

IDPD Annual Central Council Meeting 10th February 2014 Imphal (Manipur)

Proceedings of the meeting

The meeting was held at Babina Diagnostic Centre, Imphal (Manipur) on 10th February 2014 under the chairmanship of Dr S S Soodan – Senior Vice President IDPD.

Meeting started by condemning the repeated incidents of violence in Delhi against the people from North East region and condoling with Nido Tania who was murdered by the miscreants. Strict action as per the law was demanded. Such incidents are an attack on the very concept of unity in diversity of our country. These tendencies have to be fought back at different levels.

Report of the past activities

Dr Arun Mitra gave a detailed account of the past activities undertaken since February 2013. The report presented by him was unanimously passed in the meeting. Activities done in the past year are available at the website www.idpd.org.

Future planning

1. **Association Red Cross:** Dr Arun Mitra reported that the IPPNW has developed good relationship with International Red Cross and Red crescent. The International Red Cross in its last meet has expressed the necessity to ban nuclear weapons and has asked its units in different countries to take up this issue at their level as well. Red Cross in several countries has taken initiative in this regard. IPPNW affiliates in these countries have developed coordination with them. But Indian Red Cross has not bothered to give even an appointment to the IDPD delegation Dr Arun Mitra told. Dr Chourjeet Singh questioned the need to be so much concerned about the association with the Red Cross. Dr Arun Mitra informed that IPPNW has a feeling that it will add to the credibility of the movement for campaign to ban nuclear weapons. It was decided that we should ask the IPPNW to write to International Red Cross giving reference of IDPD activities in the natural disasters. Thereafter the IDPD will try to establish contact with them and see if Indian Red Cross cooperates on this issue.
2. **Association with other likeminded groups:** As per the IPPNW board understanding we should contact Rotary Club for awareness on peace and health and also coordinate with other likeminded groups and organizations.
3. **Communal Violence and Role of IDPD in promoting harmony:** Dr Sudhir Dhakre told that it was very painful experience to visit the riot affected Muzaffarnagar on 24th November 2013. The confidence building measures were far from sufficient there. It has been decided to take initiative to hold a seminar at Muzaffarnagar on 2nd March 2014.

Whereas we shall try to involve the local doctors and other well meaning citizens, we also expect IDPD members from nearby to attend the seminar.

4. **Delhi Seminar on Peace and Health on 9th March 2014:** The Delhi unit has decided to organize a seminar in Delhi on 9th March 2014 on peace and health. It will cover different subjects viz Health scenario in our country, Challenges for health to all , Arms race and health , Inclusive growth for a healthy India. It was decided that we should send letters and posters to different colleges in the country. Students must attend in large number. Draft of health charter in this regard to be sent to all the members. It should also be given to medical students.
5. **Use of social media:** It was decided that we should make best use of new methods of information like Whats App, Facebook, twitter etc. the student group to take initiative and plan in this regard.
6. **IDPD Campaign:** Dr Shakeel suggested that we should design one theme on our campaign which should attract people. We should launch a national campaign on public health. This campaign should focus on government to cut budget on defense and divert it towards health. Dr Jeetendra Singh pointed out that we should focus on dialogue with decision makers (DWDM). It was decided to observe 1st September as Anti War Day as it was on this day that day Hitler started 2nd world war. Also observe 9th May as anti fascism day as it was on this day that Hitler ended his life.
7. **Activisation of units:** Dr Shakeel admitted that Bihar unit has become less active for few years. He will take steps to revive it. Central office should contact other units as well to activate them.
8. **Students movement:** It was felt that the student movement in recent period has gone weak. The NSRs should be more active. Prepare mail list of the students. We should observe 14th November with special attention to the children to catch them young. We can choose theme like “Get Faster is Peace” was suggested by Sakina and Kinnari. They suggested small and short message on Face Book/ whats app. Dr Jeetendra said that continuity is a must. We should have a two tier system, one the Students and second the seniors.
9. **Petition on Peace and Health:** We should prepare a petition for signature and put it on the website. This petition should submitted to the concerned ministries of the Government of India. We can contact organizations like avaaz.org for this. We should also form a Central committee member’s mail yahoo group.

