



For immediate release

## **TB Champion awards announced**

**New Delhi, January 17, 2013:** The Partnership for TB Care and Control in India announced its first annual TB Champion awards at its National Consultative Meeting in Delhi. This prestigious award seeks to recognise and honour individuals and organisations working for TB control in India.

The P D Hinduja Hospital and Medical Research Foundation in Mumbai emerged as the awardee in the institutional category. This award is supported by Global Health Strategies.

Dr Nalini Krishnan, Director of REACH, a Chennai-based NGO, was named the TB Champion in the individual category and will now function as the Partnership's TB Ambassador.

### **About the Awards**

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of India's greatest public health challenges – India accounts for one-fifth of the global burden, with a reported 2 million cases annually. TB causes immense economic losses and individual and family suffering but remains cloaked in stigma, often leading patients to be discriminated against within the community, workplace and even in healthcare setting. Despite all this, TB continues to occupy limited space in the public imagination.

Several individuals and organisations across the country have taken countless efforts to fight TB and empower affected communities, but often go unrecognised. These awards seek to honour and recognise those who have contributed significantly to working on issues around TB.

### **The Selection Process**

Winners were selected from a pool of nominations, that poured in from across the country. The nominations were carefully reviewed by a Selection Committee, with a representation of people from varied section of society and professions, including those affected by TB.

### **About the Partnership**

The Partnership for Tuberculosis Care and Control in India (Partnership) brings together civil society around a common platform to support and strengthen India's national TB control efforts. It has around 127 member organizations consisting of technical agencies, non-governmental and community-based organisations, affected communities, the corporate sector, professional bodies, media, and academia. Most of the TB Partnership members have a larger community network through which they reach people to prevent and treat tuberculosis.

### **About Dr Nalini Krishnan**

Dr Krishnan founded and runs REACH (Resource Group on Education and Advocacy for Community Health), a non-profit organisation based in Chennai. She and her team have developed a novel Public Private Mix model, to encourage private practitioners to participate in the Government-initiated RNTCP's DOTS programme, while retaining their

patients. She also spearheaded India's first short film competition on TB, and created the REACH Lilly MDR-TB Partnership Media Programme, a nationwide initiative to encourage positive reporting on tuberculosis.

Dr Krishnan has previously served as a member of the National TB Programme's Joint Monitoring Mission and as a consultant to the World Health Organisation on private sector participation in TB control.

### **About Hinduja Hospital**

P D Hinduja hospital and medical research centre in Mumbai, a not-for-profit private institution has, for over 20 years now, strived for TB care and provided for optimal management of drug-resistant TB, including surgery to 5000 patients in the chest clinic, weekly free MDR-TB OPD and showed a 60% cure rate of MDR-TB. In fact, it was at this hospital that extensive forms of drug-resistant TB (first reported as totally drug-resistant TB) first came into the limelight. This resulted in TB being declared as a notifiable disease nationwide and resulted in a major restructuring of the National TB control programme in Maharashtra. The institute is also widely engaged in research and have a state-of-the-art diagnostic mycobacteriology lab. They have 39 published papers on various aspects to TB, to their credit.

### **Contact Details:**

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