 2000 (SEA-RES-114)
This document contains the follow-up actions on the recommendations of the 30th Session of WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research (SEA-ACHR) and the deliberations on research management in the WHO South-East Asia Region, review of global work of WHO on health research, research priorities in communicable diseases, research priorities in non-communicable disease, review of regional strategy on research for health during the 31st session of WHO ACHR in Kathmandu, Nepal on 21-23 July 2009.

It also covers the recommendations pertaining to the area of avian influenza, promotion of research and development in the area of drugs and vaccines, research management in the countries and WHO/SEARO, global work of WHO on health research and the overall four recommendations of 31st ACHR.