

ปกิณกะ

**Workshop on Practical Approach to Safe Blood Transfusion
(A Pre-congress Workshop of Hemophilia 2004 World Congress)
October 15-16, 2004, Narai Hotel, Bangkok, THAILAND
Organized by The National Hemophilia Foundation of Thailand
and SEMEO TROPMED Network**

Conclusions and Recommendations

Dr. Rajesh Bhatia

*Regional Adviser, Blood Safety and Clinical Technology and Focal Point for Zoonotic Infections
WHO/South-East Asia Regional*

A two-day pre hemophilia world congress workshop on Practical Approach to Safe Blood Transfusion was organized at Hotel Narai, Bangkok by the National Hemophilia Foundation of Thailand and SEAMEO TROPMED Network. The workshop was supported by Government of The Federal Republic of Germany through GTZ BACKUP Initiative. Sixty-four participants from eight countries viz Cambodia, PDR Laos, Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam attended it. The Workshop was facilitated by 14 experts from Thailand. Six guest-speakers from Australia, Egypt, Hong Kong, Thailand and WHO made presentations and facilitated the group work along with local facilitators.

Eight presentations by the facilitators and two sets of group work comprised this Workshop. The presentations addressed the issues of global blood safety policies, principles of quality system, screening for infectious markers, Transfusion Transmissible infections (TTI), emerging issues in donor selection and counseling, and quality assurance in TTI screening. The presentations were followed by interactive sessions for sharing experiences, seeking additional information and removing doubts. The group works also addressed the issues of management of blood transfusion services, case studies highlighting pitfalls in screening for TTI and in safe blood donation and transfusion. The group held extensive deliberations and shared

their thoughts with other groups in the plenary sessions.

The Workshop proved to be a mutually beneficial exercise for the participants as well as the experts thus fulfilling its primary objective. The provision of information and sharing of experiences on a common platform was found to be extremely useful by everyone. The deliberations of the Workshop led to formulation of a few recommendations for perusal by the participants, national authorities and WHO.

1. Provision of safe blood to the people is a recognized responsibility of national governments. Blood safety should be accorded priority by the national health authorities who should formulate national blood policy, set national blood standards, establish nationally coordinated blood transfusion services and allocate appropriate resources for efficient functioning of the service. Should required, the national authorities may approach international donors for soft loans or grants to strengthen their blood transfusion services.

2. The national authorities should also strengthen the National Regulatory Authority and the national Regulatory/Reference Laboratory for overseeing the implementation of the standards and provide reference services for blood safety respectively. The quality of the screening kits and reagents made available to the blood centres should be assured by the National Regulatory Authority.

3. There is a strong and urgent need to augment efforts for increasing voluntary non-

remunerative blood donation from the low risk population. Modern communication tools and science of changing behavior of the people (COMBI) should be vigorously applied to shed existing myths and inhibitions among people about repeatedly donating blood. Examples of some African countries where considerable success has been attained by recruiting young students, informing and educating them and obtaining pledge/commitment from them for donating blood repeatedly should be replicated as such or with appropriate modifications to match local requirements.

4. The sociologists, psychologists and human behavior experts should be consulted at national level while formulating strategies and developing questionnaires for recruitment and retention of potential donors.

5. Considerable technological advances have been made in the science of blood transfusion especially for screening of TTI. There is a need to incorporate these in day to day working of the blood centres to match with the needs and resources of the country/blood centre. However, there are still several areas which remain unknown and require extensive studies and development of tools which can be successfully applied/integrated into existing infrastructure of blood centres.

6. A strong R&D infrastructure needs to be created to develop tools for screening of blood units for the presence of new and emerging pathogens. A public private partnership is essential to achieve this objective.

7. The national authorities should strive to accord license to blood centres that meet essential national requirements. This should progress to accreditation of the blood centres on the pattern of ISO requirements. Infrastructure for accreditation should be supported by national authorities.

8. A quality system must be integrated into functioning of the blood centres. This will require considerable efforts, technical support and financial resources. The benefits of quality always outweigh the cost and efforts required to achieve it. All staff members must be made aware of quality through effective communication and a quality culture created in the blood centre.

9. Participation in an external quality assessment scheme should be mandatory for all blood centres. The commencement of national external quality assessment scheme should be supported by national authorities.

10. Documentation is often neglected in developing countries. National authorities should develop generic documents (labels, questionnaire, reports, SOP etc) and all blood centre

should assure appropriate documentation.

11. Training of human resource is extremely essential and often neglected. Training needs of the blood services should be objectively assessed and effectively met. Periodic reviews of competencies of staff should be undertaken. It should also be realized that training is not a one time activity but should be done regularly to upgrade the skills of the staff and match it with the advancements in science and technology.

12. Blood centres should be encouraged to have formal and informal networking with other blood centres to share technical knowledge and information on a continuous basis.

13. WHO should develop minimum standards for blood centres and continue to provide technical support to all the countries in strengthening of blood centres and forging international network of blood centres.

Finally, the guest speakers and participants expressed gratitude to the organizers for conducting this immensely useful Workshop and urged them to have similar workshops in future too.

ศศิธรรรมนำกำฉัดฉุดฉ่น

การลตทูนท่ไม่ขาดทูน คือ การอ่านหนังสือ

พระครูปริยัติปัญญาสุต
วัดโศภิตาม อ.ต่านชัย จ.เลย