

## **Department of Medical Research (Pyin Oo Lwin Branch)**

### **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

#### **A. Long-term Institutional Development Grant**

Department of Medical Research (Pyin Oo Lwin Branch) was awarded Long-term Institutional Grant (LID) funded by UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) since 2007. Under the context of Staff Development Programme of LID Grant, research training grants were awarded to the staff of (DMR-POLB) as well as International workshops concerned with reproductive health were regularly conducted since 2007 to 2014. First cycle was from 2007-2011 and second cycle was from 2012-2016.

#### **I. RESEARCH TRAINING GRANTS**

##### **Training (Short-term)**

Name of trainee	Position	Title of Short-term training	Month and year of training	Certificate obtained
Dr Tin Tin Thein	Deputy Director	Research Methodology & Reproductive Health	One month (Switzerland)	Certificate
Dr Hla Soe Tint	Research Scientist	Advanced Epidemiology course	Four months (Thailand)	Certificate
Dr Myitzu Tin Oung	Research Officer	MA Population & Reproductive Health	One year (Thailand)	MA
Dr Phyu Phyu Thin Zaw	Research Officer	Epidemiology	Two years (Thailand)	Upgraded to Ph.D course
Dr Kyaw Ko Ko Htet	Research Officer	Advance Epidemiology course	11 weeks	Certificate

## **B. Facility Accessment for Reproductive Health Commodities and Services**

Every yerar, (DMR-POLB) has been supported by UNFPA to conduct nation wide Facility Accessment for Reproductive Health Commodities and Services, since 2014. Research finding were used by Maternal and Reproductive Health Division of Department of Public Health. The findings include data for indicators used in family planning 2020 (FP 2020). Therefore, the assement has reached 6<sup>th</sup> yerar in 2019. The assement will be needed to fulfill the requirement of FP2020 up to 2020.

### **II. WORKSHOPS CONCERNED IN DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (PYIN OO LWIN BRANCH)**

No	Year	Workshop title & Resource person	Period	
			From	To
1	2007	Workshop on Priority Research in Reproductive Health  a. Prof: Dr. Than Tun Sein, Director (Research) Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)  b.Prof: Dr. Virasakdi Chongsuvivatwong, Professor Community Medicine,Prince of Songkla University,Thailand.  c. Dr.Tippawan Liabseutrakul, Associate Professor Community Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.	23 August	24 August
2	2007	Research Methodology Workshop  a. Prof: Dr. Than Tun Sein, Director (Research) Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)  b.Prof: Dr. Virasakdi Chongsuvivatwong, Professor Community Medicine,Prince of Songkla University,Thailand.  c. Dr.Tippawan Liabseutrakul, Associate Professor Community Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.	27 August	31 August
3.	2008	Workshop on Operations Research Methodology  a. Prof: Dr. Than Tun Sein, Director (Research) Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)	20 October	24 October

		<p>b. Dr.Rossarin Gray, Assistant Professor,Institute for Population &amp;Social Research (IPSR),Mahidol University, Thailand</p> <p>c. Dr.Ko Ko Zaw, Research Scientist,Epidemiology Research Division, Department of Medical Research(Lower Myanmar).</p>		
4.	2008	<p>Workshop on Social Science Research Methodology</p> <p>a. Prof: Dr. Than Tun Sein, Director (Research) Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)</p> <p>b. Dr.Chai Podhisita, Associate Professor, Institute for Population &amp;Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, Thailand</p> <p>c.Dr.Patama Vapattanawong,Associate Professor, Institute for Population &amp;Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, Thailand</p>	27 October	29 October
5.	2009	<p>Workshop on Ethical Issues in Reproductive Health Research</p> <p>a. Dr. Kyaw Zin Thant, Deputy Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>b.Prof Ngeow Yun Fong, Senior research fellow, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</p> <p>c. Dr. Sheryl Ziemer Vanderpoel, Medical Officer, WHO/RHR, HRP Geneva, Switzerland.</p>	17 August	20 August
6.	2009	<p>Workshop on Quantitative Data Analysis</p> <p>a. Dr. Kyaw Zin Thant, Deputy Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>b.Dr.Alan F.Geater, Senior lecturer, Epidemiology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University Hat Yai, Thailand.</p>	19 October	27 October

