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## Inauguration of the first IARC Regional Hub for Cancer Registration

In collaboration with the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), the International Agency for Research on Cancer inaugurated the first IARC Regional Hub for Cancer Registration at the new facilities in the Homi Bhabha block of the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, India on 1 October 2012. The plaque was unveiled by Dr C.P. Wild, Director of IARC, together with Dr R.A. Badwe, Director of TMC. The ceremony was attended by Dr A. Garg, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in India, Dr P.K. Singh, Deputy Regional Director of the South East Asia Regional Office, and by Dr P. Rajaraman, Director of South Asia Programs, Center for Global Health, US NCI, based in Delhi.



The Mumbai Hub will provide the necessary support, training, advocacy and research opportunities to cancer registries across the 30 countries in South Central, South Eastern and South Asia. An important aspect of the Hub operations is an expanding programme of direct assistance to registries in the region via collaborative agreements with IARC. Three registries in Indonesia, Mongolia and Sri Lanka are being targeted initially for enhanced training and support in order to raise the profile of their registration activities in the context of national cancer control planning. The Registry Directors from Indonesia (Dr Sinuraya), Mongolia (Dr Purevsuren) and Sri Lanka (Dr Paranagama) attended the Inauguration and presented their respective registries in the context of current cancer control policies.

As part of the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (GICR <http://gicr.iarc.fr>), the Mumbai Hub at TMC is one of several IARC Hubs being launched across three continents to serve as local resource centres capable of providing developmental support towards, and for, population-based cancer registration in defined world regions. A second Hub located in Izmir, Turkey will be established in collaboration with the Turkish Ministry of Health in December 2012, tasked with assisting cancer registries in the 27 countries of Northern Africa and Western Asia. The African Cancer Registry Network (AFCRN <http://afcrn.org>) is acting as a consortium to provide Hub activities for cancer registries in Sub Saharan Africa. Negotiations are ongoing with respect to the establishment of a regional Hub for registries in Latin American and the Caribbean countries, foreseen to become operational in 2013.