

Inauguration of the "Health System Strengthening Programme"

6 November, 2014, Dhaka: For the first time in Bangladesh, icddr,b's Clinical Governance Unit initiated a pilot project in order to build the clinical governance capacity of three hospitals in Bangladesh through training and improved standard of care. The programme titled "Health System Strengthening Programme" and implemented at the Community Based Medical College and Hospital, Mymensingh from November 2012 to January 2014 in partnership with AmeriCares and support from GlaxoSmithKline.

The "Health System Strengthening Programme" was inaugurated on November 6, 2014 in icddr,b's Sasakawa Auditorium. The Honourable Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mohammed Nasim, MP was the Chief Guest at the event. The the Director General of Health Services, Professor Dr. Din Muhammad Nurul Islam was present as the special guest. The programme was chaired by the Executive Director of icddr,b, Professor John D Clemens, MD. The Managing Director of GlaxoSmithKline, M. Azizul Haque was present as guest of honour. Head of Clinical Governance at icddr,b Ms Lutfe Ara presented the findings of the pilot study.

Under the HSS programme icddr,b will start working at Sirajganj General Hospital and Institute of Child and Mother Health at Matuail from 2014 to 2015.

The programme was initiated to establish a more effective and safe health system through introducing a planned module, emphasizing on evidence based skill, standard methods and efficacy of health care. The aim of this programme is to improve the health system by preventing healthcare associated infections and healthcare risk management; through education and hands-on training of the physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians and cleaning staff on hand hygiene, safe sharp handling, hospital cleanliness and sterilization, and standard procedures of nursing.

Note to Editor:

Each year a significant number of patients get infected by healthcare associated infections. As a result, hospital stay, antibiotic resistance, treatment expenditure and unexpected death of these patients increases. This is hindering the country's progression towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The Government of Bangladesh has been working to fight this problem for a long time. To help the government solve this long standing problem icddr,b took this pilot project, and trained not only the physicians, nurses and other healthcare service providers but also educated the admitted patients and their attendants about the infection prevention. This project also aids the MDG 4 and MDG 5, which will ultimately contribute fulfilling the government's commitment to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

About icddr,b

icddr,b (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh) is a not-for-profit international health research institution located in Dhaka. Dedicated to saving lives through research and treatment, icddr,b addresses some of the most critical health concerns facing the world today, ranging from improving neonatal survival to HIV/AIDS. In collaboration with academic and research institutions throughout the world, icddr,b conducts research, training and extension activities, as well as programme-based activities, to develop and share knowledge for global lifesaving solutions.

About AmeriCares:

Founded in 1982, AmeriCares is an emergency response and global health organization committed to saving lives and building healthier futures for people in crisis in the United States and around the world. Since its founding, AmeriCares has distributed more than \$12 billion in humanitarian aid to 164 countries, including the U.S. They respond to an average of 30 natural disasters and humanitarian crises worldwide each year, establishes long-term recovery projects and brings disaster preparedness programs to vulnerable communities.

About GSK

GlaxoSmithKline(GSK) Bangladesh Limited carries with it an enviable image and reputation for the past 6 decades. A subsidiary of GlaxoSmithKline plc- one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies GSK Bangladesh, continues to be committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. The Company's principle activities include secondary manufacture of pharmaceutical products and marketing of vaccines, pharmaceutical healthcare products and health food drinks.

For details please contact:

icddr,b contact:

Nasmeen Ahmed
Senior Manager Communications
Communications & Development
icddr,b
Phone: +880-2-984-0523 (ext. 3106)
nasmeen@icddrb.org