World TB Day 2017 was commemorated in Pakistan with great enthusiasm and increased public participation this year. It was special due to a new campaign “Light up the world for TB” this year, Stop TB Partnership, Geneva Switzerland. The main purpose of the campaign is to draw attention of general public, communities all over the world to understand the threat of TB epidemic. Pakistan is a high TB burden country and stands 5th on the WHO list of high burden countries. There are several successes achieved over the years by better planning and smart strategies being adopted by the stakeholders in Pakistan.

Stop TB Pakistan (National Partnership) in coordination with its provincial chapters and partners Provincial TB Programs and National TB Program organized the campaign and made arrangements for lighting up the public buildings, national monuments and heritage sites in the country.
In Balochistan Province, celebrations started earlier on 21st March 2017, due to 23rd March National Day Celebrations in Pakistan. STP Balochistan Chapter and PTP Balochistan together organized the lighting up event at the Quaid-e-Azam residency, Ziarat, Balochistan. Father of the nation, lived his last seventy days in
this residency before he died of TB disease. Ziarat is a beautiful hill station of Balochistan province. Dr. Saeedullah Khan, STP Provincial Coordinator, Dr. Ahmad Wali, STP Focal Person and Dr. Sultan Ahmad Lehri, PTP Manager Balochistan together organised the event and gave a joint press release.

In Sindh Province, STP Sindh Chapter in coordination with PTP Sindh organized various events both in urban and rural Sindh. In Karachi four important public/historical building i.e., Karachi Metropolitan Corporation Building, Frere Hall, Khaliq Dina Hall and Centre Point Building, were enlightened on 24th March 2017. Mayor of the City of Karachi, Mr. Wasim Akhtar on the occasion stood by the side of Stop TB Pakistan executives as solidarity. Mr. Wasim Akhter talking to the media said that to save our next generation from the menace of TB and other such diseases, we should act now and together to eradicate life threatening diseases from Pakistan. We the Stop TB Pakistan also thank Dr. Arshad Vohra (Deputy Mayor of Karachi City) for making arrangements for lighting up three most important historical buildings in the city. Stop TB Pakistan also thanked Mr. Jameel Yousuf, Director, Trakker Group for helping in lighting up Centre Point Building on world TB Day.

Buildings in Karachi City lit-up in red lights on World TB Day 2017

Karachi Metropolitan Corporation Building, lit-up in red lights.
Mayor of the city of Karachi, Mr. Wasim Akhter in the center.

A bird eye view of Frere Hall, Karachi
Frere Hall building front side (Bagh-e-Jinnah) Karachi lit up in red lights
Trakker Building Karachi near KPT Interchange lit-up in red lights.