A meeting held on 7th December 2015 at CPSP Karachi to discussed new proposals for item writing for Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCHS). The meeting was chaired by Prof. Zafar Ullah Chaudhry, President CPSP and participated by Dr. Imran Siddiqui (SCHS), Prof. Khalid Masood Gondal, Prof. Mahmood Ayyaz, Prof. Rukhsana Zuberi, Prof. Muhammad Tayyab, Prof. Amer Zaman Khan, Maj. Gen® Salman Ali, Prof. Javed Raza Gardezi, Prof. Rakshanda Rehman, Prof. Asghar Naqi, Dr. Sirajul Haque Shaikh, Dr. Maneeza Kishwar.

President informed the participants that MCQs developed in accordance with the International Standards and accepted by Saudi Health Commission is credited worth $ 20/- for each MCQ for the person who develops and College gets an additional $ 10/.

Dr. Imran Siddiqui, Senior Specialist, Department of Medical Education and Postgraduate Studies of SCHS briefed the participants about working of Saudi Health Commission, the regulatory body for both undergraduate and postgraduate training and registration of medical, dental and allied specialties. He informed that SCHS conducts:

- Board exams and
- licensure exams for:
  - Non Saudi graduates
  - Graduates of private medical/dental colleges of Saudi Arabia

The licensure exams are held daily at multiple centers all over the world.

In 2013, CPSP was requested Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCHS) to collaborate in improving the quality of licensure examination and an MOU was signed for developing single best MCQs in seven specialties.

The submitted MCQs are first Compiled and formatted to DME (CPSP) and there after forwarded for editorial review to specialty doctors. After modifications MCQs are then formtated to SCHS. In initial stage compromise was made on review by subject specialists in order to increase the item pool. Later on practice of psychometric analysis was introduced; this is carried out every six months on randomly selected items and flagged items are then sent for review by subject specialist.

The new proposal entails expanding the item writing project from seven (7) to Twenty Six (26) medical and seven dental specialties as informed by Dr. Imran Siddiqui on behalf of the SCHS.

He also made a presentation highlighting the format of MCQ items for SCHS and told that it is desirable that the submitted MCQs should have 30% K1 (recall) items and 70% of K2 (problem solving) category.

After formal presentation, participants of meeting discussed the strategies to meet requirements of new proposal at the College level.

Maximum number of registration will be Thirty Five (35) and submission of one MCQ according to the CPSP format will be mandatory for registration. CPSP Instructions for writing Single Best Answer will be sent with the initial invitation to the supervisors.