

Report of Brain storming session on Pharmacy education held on 22.1.2010 in the office of Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi.

The following were present –

Ministry of Health

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| 1. Sri Debasish Panda | Joint Secretary, MOH |
| 2. Dr. Surinder Singh | DCGI |
| 3. Sri C.S. Mishra | Under Secretary |
| 4. Dr.Kamlesh Kumar | Section Officer |

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

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| 5. Sri G.N. Singh | Director |
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Deptt. of Science & Technology

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| 6. Dr. S.N. Khan | |
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Pharmacy Council of India

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| 7. Prof. B. Suresh | President |
| 8. Sri P.P. Sharma | Vice- President |
| 9. Prof. C.K. Kokate | Member |
| 10. Sh. Gurdip Singh | ” |
| 11. Dr. K. Chinnaswamy | ” |
| 12. Prof. M.D. Karvekar | ” |
| 13. Sri Sanjeev Pandit | ” |
| 14. Sri Inder Singh Chauhan | ” |
| 15. Prof. T.V. Narayana | ” |
| 16. Sri J.C. Gogoi | ” |
| 17. Mrs. Archana Mudgal | Registrar-cum-Secretary |
| 18. Sri Anil Mittal | Asstt. Secretary |

Dental Council of India

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| 19. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Sri P.N. Avasthi | Secretary |
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Indian Nursing Council

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| 20. Ms.Bharti | Asstt. Secretary |
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International Pharmaceutical Federation

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| 21. Dr.P.D. Sheth | |
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Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council

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| 22. Sri Amin Nagani | |
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Indian Pharmacy Graduates Association

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| 23. Sri Atul Kurmar Nasa | |
| 24. Dr. Arun Kumar Garg | |
| 25. Prof. Vijay Bhalla | |

Indian Hospital Pharmacists Association

26. Sri S.L. Nasa
27. Sri Pankaj Bector

Federation of Indian Pharmacists Organization

28. Sri Ajay Sharma
29. Sri M.S. Arya
30. Sri Sadhu Ram

Indian Pharmaceutical Association

31. Sri Raj Vaidya

Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India

32. Dr.P.G. Yeole
33. Sri Shivananda B.G.

NATCO Pharma Hyderabad

34. Dr. A.K.S. Bhujanga Rao

Pharmaceutical Industry

35. Sri M.D. Nair

Organization of Pharm. Producers of India

36. Sri Z.H. Charna

Community Pharmacist

37. Ajay Pal Gupta
38. Sri Mahender Bareja

1. Dr.B.Suresh, President, PCI welcomed all present.
2. The meeting was started by lighting the lamp.
3. The presentations were made as per following details -

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1.	Smt.Archna Mudgal	Pharmacy Education in India
2.	Dr.P.D. Sheth	Pharmacy Practice
3.	Sri M.D. Nair	Role of Pharmacy Professionals in Drug Discovery & Development
4.	Sri Raj Vaidya	Pharmacy Practice in India
5.	Dr. Arun Garg	Redefining Pharmacy Education in India
6.	Dr.A.K.S.Bhujanga Rao	Pharmacy Education

4. The Joint Secretary stressed the need of quality education and updation of the pharmacy course curriculum as per the evolving pharmacy practice. He was of the firm opinion for imparting Continuing Education to pharmacists for acquisition of new skills and brushing up of their existing skills. He also emphasized the need of such brain storming sessions to continue.
5. The DCGI stated that industry needs trained pharmacist workforce in specialized areas like drug discovery, clinical trials, new chemical entities, medical devices, genetic engineering etc.

DISCUSSION

1. 100 crore grant to PCI under 11th Five Year Plan

It was felt that this grant can be used for –

- a) setting up of National Institute of Pharmacy, premier institute like AIIMS with innovative curriculum to -
 - produce trained manpower as per the requirement of pharmaceutical industry.
 - nurture sponsored/contract research.
 - provide Continuing Education to institutions and industry.Since setting up of National Institute may take some time, PCI can initially look into the possibility of identifying some good academic institutions to be developed into Apex institutions.
- b) introduction of Bridge course for in-service diploma pharmacists working in community/hospital/dispensaries to upgrade their qualification from diploma to degree by way of -
 - giving incentives/subsidy in fee.
- c) strengthening of pharmacy institutions.
- d) faculty development i.e. continuing education programmes for teachers (training of trainers).
- e) continuing education of pharmacists.
- f) setting up of Drug Information Centers by State Pharmacy Councils.

The Joint Secretary stated that the EFC note needs to be prepared incorporating the above points.

2. Dual regulation of pharmacy education by PCI & AICTE

The Joint Secretary desired to forward the matter on this issue to Health Ministry. The Health Ministry will take up the issue with the HRD Ministry.

3. Pharmacy Act amendment

- a) the salient features of the proposed Pharmacy Act amendments were discussed.

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b) the Joint Secretary desired that since the amendments were sent long back to Ministry, PCI may review the proposed amendments and if any further changes are required, same be incorporated and consolidated proposed amendments be sent to Ministry for further action.

4. A representative of Department of Science & Technology (DST) intimated that DST is promoting collaborative R & D in drugs and pharmaceuticals sector with an objective to –
- a) create an enabling infrastructure, mechanisms and linkages so as to facilitate new drug development.
 - b) stimulate skill development of human resources in R & D for drugs and pharmaceuticals.

It also pointed out that DST is promoting joint research projects of industry and institution and also offering soft loans for pharmaceutical R & D projects.

It was decided that PCI will organise a meeting of pharmacy institutions with DST.

5. Amendment in the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940

During the meeting, IPGA pointed out that still under the D&C Act, wholesale of medicines can be done by un-qualified persons. Since any lacuna at the level of handling at wholesale can adversely affect the medicines, Drugs & Cosmetics Act is required to be amended on urgent basis so that at all levels medicines are handled by qualified registered pharmacists only. It was decided that Drugs Control Department will initiate action in this regard.

6. Upgradation of minimum registerable qualification from diploma to degree in pharmacy.

Regarding Council's above proposal, Joint Secretary was of the opinion that it may not be proper to close Diploma. The PCI shall upgrade/improve diploma curriculum as per the present needs.

7. It was further felt that PCI shall constitute a small committee to deliberate on important professional issues.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.