



संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघका लागि नेपालको स्थायी नियोग
**PERMANENT MISSION OF NEPAL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA**

Ref. Ge. WHO/RD SEARO 2023/141

The Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the Director General, World Health Organization and with reference to the latter's note verbal dated 10 July 2023 has the honour to inform that the candidate of Nepal Dr. Shambhu Prasad Acharya for the post of the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organization would like to participate in the question-and-answer web forum.

The Mission has further the honour to inform that the candidate Dr. Acharya has accepted to post the curriculum vitae and contact information on the website and also requests to provide links to the individual website of the candidate.

The recent digital photo of Dr. Acharya is enclosed herewith.

The Permanent Mission of Nepal avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Director General, World Health Organization, the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 12 July 2023


Office of the Director General,
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia 1211
Geneva 27
Switzerland
Email: rdnomination@who.int

CURRICULUM VITAE:

Dr Shambhu Acharya

*Candidate for Regional Director of the World Health Organization (WHO)
Regional Office for South-East Asia*

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Family name (surname): Acharya First / other names: Shambhu Prasad	
Gender: Male	
Place and country of birth: Palpa, Nepal	Date of birth (Day/Month/Year): 04/06/1958
Citizenship: Nepalese	
If you have ever been found guilty of the violation of any law (except minor traffic violations) give full particulars: N/A	
Civil Status: Married	Number of dependents: 1
Address to which correspondence should be sent: 41 Aswini Marg Bashundhara Kathmandu - 3 Nepal	Mobile phone: +9779851334168 Email: acharyashambhu58@gmail.com

II. DEGREES OBTAINED

Degree obtained	Issuing Institution
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Public Health Major area: Health Policy and Financing	Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA (1995)
Master of Arts (MA), Sociology Major area: Social Policy	Ball State University, Indiana, USA (1989)
Master of Business Administration (MBA) Major area: Public Finance and Strategic Management	Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, India (1981)
Bachelor of Business Administration and Commerce (BBAC) Major area: Strategic Management and Public Finance	Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal (1978)

III. KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES

		Mother Tongue	Speak	Read	Write
<p>For language other than mother tongue, enter the appropriate number from the code below to indicate the level of your language knowledge. If no knowledge, please leave blank.</p> <p>CODE:</p> <p>1. Limited conversation, reading of newspapers, routine correspondences</p> <p>2. Engage freely in discussions, read, and write more difficult material</p> <p>3. Fluent (nearly) as in mother tongue</p>	Arabic				
	Chinese				
	English		3	3	3
	French		1	1	1
	Spanish				
	Russian				
	Others (please specify):				
	Nepali	Yes	3	3	3
	Hindi		2	2	2
	Bengali		1	1	1

IV. POSITIONS HELD

Please indicate here the positions and work experience held during your professional career, with the corresponding dates, duties, achievements/accomplishments, and responsibilities. Additional pages may be added.

Director, Country Strategy and Support, Office of the Director-General, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland (2013 – Present)

I provide strategic direction and vision across a multidisciplinary programme of work within the department at WHO headquarters, bringing cohesion to the Organization's global health policies and organizational needs across its three levels to achieve results and impact in countries. I oversee 152 country offices and work across all pillars at headquarters and provide high-level advice and guidance to the Director-General and senior management. Key achievement(s):

- ***Provision of country intelligence and strategic information for policy dialogue:***
 - I provide timely, incisive advice to the WHO Director-General on political, diplomatic, and public health matters for meetings with political leaders and senior national officials and during country visits.
 - Under my leadership, WHO produced and widely disseminated a collection of 80 country experiences on WHO support to its member states on the COVID-19 pandemic response.
- ***Strengthening country-level leadership on policy and diplomacy to support member states in achieving the Triple Billion Targets and SDGs:***
 - I lead the organization of the WHO Global Management Meeting on policy dialogue among senior management across the Organization and the development of a plan of action for strengthening WHO's presence and work in countries.
 - I oversee the WHO country-level leadership enhancement process.
 - I lead the capacity development of country-level teams to provide a framework for policymakers to help them better understand the interconnectedness of the health-related SDG targets and goals.
- ***Positioning health in the UN system:***
 - I represented WHO and its agenda in the UN High-Level Committee on Programmes.
 - As a member of the UNDG, I actively engaged in UN reform processes and successfully positioned health within the UN Strategic Cooperation Framework and country teams.

