• Employ self-assessment tools, benchmarking by countries.
• Make available minimum set of information on GMP, GDP, Good Practice (GSP) on National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) website.
• Map capacity development needs, identify training needs and regional or global learning / training opportunities for GIP etc, to have common understanding among SEARN members.
• Develop strategic plan and roadmap of immediate term, medium term and long-term, with specific indicators and targets.

Working Group 3: Vigilance for medical products
• Engage in capacity building programmes in Vigilance such as workshops for principles, practice and causality assessment in compliance with good pharmacovigilance practices, including haemovigilance and fostering reporting.
• Provide information to set up safety monitoring system for medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics.
• Develop SEARN Vigilance Newsletter.
• Develop capacity for integrating Pharmacovigilance with National Health Programmes in South-East Asia Region through workshops on Regulatory aspects of Pharmacovigilance, including Pharmacovigilance Inspections and role of Drug Regulators for enforcement.

Working Group 4: Information Sharing Platform
• Prepare prototype for Information Sharing Platform (ISP) Gateway by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) – Autonomous Scientific Society of Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India.
• Nodal person nominated for ISP Gateway from each NRA to liaise for exchange of information and ISP support to the SEARN Working Groups.

Working Group 5: Medical devices and diagnostics
• Map medical device regulations for SEARN countries for current situation.
• Map capacity building needs for each country.
• Enhance capacity in quality control of Medical devices and diagnostics.

SEARN will enable achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda in the Region
In 2016, the 11 Member States of WHO South-East Asia Region launched the South-East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN) to enhance information sharing, collaboration and convergence of medical products (medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, devices) regulatory practices across the Region.

Regulatory authorities in several countries require support for enhancing technical capacity, staff and resources to perform effectively. Even well-resourced authorities are hard-pressed to thoroughly evaluate new products and enforce existing regulations. Therefore, it is envisaged SEARN would be instrumental in guaranteeing access to quality medical products.

WHO is providing the initial secretariat, with the intent that SEARN becomes a self-sustaining inter-country network, managed by the Member States themselves. The SEARN Steering Group (SG) has three permanent members (India, Indonesia, Thailand) and two revolving members. The key guiding principle for SEARN is to take up activities where through collaboration, the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) can achieve better results: savings in time, money, resources and speed up their work to provide access to medical products for better health of their populations.

Vision
Healthy populations with timely access to affordable medical products of assured quality, safety and efficacy in all countries of the South-East Asia Region and beyond.

Mission
To develop and strengthen regulatory collaboration, convergence and reliance in the South-East Asia Region over shared regulatory issues and challenges, that will build capacity and will enable National Regulatory Authorities to fulfil their mandates and better safeguard public health.

Objectives
- Information sharing: Create an enabling environment to enhance communication and information sharing on regulatory policies, guidelines, standards, procedures, outputs and regulated products and entities between national regulatory authorities in the Region.
- Systems strengthening: Facilitate and support regulatory capacity development to enhance regulatory skills and competencies and strengthen regulatory systems in the Region.
- Convergence: Promote convergence and alignment of regulatory approaches and requirements based on international standards and good regulatory practices.
- Collaboration: Identify and develop potential work sharing and reliance processes to help address common work areas and optimize use of existing regulatory capacities and expertise available in the Region.

SEARN is led by a Steering Group (SG) comprising Medical Products regulatory agencies of Member States and five Working Groups (WG)

The five member SG comprises three members for continuity - India, Indonesia, Thailand and two revolving members nominated by consensus till the next meeting (recently Sri Lanka and Bhutan and replaced in the last annual meeting by Bangladesh and Maldives). The five Working Groups are:
1. Quality assurance and standards of medical products, including labs
2. Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) including Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), Good Distribution Practice (GDP) etc.
3. Vigilance for medical products
4. Information Sharing Platform (ISP)
5. Medical devices and diagnostics

Activities of Working Groups in SEARN:

Working Group 1: Quality assurance and standards of medical products, including laboratories (labs)
- Map labs and capacities for testing medical products in SEAR countries
- Exchange Regional Working Reference Standards (RWRs) and reference substances information
- Agree on priority list of medical products and mechanisms for testing.
- Define focal point for each activity, develop protocols, SOPs, EQAS participation, inter-country/ inter laboratory comparison among National Control Laboratories (NCLs).

Working Group 2: Good Regulatory Practices including GMP, GDP, etc.
- Self-assessment of the Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) in SEAR countries - develop common needs Institutional Development Plans (IDPs) - joint workshops for SEAR countries;