.	2010	<p>Workshop on Research Proposal Development</p> <p>a. Dr. Kyaw Zin Thant, Deputy Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar),</p> <p>b. Dr Virasakdi Chongsuvivatwong, Professor of Community Medicine/ Head, Epidemiology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Thailand</p> <p>c. Dr Katherine Ba-Thike, Area Manager for Asia and Pacific Technical Cooperation with Countries (TCC) Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) Family and Community Health Cluster (FCH), World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.</p> <p>d. Proposal Development Workshop at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p>	30 August	2 September
8.	2011	<p>1. Workshop on Geographical Positioning System at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>2. Workshop on Basic Quantitative data management at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>3. Refresher training on Therapeutic Efficacy Study of Antimalarials at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p>	<p>14 Feb</p> <p>7 March</p> <p>29 June</p>	<p>18 Feb</p> <p>11 March</p> <p>30 June</p>
9.	2012	<p>1. Workshop on Scientific Writing at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>2. TRAC Study Initiation &amp; Workshop on Good Clinical Practice at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>3. Workshop on Improving Skills in Research Management &amp; Leadership at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>4. Workshop on Scientific Writing</p> <p>a. Prof David Koh, Chair Professor, PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam,</p> <p>b. Dr Katherine Ba-Thike, Area Manager for Asia and Pacific Technical Cooperation with Countries (TCC)</p> <p>c. Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) Family and Community Health Cluster (FCH), World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.</p>	<p>3 Sept:</p> <p>1 October</p> <p>8 October</p> <p>3 September</p>	<p>7 Sept:</p> <p>2 October</p> <p>12 October</p> <p>7 September</p>

		<p>5. Workshop on Improving Skills in Research Management and Leadership</p> <p>a. Dr Moazzam Ali, Medical Officer, Epidemiologist, Area Manager for South-East Asia &amp; WPRO regions, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland</p> <p>b. Dr Myint Htwe, Chair, Ethical Review Committee, Department of Medical Research, Former Director Programme Management, WHO regional Office for South-East Asia</p> <p>c. Daw Tin Tin Htay, Pro-rector (Training), Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar)</p>	8 October	12 October
10.	2013	<p>1. Workshop on Intermediate level Quantitative data management at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>2. Workshop on Responsible Conduct of Research at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>3. Training on Good Clinical Practice at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>4. Workshop on Evidence-informed Policy Making in Health Sector at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>5. Workshop on Responsible Conduct of Research</p> <p>a. Dr Yi Yi Myint, Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)</p> <p>b. Dr Myint Htwe, Former Director Programme Management, WHO SEARO</p> <p>c. Dr Rita Kabra, Reproductive Health / Public Health Consultant, Department of Reproductive</p>	<p>22 April</p> <p>11 November</p> <p>1 October</p> <p>2 December</p> <p>23 October</p>	<p>26 April</p> <p>12 October</p> <p>6 December</p> <p>25 October</p>
11.	2014	<p>1. Research Methodology Workshop</p> <p>2. Global Programme Reproductive Health Commodities and Services (GPRHCS) "2013 Facility Assessment of RHCS in Myanmar" Coordination Meeting Programme (April, 2014)</p>	1 September	4 September
12.	2015	<p>1. Workshop on therapeutic efficacy studies in sentinel sites of Upper Myanmar (DMR-POLB)</p> <p>2. Training on management of tropical febrile infectious diseases in Myanmar (DMR-POLB)</p>	<p>5 October</p> <p>12 October</p>	<p>6 October</p> <p>16 October</p>