10. **South Asian regional meet:** The members felt that we should have a south Asian regional PPNW meet preferably in Pakistan, Bangladesh or Srilanka. But if not possible there then in India at the end of this year or early next year. We should develop contact in Bhutan. Dr Nara Singh to take initiative in this regard.
11. **Students exchange programme:** To plan student exchange programme at Srinagar in consultation with IDPD office bearers in J&K. The student group should make a tour programme of Punjab, Jammu and Srinagar. May could be probable date for this programme after the elections. Dr Soodan to discuss about it with Dr Malik and others. Timings of exchange programme in Imphal and Tripura to be discussed too. We should find out Abangdi from Nagaland and plan some activity there.
12. **Peace house in Boston:** We had committed to contribute US\$ 1000 for Peace House of IPPNW in Boston. It was decided to send this amount at the earliest.
13. **IDPD Budget:** Dr Arun Mitra told that IDPD central office has to meet its expenses for travel, salary of the employees, maintenance of the office and publications etc. So far we have been doing this from the interest from the FDs of 22 lakh rupees saved from the world congress and 2 lakh saved from the national conference held last year. But this is becoming insufficient now. Therefore it is urgent that annual contribution be raised. Dr Manju Sharma proposed that the central council members should pay Rs. 2000/- per year and other members should pay Rs.1000/- per year as annual contribution. The proposal was unanimously accepted.
14. **Membership:** Dr Sudhir Dhakre proposed that we should enroll more annual members @ Rs.300/- per year membership fee. This will increase our membership and our contact with the people.
15. **21st World Congress of IPPNW at Astana, Kazakhstan:** The meeting decided to send an effective delegation to this congress to be held from 25th to 30th August 2014. Dr Jeetendra, Ms Sakina and Ms Kinnari suggested that we should design basic criteria for the participation of the students. It has been that some students who go to such conferences are more interested in tourism. This gives bad image to the organization. They were asked to submit the proposal which would be finalized in consultation with the President and the general secretary.
16. **MBBS Course:** Meeting discussed the government's decision to increase the duration of MBBS course and to add one year of rural service during internship. Dr Yudhishtir and Dr Navinder Singh said that this would increase the burden on students. Instead of this government should give employment to doctors in rural areas with better emoluments and incentives. Dr Shakeel said that the government should do away with contractual employment and have regular employment of doctors and provide modern facilities in the state run centers. The medical services in private sector have become very expensive and

out of reach of common man. Govt. should stop outsourcing which benefits only the private sector under the public private partnership. These proposals were unanimously accepted.

17. **Lok Sabha Elections:** Dr Nara Singh is contesting the elections to the Lok Sabha. He has taken up the IDPD agenda as prominent part of his manifesto. The central council welcomed his decision and appealed to all the members to support him financially and morally.

Dr S S Soodan proposed a vote of thanks to Dr Nara Singh for organizing wonderful programme in Imphal and wished him all success.

SEMINAR AT IMPHAL 9th February 2014

A seminar was organized at Regional Institute of Medical Sciences on 9th February 2014. The seminar was chaired by Dr Chourjeet Singh, Dr M Nara Singh and Dr SS Soodan. Dr Nara Singh Vice President of IDPD said that ours is a movement for peace and friendship. We have to further develop it. Dr S S Soodan –Senior Vice President said that whole country is pained at the attack on students from north east in Delhi. We have to fight back such tendencies to preserve unity in diversity of the country which is the basic essence of our country. In his presentation Dr Arun Mitra said that arms race is diverting away the funds from health and education. We have to make a collective effort to abolish nuclear weapons from the world. Even a limited use of nuclear weapons could lead to severe climatic changes leading to nuclear famine. Dr Shakeel said that state should not run away from its responsibility. IDPD has prepared a health charter. We shall lobby with the government to provide health to all. Large number of students and doctors participated in the event. Dr Nelson compeered the stage. There was a question answer session at the end of the seminar.

TRIPURA STATE CONFERENCE 11th February 2014

Tripura State Conference was organised by the IDPD Tripura unit at Agartala on 11th February 2014. Shri Manindra Reang - Minsiter of Jails, TRP & PTG and Jan Jati was the chief guest. Dr S R Barman - Director Health Services and Dr Bikash Roy- former Director Health Services Tripura were the guests of honour. Dr Bhol Nath Saha, President Tripura unit of the IDPD presided over the function. Dr Ramender Laskar compeered the stage. Other prominent persons who addressed include Dr S S Soodan, Dr Arun Mitra. Dr Navinder Singh presented a memento to the chief guest and the president. Shri Manindra Reang, the minister lauded the role of IDPD in promoting peace and health. Dr Yudhithir Dass – State Secretary IDPD in his address said that they will enhanced their activities to strengthen peace and health. Dr Vishwashavjit S Barmen welcomed and Dr J M Ghosh gave vote of thanks.