

Asian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness (AFPB) Annual Report (1/2018 - 12/2018)

During the period under review, AFPB has continued to support meaningful projects in regard to prevention of blindness and blind projects beneficial to the blind and visually impaired people in Asia and, in particular, in China and Cambodia. The following are highlights of the achievements made for the projects/activities in the region:

I) Cambodia Project – Belt & Road Cataract Blindness Eradication in Kampong Cham

1.1 On 19 November, 2017, the Signing Ceremony of MOU of this project was held in Hong Kong at which Mr. C.Y. Leung representing Belt & Road Hong Kong Centre, Mr. Peter Sun, AFPB President, representing AFPB and Dr. Mam Bunheng, Minister of Health of Cambodia, representing the Cambodian government jointly signed the MOU. Mr. Xie Feng, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in HK Special Administrative Region, and the donor, Mr. Hui Wing Mau, witnessed the official signing of this important document.



1.2 To well prepare them for participation in the project, from 3 to 16 January and 17 to 30 January, 2018, two batches of medical personnel of Kampong Cham Hospital were sent to Guangxi People's Hospital to undergo training in pre and post opt vision screening skills.

1.3 The 2 Mobile Eye Treatment Centres (METCS) were constructed with all necessary ophthalmic surgical equipment purchased and installed shortly before the Chinese New Year. They were shipped to and arrived at Sihanouk Ville on 12 April. After custom clearance, the 2 METCs were driven back to the garage of the Ministry of Health at Phnom Penh for safe keeping on 19 April.

1.4 Two engineers from the METC Manufacturer came to Phnom Penh to conduct a 2-day technical training on 25 and 26 April to the technical and medical personnel so that they how to use the facilities on the METCs and how to maintain them properly. On 27 April, the 2 METCs were driven to Kampong Cham Hospital and parked in their covered garage with lock.

1.5 On 2 May, 2018, all medication and consumables for 1,000 cases arrived Kampong Cham Hospital. 8-member Guangxi medical team arrived Kampong Cham on 8 May and commenced cataract operation on 10 May, 2018.



1.6 On 17 May, 2018, the Launching Ceremony was held in Kampong Cham Hospital at which Mr. C.Y. Leung, Mr. Peter Sun, Mr. Yim Chhay Ly , Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, Dr. Mam Bunheng, Minister of Health of Cambodia and Mr. Xiong Bo, Chinese Ambassador in Cambodia, officiated at the ceremony.

Over 1,000 people attended the ceremony including the cataract patients. After the ceremony, all officiating guests visited the cataract patients and unveiled the bandages for those who had done surgery the day before. They also toured the 2 METCs so as to understand how the project is being operated on the METCs.



1.7 On 5 June, the first phase of operation had been completed and altogether 441 cataract patients had restored their eye sight and live happily together with their families.

The second phase cataract operation commenced in early September and has restored the vision of 406 cataract patients at the end of September.

The third phase cataract operation was launched in December and had restored the vision of 491 cataract patients.

As at January, 2019, a total of 1,338 cataract operation was done for cataract patients in Kampong Cham of Cambodia.

1.8 Publicity: South China Morning Post, Sing Tao Daily, Wen Wei Pao and Hong Kong TVB sent reporters and video crew to Kampong Cham to interview the patients and people concerned. Subsequently, wide coverage was given to this project in local newspapers and the above Hong Kong newspapers. Hong Kong TVB has covered this project in their Sunday Report by half an hour on 17 June, 2018. So we trust through this project more and more people in Hong Kong and Cambodia will know about AFPB and its prevention of blindness work in Asia.

II) **Shanxi and Hong Kong Eye Doctors Exchange Programme**

Sponsored by the Eye Care Charitable Foundation, Dr. Anthony Mak and Dr. Stephanie Yuk from Hong Kong visited Shansi Provincial Rehabilitation Research Centre and Shansi Provincial Eye Hospital from 27 November to 1 December, 2017. They also joined the medical team to go with the METC to Ning Shek county to observe how the METC was operated and how the surgery was done on the METC.

From 11 to 16 December, 2017, Dr Feng Jiang Hong and Dr. Shang Jun Zhu came to Hong Kong for the exchanged programme. They visited Grantham Hospital, Dr Chow Pak Chin Private Clinic and Hong Kong University Department of Ophthalmology and HKU Ophthalmic Research Laboratory.



According to the above 4 eye doctors, they found the exchange programme very useful and beneficial. For the Hong Kong eye doctors, through the visit they understand more about the administration and operation system of eye care services in China and also the METC. For Shansi eye doctors, they have widened their horizon in knowing how the eye care services are being provided in Hong Kong.