Coordinator and Senior Public Health Officer, Department of Country Focus, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland (2007 – 2013, 2002 – 2007)

I drove the WHO Country Focus agenda for results in countries through building WHO country offices' capacities and streamlined the management and competency development of WHO country teams. Key achievement(s):

- ***Establishing WHO's country cooperation strategies:***
 - I was a founding member of the WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) for putting countries at the center of WHO's work.
- ***Engaging external partners and positioning WHO in the UN system:***

- I coordinated WHO's participation in the Multilateral Organizations Performance Assessment and Joint Inspections Unit evaluations on WHO's partnership and performance at country level.
- I led the development of guidance on WHO's country cooperation strategy to shape the health dimension of the UN Development Assistance Framework.
- I successfully led the survey and reporting on monitoring of aid effectiveness and Paris Declaration principles.
- ***Developing effective partnerships with funds and foundations:***
 - I led the defining of WHO's role in implementing resources from the Global Fund and GAVI at country level.
- ***Leading policy dialogue:***
 - I led dialogues with ministers of health, environment, planning, and finance.

Senior Public Health Specialist, Department of Health Financing and Stewardship, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland (1999 – 2002)

I initiated and guided the development of the Organization's response to issues relating to health policy analysis, strategic planning, and management. Key achievement(s):

- I participated in the design and development of a health systems performance framework for member countries.
- I contributed to the work on strengthening health systems through immunization programme initiatives.
- I established linkages across health systems strengthening and technical programs, working across departments and technical areas.

National Health Systems and Policies Officer, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, New Delhi, India (1997 – 1999)

I served as Regional Technical Adviser to member states and the Regional Office in health financing, planning, and management. Key achievement(s):

- I established the Asia Pacific Health Economics Network on behalf of WHO South-East Asia Region in close collaboration with member states.
- I presented, at the invitation of the Government of Japan's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health, on the implications of health crises in East Asia together with the Asian Development Bank in Tokyo.

Programme Manager, World Health Organization, Dhaka, Bangladesh (1992 –1997)

I coordinated and managed 25 out of 64 sub-projects with an estimated budget of US \$86 million under the Fourth Population and Health Project funded by the World Bank and 11 co-financiers.

Long-term Consultant, World Bank, and Resident Mission for Bangladesh Fourth Population and Health Project, Washington, DC, and Bangladesh (1991 – 1992)

I prepared project implementation volume for 72 project subcomponents, which was adopted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as its main monitoring tool for the Fourth Population and Health Project.

Director, Branches Division, Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN), Kathmandu, Nepal (1985 – 1987)

I oversaw 250+ staff and 20 community-based family planning and maternal health projects. I established the field (branch) division and significantly strengthened capacity of field offices.

Project Director Community-based Nutrition Project, funded by CEDPA/USA under Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN), Kathmandu, Nepal (1982 – 1985)

I developed a community-based health and nutrition project for five rural districts of Nepal and oversaw their effective implementation.

Additional Positions

Board and Faculty Appointments:

- Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Global Health, University of Washington, Seattle, USA (2022 – Present)
- Academic Advisory Board Member, College of Health Sciences, University of Sharjah, UAE (2021 – Present)
- Governing Board Member, UN System Staff College nominated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez (2016 – 2018)
- Member, UN High Level Committee on Programme (2015 – 2018)
- Member, United Nations Development Group in policy formulation and implementation in relation to UN reform (2013 – 2017)
- Adjunct Faculty, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA (2014 – 2017)

Professional Activities:

- Editorial Adviser, Bulletin of the World Health Organization (2012 – Present)
- Member, Global Evaluation Network, World Health Organization (2012 – 2016)
- Chair, Health Leadership Development Officer Committee, World Health Organization (2004)
- Member, WHO Transformation Agenda, Country Focus Committee (2017 and 2018)
- Secretary, Task Force on Health in Development, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, New Delhi, India (1998)
- Member, Working Group on WHO Managerial Process, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (1998)

