

SPEECH OF
DR. S.S. JADHAV,
President - DCVMN

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am extremely happy to welcome all the members of DCVMN and also the distinguished Speakers who have graciously agreed to participate and guide our members during this AGM. I am also happy to welcome all the special invitees who have taken out their valuable time to attend our meeting. This is a landmark occasion in the life span of DCVMN that for the first time we are holding a meeting after coming into existence as a registered entity with an address at the office of PATH in Hyderabad & Official bank account. We have already received more than 10 applications to become official member of our Network. In the past we were something like a virtual organization and we were always holding our meeting during one of the international conferences hosted by WHO or on couple of occasions WHO/PATH had made their meeting room available for our meetings.

I will be failing in my duties if I do not thank my good friends and well-wishers from PATH i.e. Dr.Chris Elias, President of PATH, Marc LaForce, Director, MVP, Mark Kane, Director, CVP, and Dr.James Maynard, Ex-Vice President & Medical Director, PATH, for their whole hearted support and encouragement, without which this would not have become a reality.

I would also like to mention about the invaluable support that we have always received from Dr.Julie Milstien and Dr.Susan McKinney, who were responsible for and also guided us in the initial stages of infants and full support of Dr.Marie-Paul Kieny from WHO and her colleagues from IVR and ATT from time to time.

I am also extremely grateful for the continued support that we are getting from NVI, IVI, PATH & NIH who are our Resource Organizations and benefiting us out of their experience and expertise, which has been of a great value and guidance to all of us.

I am just presenting the existing list of members, pre-qualified members, vaccines currently available from DCVMN and newer vaccines under development (slides presented).

You will be happy to note that currently the WHO pre-qualified members of DCVMN are supplying almost 75% requirement of UNICEF & PAHO for the basic EPI vaccines; and it is our goal that very shortly we should be in a position to supply 100% of vaccines so as to eliminate our dependence on the manufacturers from the developed countries, for the benefit of children from the developing world. I am also happy to inform you that the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) where we have our representative Dr.Akira Homma as a Board Member has now access to the funds exceeding US\$ 4 billion, which was possible due to the effort by Mr.Gordon Brown, Minister of Finance, U.K. This also indicates the commitment of international agencies to improve the access for the vaccines even to the poorest country from the developing world.

I am confident, the deliberations in these two days will be greatly beneficial to all of us and we look forward to active participation from all the members as we have very sound faculty/resource members from the global agencies who will be guiding us. I request you all to take the full advantage of this and use it further to strengthen your own institutes as well as our Network.

Last but not the least, I greatly appreciate and am thankful to Dr.Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Chairman & Managing Director of Serum Institute, for hosting this meeting.

Thank you,