



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Prevention of Blindness & Deafness
Geneva, Switzerland

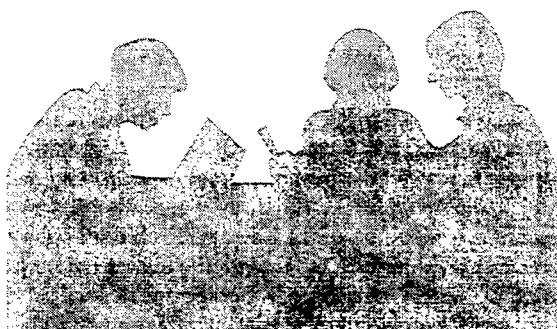
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WHO/PBD/GET/00.6
Distr.: Limited
Original: English

**FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
THE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF TRACHOMA
IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**Kunming, Yunnan Province
People's Republic of China**

1-4 November 1999

Conclusions and Recommendations



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PREAMBLE

This workshop is a follow-up to the recommendations made on the occasion of the WHO/Ministry of Health/International NGDO Coordination meeting for the Prevention of Blindness in China, held in Beijing in March 1998 (WHO/PBL/98.69). During this meeting, available information on trachoma was reviewed, showing that foci of blinding trachoma still persist in different provinces of China and that active trachoma can be found in some counties in the 12 following provinces, i.e., Anhui, Beijing, Gansu, Guangxi, Henan, Jiangsu, Jilin, Liaoning, Shangdong, Shanxi, Tianjin and Yunnan.

Representatives of 13 provinces attended the workshop (see Annex 2 for list of participants). Nine of these provinces were included in the above-mentioned selection. Others such as Chong Qing, Quing Hai, Shaanxi and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region were also invited and represented as they are suspected to have trachoma.

The workshop which was organized jointly between WHO/PBD and the Beijing Institute of Ophthalmology, with support received from the WHO Alliance for the Global Elimination of Trachoma, was hosted by the health authorities of the Yunnan Province. Mr Du Kelin, Deputy Director of the Department of Health of the Yunnan Province opened the workshop.

The specific objectives of this workshop were (1) to promote the SAFE strategy (Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness and Environmental changes), (2) to bring the participants up-to-date on the current status of trachoma in endemic countries, (3) to review activities presently undertaken by NGOs in endemic provinces, (4) to investigate future potential partnerships, and (5) to train the participants in the development of appropriate plans of action and in the identification of suitable strategies.

All the objectives were reached and presentations were made on all the items listed in the agenda (Annex 1) followed by general discussions. Four working groups were formed on the third day for training in the development of plans of action and the identification of suitable strategies. Trachoma information was presented by a number of participating provinces and is reported in Annex 3 of this report.

A field visit, organized on the last day of the workshop allowed the participants to take part in a demonstration of trachoma screening among school children using the WHO Simplified Grading System.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Declaration of support for the Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness (Vision 2020)

The Minister of Public Health of the People's Republic of China signed the declaration of support for the Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness (Vision 2020 – The Right to Sight) in September 1999. As the Global Elimination of Trachoma is an integral part of this Initiative, it is recommended that trachoma control be implemented nation-wide without delay.

2. Data collection and reporting

As part of the above-mentioned Initiative, it is recommended that trachoma data be reported based on the WHO Simplified Trachoma Grading System. Standardized data collection and reporting are essential for prioritization and planning. As reliable data on trachoma are currently unavailable for most provinces, it was recommended that data collection systems be institutionalized at both national and provincial levels.

3. Trachoma documentation

The group recommended that all WHO/PBD documentation on trachoma control be made available in Chinese for use at the provincial and county levels.

4. Training

It was recommended that the WHO Collaborating Centre in Beijing collaborate with the Chinese Ophthalmological Society for implementation of the WHO Simplified Grading System nation-wide and that further workshops be organized to train trainers in the use of that system.

5. The SAFE strategy (Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial Cleanliness, Environmental improvements)

The SAFE strategy was extensively discussed and the participants endorsed its principles. However, the strategy still requires to be formally adopted at the national level before implementation within provincial and county programmes.

