

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON '*Affordability, Availability, Accessibility of medicines AND IPR*'

05th January 2016

Concept Note

The prices of Medicines which are listed in the essential medicines list are controlled in India while there is no control on prices of medicines, which are not listed, patented medicines and indigenously developed medicines. The opportunities and challenges posed by such market driven policy needs to be evaluated. There is need to understand whether the medicines listed in the essential medicine list are adequate to cater the needs of Indian population. Mechanisms and frequency to decide the inclusion and exclusion criteria for medicines in this list needs to be debated. Several issues like What should be the criteria for determining the "essentiality", what is the impact of the shift from manufacturers' cost based pricing to market based priced pricing policy needs to be addressed. The advent of changes in Patent as well as regulatory systems in India is likely to have impact on policies of Pharmaceutical companies in India. Patent enforcement is also growing up in pharmaceutical sector. In the light of the TRIPS, an issue, whether TRIPS flexibilities alone can provide answer to the problem of access to medicine and if yes, which are the critical provisions, which have proved helpful for other nations in mitigating the problem of access to medicine, becomes pertinent. In the quest of alternative solutions, one relevant issue that arises is whether Indian Health policy can be founded on the concept of public Insurance for all Indian citizen and/or reference pricing? What is the experience of existing public and private insurance system in India and their utility to solve the problem of access to medicine?

The Centre for Intellectual Property Rights Research and Advocacy and MHRD Chair on Intellectual Property Rights of National Law School of India University, Bangalore is organizing a one day National Conference on "Affordability, Availability, Accessibility of Medicines and IPR" on 5th of January 2016 at International Training Centre, NLSIU,

Nagarbhavi, Bangalore, in association with National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, New Delhi.

Representatives from the Government of India, Government of Karnataka, Pharmaceutical industry, academicians from pharma Institutions, lawyers, law teachers, NGOs representing the cause of patients, and other stakeholders will be participating in the Conference.

You are invited to participate in the said conference and contribute to the efforts made to find solutions to the identified issues.

Prof. T. Ramakrishna]

**Conference Chair,
Professor of Law, MHRD Chair on IPR,
National Law School of India University
Bangalore.**

Dr.Sharmila Mary Joseph IAS

**Member Secretary
National Pharmaceutical Pricing
Authority
Government of India,
New Delhi.**