

## Recommendations and conclusions

The participants endorsed the updated WHO/SEARO Guidelines on management of snake bites. The following recommendations were also made:

### *To Member countries in the South–East Asia Region*

#### *Member countries should:*

- (1) Develop comprehensive national guidelines on rational management of snake bites and ensure access to antivenom serum on an equitable basis
- (2) Strengthen health system requirements including those of physical infrastructure and skilled human resource to provide efficient case management services to victims of snake bites
- (3) Augment production of antivenom within the country utilizing the indigenous venom and/or commission its production in any production facility outside the country.
- (4) Institute a surveillance mechanism to generate reliable epidemiological data on snakes, disease burden as well as adverse reactions to antivenom serum
- (5) Promote community awareness to overcome religious, social and cultural myths associated with snake bites and their management.
- (6) Seek intercountry cooperation to harmonize cross–border activities and regulations.
- (7) Undertake operational research for better understanding of the disease epidemiology and development of effective and economical tools for minimizing misery due to snake bites.

### *To the World Health Organization*

#### WHO should:

- (1) Publish and disseminate revised guidelines on snake bite management

- (2) Undertake advocacy with national authorities to develop and implement national guidelines on snake bite management.
- (3) Support capacity building in various aspects of management, technical skills and regulatory mechanism of snake bite management.
- (4) Facilitate intercountry cooperation especially in areas of antivenom production, capacity building, cross-border activities and venom banking.
- (5) Collect and share global data on all aspects of snake bites.
- (6) Support operational research on snake bites management and epidemiology
- (7) Organize regional meetings on a regular basis for exchange of experiences within the Region.