13.	2016	<p>1. Facility Assessment for Reproduction Health Commodities and Services (2016) (Coordination Meeting)</p> <p>2. Facility Assessment for Reproduction Health Commodities and Services (2016) (Interviewer Training)</p> <p>3. Acceptability study side Project on the implementation of single- dose rifampicin Prophylaxis for leprosy contacts- LPEP</p> <p>4. Refresher Training on TRAC-2 study Department of Medical Research</p> <p>5. Training on management of tropical febrile infectious diseases in Myanmar (DMR-POLB) (2016, August)</p> <p>6. Training on management of tropical febrile infectious diseases in Myanmar (DMR-POLB) (2016, November)</p> <p>7. Research Finding Dissemination Meeting (2016 Health Facility Assessment for Reproduction Health Commodities and Services - 2016)</p>	<p>22 March</p> <p>24 March</p> <p>10 May</p> <p>12 May</p> <p>8 August</p> <p>13 November</p> <p>21 December</p>	<p>11 May</p> <p>13 May</p> <p>18 November</p>
14.	2017	<p>1. Responsible Conduct of Research and Research Methodology Workshop</p> <p>2. Coordination Meeting on 2017 Health Facility Assessment for Reproductive Health Commodities and Services</p> <p>3. Research Finding Dissemination Meeting on (2017 Health Facility Assessment for Reproduction Health Commodities and Services)</p> <p>4. Refresher Training on TRAC-2 Studies in Myanmar</p> <p>5. Refresher Training on Therapeutic Efficacy Studies (TES) in Myanmar</p> <p>6. Training on management of tropical febrile infectious diseases in Myanmar (DMR-POLB) (2017, August)</p> <p>7.. Training on management of tropical febrile infectious diseases in Myanmar (DMR-POLB) (2017, December)</p>	<p>7 February</p> <p>26 April</p> <p>27 April</p> <p>2 May</p> <p>14 June</p> <p>12 August</p> <p>17 December</p>	<p>11 February</p> <p>28 April</p> <p>3 May</p> <p>16 June</p> <p>19 August</p> <p>23 December</p>
15.	2018	<p>1. Responsible Conduct of Research and Research Methodology Workshop</p>	<p>19 February</p>	<p>23 February</p>

	2.Coordination Meeting Facility Assessment for Reproduction Health Commodities and Services	23 April	
	3.Interviewer Training 2018 Facility Assessment for Reproductive Health Commodities and Services	24 April	25 April
	4.Training for Advanced Management of Tropical Febrile Infectious Diseases	10 September	10 September
	5.Training on Advanced molecular and immunological diagnosis of Tropical Infectious Disease	10 December	12 December
	6.Training Workshop on Effective Presentation for Health Data	15 December	19 December
	7. Supportive program for advanced management of tropical febrile infectious diseases	17 December	21 December
	8. Research finding dissemination meeting on studies relating maternal and Reproductive Health	26 December	27 December

## 2006

### 1. Workshop on Scientific Writing, 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2006,

**Objective** : To develop skills on scientific writing and preparation of a scientific paper

**Date and Time** : 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August ,2006

#### (1). Steering Committee

1. Dr. Thein Tun, Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)
2. Dr. Maung Maung , Director, DMR(UM)
3. Dr. Khin Lin , Director, DMR(UM)
4. Dr. Khin Wai, Deputy Director, DMR (UM)

#### (2). Facilitators

1. Mr.Jitendra Khanna, Technical Officer, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO, Geneva
2. Dr.Katherine Ba Thike, Area Mananger for Asia and Pacific Technical Cooperation with Countries (TCC), Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) , Family and Community Health Cluster(FCH),World Health Organization, Geneva

