SEARPharm Forum

of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

Regional Forum Annual Report – June 2025 to May 2026

South East Asia Region

Date: 7 July 2026

This report presents a summary of the SEARPharm Forum's activities, partnerships and ongoing project work over the past year, highlighting the launch of the Forum's flagship Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) initiative in India and the progress made across the region's priority workstreams.

Executive Committee

Role	Name, Country and Term	
President	Dr TV Narayana , India	2023-2027
Vice President	Ms Chinta Abayawardana, Sri Lanka	2023-2027
Vice President, Treasurer & Project Director	Ms Manjiri Gharat, India	2024-2028
Secretary of Pharmaceutical Practice	Dr Ronak Shrestha, Nepal	2025-2029
Secretary of Pharmaceutical Education & Workforce Development	Dr Khanita Duangchaemkarn, Thailand	2025-2029
Secretary of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Mr Tisara De Silva,Sri Lanka	2023 -2027
ECPG Observer	Dr Praveen Devanandan — India	

2. Forum Priorities for 2026

The Executive Committee has agreed on the following priorities to guide the Forum's work through 2026:

- Advancing the NCD Project and the Workforce Development Project
- Strengthening communication and engagement with Member Organisations across the region
- Convening Regional Summits on Vaccination and Industrial Pharmacy
- A fourth strategic priority AMR is under discussion and will be confirmed at the next Committee meeting

3. Main Activities Completed

- As an FIP initiative on health literacy, equity & inclusivity, conducted Interviews of leaders from PSSL, Srilanka on 12th June 2025 and IPA, India on 19th June 2025
- Participated in online meeting of SEAR Pharm Forum and SEAR Member organisations on 5th June 2025
- Elections held for the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Practice in August 2025
- Participated in FIP council meetings on 30th and 31st August 2025 at Copenhagen
- Participated in meeting of Regional Forum with FIP Bureau on 1st September 2025 at Copenhagen
- Signed MOU of "Medicines to Initiative" of Pharmacists Defence Association on 2nd September 2025 at Copenhagen
- Two project proposals (On NCDs and Workforce) submitted to and approved by FIP; both are now under active implementation
- Executive Committee WhatsApp group established, with the first ExCo meeting held on 2 February 2026
- FIP Project Intern and an associate appointed to support project delivery since April 2026
- Hypertension Training Module, monitoring formats and supporting materials developed (March to May 2026)
- First project training programme successfully launched on 16–17 May 2026 in Goa, India

4. Member Organisation Engagement

Organisation	Nature of Engagement	Outcome
Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA)	Collaboration on execution of the NCD Project	Ongoing joint work on project launch and monitoring in Goa, led by the IPA team with IPA CPD Chairperson Mr Raj Vaidya, and Mr Ratnadeep Kurtarkar and Mrs Pooja Kamat
Pharmaceutical Society of Sri Lanka (PSSL)	Participation at **44th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Sessions** in Colombo on **28 June 2026** (Mrs. Manjiri, Ms Chinta Abaywardana and Mr Tisara D'silva participated at this event)	• Visibility to FIP and Forum • Promoted FIP's global vision, resources, activities, Congresses, WPD and Forum's activities, including NCD project • Informal Interaction with incoming FAPA for possible collaboration

5. Partnerships and Current Projects

The Forum continues to build and sustain collaborative relationships that support its regional mandate, including with:

- Member Organisations of FIP
- WHO Regional Office (contacts are being established)
- Academic institutions and universities
- State Pharmacy Councils in India (meeting photo)
- Chemist Associations in Maharashtra, India
- Other regional and local partners

6. Challenges, Priorities and Support Needed

Main Challenge

Participation across the SEAR region remains uneven compared with other regions. Communication from several Member Organisations continues to be limited, and responses to Forum outreach are often slow. Over all interest, level of motivation, and enthusiasm have to be increased, and some efforts have started in this direction.

Support Needed from FIP

We already get great and continuous support from FIP; further support will be most valuable to strengthen relations with MOs in the region.

- Support to establish relations with WHO India, WHO SEARO will be very valuable.
- Support will be required to convene proposed Regional Vaccination Summit in India
- FIP Webinars for the region (topics can be planned) may also help
- FIP Congress 2027 in KL can be seen as an opportunity to get more participation from this region, and any strategic movement in this direction will be GREAT support

Planned Next Steps

The immediate priority is to extend NCD Project trainings to three further locations across India, building on the momentum from the Goa launch.

Dr T V Narayana will ensure the progress with the Workforce project.

NCD Project Trainings:

- St.Peter's Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hanamkonda, Telangana, India
- Vikas Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, India

7. Feature Project — 1) "Empowering Community Pharmacists for Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Prevention and Management in India and SEAR Countries"

First Pharmacist Training Programme on NCDs (Hypertension)

"Empowering Community Pharmacists for Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Prevention and Management in India and SEAR Countries" is a flagship project of the SEARPharm Forum of FIP, developed to strengthen the role of community pharmacists in NCD screening and care.

