

**Minutes of the special meeting of Country Coordinating Mechanism Sri Lanka held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 at 2.00pm, at the Conference Room of the Anti Malaria Campaign, Public Health Complex, 555/5, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05.**

**Present:**

**Members:**

Dr. P.G. Mahipala	- Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Health
Dr. Sunil De Alwis	- Director / NPTCCD
Dr. Nimal Edirisinghe	- Director / NSACP
Dr. S. Deniyage	- Director/ AMC
Dr. F.R Mehta	- WHO Country Representative for Sri Lanka
Dr. L. P. Chandradasa	- Sarvodaya
Ms. Swarna Kodagoda	- Alliance Lanka
Ms. Kaushalya Navaratne	- Sewa Lanka Foundation
Ms. Kusum Wasala	- Wason Foundation
Ms. W. Prasadika	- Central Chest Clinic

**Observers :**

Mr Taufiqur Rahman	- The Global Fund
Ms. Malavika Rao	- The Global Fund
Ms. Tsovinar Sakanyan	- The Global Fund
Mr. Manab Basnet	- FPM Sri Lanka - The Global Fund
Dr. Panduka Wijeratne	- TEDHA
Dr. S.L.G Jayasuriya	- IMPA
Dr. N. Punchihewa	- SLMA
Dr. G. Weerasinghe	- College of Venereologist
Dr. K. Buddhakorala	- College of Venereologist
Dr. Supriya Warusawithana	- WHO
Dr Sarojini Perera	- AIDS Foundation of Sri Lanka
Mr. Channa Manoharan	- PWC- LFA
Mr. Yudi Kanagasabai	- PWC- LFA
Ms. Nilakshi Fonseka	- PWC- LFA
Mr. Saman Kumara	- PWC – LFA
Mr. Saman Kalupahana	- Sarvodaya
Mr Saman Algoda	- Sarvodaya
Mr S. Jayawarnan	- TEDHA
Mr. Chanaka Walawwatte	- Programme Officer /CCMSL
Ms. Hirusha Alwis	- DEO/CCMSL

**Excused:**

Dr. Ravindra Ruberu	- Secretary / MoH (Chairman/CCMSL)
Mr. Shirley Tissera	- Congress of Religions / CFPA (Vice Chairman/CCMSL)
Dr. R. R. Abeyasinghe	- Project Director/GFATM Projects MOH, Focal Point/CCMSL
Mr. Gamini Wanasekara	- The Family Planning Association
Mr. S.K.D. Dassanayake	- Sri Lanka Red Cross Society
Mr. David Bridger	- UNAIDS Country Representative for Sri Lanka
Dr. S. Gopalan	- World Bank
Dr. Moazzem Hossain	- UNICEF

**Absent:**

Dr. Ajith Mendis	- Ministry of Health
Prof. Carlo Fonseka	- University Grants Commission
Dr. Chris Nonis	- Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
Mr. D.A.D.N.C. Wimalaratne	- Rural & Community Development Association
Ms. Sherin Rodrigo	- Lanka Plus

**1. Proceedings**

Dr Mehta was elected as the acting Chairperson of the meeting until the arrival of Additional Secretary of the MOH. Dr Sunil De Alwis, acting Focal Point/CCMSL, welcomed all the participants.

The acting Chairperson also welcomed the members & observers including GFATM Secretariat staff and other invitees of the meeting.

Dr Mehta explained that this special meeting is summoned on the request of GF. The proceedings of the meeting started with the self-introduction of participants. The Mr. Manab Basnet, new Fund Portfolio Manager was introduced to the participants and the forum appreciated the services of the former FPM Ms. Malavika Bakshi Rao and former Programme Officer of SWA Ms. Tsovinar Sakanyan.

Dr L. Chandradasa of Sarvodaya, raised an objection on content of minutes of last CCMSL meeting and challenged on the constitutional provisions of today's special meeting. He questioned reasons for non inclusion of previous minutes in the agenda of this meeting. He further said that the minutes of the last meeting are totally incorrect and therefore those matters should be discussed in this meeting. He further questioned over the responsibility over today's meeting and stated that according to him there is no provision to have special CCM meeting.

Dr Sunil De Alwis / acting Focal Point said that since, Dr Abeyasinghe is out of the country and he was requested to be the acting Focal Point, officially in this meeting. He further explained that he

was asked to conduct this meeting as a special meeting, in accordance with the constitutional provisions and the agenda of this special meeting had been circulated accordingly.

Dr De Alwis further explained that since he is officially covering up the responsibilities of the Focal Point and the appropriate arrangements are made for the recording of minutes of this special meeting and the last meeting was handled by Dr Abeyasinghe and he will be responsible for the minutes of the previous meeting. He pointed out that the provisions are there for a special meeting in the Constitution of the CCMSL. Dr Mehta read out the relevant clause of the constitution to the forum and cleared the concerns.

Dr Chandradasa said that Dr Abeyasinghe is mishandling all responsibilities and made malicious lies at the last minutes and therefore Dr Abeyasinghe is attempting to avoid this meeting purposefully, even without official leave. Dr De Alwis confirmed that Dr Abeyasinghe has applied for official leave and he had signed for the covering up.

## **2. Introduction of Voice Recording of all CCMSL meetings.**

Dr. Sunil De Alwis stated that, as suggested in the previous meeting, and considering the requests from the membership, a recording device is available for recording of the proceedings of the meeting accurately and it shall be used in the meetings herein after as a technical solution to eliminate the misunderstandings over minutes and asked membership to express their views in this regard.