V. PUBLICATIONS

- Ranabhat C, Acharya S, Adhikari C, Kim CB. Universal health coverage evolution, ongoing trend, and future challenge: A conceptual and historical policy review. *Frontiers in Public Health*. Forthcoming in 2023.
- Coates A, Warren KT, Henderson C, McPherson M, Obubah O, Graaff P, Acharya S. The World Health Organization's frontline support to countries during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. *Frontiers in Public Health*. 2022.
- Yadav U, Mistry S, Ghimire S, Schneider C, Rawal L, Acharya S, Harris-Roxas B, Harris M. Recognizing the roles of primary health care in addressing non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries: Lesson from COVID-19, implications for the future. *Journal of Global Health*. 2021.
- Acharya S, Lin V, Dhingra N. The role of health in achieving sustainable goals. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. 2018.
- Ranabhat C, Kim C, Park M, Acharya S. Multiple disparities in adult mortality in relation to social and health care perspective: results from different data sources, *Globalization and Health*. 2017.
- Dye C, Acharya S. How can Sustainable Development Goals improve global health? *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. 2017.
- Ullrich A, Acharya S. Making cancer control part of the health agenda: The World Health Organization's country cooperation strategy and comprehensive cancer control planning. *Cancer Control*. 2015
- Zurn P, Romisch M, Acharya S, Barber S; Menabde N, Migliorini L, Molina J, O'Leary M. BRICS and global health: A call for papers. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. 2013.
- Acharya S: Contracting in commercial sector, a chapter in *Contracting*, World Health Organization. Edited by Jean Perrot. 2003
- Thomas S, Killingsworth J, Acharya S. User-fees, self-selection and the poor in Bangladesh. *Health Policy and Planning*. 1998.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Please list hobbies, sports, skills and any other relevant facts that might help in the evaluation of your application.

- A strong believer in WHO's "move for health" motto, I run and hike regularly and advocate for regular exercise.
- I enjoy engaging with youth and their innovative ideas to improve global health.
- I am an avid reader of books on leadership, diplomacy, and global health.
- I enjoy music, especially for meditation.

VII. WRITTEN STATEMENT

Please evaluate how you meet each of the “Criteria of candidates for the post of the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region of World Health Organization”. In so doing, please make reference to specific elements of your curriculum vitae to support your evaluation. The criteria that should be used for assessing candidates for the post of Regional Director are contained in resolution SEA/RC65/R1, Annex C and are the following:

- (1) A strong technical and public health background and extensive experience in global health;*
- (2) Competency in organizational management;*
- (3) Proven historical evidence for public health leadership;*
- (4) Sensitiveness to cultural, social, and political differences;*
- (5) A strong commitment to the work of WHO;*
- (6) The good physical condition required of all staff members of the Organization;*
- (7) Commitment to personal compliance with the WHO policy on non-recruitment of smokers or other tobacco users; and*
- (8) Sufficient skill in the official working language of the Region*

“Think global, act local, stay humble.” This motto represents the most important principles, priorities and perspectives that have guided me along a 30+ year career, starting from rural Nepal up through the present, where I have become an internationally recognized global health leader working at the helm of WHO with the Director-General and other global leaders.

Born in a farmer’s family in a rural village of western Nepal, I experienced lack of access to basic health and essential services and its significant effects on health, education, and human capital. From an early age, I was passionate about improving health at the national, regional, and global level.

(1) Technical Background

My strong technical and public health background and extensive experience in global health stems from working in several countries across six regions at the local, national, and global level.

I started my career at the Family Planning Association of Nepal, leading programs, building capacity of staff in 41 of Nepal’s 75 districts, and traveling to 64 districts, often trekking more than a week to visit remote health centers to interact with community workers and residents. To learn how to transform their needs into population-level impact, I obtained a master’s degree in social policy and a PhD in global public health at a top university in the United States. During

my studies, I wrote several technical papers in health and population and consulted for the World Bank, contributing to the development, appraisal and negotiation of a major health and population project with the Government of Bangladesh. Subsequently, I worked with WHO, managing health and population projects totaling USD 86 million. I played an instrumental role in building strong partnerships and developing key monitoring and reporting tools for ensuring transparency and accountability of resources.

