

Advisory Council on AIDS

Report for August 1994 – July 1995

Hong Kong

Preface

This is the second annual report of the Advisory Council on AIDS compiled by the Council's Secretariat. Established in 1990, the Council has been actively working towards the development of strategies for the prevention, care and control of HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. It is also taking on a coordinating role in the implementation of the local programme.

1995 is a special year as it marks the tenth year since AIDS was first reported in Hong Kong. To document the progress of Hong Kong's AIDS programme, the report summarizes all activities undertaken by the Council and its committees/working groups in the past one year, and gives a brief description of its historical development since 1985. As it is a concise report, details of AIDS campaigns, service provision, formulated policies and guidelines are not included. Readers are welcome to contact the Secretariat if these are required.

Finally, the Advisory Council on AIDS invites comments on all aspects of programme development. This report is part of the continuing process of strengthening communication among the Council, government departments and NGOs involved in AIDS prevention, care and control in Hong Kong.

Secretariat
Advisory Council on AIDS
Hong Kong
August 1995

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1. HIV/AIDS Situation in Hong Kong

Introduction

The first case of AIDS in Hong Kong was reported in February 1985. In the same year, 55 persons were found to be infected with HIV when the sero-epidemiological surveillance programme started operation in April. To document the extent of HIV/AIDS epidemic in Hong Kong, three major methods of data collection have since been used :

HIV/AIDS voluntary reporting system
Surveillance among selected groups
Unlinked anonymous screening (UAS)

Voluntary Reporting System

As of 30 June 1995, the cumulative number of reported HIV infection was 573. Among them, 148 have developed AIDS. Of the HIV-infected cases, 66% were Chinese and 83% were in the age range of 20-49 years. Male to female ratio was 9.4:1. However, more women are becoming affected recently. Of the 55 infected women, 21(38%) were diagnosed in the past one year. Overall, sexual transmission accounted for 78% of all reported infection. The proportion of heterosexually acquired infection has been steadily increasing in the last couple of years. (figure)

Among the reported cases of HIV infection, 12% are blood or blood products recipients who acquired the infection before screening of donated blood and heat/detergent treated clotting factors were available in 1985. Injecting drug use accounts for only 2% of all cases. The first case of perinatally acquired infection was reported in June 1994, and the

second case in the same month the following year.

