

The 5<sup>th</sup> Progress Report & Coordination Meeting (PRCM) was convened on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2008 at the Ministers' Chamber at 1500 Hours. The Hon'ble Secretary chaired the meeting.

At the onset, the Chair updated the floor regarding the status of Hon'ble Lyonpo's tour to his constituencies and informed the house that the tour has been extended till 12<sup>th</sup> of October.

The Chair once again reiterated that since this is a monthly PRCM, all activities undertaken during the month should be presented along with the activities to be undertaken during the successive month. The Chair also informed that any important issues requiring Secretariat interventions should also be deliberated in this forum which will enhance transparency and enhanced coordination – the ultimate objective of PRCM.

After the house adopted the agenda, the Director, Department of Public Health (DoPH), presented the progress report of DoPH for the month of September. Upon completion of his presentation, the Chair stated that one of the major concern/issue that needs immediate attention is the status related to World Bank Projects (WB). The Chair pointed out that the feedback received from WB Mission related to WB Projects was categorized under moderately unsatisfactory and instructed the Director, DoPH to focus and gear up sort out the activities associated with WB. After further deliberations, the house decided the following;

1. The Public Health Engineering Division (PHED) under DoPH to again issue a final reminder to the 2 Dzongkhags from where the RWSS Inventories have not been received – (Trashigang & Pemagatshel Dzongkhags)
2. The WB assisted projects to accelerate the activities to be implemented before the next WB Missions' visit.

After the presentation by the Department of Medical Services (DMS), the house agreed on the following issues;

1. Since the old generator of Institute of Traditional Medical Services (ITMS), lying in Lingshi, is in repairable accrued with high cost of bringing the generator down, the house agreed that it would be better to dispose it at Lingshi only.
2. In line with the chairs' instruction, the house endorsed that the DG (DMS) and Medical Director, JDWNRH should undertake a thorough

study related to long duration of occupation of beds by some patients in JDWNRH. It was also indicated that some of the patients can be transferred back to the respective district hospitals from where they were referred.

3. As proposed by the Medical Director, JDWNRH, the forum agreed that the finalized schedule of Annual Clinical Conference (ACC) be put up in the coming PRCM.
4. Given the existing security situation and in line with the preparation for the upcoming celebrations, the forum directed the Medical Director, JDWNRH, to finalize the formalities of outsourcing of Hospital Security to G4S. Further, the Chair pointed out that the HRD and JDWNRH should explore the possibility of transferring the existing security guards to other hospitals where deemed necessary.

Upon completion of the presentation by the HRD/M, the following issues were discussed;

1. Time and again, it was observed that at times not a single doctor was in his/her respective station; all the doctors' are either nominated for ex-country training or in-country training hitherto. The Chair instructed the HRD/M to improve and manage the movement of Doctors. Further, the HRD/M, DoPH and DMS were instructed to work together especially in-country training proposed by programmes – to avoid all the doctors leaving their station for training at once and disrupting the delivery of services.
2. While presenting the recruitment of Ex-Medical Professionals to address the shortage of HR, the Chair stated that through background of each candidate has to be judiciously looked upon. "Intervene at the process level not at the product level."

The floor also discussed the various avenues to address the cost cutting measures. After the deliberations, with the Chair's consent, the house agreed the following measures to be undertaken;

1. Form a committee<sup>1</sup> consisting of senior officials from the Ministry and JDWNRH.
2. The concept of paperless office was also discussed and the Chair recommended that all the officials should learn optimal utilization of

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<sup>1</sup> Refer Annex 1.

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computers and internet and the IT Unit to develop a viable solution for correspondences.

After the presentation of activities by Health Infrastructure Development Programme (HIDP), the forum recommended that;

1. The DoPH and PHL to look for a proper site for establishing BSL II Lab near the peripheral area.
2. Look at the possibility of acquisition of land for establishment of Nursing College.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Progress Report & Coordination Meeting (PRCM) concluded with some of the directives/instructions to be followed up immediately by the forum.

The Chair informed that the directives which need immediate interventions should be resolved and report during the next PRCM (date will be intimated by PPD).

The Chair told the house, that the inauguration of the 350 Bedded Hospital at Thimphu will be inaugurated on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2008 and Her Majesty, Ashi Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck has already consented to be the chief guest to grace the occasion.

Finally, the Chair informed that as a gesture of goodwill and benevolence for the support rendered from Health Volunteer Overseas (HVO), a booklet titled "Impact of Volunteerism in Health" be developed and dedicate the booklet to 100 years of Monarchy in Bhutan

*(Attached please find the directives/instructions which need immediate interventions (Annex A) to be reported during the upcoming PRCM)*

**Annex A:**

1. The forum recommended that the Deputy Chief Finance Officer (DCFO), AFD give a copy of 2008/09 Budget to respective Departments and Divisions as soon as possible for implementing and monitoring purposes. – **DCFO, AFD**
2. The Chair instructed the HRD/M to provide a detailed list of number of staff in each BHUs' as soon as possible (ground reality), since discrepancies have been observed between the list maintained by HRM and the actual deployment situation in the ground. – **HRD/M**
3. As per the proposal put up by the HRD/M, the floor agreed to review and submit the specific job responsibilities of the support staffs latest by 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008 and submit it to HRD/M:- **All Departments (reminder letter to be send by HRD/M)**
4. Committee for Cost Cutting Measures within the Ministry: - **PPD to initiate**
  - Director General – DMS - **Chairman**
  - Director – DoPH
  - Medical Director – JDWNRH
  - Chief Administrative Officer – AFD
  - DCFO - Finance
  - Chief Planning Officer – PPD
  - Chief HR Officer – HRD/M
5. The Chairman instructed the Deputy Chief Finance Officer (DCFO), AFD to conduct a workshop/training on the process and usage of financial rules to all the Programme Officials – in order for them to be more cautious and aware of the financial rules. – **DCFO, AFD**
6. A committee to be formed for developing a booklet on Health Volunteer Overseas (HVO), titled “Impact of Volunteerism in Health.”- **Medical Director, JDWNRH to initiate**
7. Immediately start initiating the development of National Cancer Services in Bhutan. The preventive aspects to be looked by DoPH and the treatment aspects to be looked by DMS. A focal person apart from Doctors, to be identified for this programme (the Doctors to be technical Facilitators) - **Medical Director, JDWNRH to initiate along with DoPH and DMS**

**Members present during the 5<sup>th</sup> PRCM:**

- Hon'ble Secretary – Chairman
- Director – DoPH
- Offtg. DG, - DMS
- Medical Director – JDWNRH
- Medical Director – ITMS
- DCFO - AFD
- CPO – DMS
- CPO – PPD
- CAO - AFD
- Offtg. C HRO – HRD/M
- Offtg. CPO – DVED
- Secretariat – PPD Staff - Kinzang Wangmo  
- Namgyel Wangchuk