Programme Details

Date	16 May 2026
Time	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Venue	PES' Rajaram & Tarabai College of Pharmacy, Farrukhabad, Goa
Organised by	SEARPharm Forum (FIP), in association with the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA)
Participants	33 owner-community pharmacists from across Goa

Background

A project of the SEARPharm Forum of FIP, this initiative has officially commenced in India in association with the Indian Pharmaceutical Association Community Pharmacy Division (IPA CPD) and local training partners. It is among the first structured programmes in the country to position community pharmacists as active contributors to NCD care at the community level.

The SEARPharm Forum and IPA CPD, working together with PES' Rajaram & Tarabai College of Pharmacy, delivered the first training session of the project in Ponda on 16 May 2026 the first pharmacist training held under this initiative.

An expert committee developed an India-specific hypertension training module, drawing on FIP's Educational Guide for Pharmacists and its Hypertension Toolkit, to underpin the programme's technical content.

Materials Developed

- Hypertension training module
- Promotional flyer
- Pre-training knowledge assessment
- Blood pressure monitoring card
- New / undiagnosed patient register form
- Known / follow-up patient register form

- Pharmacist training attendance sheet
- Post-training knowledge assessment
- Participant feedback form

Key Areas Covered

- Hypertension screening techniques, including blood pressure measurement
- Risk communication and patient counselling methods
- Importance of life-course vaccination
- Adherence monitoring and patient follow-up
- Use of patient record formats and monitoring & evaluation documentation
- Pre- and post-training knowledge assessment

Programme Highlights

Participating pharmacists received practical toolkits for service delivery, including simple patient record-keeping formats, and will continue to receive technical support through follow-up interactive sessions in the coming months.

FIP President Paul Sinclair was unable to attend in person; his recorded video message was played during the programme, in which he commended the initiative and encouraged pharmacists to embrace their expanding role in NCD prevention and management.

The session closed with an interactive discussion in which participants shared experiences, challenges and ideas for implementing hypertension services in their own pharmacies.

The training was delivered by Ms Manjiri Gharat, Vice-President, SEARPharm Forum; Dr Raj Vaidya, Vice-President and Chairman, IPA CPD; Dr Amey Kamat, Assistant Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, Goa Medical College; and Ms Pooja Borkar Kamat, with organisational support from Mr Ratnadeep Kurtarkar, Hon. Secretary, IPA CPD, and faculty and volunteers of PES' Rajaram & Tarabai College of Pharmacy. Dr Celina Nazareth, Principal of the College, and Mr Tilak Gajendran were also present.

“Think Health, Think Pharmacy” remained the guiding message of the initiative, reinforcing the evolving role of pharmacists as key partners in building healthier communities. The project's official launch was announced on World Hypertension Day, 17 May, during IPA CPD's Regional Convention in Ponda, Goa.

Outcome: 33 community pharmacists were trained in hypertension screening and management. The standardised forms and assessments used during the session will support consistent data collection on participant learning and patient registration as the project moves into its monitoring phase.

2) Strengthening Pharmacy Workforce Data in the WHO- SEA Region: A Regional Initiative to strengthen Pharmacy workforce intelligence and monitoring system in India

Work has started, contact with State Pharmacy Councils has been established, and data has been obtained from State Pharmacy Councils of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana.

8. Governance and Finances

Expenditure on NCD project so far (July 6th,2026) is approx. 600 Euro(expenses related to training, project associate etc) and will be sent for reimbursement to FIP

Participation at FIP Congress, Copenhagen 2025

Signing of MoU and Presentation of Forum activities





Photographs from the NCD training Programme of 16 May 2026



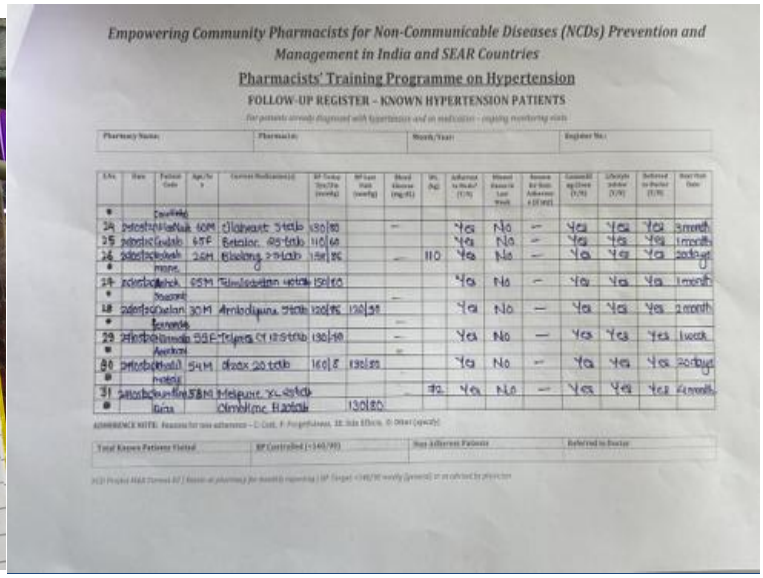




Pharmacists at Work, Screening, Counselling, Documentation







Empowering Community Pharmacists for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Prevention and Management in India and SEAR Countries