### (3). Secretariat

1. Team leader – Dr.Tin Tin Thein, Deputy Director, DMR(UM)
2. Members – Dr.Cho Cho Thet, Research Scientist , DMR(UM)  
Dr.Hla Soe Tint, Research Scientist, DMR(UM)  
Dr.Hein Myo Htet, Research Officer, DMR(UM)  
Daw Moe Moe Tun, Research Officer, DMR(UM)  
Daw Thida Maw, Research Officer,DMR(UM)



## 2. Research Capacity Strengthening Activities, funded by WHO/HRP

**Objective** : To conduct discussion on research capacity strengthening activities

**Venue** : Conference Hall of DMR(UM)

**Date and Time** : 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August ,2006



## Discussion

Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) has established collaboration with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Preventive and Social Medicine (University of Medicine, Mandalay).

Draft research proposals were received and a discussion was made to submit proposals on the following thematic areas. The topics will be discussed further and finalized.

1. Promoting Reproductive Health of Youth Migrant factory workers in selected periurban areas in Mandalay
2. Early detection of Pre-eclampsia
3. Screening for premalignant lesions of the Cervix

An Analysis of research on Reproductive Health (RH) conducted in Myanmar will also be prepared to enable DMR(UM) to identify priorities in Reproductive Health and topics for research. This will be carried out in collaboration with Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) , University of Medicine (Mandalay) , Reproductive Health Department (Department of Health). The Long Term Institutional grant proposal will focus on strengthening of human resources to conduct research on Reproductive Health issues.



**2007**

**National Workshop on Priority Research in Reproductive Health  
&**

**Research Methodology Workshop (22-24 August 2007)**

**1. Introduction**

A workshop on prioritization of reproductive health research was held during 23-24 August 2007, and a workshop on research methodology for development of reproductive health research proposals was continued from 27 to 31 August 2007 at DMR-UM. Public health professionals and Obstetricians/Gynaecologists from University of Medicine(Mandalay, Magwe), Department of Health participated in these two workshops.



**2. Resource –**

1. Dr Thein Tun, Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)
2. Dr Than Tun Sein, Director (Socio-Medical Research), Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)
3. Prof Virasakdi Chongsuvivetwong, Professor Community Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand
4. Dr Tippawan Liabseutrakup, Associate Professor, Community Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand

**3. Objectives**

- A. The objective of the workshop on prioritization of RH research was to prioritize the priority areas for developing RH research proposals in Myanmar

B. The objectives of the workshop on research methodology were

1). The participants should be able to

- list the essential structure of a research proposal
- explain what are essential point in introduction section
- demonstrate the use of Internet for literature review
- describe what a good research objective should look like
- list the element of methodology section
- describe principle of sampling and measurement
- use software for data entry and calculation of sample size

2). There will be drafts of 4 research proposals relevant to reproductive health problem in Upper Myanmar. These proposals will be further refined with assistance from the consultants via email and finally submitted to appropriate funding agencies.



## **2. Conclusion and Recommendation**

### **2.1. Conclusion**

Based on the discussion in priority reproductive health workshop, five research areas were identified. Depending on these areas, participants from research methodology workshop made group work and discussion. Four reproductive health research proposals were developed.

Out of 4 research proposals, 2 were led by the DMR-UM and other 2 were headed by the Preventive and Social Medicine(University of Medicine, Mandalay)

## 2.2. Recommendation

The following recommendations came out at the end of workshop on reproductive health.

1. To continue the production of a package of 4 reproductive health research proposals and to send this package to HRP for funding
2. To continue the process for submission of research proposals to HRP by the DMR-UM
3. To conduct the another training workshop concerned with data analysis in DMR-UM after finishing the data collection
4. To strengthen the collaborative studies between the staff from DMR-UM, Preventive and Social Medicine(University of Medicine, Mandalay) and Obstetrician and Gynaecologists from University of Medicine, Mandalay and Central Women's Hospital ,Mandalay

The workshop came to a successful conclusion by the closing speech of the Director General of the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) and closing remarks on the workshop by the Professor Virasakdi Chongsuvivatwong, Professor, Community Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.