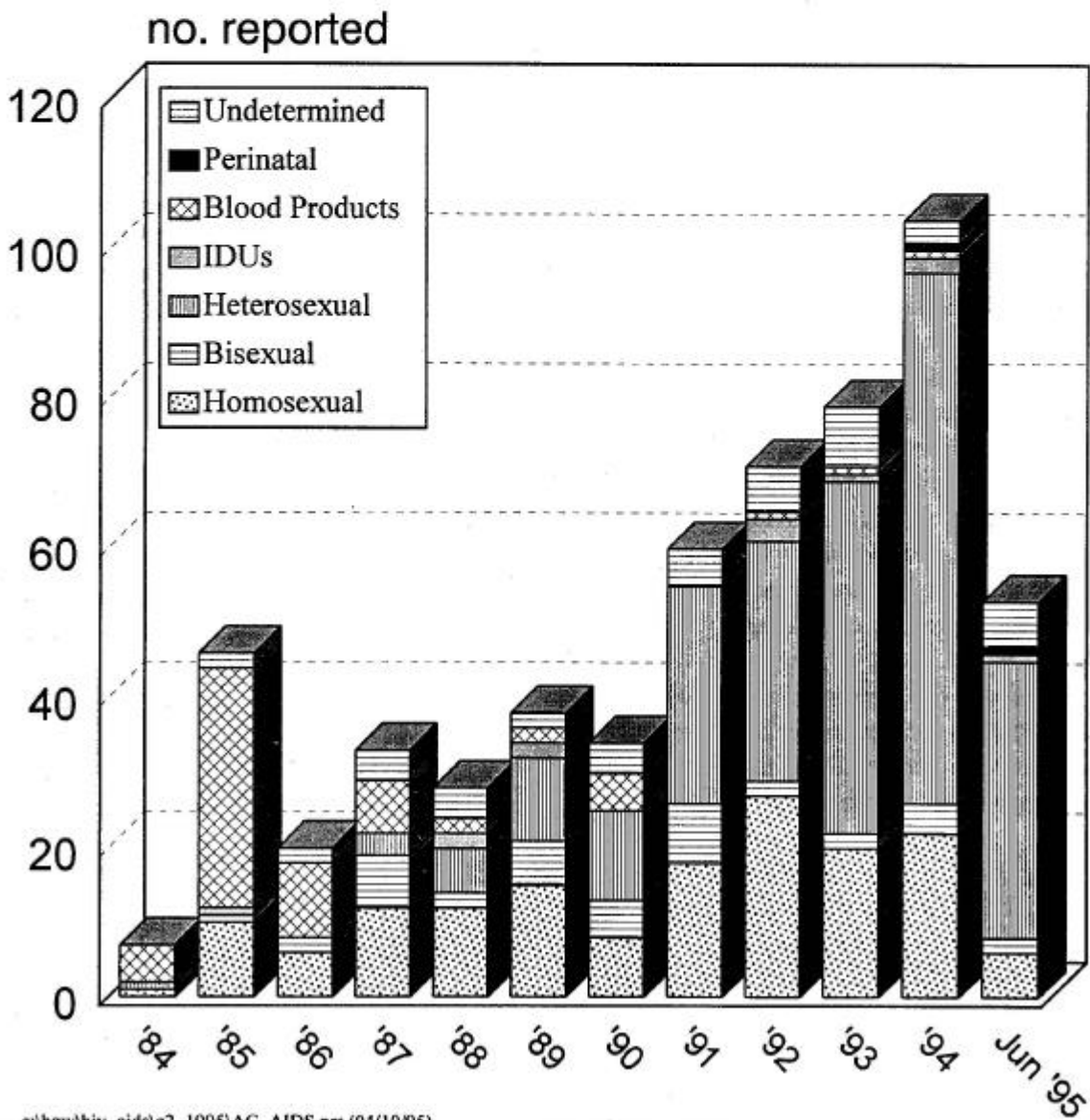
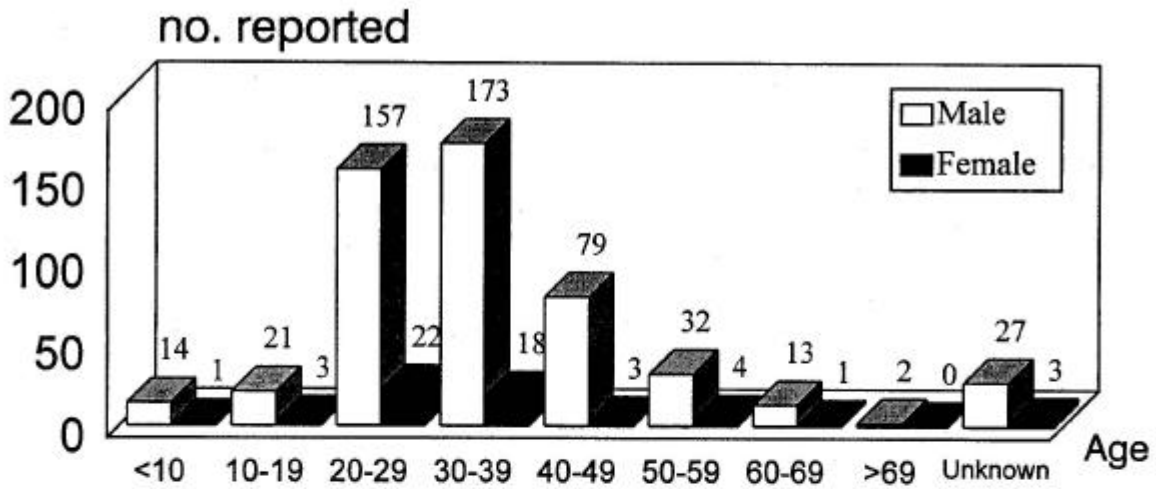
Surveillance among Selected Groups

HIV antibody tests have been offered to clients of STD clinics (Social Hygiene Clinics) and drug users attending Methadone clinics and other drug rehabilitation services since 1985. The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service has also regularly screened all donated blood collected since August 1985. The prevalence rates have remained low : < 0.01% among blood donors and < 0.1% among STD patients and drug users.

Unlinked Anonymous Screening

As a supplement to the above two programmes, unlinked anonymous screening (UAS) was introduced in November 1990. To date, UAS has been regularly conducted in the following groups : clients of Methadone Clinics, prisoners, neonates, street addicts, and TB (tuberculosis) patients. So far, only twelve positive cases have been identified out of about 44689 samples tested in the last 4¹/₂ years. The studies have confirmed that the HIV prevalence in Hong Kong is lower than 0.1%. As a regular exercise, UAS is now implemented under the supervision of the Scientific Committee of the Advisory Council on AIDS.