III) **20th METC Annual Seminar**

This year it should be the turn of Xinjiang Autonomous Region to host the annual seminar. However, as Xinjiang government does not allow any organization to hold any seminars, forums or large scale meetings this year in Xinjiang, the 20th annual seminar will have to be held in Qinghai.



On 17 and 20 April, the Vice President and the Project Officer visited Xining, Qinghai. The first day was to visit 3 hotels selected by Qinghai Provincial Disabled Persons Federation (QPDPF) so as to select the most suitable hotel for the seminar. The second day was to have a meeting with the Vice President of QPDPF and his staff to discuss about matters relating to organization of this seminar. As a result, it was decided to hold the 20th METC Annual Seminar on 12 and 15 September, 2018 including one day Scientific Symposium on Ophthalmology at Sofitel Hotel.

However, as the China Disabled Persons' Federation will hold its 7th National Conference during the same period, it was decided to postpone the Annual Seminar to 26 and 29 September, 2018 instead.

Same as in previous years, Prof. Jimmy Lai will be the Chairman of the Scientific Symposium with Dr. Chow Pak Chin as the Secretary-General of the Symposium. Notice of the 20th METC Annual Seminar has subsequently been sent to all provinces concerned. Invitation has also been extended to all provinces inviting them to submit abstracts for the Symposium.

The 20th Annual METC Seminar was successfully held with over 100

representatives from 18 provinces of China. Over 100 county hospital eye doctors participated in the Scientific Symposium with speakers from China and Hong Kong. Thanks to Prof. Jimmy Lai who had mobilized 3 eye doctors and 2 optometrists to attend the Scientific Symposium and presented papers.

IV) Donation of Sight Care No. 8 to Inner Mongolia

One used METC from Sichuan was donated to Inner Mongolia in early 2018. Together with 2 METCs donated some years ago, Inner Mongolia now has 3 METCs to eradicate cataract blindness. On 3 and 5 May, Mrs. Grace Chan, AFPB Vice President and CEO was invited to attend the donation ceremony of Sight Care No. 8 cum Red Cross Closing Ceremony.



Ms. Bu Xiao Lin, Chairman of Inner Mongolia, had a meeting with AFPB Vice President prior to the ceremony. Apart from thanking us for the generous donation, she assured us that she would personally oversee this project to ensure that it would not only reach but also exceed the annual target set for the METC project.



We would like to use the opportunity to thank our President, Mr. Peter Sun, who donated HK\$200,000 to replace the emergency generator and renovate certain parts of METC.

AFPB Vice President had used the opportunity to visit the Chao Ju Hospital after the ceremony which is the operating agency of the METC Sight Care No. 24. According to Inner Mongolia Provincial Disabled Persons Federation, Chao Ju Hospital is one of the biggest eye hospitals in the province with lots of senior ophthalmologists. It is well-equipped with modern ophthalmic and optometric equipment.

V) Donation of 2 New METCs to Guizhou & Henan Provinces

Yips Chemical Group has donated 2 more METCs to Guizhou and Henan Provinces this year to replace the worn-out vehicles. The construction of 2 METCs had been completed in September and sent to the two provinces concerned in mid September. Donation ceremonies were held on 12 October and 31 October in Guiyang and Zhengzhou respectively in the presence of the donor, Yips Chemical Group and Yip Shing Charitable Foundation, government officials, representatives from the hospitals and AFPB.

VI) 14th WBUAP Regional Massage Seminar

As the Founding Chairman of the World Blind Union Asia Pacific (WBUAP) Regional Massage Commission and Hon. Chairman of the 14th WBUAP Regional Massage Seminar, Mrs. Grace Chan played a major role in assisting the organization of the Seminar which was held on 7 and 10 May, 2018 in Fuzhou, China. Its theme is "Cooperation, Mutual Learning and Win Win Progress".



Over 300 delegates from 9 countries/regions including China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, Hong Kong and Taipei participated. Vice Governor of Fujian province, Vice Chairman of China Disabled Persons Federation, President and Vice President of WBUAP, Founding Chairman and current Chairman of WBUAP Regional Massage Commission officiated at the opening ceremony.



During the seminar, there were 59 reports presented in the areas of massage education, training, employment, massage service management, medical massage and clinical treatment. Four meeting rooms were assigned for blind masseurs/professors from China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand to demonstrate their massage skills so that masseurs from different countries were able to learn from one another special massage skills from other countries. The 14th WBUAP Regional Massage Seminar was successfully concluded on 9 May and all delegates returned to their own countries/regions after fruitful exchanges in the massage knowledge and skills.

VII) Conclusion

Looking ahead, AFPB will continue its present efforts to collaborate with International and Asian organizations of and for the blind in supporting and promoting meaningful prevention of blindness projects in Asia and , in particular, in Cambodia and China.

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