

**Workshop for finalizing the project proposal document for setting up
International Center for Natural Product Research (ICNPR).**
(IUPAC Project # 2007-051-1-300)

Health Care Development Project (HCDP) Meeting Room
99 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
16-17 March 2008

Proceedings

1. The Workshop began at 0900 presided over by Prof. M Mosihuzzaman, the Chair of the IUPAC Core Task Group for the Workshop. All the Core Task Group members mentioned in the IUPAC application, along with new inducted members from home and abroad participated in the Workshop. The List of Participants is given at the end of the Proceedings.
2. The Chair started the meeting by welcoming the members and thanking the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) for providing the Workshop venue with all logistics at its HCDP office. The members introduced themselves to those present.
3. The Chair then briefly described the background of proposed project for the establishment of ICNPR up to the point of the present Workshop. A Draft Programme for the Workshop was circulated and a Draft Project Proposal was presented. Prof. Mosihuzzaman then invited the members to comment on the Project and present practical suggestions.
4. First to speak was Dr. Soumitra Deb of East India Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Kolkata. He highlighted the needs of industries producing herbal products. He stressed on the importance of standardization and the problems in large scale production based on a particular recipe. He also discussed the need for standardized manufacturing processes and standard fingerprints of herbal products. He emphasized the importance of human resource development opportunities and standard guidelines on these issues being part of the objectives of the proposed ICNPR. The members, including the Chair appreciated his contribution and everybody felt that many of his points should become part of the project document.

5. Next to speak was Prof. Dr. Gerard Bodeker of Oxford University, UK. He focused on the key issues of (1) Concept, (2) Priorities, (3) Partnership, (4) Profile and (5) Planning. He elaborated on each of the points resulting in a lively discussion.

(1) Concept

Prof. Bodeker considered that a small group in a national context should start work which can then be propagated to the international level. The “start up group” should identify a niche, overcome the challenges, and do something which others are not doing to prove that “we are different”.

(2) Priorities

At the launch of the ICNPR, some priority disease areas on which ICNPR would focus, should be identified. These areas should be of importance to the country and the region. Prof Bodeker mentioned that diabetes could be a starting point. He also emphasized the importance of human resource development through the conduct of training in the science and technology of herbal products targeting the concerned industries.

(3) Partnership

Prof. Bodeker mentioned that partnership was important to initially fund the project. Among UN organizations he identified the UNDP as a possible partner. He also indicated that IPR issues are being neglected in the herbal products business and WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) could be a good partner in dealing with the issue. He mentioned that WIPO has also money to support IPR related activities. Prof Bodeker also mentioned that if a Bangladesh Government Agency can be an initiator or partner of ICNPR then FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) can be a resourceful partner. Other probable partners are Dubai Development Corporation (Herbal Medical School), OIC (National Health Care System) and IDB (Early Harvesting Project). International Foundations like Ford Foundation may also be partners of ICNPR. As a partner in a more of bilateral relationship he mentioned JICA, DANIDA, NORAD, CIDA (IDRC) and SIDA. Prof Bodeker also mentioned about UNESCO, UNEP and WIPO could play an important part as 2nd tier partners with the role of facilitator of ICNPR.

(4) Profile

Prof Bodeker discussed about the suitability of a ‘Centre’ vis-à-vis an ‘Institute’. He said “International Natural Product Research Institute” (INPRI) as a partner of BIRDEM could be a viable option. He also mentioned the possibility of the Institute/Centre becoming a “WHO Collaborating Centre of Herbal Medicine”

with emphasis on Unani and Ayurveda in the context of South Asia. No such collaborating centre currently exists.

(5) Planning

Prof. G. Bodeker proposed the need for short, medium and long term planning for ICNPR. He suggested to have a Fast Track with a Time Frame for start up. He proposed the formation of 'Working Groups', specially on Funding, Scientific issues and IPR.