## **2008**

### **1. Workshop on Operations Research Methodology, 20-24 October 2008**

#### **objectives :**

- To be able to plan, coordinate, conduct and evaluate Operations Research
- To promote the research capacity strengthening activities in Operations Research method
- To update research capacity of all staffs in collaboration with experts from local and international research institution

#### **Resource Persons**

1. Dr.Thein Tun , Director General ,Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)
2. Dr.Kyaw Zin Thant, Deputy Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)
3. Dr.Than Tun Sein, Professor/ Director (Research), Socio-medical Research Division, Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)

4. Dr.Rossarin Gray, Assistant Professor, Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, Bangkok,Thailand
5. Dr.Ko Ko Zaw, Research Scientist, Epidemiology Research Division , Department of Medical Research(Lower Myanmar)



## Conclusion

Based on the group presentation and discussion, the following two draft proposals from Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) were developed at the end of the workshop.

1. Planned delivery and emergency preparedness during Antenatal Care to reduce perinatal morbidity and mortality
2. Improving counselling practices of birth spacing services at the rural health care in Myanmar

The following comments were the **output** of the workshop.

1. To continue the production of a package of two Operation Research proposals and to send this package to HRP for funding
2. To continue the submission of these two OR proposals to HRP by the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar){DMR-UM}



## 2. Report of Workshop on Social Science Research Methodology (27-29 October 2008)

### Introduction

#### objectives:

- To strengthen the research capacity by providing the basic social science research method
- To work on improving the existing drafts of research proposals to be in better shapes to submit to WHO, HRP
- To update both qualitative and quantitative research capacity of its own staff in collaboration with experts from local and international research institution

### List of Resource Persons

1. Dr.Thein Tun , Director General ,Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)
2. Dr.Kyaw Zin Thant, Deputy Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)
3. Dr.Than Tun Sein, Professor/ Director (Research), Socio-medical Research Division, Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)
4. Dr.Chai Podhisita, Associate Professor, Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, Bangkok,Thailand
5. Dr.Patama Vapattanawong,Associate Professor, Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, Bangkok,Thailand





## **Conclusion and Recommendation**

### **Conclusion**

The writing and revising proposal needed time and effort but participants were able to do the reshaped proposals and learning lectures to some extent within two and half days to cover the basic needs regarding the social science research. The following two revised proposals from Department of Medical Research(Upper Myanmar) were being developed at the end of the workshop.

1. Male involvement in women's reproductive health: A study in rural setting, Mandalay division, Myanmar
2. Perception and utilization of reproductive health services among unmarried youths in Mandalay division, Myanmar

### **Recommendation**

The following recommendation were appeared.

1. To continue the development of these revised two proposals
2. To continue the process of submission of these two proposals to WHO, HRP by the Department of Medical Research(Upper Myanmar)

## **2009**

### **1. Workshop on Ethical Issues in Reproductive Health Research (17-20 August 2009)**

#### **Introduction**

##### **Objectives:**

- To provide the insights of ethical issues which are necessarily important on conducting the research with special emphasis in reproductive health
- To promote the research capacity strengthening activities with competence in research ethics

- To update research capacity of all staffs in collaboration with experts from local and international research institutions

### Resource Persons

1. Dr.Kyaw Zin Thant, Deputy Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)
2. Professor Ngeow Yun Fong, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
3. Dr. Sheryl Ziemin Vanderpoel, Medical Officer, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

### Facilitators

1. Dr. Khin Lin, Director (Clinical Research), Department of Medical Research (UM)
2. Dr. Tin Tin Thein, Director (Biomedical Research), Department of Medical Research (UM)
3. Dr. Khin Wai, Director (Admin), Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)





## **Conclusion and Recommendation**

### **Conclusion**

Based on the group presentations and discussions, the following outcomes, increased awareness and knowledge regarding the ethical principles while conducting the reproductive health research, were developed at the end of the workshop.

### **Recommendation**

The following recommendation was appeared.