Dr Chandradasa stated that he is objecting this recording device because he has concerns over the technical competency of operators of this instrument. Dr Alwis explained that this instrument is a user friendly device with simple technology and is explained in the manual and therefore special skills or technical qualifications are not required for its operation. He further elaborated that any person with minimum skills on operating a computer shall be able to use this. Dr Chandradasa emphasized that all proceedings of the meeting should be recorded. And Dr De Alwis said that this is able to record whole meeting continuously. In responding to a question raised by Dr Mehta, Mr Walawwatte, Programme Officer CCMSL informed that this is a property of CCMSL and was purchased in previous week. Dr Mehta stated that since this is a property of secretariat, the responsibility lies on the staff of secretariat. As suggested by Dr De Alwis, the views of other participants were also taken and as there were no objections it was decided to use the recording device.

Dr Mehta said that as agreed by the members this will help us to record and get more accurate minutes. Mr. Chanaka Walawwatte was asked to record the proceedings on behalf of the secretariat.

### **3. Presentations by the SWA Cluster Team –**

#### **a. Introducing of new FPM of SWA for Sri Lanka by Mr. Taufiqur Rahman**

Mr. Taufiqur Rahman, Team Leader SWA thanked the CCMSL for organizing this special meeting and presented some important messages to CCMSL. He informed that, since Ms Malavika Rao is going for one year study leave, Mr. Manab Basnet, will be the new FPM for Sri Lanka for next 3 years. And Ms. Kamilla Nurbaeva, Senior Programme Officer will take over the responsibilities of Ms Tsovinar Sakanyan.

Mr Taufiqur introduced the new officials.

In addition, he stated that the GF team had a very constructive open discussion with the Secretary of MoH. He said that it was discussed on CCM reforms with Retreat and on possible technical support from Grant Management Solutions and other related issues including, Secretariat, PRs and Observers and empowerment of communications.

He further emphasized that the CCM should attempt to solve its issues before forwarding them to GF except for major issues. Mr Taufiqur also said that they have discussed some aspects of OIG report on Acceleration of Malaria grant and its current performance.

Finally he stated that CCM and Chair of the CCM should address these issues and move forward.

#### **b. Presentation of draft OIG Country report by Ms. Malavika Rao.**

Dr Chandradasa stated that the OIG report is, not available even after 6 or 7 months, except for the debriefing. He had requested a copy of the presentation as otherwise there is no opportunity for him to express his views over issues mentioned in the report.

Ms Malavika informed that the report is still in draft stage and therefore it is not possible to provide the report and she apologized on behalf of the GF for delay.

Ms Malavika made an outline of the draft OIG report. She mentioned that some recommendations are to be given high priority and due attention, and also mentioned on positive remarks in the report and particularly emphasized on some conflicts of interests in CCM membership.

Dr Alwis said that during the audit of OIG some documents of 4,5 years back were asked to submit, but there was no organized documentation system during that time and therefore it is unfair by the PR. Ms Malavika also agreed on the comment.

Also Dr Alwis stated that he cannot agree on the comment that the presence of PRs in CCM is a conflict of interest.

And he further explained the importance of presence of programme managers and project implementers in the CCM, as monitoring is essentially a collective process on basic managerial principles and there cannot be separate people for implementation and another group for monitoring. Therefore the role and presence of programme managers in CCMSL cannot be ignored. Dr Mehta explained his experiences in Indonesia. But Dr Alwis mentioned that he cannot agree on this as role of programme in Indonesia is quite different from that in Sri Lanka, and therefore it cannot be adopted here similarly.

#### **4. NSA Application for TB.**

Dr Alwis stated that NPTCCD is suppose to submit NSA application.

Dr Chandradasa questioned that whether it will be discussed at the CCM before sending and Dr De Alwis explained that this is an initial expression of interest. The CCMSL agreed to submit an expression of interest for participation in a NSA for TB control in Sri Lanka.

#### **5. Decision identifying funds for counterpart funding from MOH to finance a potential funding gap of approx. US \$ 450,000 in the R9 HSS grant (projected due to possible inflation).**

Dr Mahipala explained that the counterpart funding shall be identified from next year and the GF delegates agreed on it.

#### **6. Other matters.**

Dr Alwis, made a proposal to appreciate the service rendered by Ms Malavika Rao and Ms. Tsovinar Sakanyan in all project activities in Sri Lanka. Dr Chandradasa also appreciated their services on behalf of civil society of CCMSL. Dr Mahipala also thanked them on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, appreciating wonderful job done by them. Ms Swarna Kodagoda also thanked the two representatives on behalf of civil society.

Dr Chandradasa said that since 2003 there were so many ups and downs in the CCMSL, and that some people made lots of money through corruption which can be legally proved. Dr. Mahipala proposed that these issues should be discussed at another time. Dr Alwis said that in the constitution it is mentioned that the membership should be updated every two years and the electing of representatives from each sector is also done through a transparent process, accordingly. And he pointed out that non adherence to the constitutional provisions is a violation of our own CCMSL constitution.


Dr Chandradasa suggested that CCM secretariat should be located in independent place other than in a government building. His point was that no one can enter the secretariat on weekends and security restrictions are also an obstacle for entering. Dr Alwis explained that independency of an organization cannot be ensured only by changing of locations and pointed out that even in private or non government sector it is difficult to enter without prior notice as security systems are available in all setups currently .

At this time Dr Mahipala said that these issues will be taken at the retreat separately.

Ms Malavika and Ms Tsovinar, former GF officials thanked all members and participants including LFA. Mr. Manab Basnet the FPM Sri Lanka also addressed the meeting

## **7. The Next CCM meeting**

The date for the next meeting will be notified to the members in due course.

  
Dr. Sunil De Alwis  
Actg. Focal Point/CCMSL  
2011.06.01