6. Professor Gerard Bodeker's presentation led to fruitful discussions in which most of the members took part. Several important conclusions were drawn which are reflected in the Decisions.
7. Prof. Leiv Sydnes in his speech emphasized the importance of involving Traditional Pharmaceutical Companies in the activities of ICNPR. He mentioned that a CHEMRAWN (CHEMical Research Applied to World Needs) meeting can be organized on Herbal Medicine and collaboration between CHEMRAWN and ICNPR can be developed. Prof. Sydnes being the current Chairman of the IUPAC Standing Committee of CHEMRAWN, his proposal was highly appreciated.
8. Prof. M. Iqbal Choudhary discussed about the structure of ICNPR and preparation of the project document. He spoke about the Mission, Goal, Objectives and Strategy which are to be included in the document.
9. Prof. Barry Noller, Prof Vijaya Kumar, Prof Nordin Hj Lajis, Prof Biswapati Mukherjee, Prof Nilufar Nahar, Prof Liaquat Ali and Mr. M A Quader participated in the discussions and gave their opinion on various issues.
10. Resuming the discussion in the afternoon, the Draft Project Document was taken up clause by clause. The Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives were thoroughly discussed and certain modifications were incorporated. Details are given under 'Decisions' below.
11. Plan of activities were discussed in accordance with the Goals and Objectives. Some changes were made, but it was left for the Working Groups to finalise the individual chapters.
12. In drawing up Plans of Activities, it was suggested that some initial focus areas should be identified. Taking into consideration that ICNPR is being initiated from Bangladesh, four focus areas were identified as (i) Metabolic Syndroms (diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, (ii) Viral Hepatitis, (iii) Gastrointestinal Disorders and (iv) Skin Diseases, which are diseases prevalent in the Southern Asian Region.

13. Members then considered the Organizational Structure of ICNPR. After detailed discussion, it was agreed that instead of 10 divisions, as suggested in the Draft Project Document, there should be Four Main Divisions of a) Industrial and Public Liaison, b) R&D, c) Administration and d) Support Services. The details are given under 'Decisions' below.
14. Picking up from the presentation of Prof. Gerard Bodeker, a discussion was held on the probable donors and the requirements of individual donor agency with respect to Project Application. It was agreed that a Broad Project Document will be prepared and that it would be tailored to the needs of the prospective Donor Agency to whom an application will be forwarded.
15. At this stage, the discussion was focused on the Organisation through which ICNPR will be launched. Accepting the fact that ICNPR is being initiated in Bangladesh, one of the officially recognized institutions in Bangladesh is to be identified and the institution has to agree to host ICNPR. Prof. Liaquat Ali and the Chair informed the meeting about the probable organizations like University of Dhaka, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, The Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, through which ICNPR may be launched. They also stated that they had explored some of these possibilities, but found that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to get any proposal through the government chain as such due to bureaucratic bottlenecks. Prof. Liaquat Ali suggested that it will be easier to launch ICNPR through the BIHS (Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences), an Institute of DAB accredited to the University of Dhaka. He indicated that office space comprising 2-3 rooms at the BIHS campus in the Mirpur area of Dhaka City may be made available at the initial stages for the functioning of the skeleton staff of ICNPR. After some discussions on the modalities and procedures for initiating ICNPR through BIHS, it was unanimously accepted that ICNPR may be initiated at the premises of BIHS as one of its organs.
16. At this stage, the meeting was adjourned to start again at 0900 on the next day.
17. In the evening the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) hosted a grand dinner in honour of members of the IUPAC Workshop at the Baton Rouge Restaurant in the Gulshan area of the City. The members appreciated the gesture and thanked the BAS and its President Prof. Shamsheer Ali who joined in the dinner.
18. Next morning (17 March) the meeting started at 0900 with Prof. M. Mosihuzzaman in the Chair. Prof. A. K. Azad Khan, President of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) and an active member of the ICNPR project from the very beginning, joined the meeting after returning from abroad the night before. He confirmed the proposal made by Prof. Liaquat Ali about the space in

BIHS and assured all assistance from DAB and BIHS to initiate and take the ICNPR to full implementation. The members gratefully accepted the proposal and thanked Prof. Azad Khan and Prof. Liaquat Ali for making this offer and wished all success to BIHS and ICNPR.

19. After settling the issue of initiation of ICNPR at the premises of BIHS, the members discussed the composition of Working Groups and selected members for each Group. It was agreed that Prof. M. Mosihuzzaman will be coordinating the activities of all the Groups and take direct part wherever and whenever required.
20. Seven Working Groups and a Local Logistics Group were formed for the implementation of the ICNPR Project. Time lines were also proposed for some of the Groups. Composition of the Groups is given under 'Decisions' below.
21. Although it was planned that the minutes of the meeting will be written by members who will be present after lunch, it was found not practical as most of the members left either before lunch or were scheduled to leave later in the day. Therefore, the minutes were prepared later by the Chair and were circulated to all the members for their input. This is the final version after incorporation of the inputs received from members.