- To strengthen the knowledge regarding the ethical principles while conducting the reproductive health research

Then, the workshop came to a successful conclusion by the closing speech of the Deputy Director General of the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar).

## **2. Workshop on Quantitative Data Analysis (19-27 October 2009)**

### **Introduction**

#### **objectives:**

- To be able to apply proper statistical tests in analysing the research data by providing the R software.
- To be able to present the analysed data completely

### **Resource Persons**

1. Dr. Kyaw Zin Thant, Deputy Director General, Department of Medical Research, Upper Myanmar.
2. Dr. Alan Frederick Geater, Senior Lecturer, Epidemiology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Thailand.

### **Facilitators**

1. Dr. Hla Soe Tint, Research Scientist/ Head, Medical Statistics Research Division
2. Dr. Kyaw Oo, Deputy Director / Head, Medical Statistics Research Division
3. Dr. Ohnmar, Research Scientist, Epidemiology Research Division
4. Dr. Myo Myo Mon, Research Officer, Medical Statistics Research Division



## Conclusion

Based on the presentations and discussions, improved basic knowledge on quantitative data analysis using with R software was imaged. Moreover, to be able to handle this software, participants will have to learn continuously from now on as well as they need to practice more to improve the skills. Then, the workshop came to a successful conclusion by delivering the closing speech by the Deputy Director General of the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) and overview remarks of the workshop by Dr. Alan F Geater.

**2010**

**Workshop on Research Proposal Development (30 August to 2 September 2010)**

**objectives:**

- To strengthen the capacity of all staffs in collaboration with experts from local and international research institutions
- To be able to develop the qualified research proposal to be submitted to International funding agency

**The resource persons**

1. Dr. Kyaw Zin Thant, Deputy Director General, DMR (UM)
2. Dr Virasakdi Chongsuvivatwong, Professor of Community Medicine/ Head, Epidemiology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Thailand
3. Dr Katherine Ba-Thike, Area Manager for Asia and Pacific Technical Cooperation with Countries (TCC) Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) Family and Community Health Cluster (FCH), World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

**The facilitators**

1. Dr San San Myint, National Consultant RH/CHD/ENC, WHO Country Office (Myanmar)
2. Dr Theingi Myint, Deputy Director, Maternal and Child Health Section, Department of Health, Nay Pyi Taw.
3. Dr Win Myint Oo, Professor/Head, Department of Preventive & Social Medicine, University of Medicine, Mandalay
4. Dr Than Than Myint, Deputy Divisional Health Director, Department of Health, Mandalay



## Conclusion

Based on the group presentations and discussions, the following outcomes were resulted: increased knowledge and attitude on the proposal development, capability of completion and presentation on assigned portion of works while conducting the reproductive health research.

Finally, three research proposals on reproductive health were being developed in this workshop.

1. Sexual Behaviour and Contraceptive Use Among University Adolescent Students  
(Principal Investigator – Dr Myitzu Tin Oung)
2. Provision of Obstetric first aid service in prevention of PPH at selected townships  
(Principal Investigator – Dr Tin Tin Wynn)
3. Linking of community- based participation with birth spacing service  
(Principal Investigator – Dr Tin Tin Thein)

After this workshop, these three draft proposals will be thoroughly revised to become a final version, and will be sent to concerned resource person to get ready for submission to WHO/HRP within one month.