After nearly six years in Bangladesh with the World Bank and WHO where I travelled to the country's remotest areas to administer polio drops and oversee TB and leprosy prevention and control programmes, I moved to the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office as a National Health System and Policies Officer. I played a key role in establishing the Asia Pacific Health Economics Network to build the health financing capacity of member states and advocate for health sector budgets, during a time when countries faced economic and financial crises.

In 1999, I moved to WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, assuming various technical, managerial, and senior positions. I have provided counsel on health policy and health systems and technical advice on health financing, health systems and health and the SDGs. I possess substantial diplomatic and policy experience from working across all three levels of WHO.

My transdisciplinary experience spans health systems, epidemiology, health security, planning, policy, monitoring and evaluation and public health partnership building across sectors and government agencies.

(2) Organizational Management

I have more than 25 years of an unblemished and exemplary record as a manager, coordinator, and director. I have effectively promoted gender equality, equity, and diversity at WHO, and I empower my staff to progress, innovate, and succeed. My positive demeanor, dedication, work ethic, and commitment to a shared vision enable me to build lasting, impactful relationships and results. In a recent 360-degree assessment, my peers and supervisor gave me one of the highest rates in this current position. In 2016, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon nominated me to serve on the UN System Staff College Board, which was extended by current Secretary-General António Guterres to 2019.

(3) Public Health Leadership

I have served in high-level policy and strategy leadership positions at all levels of WHO, working directly alongside the Director-General and other senior leaders – including during the COVID-19 pandemic – and meeting with heads of government, ministers, ambassadors, and other high-level political leaders and senior national officials. I contribute to nuanced dialogues in numerous countries across the world in defining WHO's medium-term strategic agenda for technical cooperation with member states.

I have represented WHO as a member of various UN bodies, successfully positioning and advocating for health and WHO's priorities within the UN development agenda and strategic cooperation frameworks.

I have led several WHO initiatives at all levels, including the development of a plan of action on strengthening WHO technical cooperation at country level. As Executive Secretary, I organized several successful global policy dialogues with WHO representatives from across the world, facilitating discussions on emerging global and country-level health issues and effective WHO and country cooperation.

Two former WHO Director-Generals, Dr. Margaret Chan and Dr. Lee Jong-wook, have publicly recognized my leadership and significant contributions to substantial progress made by WHO.

(4) Cultural, Social, And Political Sensitivity

From missions to 100+ countries, I have witnessed the complex, diverse needs and challenges of everyday people. I always strongly advocate for human rights, non-discrimination, diversity, inclusion, and equality, including gender equality, for everyone, everywhere.

(5) Commitment to the Work of WHO

I understand and believe in the work of WHO, evidenced through my extensive career at WHO at all three levels. I will work to achieve the GPW13 priorities and health-related SDGs, while leaving no one behind, ensuring a sustainable recovery from COVID-19, and rebuilding systems to better address future challenges.

I have published extensively on health, development, policy, and systems, including as an editorial advisor of the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* since 2012. I have helped strengthen WHO and have introduced many innovative ideas and tools, for example: i) Country Cooperation Strategies; ii) country case studies; and iii) WHO Country Presence Report.

(6) Good Physical Condition

I stay physically and mentally fit by running and hiking regularly.

(7) Commitment WHO policy on non-recruitment of smokers or other tobacco users

I am a life-long non-smoker and will ban the use of tobacco products in WHO offices in countries and the South-East Asia Region.

(8) Sufficient skill in the official working language of the Region

I am fluent in Nepali (mother tongue) and English, proficient in Hindi, and beginner in Bengali.

VIII. VISION

Please state your vision of priorities and strategies for the World Health Organization, in particular the South-East Asia Region.

Our Region is home to over one quarter of the world's population and one quarter of the world's potential health and well-being. The health of the people of our Region – particularly those left furthest behind – must become an enormous source of pride.

