SEARPharm Forum Regional Conference on "Assessment of Implementation of National Medicine Policies (NMPs) in South East Asia Region of WHO" - A Report

29th June, 2013, Colombo, Sri Lanka

SEARPharm Forum, in Partnership with Pharmaceutical Society of Sri Lanka (PSSL), organised one day Conference cum workshop on Assessment of Implementation of National Medicine Policies (NMPs) in South East Asia Region of WHO. The objective of the Conference cum workshop was to share key information related to development and update of policy and legislation to enable Member Organisations to play an active role whenever National Pharmaceutical/Medicines Policy and Legislations are revised. The conference was held in the backdrop of FIP/WHO Workshop on Pharmaceutical Policies during FIP Centennial Congress, 2012 in Amsterdam. It explored the role of pharmacists in National Medicine Policies in South East Asia. The conference cum workshop was inaugurated by Dr. D. G. Maheepala, DGHS, MoH, Sri Lanka and Dr. B. V. S. H. Benaragama, Director, Medical Technology and Supplies, MoH, Sri Lanka was Guest of Honour. WHO South East Asia Regional Advisor, Dr Kathleen Holloway delivered the Key Note Address on "International evidence for the benefit of having a coordinated health systems approach to the effective management of medicines and developing such an approach in South-East Asian countries." Speakers and experts on NMP from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand shared data on involvement of pharmacists in key elements of NMP. In the workshop which followed the Technical Session, delegates and experts deliberated on recommendations on key components of NMP.

The conference and workshop concluded with adopting “Colombo Declaration on National Medicine Policies and Role of Pharmacists in South East Asia.” The conference cum workshop was attended by 120 delegates from Sri Lanka and South East Asia.