Pharmacists' Training Programme on Hypertension

FOLLOW-UP REGISTER – KNOWN HYPERTENSION PATIENTS

Meeting with Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council for collaboration in the State of Maharashtra for NCD project



Mrs Manjiri with Mr Atul Ahire (President)Mrs Saili (Registrar),Mr Nitin ,Mr Manohar, and Mrs Sonali (Council Members) at Mumbai on 19 June 2026

Participation at PSSL Scientific Sessions on 28 June 2026 at Colombo, Sri Lanka







Project visibility in Pharma Times (India) and on FIP's Social Media



ASSOCIATION NEWS

IPA Community Pharmacy Division

Regional Convention on Pharmacy Practice: Progress Through Professionalism

The IPA Community Pharmacy Division, jointly with the Indian Pharmaceutical Association – Goa State Branch and the Goa State Pharmacy Council, successfully organised the Regional Convention of IPA CPD at Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir, Ponda, Goa, on 17th May, 2026.

With the theme "Pharmacy Practice: Progress Through Professionalism", the convention witnessed an overwhelming response, with more than 460 registered delegates from Goa and neighbouring states participating in the professional deliberations. In addition to the registered delegates, the event also saw the active involvement of organising committee members, volunteers, invited guests, faculty members, and media representatives, making it one of the largest professional pharmacy gatherings in the region in recent years.

The inaugural function was graced by Mrs. Shweta S. Dessai, Director of Food and Drugs Administration - Goa, as the Chief Guest, who appreciated the initiatives being undertaken to strengthen pharmacy practice and professional standards. She encouraged holding such Conventions every year to enhance pharmacists' knowledge and skills.

The scientific programme featured eight eminent speakers from different sectors of pharmacy practice, academia, clinical pharmacy, and public health. During Plenary Session-1 on "Hospital & Clinical Pharmacy Services – Leading The Way", Mr. Thankachan Vishwanathan spoke on "Good Pharmacy Practices in Kerala's Public Health System" while Dr. Uday Venkat Mateti delivered an insightful presentation on "Advancing Patient Care Through Clinical Pharmacy Services: Roles, Impact, and Training of Clinical Pharmacists in the Hospital Setting". This was followed by a session on "Digital Health & The Pharmacist" by Mr. Rahul Lad, and a lecture on "Pharmacovigilance in Modern Medicine" by Dr. P. V. Rataboli. Post-lunch, a practical and informative lecture on "CPR & The Pharmacists" was delivered by Dr. Vallabh Dhaimodker. The Plenary Session-2 on "Indian Pharmacists – The Path To Professionalism" included a presentation on "Pharmacists' Potential Role in NCDs in India" by Mrs. Manjiri Gharat, followed by "Delivering International Clinical Community Pharmacy Practice in India" by Mr. Tilak Sairam Gajendran. Mr. Raj Vaidya presented on "Pharmacists' Potential for POCT", highlighting the growing role of pharmacists in point-of-care testing and public health services.

The convention also provided an important platform for interaction among pharmacists, fostering discussions on professional advancement and patient-oriented pharmacy services.

The organisers expressed their sincere gratitude to all delegates, speakers, volunteers, organising committee members, media personnel, and supporting organisations for their contributions, which ensured the convention's grand success.

Special appreciation was extended to the Gold Sponsors, Encube Ethicals Pvt. Ltd, and Entero Healthcare Solutions and Barros Enterprises, for their valuable support towards the successful conduct of the programme. The organisers also acknowledged the support received from other sponsors and partners, including the Chemists & Druggists Association, eCIMS, Colgate-Palmolive, Laksons, Reliable Software, Sambari Enterprises, Drogaria Colvalkar, FDC Ltd, Ofmacs Pharma, among others.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment towards strengthening professional pharmacy services and enhancing the role of pharmacists in healthcare delivery across India.

SEARPharm Forum's NCD Project Begins in India - Report on Pharmacists' Training Programme on Hypertension

A project of the SEARPharm Forum of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) titled "Empowering Community Pharmacists for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)" has officially commenced in India. The project is being executed in association with the Indian Pharmaceutical Association – Community Pharmacy Division (IPA CPD) and local partners at the training sites. The initiative is one of the first structured projects in India focusing on empowering community pharmacists to deliver NCD-related healthcare services at the community level.

Under this initiative, the SEARPharm Forum and IPA CPD, in collaboration with PES' Rajaram & Tarabai College of Pharmacy, conducted the first training programme in Ponda on 16th May, 2026.

The project aims to strengthen the role of community pharmacists in the prevention and management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), particularly hypertension and diabetes. As part of the project, an expert committee has developed an India-centric training module on hypertension based on the FIP's Educational Guide for Pharmacists and toolkit on Hypertension.

The training programme saw enthusiastic participation by 33 owner-community pharmacists from across Goa. The organisers emphasised that community pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare professionals and can play a major role in early screening, patient education, adherence support, referral services, and health promotion activities.

Key Areas Covered During the Training

The scientific and practical sessions included:

- Hypertension screening techniques, including blood pressure measurement
- Risk communication and patient counselling methods