## 2012

### 1. The workshop on scientific writing (3-7 September 2012)

objectives:

- To strengthen the capacity of all staffs in conducting the reproductive health research to meet the target indicators of Millenium Development Goals.
- To be able to prepare the qualified research papers and manuscripts to meet the international standards for publication in International Journals with high impact factor

The resource persons:

1. Dr. Kyaw Zin Thant, Director General, DMR (UM)
2. Professor David Soo Quee KOH, Chair Professor, PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam
3. Dr Katherine Ba-Thike, Former Area Manager for Asia and Pacific Technical Cooperation with Countries(TCC), Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR), Family and Community Health Cluster (FCH), World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

The facilitators:

1. Dr Khin Lin, Deputy Director General, DMR (UM)
2. Dr Khin Wai, Director (Administration), DMR (UM)
3. Dr Tin Tin Thein, Director (Biomedical Research), DMR (UM)
4. Dr. Khin Phyu Phyu, Director (Clinical Research), DMR (UM)



## Conclusion

Based on the group presentations and discussions, the following outputs were resulted: increased knowledge and attitude on the paper presentation at scientific meetings and journals, capability of completion and presentation on assigned portion of works while conducting the reproductive health research. Then, the workshop came to a successful conclusion by the closing speech of the Director General of the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar).



## **2.The workshop on improving skills in research management and leadership (8-12 October 2012)**

### **Objective;**

1. to understand the research management and role of leadership
2. to be able to manage their research works with confidence
3. to become good leaders in their respective departments

The resource persons;

1. Dr. Kyaw Zin Thant, Director General, DMR (UM)
2. Dr Myint Htwe ( Chair, Ethical Review Committee, Department of Medical Research, Former Director Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia)
3. Dr Moazzam Ali ( Medical Officer,Epidemiologist, Area Manager for South-East Asia and WPRO regions, WHO Geneva, Switzerland)
4. Daw Tin Tin Htay, Pro-rector (Training), Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar).

### **The facilitators:**

1. Dr Khin Lin, Deputy Director General
2. Dr Tin Tin Thein, Director (Biomedical Research)
3. Dr Khin Wai, Director (Administration)
4. Dr Khin Phyu Phyu, Director (Clinical Research).



## **Conclusions & recommendations**

In conclusion, Dr Kyaw Zin Thant delivered a short closing speech to audience. He expressed sincere thanks to resource persons and the need to develop HRIS in Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar).

## **Recommendations**

- (1) As DMR (UM) has its owned vision and mission, its owned policy will be drawn and then major strategies consequently be established accordingly.
- (2) Each researcher must be “Technically very strong” to establish good research management to be able to strengthen research culture.
- (3) After establishing the research management framework, it needs to review six monthly or periodically to get updated.
- (4) To establish departmental owned website.
- (5) To conduct workshop on “Responsible Conduct of Research”.
- (6) Development of Departmental Annual Report
- (7) Be ready for Action Plan
- (8) By using checklist to filter what are the key elements and what are the supplementary one

## **2013**

### **1. Workshop on Responsible Conduct of Research**

#### **Objectives:**

1. to impart knowledge on how to conduct research in a responsible manner,
2. to inform researchers on how to conduct research within the boundaries of principles of research ethics,
3. to train researchers on research monitoring process and its importance,
4. to inform researchers on how to develop research proposal in terms of responsible conduct of research and to strengthen institutional ethical review process.

The resource persons:

1. Dr Yi Yi Myint {Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)}, 2. Dr Myint Htwe (Former Director Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia)

3. Dr Rita Kabra (Reproductive Health/Public Health Consultant, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO, Geneva).

The facilitators:

1. Dr Khin Lin (Deputy Director General, DMR-UM)
2. Dr Tin Tin Thein (Director, Biomedical Research)
3. Dr Khin Wai (Director, Admin)
4. Dr Khin Phyu Phyu (Director, Clinical Research)
5. Dr Kyaw Oo (Director, Socio-medical Research).



