

President Speak...



IPA being authorized to take the responsibilities of SEAR Pharm Forum and its activities, made its presence at recently held 1st FIP Regional Conference at Jordan

Dear Members,

IPA appreciates the proposal of DTAB recommendations to make QR coding on labels of API mandatory to detect spurious drugs and monitor imported and indigenously produced raw materials used to manufacture medicines. The recommendations were made with an aim to ensure not only quality of drugs but also limiting the flow of fake drugs into the market. The breakout of D&C Rules on April 2, by DTAB recommended the provisions to be included in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1955, to make it mandatory to have QR coding on labels of APIs to trace their origin and movement from API manufacturers to drug manufacturers through a system of networking. It is going to be mandatory for all Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) packages to be bar-coded. The recommendations were made with an aim to ensure not only quality of drugs but also limiting the flow of fake drugs into the market. Currently, India relies on other nations for 60%-80% of its API supplies and the Health ministry has been working to reduce the dependence on China. There are about 2,500 APIs that are used to create thousands of drug

formulations and potentially exposes to raw material supply disruptions and pricing volatility. As per the directives of supreme court, the ministry proposed introduction of QR coding for medicine packaging, which can then be linked to software supervised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) that would help and ensure consumers to get benefited from price control of drugs).

IPA welcomes the move of The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), to set up a nine-member intelligence cell to track illegal activity in the country's pharmaceutical sector. An influential Indian government think tank is reportedly working on a block chain proof-of-concept (PoC) solution to crackdown on the country's chronic counterfeit drug supply. The National Institute of Transforming India (NITI Aayog), the country's foremost policy-making body and think tank, is looking to complete the PoC by the year's end ahead of a real-world rollout in 2019.

I appreciate the role played by WHO for increased vigilance within the supply chains of countries likely to be affected by the falsified vaccines and requested for increased vigilance. WHO issues fresh alert on falsified oral cholera vaccines as informed by the manufacturer Valneva that 8000 falsified packs of the oral cholera vaccine Dukoral were distributed in Bangladesh. WHO also issued alert stating that next to Europe and America, more falsified ICLUSIG leukemia medicines labeled in English and German now also on sale in Asia. WHO requested for increased vigilance within the supply chains of countries likely to be affected by these falsified vaccines. Increased vigilance should include hospitals, clinics, health centers, wholesalers, distributors, pharmacies and any other suppliers of vaccines or medical products.

I am happy to share with our members that IPA being authorized to take the responsibilities of SEAR Pharm Forum and its activities, made its presence at recently held 1st FIP Regional Conference at Jordan. The conference was organized in Amman, Jordan on April 25-26, 2019

with theme: "Envisioning the future together: Transforming pharmacy for better primary health care" and it is the first FIP regional conference held in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. This conference was organized jointly by the Jordan Pharmacists Association and the FIP along with the Eastern Mediterranean region Pharm Forum (EMRO Pharm Forum). Dr. Rao Vadlamudi, who is currently the Professional Secretary of the SEAR Pharm Forum attended the meeting. The primary objective of the meeting of FIP with the regional Pharm Forums is to emphasize that the regional forums act as platforms to facilitate exchange on health issues and a closer partnership with parent organizations such as FIP and WHO and FIP is currently developing a Vision, Mission and Strategy for the regional Forums. FIP also feels that it is desirable that all regional for a work in the same direction of health care reformation with some prioritization based on regional issues. FIP President and CEO have heard the observations and suggestions from regional forum representatives and the next update and progress will be presented in FIP Congress in Abu Dhabi.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to IPA building committee and its chairman Mr. Subodh Priolkar who is working relentlessly to complete the dream project of IPA building. I congratulate the team and also acknowledge the co-operation of IPA-MSB. The IPA team thanks the whole hearted support of IPA Delhi branch for their sponsorship and individual IPA members who contributed generously to make the IPA's Building project the most momentous one. I earnestly request all the IPA state and local branches, members to collectively work to bring the dream project of IPA building in reality.

"Let the dream of all the members of IPA come true"

Dr. T. V. Narayana