Decisions

Parts of the Project document be rewritten with the following items going into the right places as required in the Project Document:

1. OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of the Project are to:

- a. Study herbal medicines and other natural products for their safety, efficacy, quality and standard.**
- b. Provide service to herbal product manufacturers in evaluating their products.**
- c. Develop human resources for the industry and public health sector.**
- d. Provide scientific and technical support to relevant public and private institutions and industries.**
- e. Preserve and document traditional knowledge and conserve bio-resources relevant to health.**
- f. Add value to bio-resources and develop sustainable practices for the benefit of mankind**
- g. Contribute to poverty reduction through economic activities utilizing natural resources.**

2. Mission Statement

The Centre will help natural products industry, traditional practitioners and consumers by generating required scientific data and human resources necessary for development. It will also endeavor to document traditional herbal knowledge, protect intellectual property rights and conserve natural resources.

3. Goals

- **Encourage sustainable partnership between researchers and entrepreneurs/industry by providing scientific and technical support**
- **Evaluate herbal medicines and other natural products for their efficacy, quality, safety and standard.**
- **Contribute to poverty reduction through economic and human resource development**
- **Preserve traditional medical knowledge and conserve bio-resources.**

4. Initial Focus Areas

Metabolic Syndromes (Diabetes, Hypertension and Dyslipidemia)

Viral Hepatitis

Gastrointestinal Disorders

Skin Diseases

5. Main Four Divisions of ICNPR

Industrial and Public Liaison

- a. Business Development
- b. Public Awareness and Training

Research and Development (R & D)

- a. Safety
- b. Efficacy
- c. Standardization
- d. Documentation
- e. Intellectual Property Rights

- f. Preclinical & Clinical Trials
- g. New product development

Administration

- a. General Administration
- b. Finance
- c. Human Resources
- d. Security

Support Services

- a. Pilot Plant
- b. Maintenance
- c. Instrumentation
- d. Library

6. Working Groups

- Group 1: Project Proposal Document
- Group 2: Funding
- Group 3: R & D
- Group 4: IPR
- Group 5: Scientific Excellence & Education
- Group 6: International Science Partnership
- Group 7: Industrial Linkages and Business Development

Working Group Members

- Group 1: ***Project Proposal Document***
Prof. M. Iqbal Choudhary (Convenor)
Prof. Barry Noller
Prof. Vijaya Kumar

- Group 2: ***Funding***
Prof. Leiv Sydnes (Convenor)
Prof. Gerard Bodeker
Prof. A. K. Azad Khan

- Group 3: ***R & D***
Prof. Nilufar Nahar (Convenor)

Prof. Liaquat Ali
Prof. Begum Rokeya
Dr. Soumitra Deb
Dr. Sabrina Murshed
Dr. Mohammad Shoeb
(Additional Members from industry)

Group 4: ***IPR***
Prof. Vijaya Kumar (Convenor)
Prof. Gerard Bodeker
Prof. Nordin Hj Lajis

Group 5: ***Scientific Excellence and Education***
Prof. Begum Rokeya (Convenor)
Prof. Nilufar Nahar
(More members to be coopted)

Group 6: ***International Science Partnership***
Prof. Nordin Hj Lajis (Convenor)
Prof. Vijaya Kumar
Prof. M. Iqbal Choudhary
Prof. Biswapati Mukherjee
Prof. Barry Noller

Group 7: ***Industrial Linkages and Business Development***
Prof. A. K. Azad Khan (Convenor)
Hakim Yusuf Haroon Bhuiyan
Mr. M. Salimullah
Dr. Soumitra Deb
Mr. Khodadad Ahmed
Mr. M. A. Quader
Mr. N. A. M. Solaiman
Hakim M. Muslim

7. Local Logistics Group

Prof. Liaquat Ali (Convenor)
Prof. Nilufar Nahar
Dr. M. Matiur Rahman
Prof. Begum Rokeya

Hakim M. Muslim
Mr. M. A. Quader
Dr. Mohammad Shoeb

8. Deadlines

30 April 2008	BIHS Provides office space
30 June 2008	Project Proposal Document
31 December 2008	Fund Application to at least 10 agencies

9. Office set up

- a. Two Research Fellows and one Office Secretary to be appointed
- b. Local funds (Tk 1.0 m) to be raised by the local logistics group
- c. Estimated budget for running the office of ICNPR and initiate documentation work with two research fellows for the first year will be 1.0 m BDT.

10. List of Participants

1. Prof Mohammed Mosihuzzaman, Chair, IUPAC Core Task Group on Herbal Medicine
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10. Dr. Soumitra Deb, Chief Research Manager, East India Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., 119 Biren Roy Road (West), Kolkata 700 061, India, Email:: soumitraddeb@yahoo.com
11. Prof A K Azad Khan, President, Diabetic Association Of Bangladesh, 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Email:: anrap@dab-bd.net
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