## Take home messages

1. To practice high standards of ethics & accountability in each step of research process, from planning to publication & utilization of research or practicing research integrity
2. To achieve research integrity, i.e., *“adherence to rules, regulations, guidelines, and commonly accepted professional codes or norms”*
3. Simply a practice of good citizenship applied to professional life
4. Basic Principles or Building Blocks of RCR are Honesty, Accuracy, Efficiency, Objectivity
5. Encouragement to try to improve ourselves as quick as possible
6. Learn/ study continuously and consistently
7. Mutual understanding and mutual respect
8. Respect usefulness of knowledge



## **Conclusions & recommendations**

In conclusion, Dr Yi Yi Myint delivered a closing speech to audience. She expressed sincere thanks to resource persons and reminded the participants to keep the rules, regulation, guidelines concerned with RCR and what are the disciplines that researchers must follow. Encourage to invest research culture in each institution, to do collaborative research by assisting each other both intra-departmentally, inter-departmentally to appear the quality research and maintain the sustainability, reach the research output to end-users timely.

## **Recommendations**

1. Available good and fast internet access
2. Develop Responsible Conduct of Research owned by DMR (UM)
3. Establish Institutional Policy Guideline
4. Establish Institutional Ethical Committee
5. Establish Research Information System
6. Establish Mentor, Mentee guidelines according to our cultural context
7. Develop Research Ethics in Myanmar langue (about two pages)
8. Brief package/briefing material about DMR (UM)

## **3. Workshop on Evidence-Informed Policy Making in Health Sector (2-6 December 2013)**

Objectives:

1. to assess the current general status of health domain *vis a vis* the National Health Policies;
2. to identify gaps and propose suggestions in setting up sub-policies or strategies or sun-setting or modifying or reformulating policies;
3. to enhance participants' skills in acquiring, assessing, adapting and applying research evidence;
4. to discuss the challenges associated with evidence informed policy making and identifying practical ways to overcome the challenges and
5. to learn the fundamentals of how to prepare policy briefs and organize policy dialogues.

The resource persons:

1. Dr Yi Yi Myint {Director General, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)},
2. Dr Myint Htwe (Former Director Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia) and
3. Dr Kan Tun (Former WHO Representative, Nepal)

The facilitators:

1. Dr Khin Lin (Deputy Director General, DMR-UM),
2. Dr Ye Htut {Former Deputy Director General, DMR (Lower Myanmar)},
3. Dr Daw San Shwe {Former Director, Socio-Medical Research, DMR (Lower Myanmar)},
4. Dr Thet Thet Mu (Director, Health Information System), Department of Health Planning, Nay Pyi Taw,
5. Dr Moe Zaw (Medical Superintendent, Department of Health).



**Take home message** as follows;

- EIHA is very **big undertaking**, not to underestimate it
- Big **resources** ( Man, Money, Material + Time) required
- **Team** approach & team spirit absolutely essential
- **Fact finding & not fault finding** should be the order of the day
- **External support** may be required + Broad participation + Comprehensive
- Proper **FW of activities & Gantt Chart** required
- Steering Committee + TWG required with **clear cut Terms of Reference**

- **Secretarial support** + proper work area required
- **Mandate & continuous support** from higher officials of MoH is key to achieving its assigned tasks

## **Conclusions & recommendations**

In conclusion, Dr Yi Yi Myint delivered a closing speech to audience. She expressed sincere thanks to resource persons and reminded the participants to revise these five policy briefs to become a good one and send it to the facilitators and resource persons to do fine tuning.

## **Recommendations**

- (1) All documents of workshops should be saved at one place under the Ministry of Health. As DMR (UM) has its owned vision and mission, its owned policy will be drawn and then major strategies consequently be established accordingly.
- (2) To establish “Research grant exploration group” at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar).
- (3) Development of Research Information System at Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar).
- (4) To develop the “Policy Briefs” as immediate output of each working group, these policy briefs will be presented as 5 policy brief papers from research side, hospital side, project area focusing on reproductive health and medical education angle at the end of the workshop.

Policy Briefs on:

- a. Strengthening of National Health Information System
- b. Strengthening hospital management system
- c. Developing Quality Assurance system for Academic Staffs at Medical universities
- d. Ways Forward to the Reduction of HIV Transmission among Youths
- e. Promoting Collaboration between Researchers and Health Care Providers