6. Trichiasis surgery

In China, an estimated 6 million people require trichiasis surgery. As this is becoming a pressing priority, it is recommended that standardized training for trichiasis surgery be implemented.

7. Health education

It is recommended that the WHO Collaborating Centre in Beijing develop health education material and books consistent with the procedures of the SAFE strategy and disseminate them throughout the endemic provinces and counties.

8. Role of mid-level health personnel

During the discussions concerning the implementation of the SAFE strategy, the potential role of mid-level health personnel was discussed extensively. It was recommended that further considerations be given their potential involvement.

9. Partnerships

The Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness (Vision 2020 – The Right to Sight), is a partnership between WHO, governmental and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs). The Group recognized the value of this partnership, in particular in terms of opportunities for International Nongovernmental and Developmental Organizations (INGDOs) to assist in the implementation of trachoma control programmes. It was recommended that these partnerships be further developed to include the development of model and demonstration projects, and that activities of INGDOs be coordinated at the national level.

10. Programme review

It was recommended that progress on trachoma control activities be reviewed regularly through national workshops including representatives of : (1) the Ministry of Public Health, (2) the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, (3) the provincial health authorities, (4) the PBL programmes, (5) the Chinese Ophthalmological Society, INGDOs and WHO. It was suggested that the next meeting be held within 12 months from the present workshop.

ANNEX 1

**FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ASSESSMENT
AND MANAGEMENT OF TRACHOMA IN THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Kunming, Yunnan Province, China (1-4 November 1999)

AGENDA

DAY	AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER
Monday 1 November	Opening ceremony Election of Officers Introduction of participants Administrative announcements Adoption of agenda	
	1. Epidemiology of trachoma	<i>Dr A.-D. Négrel, WHO</i>
	2. WHO Alliance for the Global Elimination of Trachoma	<i>Dr S. P. Mariotti, WHO</i>
	3. Trachoma in China : past and present	<i>Dr Sun Bao Chen, Beijing Institute of Ophthalmology</i>
	4. Presentation of Provinces (3)	<i>Province Representatives</i>
	5. Trachoma control and primary health care	<i>Dr K. Konyama, Jutendo University, Tokyo</i>
	6. Trachoma control integrated approach (SAFE strategy)	<i>Dr S. P. Mariotti, WHO</i>
	6.1 Surgery	<i>Prof. H. Taylor, University of Melbourne & WHO</i>
	6.2 Antibiotic treatment	<i>Dr A.-D. Négrel</i>
	6.3 Facial Cleanliness	<i>Prof. H. Taylor</i>
	6.4 Environmental changes	<i>Dr S. P. Mariotti</i>

DAY	AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER
Tuesday 2 November	7. Information Education & Communication (IEC) 8. Presentation of Provinces (3) 9. Presentation of Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) 10. Trachoma simplified grading system 11. Basic principles of trachoma control management 12. Presentation of Provinces (3) 13. Trachoma Rapid Assessment 14. Presentation of Provinces (3)	<i>Dr K. Konyama</i> <i>Province Representatives</i> <i>Dr A. Pyott, CBM/Cambodia</i> <i>Prof. H. Taylor</i> <i>Dr A. D. Négrel</i> <i>Province Representatives</i> <i>Dr A.-D. Négrel</i> <i>Province Representatives</i>
Wednesday 3 November	15. Working groups to develop provincial priorities and plans of action (4 working groups) 16. Presentation of provincial priorities and plans of action and discussion General discussion Conclusions and Recommendations	<i>3 groups of Province Representatives</i> Facilitators: - <i>Dr K. Konyama</i> - <i>Dr Sun Bao Chen</i> - <i>Prof. Hugh Taylor</i>
Thursday 4 November	Field Visit	GROUP

ANNEX 2**FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ASSESSMENT
AND MANAGEMENT OF TRACHOMA IN THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA****Kunming, Yunnan Province, China (1-4 November 1999)****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTICIPATING PROVINCES/COUNTIES****ANHUI PROVINCE**

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