Reported HIV Infection in Hong Kong 1984 - June 1995



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2. Historical Development of Hong Kong's AIDS Programme

The development of the Hong Kong AIDS programme can be divided into the following three phases :

The Initial Phase 1984 - 1986

At a time when less than 15,000 AIDS cases were reported worldwide and before the first AIDS case was diagnosed in Hong Kong, an *Expert Committee on AIDS* was set up by the then Medical & Health Department in November 1984 to "... discuss and review the medical aspects of AIDS and to work out a plan necessary for monitoring and managing the disease when required." A *Scientific Working Group (SWG)* was subsequently formed to implement medical, surveillance and public health activities. Between 1984 and 1986, the main emphasis of the AIDS programme was to rapidly establish an infra-structure necessary for the containment of the disease.

The key achievements of the initial phase were :

(a) Safeguarding Blood and Blood Products

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service commenced screening of all donated blood for HIV antibody since August 1985. In July of the same year, the Medical & Health Department procured the safer heat-treated blood product to replace all old stock of blood products used in public hospitals, thus eliminating the risk of HIV infection to haemophiliacs through exposure to contaminated blood products.

(b) Initiation of the Surveillance Programme

A surveillance programme was initiated in 1985 to monitor HIV prevalence among certain groups, namely : haemophiliacs, patients of social hygiene clinics, prisoners. The programme was

later extended to cover semen donors, clients of drug treatment and rehabilitation centres, and health care workers having sustained accidental exposure to contaminated blood.

(c) Provision of Clinical Service

The Special Medical Consultation Clinic was established in September 1985 to handle enquiries from doctors on matters relating to AIDS and to provide HIV test to clients on an anonymous and confidential basis. A telephone counselling service began operation in November 1985 for persons who believed themselves to be at risk.

(d) Initiation of Awareness Campaigns

Publicity and health education materials were produced to arouse awareness towards the disease and its related risk behaviours. The importance of safer sex and risk reduction in drug use were stressed.

The Intensification Phase 1987 – 1990

The Government felt the need of intensifying the programme, and to pay particular attention to publicity, education and counselling :

(a) Publicity

The *Committee on Education & Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS)* was established in January 1987. In the same year, the *Publicity Working Group* was set up under CEPAIDS to formulate publicity strategies and oversee their implementation. From 1987 to 1990, it produced 10 promotional films for screening on television. It also organized publicity activities at annual World AIDS Days. During the period, a whole range of printed materials including

leaflets, newsletters, stickers, posters, comic books etc. were produced.

(b) Education and Training

From 1987 to 1990, 230 talks were delivered to 76,087 students by the AIDS Counselling & Health Education Service of the Medical & Health Department. Seminars were regularly organized for teachers, social workers and staff of drug rehabilitation programmes. Guidelines and information booklets were compiled and distributed to doctors, nurses and teachers.

(c) Counselling

An AIDS Counselling Hotline (2780 2211) was established by the Medical & Health Department for answering public enquiries on all aspects of AIDS. Between 1,000 to 1,600 enquiries were handled per month. A significant proportion of infected persons were followed up at the Special Medical Consultation Clinic.

The Consolidation Phase 1990 – 1994

The expansion of the AIDS programme had led to the call for better coordination and the development of a substantive effort towards AIDS prevention and control. With the establishment of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) in 1990, the AIDS programme became streamlined. An increase in community involvement was witnessed.

(a) Streamlined Organizational Structure

The ACA was established in March 1990 to review and interpret trends and development relating to HIV/AIDS, and to advise the Director of Health on all aspects of the AIDS programme. CEPAIDS was put under the ACA, and restructured to incorporate the following working groups : research and evaluation, publicity, training of intermediaries, drug abuse & AIDS, community, schools/students and youth.

The SWG became the operational arm of the Council on matters of epidemiology, surveillance, clinical care and guidelines establishment.

At the end of the year 1993, the ACA was restructured and has since been underpinned by three committees, each focusing on a specific aspect of the programme. The three committees are : Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA), AIDS Services Development Committee (ASDC) and the Committee on Education & Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS).

