“Using the VLP to improve quality services in Nepal”

Binod Kumar Yadav
President
Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Science (NAMLS)
Kathmandu, Nepal
Nepal is mountain country, also called Mt. Everest country, situated between India and China.
NAMLS is the professional organization for the laboratory professional which is trying its best for the betterment of medical laboratory profession and insisting the Govt. authority for the same.
In the beginning, we were a very few in number.

- Registered Specialist Biochemist: 20
  Microbiologist: 45
  Hematologist: 7
  Cytologist: 2

- Bachelor of science in Laboratory Technology (A grade): 643
- Certificate in Medical Laboratory Technology (B grade): 750
- Lab Assistant (training after SLC): 8242

Nepal Health Professional Council: an autonomous body established in terms of the Act No. 30 of the year 2053 (1997 A.D) is responsible for the registration of various professional manpower.
Quality Assurance System in our country

- Laboratory Accreditation System: Not necessary
- Participation in EQA scheme: Not Compulsory
- NPHL currently runs EQA in NEPAL.
- Very few Laboratory Participate EQA from Indian Institute like CMC, Vallore

| Status of IQA programme of Clinical Laboratory of Kathmandu Valley (NAMLS survey 2009; JNAMLS Vol 10) |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Internal Quality Control | Number | Percentage |
| Running                   | 145     | 62.0     |
| Not Running               | 44      | 18.8     |
| What is this (unaware)    | 45      | 19.2     |
### External Quality Control Programme of Clinical Laboratory Institution in Kathmandu Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in EQA Programme of NPHL</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participating</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Participating</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>54.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is EQA (unaware)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>22.1</td>
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</table>

- So, In conclusion ‘Good Laboratory Practice’ and ‘Quality Assessment’ are not fully incorporated into the working system of medical laboratories in Nepal.
We tried to work with international organization for the improvement of the quality laboratory services and finally we associated with APFCB and IFCC.

• First NAMLS joined the APCB and then IFCC and we are trying to improve the quality services in Laboratory field with the help of IFCC and APFCB.

• We became able to organize the International Quality control workshop (IFCC-VLP program) November, 21-23, 2011 and for that I (on the behalf of NAMLS) would like to thanks IFCC and APFCB for their great support.
• In IFCC-NAMLS-APFCB International Quality control workshop, we covered most of the laboratory professional from the different region of the Nepal and different level of laboratory professionals.

• Most of them were satisfied with the workshop and appreciated the work of NAMLS and thanked IFCC and APFCB for their support.
After the workshop, NAMLS and NPHL (Nepal Public Health Laboratory) did another survey during the month of Jan-Feb, 2012 regarding the status of laboratory services throughout Nepal in respect of Quality control.
Around the 75% lab were found using the IQC program in their lab by some means (which was 60% before) and 35% Govt. Laboratory participating the EQA program of NPHL (which was 23.4%)

- Nine laboratories reported participation in EQAS conducted by international organizations (EQAS in biochemistry conducted by CMC, Vellore, India).

(Sources: Report on Comprehensive Capacity Assessment of Health Laboratory Services in Nepal)
- NTC participates in EQAS conducted by SNL Gaunting, Germany and SAARC Tuberculosis Center (for sputum AFB). Similarly, B&B Hospital lab participates in BioRad EQAS while Rotary Diagnostic Center participates in hematology EQAS of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi.

- Before this program most of the laboratory have even not idea about EQAS

- 51% laboratory have the SOP

- NAMLS is working with NPHL in different aspect of laboratory (Quality and policy making, Quality control program, Training to laboratory profession)

(Sources: Report on Comprehensive Capacity Assessment of Health Laboratory Services in Nepal)

**This is the output of IFCC-NAMLS-APFCB workshop and professional knows the importance of QA program.**
Nepal is in need of Volunteer Quality control program and then help for the accreditation system in future.
Thanks to IFCC for granting me the IFCC Roche Travel fellowship to attend this conference and present my experiences.
Thank you and Welcome in Nepal
Highest peaks in Nepal above 8000m

1. Mount Everest (8848 m)- 1st in the world
LUMBINI: The Birthplace of Buddha

He was born 2600 years ago
Pokhara, Phewa lake with Himalaya at background