My Vision: Our Health. Our Region. Our Pride.

I envision a WHO South-East Asia Region that is fit for the future to support countries to achieve their national health objectives built around the WHO Triple Billion Targets and the SDGs. I will promote and guide a reorientation of Universal Health Coverage across the Region that is primary health care-focused, rights-based, gender-responsive, people-centered, locally tailored and quality- and equity-driven. I dream of a Region where health is center in all sectors and all policies.

My Mission, for everyone, everywhere: Health promotion, provision and protection, and powering innovation and performance.

In line with WHO's global five 'P' priorities, I will focus SEARO efforts in five areas.

1. Promote Health and Well-Being Approaches that Impact Population Health

I will lead countries toward a fundamental shift to health promotion, disease and injury prevention, and planetary health, by addressing their root causes through collaboration and action across all sectors, all sections of government and society, including through social movements.

Key Actions:

- *Learn and share lessons on meaningful community engagement.*
- *Advocate for and provide tools for results-driven multi-sectoral responses.*
- *Prioritize issues of climate change, planetary health, air pollution and decarbonizing the health system in the Region.*
- *Support member states in addressing social, economic, and commercial determinants of health.*

2. Accelerate Universal Health Coverage with Strong, Inclusive Primary Health Care to Achieve Health-Related SDGs

I will guide countries to accelerate progress on eliminating key communicable diseases, dramatically scale up WHO Best Buys for noncommunicable disease prevention and control, rejuvenate the primary health care system to ensure services are affordable and accessible to all while expanding gains made in maternal, newborn, and child health and sexual and reproductive health, and boost preparedness efforts to protect against health emergencies.

Key Actions:

- *Mobilize increased investments for health.*
 - *Expand, support, and retain a high-quality health workforce.*
 - *Create a systematic approach to health care delivery grounded in primary health care.*
 - *Keep the promise of eliminating communicable and neglected tropical diseases.*
 - *Pivot to address shifts in the Region’s disease burden—scale up services to address noncommunicable diseases.*
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3. Prepare for and Protect from Future Pandemics and Emergencies

I will enable countries and Regional institutions to benefit from the IHR revisions and pandemic treaty, strengthen real time surveillance and mobilize new resources for development of diagnostics, drugs and vaccines, while combatting antimicrobial resistance and stepping up collaboration on One Health.

Key Actions:

- *Enhance surveillance systems to mobilize rapid action through time bound targets.*
 - *Establish a Regional Rapid Health Response Team.*
 - *Develop a Regional Blueprint for Comprehensive Responses to Novel Pathogens.*
 - *Strengthen the ‘One Health’ approach, address antimicrobial resistance, and manage zoonotic diseases.*
 - *Launch ‘Catch-up Action Plans’ to recover lost ground and momentum on UHC and specific disease elimination efforts.*
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4. Innovate and Digitize to Accelerate Health Equity and Solidarity

I will support innovation and use of novel data tools and state-of-the-art point-of-care products to reach everyone, everywhere and digital health and technology to bridge inequity.

Key Actions:

- *Deliver quality health care through innovation.*
 - *Leap frog access to health care.*
 - *Harness digitization, programme implementation science and monitoring.*
 - *Strengthen capacity in data generation and data use in decision making and policy making.*
 - *Align medicine production, distribution, and storage in the Region to global standards.*
-

5. Champion “One WHO” to Enhance Country Support Across Three Levels

I will support three game-changers: delegation of authority to country offices for rapid responses to country needs; better communication and coordination across the Organization’s three levels

to ensure HQ and partners better respond to Regional priorities; and a cadre of diverse talents on equity, gender and inclusion to inform WHO business models and engagements.

Key Actions:

- *Ramp up Regional leadership in global decision-making.*
- *Undertake knowledge brokering and showcase the Region's potential, assets, and innovation as global public goods.*
- *Establish and capitalize a Regional Health Fund.*
- *Ensure greater sustainability and predictability of finance for WHO country offices.*
- *Cultivate a strong, fair, and safe SEARO.*

View my full vision statement at www.health4seasia.com