(b) Increased Community Involvement

There was a marked increase in community involvement, as evidenced in the following two aspects :

- (i) The Government Programme – There was multi-sectoral representation at the ACA and its committees/working groups to the effect that the majority of conveners and members were community leaders, professionals and representatives of voluntary agencies rather than government officials.
- (ii) Non-governmental Organizations – AIDS Concern was formed in 1990, then the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation in late 1991. By 1993, both had established their status as organizations providing community education as well as counselling and support service to people living with HIV/AIDS. Various new organizations were formed in the following years, such as Action for REACH OUT, Society for AIDS Care, AIDS Memorial Quilt Project, HIV Information & Drop-in Centre of the St. John's Cathedral. A Committee on AIDS was also formed within the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in late 1994.

(c) Expanded Surveillance

The Unlinked Anonymous Screening (UAS) programme was introduced in 1990 to supplement the surveillance system already in force. UAS has been undertaken for neonates, TB patients, prisoners and drug abusers (see Chapter 2).

(d) Structured Educational Programme

Under the CEP/AIDS structure, AIDS educational activities were either developed by its working groups or conducted as regular programmes of government departments or voluntary agencies. Essentially, educational programmes were implemented at three levels, namely :

- (i) General Public – through the effort of the *Publicity Working Group* and the regular media events organized by the Department of Health.
- (ii) Community Groups – programmes were designed to tailor to the needs of different community groups. The various working groups of CEP/AIDS targeted respectively the schools/students, health care workers, teachers and other intermediaries, drug users, workforce, students, youth etc.
- (iii) People Practising High Risk Behaviours – through the Department of Health's AIDS Unit (formerly the AIDS Counselling & Health Education service), and through liaison with special groups, e.g. commercial sex workers, homosexuals etc.

(e) The AIDS Trust Fund

The AIDS Trust Fund was set up with \$350M by the Government in early 1993 to offer exgratia payment to haemophiliacs who became HIV-infected through transfusion of contaminated blood/blood products before August 1985. The Fund can also be used to

finance medical/support service projects and publicity/education projects.

The Current AIDS Programme

The Hong Kong AIDS programme has evolved from a health-initiated programme to a multi-sectoral one involving both government and community efforts. It is supervised by the ACA, with operational support provided by government departments, the Hospital Authority and non-governmental organization (NGOs). In addition to the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation and AIDS Concern, other NGOs also participate actively in the AIDS programme e.g. the Caritas, SARDA, Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, Hong Kong Red Cross, the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Hong Kong Children & Youth Service.

In January 1994, the Department of Health's AIDS Unit was relocated to the Yaumatei Jockey Club Clinic, with improved facilities for delivering services to people with HIV/AIDS, as well as for conducting counselling and health education activities. The Hospital Authority, other government departments and non-governmental organizations also participate in the delivery of service to people with HIV/AIDS. In summary, activities provided by the current programme in Hong Kong are enumerated below :

- (a) *Epidemiological surveillance & analysis, HIV reporting, UAS*
- (b) *Development of guidelines for professionals on the prevention, control and management of HIV infection*
- (c) *General (including media) publicity*
- (d) *AIDS education & training programmes for targeted groups*
- (e) *HIV antibody test, counselling, infoline and hotline services*
- (f) *HIV clinical management and support service, home care*
- (g) *Infection control*
- (h) *Ensuring safety of blood/blood products*

3. Advisory Council on AIDS

Introduction

The Expert Committee on AIDS formed in 1984 was transformed into the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) in 1990 to better cope with the epidemic. The third term of the ACA came into office with effect from 1 August 1994. The membership of the third term (August 1994 to July 1996) is shown at Appendix A.

With the object of promoting community participation, ACA's membership has included community leaders, professionals and representatives of voluntary agencies. To further consolidate the role and status of the ACA as a central advisory body to the government on AIDS policy, the terms of reference have been revised :

- (a) To keep under review local and international trends and developments relating to HIV infection and AIDS; and
- (b) To advise Government on effective programmes for prevention of AIDS and support services for HIV-infected persons and on further development of a comprehensive strategy on AIDS.

The ACA is now underpinned by three committees, each supported by working groups and sub-committees. The committees are :

- a) *Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) - the former Scientific Working Group renamed*
- b) *AIDS Services Development Committee (ASDC)*
- c) *Committee on Education & Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS)*

The third term of the ACA had met four times, as follows :

first meeting	17 October 1994
second meeting	17 January 1995

third meeting	24 April 1995
fourth meeting	17 July 1995

HIV Infection and the Health Care Workers – Recommended Guidelines

Following the self-disclosure of HIV status by a dentist in Hong Kong in November 1992 and the resultant public concern over the possibility of HIV infection in the health care setting, the ACA commissioned in late 1992 a Special Working Group to draw up a set of guidelines on HIV infection and the health care workers. The membership of this Special Working Group is shown at Appendix A. In the drafting process, consultation had been made with the Medical/Dental Associations/Councils. The ACA endorsed the guidelines in January 1994 and had it printed into a booklet. The initial 8,000 copies had been issued to the Hospital Authority, medical and dental associations, associations of supplementary medical professions, all practising doctors & dentists in the territory. Additional 3,000 copies had to be printed to meet with continuing demands from the health care professions.

