



## 2. Objectives of the Workshop

These were:

- (1) To sensitize health professionals and policy-makers in South Asia on the public health dimensions of environmental and human health impacts of various metals;
- (2) To present regional case studies of human health exposure to metals in specific settings such as households, workplaces, health facilities and in the community at large;
- (3) To present success stories in terms of reducing and preventing human exposure to metals, and
- (4) To identify a framework to develop and implement national and regional action plans for public health interventions and collaboration, addressing human exposure to metals.

## 3. Participants

Fifty participants from 12 countries attended this interregional workshop with intersectoral representation including health professionals, scientific experts, government policy-makers, NGOs and IGOs to address environmental health impacts from metals in South Asia (see Annex 1). It was sponsored jointly by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Embassy of the USA in India, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) /Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) USA and the World Health Organization. The participants and speakers came from Bangladesh (2), India (20) Pakistan (6), Indonesia (2), Philippines, Sri Lanka (5), Thailand (3), Japan, Taiwan, Sweden, Germany, and USA.

## 4. Programme

The programme was organized in such a manner that ample time for questions and discussions were given to participants after each scientific session and case study presentation (see Annex 2). The third day was used to discuss national and regional action plans prepared by four working groups. Highlights of the talks are given below and presentations will be made available (see attached CD).