The set of guidelines was an important document in that it addressed not only the issue of HIV-infected health care workers but also the broader issue of preventing HIV transmission through medical/dental procedures.

Expert Panel on HIV-infected Health Care Workers

In accordance with the recommendation of the Special Working Group, an expert panel on HIV-infected health care workers was formed by the Director of Health in March 1994. The panel

serves to advise on the management of HIV-infected health care workers and to consider whether job modification or restriction is warranted, as and when advice is sought by the attending doctor of an HIV-infected health care worker. A case-by-case approach is adopted in considering all factors which may influence the degree of risk and work performance.

The expert panel had met to work out procedures on handling of cases. A referral system for attending physicians who take care of HIV-infected health care workers has been established. A meeting would be convened by the Panel within 7 days upon receipt of the referral. As of the end of March 1995, no cases have been referred to the panel for advice.

In mid-1995, letters have been sent to the medical and nursing associations to remind health care staff of the established guidelines and the need of seeking advice from the expert panel.

ACA Newsfile

To keep members of the Council posted on the global epidemiological trend of AIDS and development of the local AIDS programme, the Council Secretariat has, since January 1994, commenced issuing a monthly newsletter, the *ACA Newsfile*, for the information of members of the ACA and all its committees and working groups. Edited by Consultant (Special Preventive Programme) of the Department of Health, eighteen issues have been published up to July 1995.

Other publications distributed together with the ACA Newsfile include : (a) *AIDS trustnews* – a quarterly newsletter of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund, (b) *Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update* – a quarterly surveillance report published by the AIDS Unit and the Social Hygiene Service of the Department of Health, and (c) *Red Ribbon* – publication of people living with HIV/AIDS coordinated and sponsored by the AIDS Unit of the Department of Health and the AIDS Trust Fund respectively, and (d) a four-monthly *AIDS*

Bulletin prepared by the AIDS Unit for youth, students and the public. The first three are new publications published since early 1995.

Strategies for AIDS Prevention, Care & Control in Hong Kong

In order to set out strategic directions to consolidate and coordinate Hong Kong's AIDS programme, the Council published its first strategy document : *Strategies for AIDS Prevention, Care and Control in Hong Kong* in July. A bilingual executive summary was prepared for the reference of the public. Funding support from the AIDS Trust Fund has been granted for its publication. The Summary was distributed to participants of the Tenth International Conference on AIDS held in Yokohama, Japan in August 1994. Both booklets are now available to the public. The Secretariat has distributed the documents to medical practitioners, interested persons and organizations, as well as government departments. It has drawn a very good response from the readers in general.

Proposed Restructuring

In order to better equip Hong Kong in facing the challenge of the coming years, a working group has been formed to review the existing structure and functioning of the ACA, with a view to making recommendations to the Government on how the running of the ACA can be improved in the future.

4. Committee on Education & Publicity on AIDS

Restructured CEPAIDS

CEPAIDS was first established under the then Medical & Health Department in 1987 for designing and implementing AIDS prevention programmes. It was placed under the ACA when the latter was appointed by the Governor in March 1990. CEPAIDS used to be underpinned by seven working groups, namely (a) Publicity, (b) Training of Intermediaries, (c) Youth, (d) Schools/Students, (e) Community, (f) Drug Abuse and AIDS and (g) Research and Evaluation.

At the beginning of the second term of the ACA, CEPAIDS was restructured to streamline its operation. The Working Group on Research and Evaluation was dissolved. Instead, a Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee was set up to undertake reviews on the AIDS educational programmes and to plan future strategies. It was to act as a 'think-tank' to CEPAIDS. The Working Group on Training of Intermediaries was dissolved as it was considered that the training functions could generally be discharged and coordinated by the Department of Health and other professional bodies. The Community Working Group was replaced by the Working Group on Workplace.

The restructured CEPAIDS is now underpinned by a *Planning & Evaluation Subcommittee* and five working groups :

Youth Working Group
Working Group on School / Students
Working Group on Workplace
Publicity Working Group
Working Group on Drug Abuse & AIDS

CEPAIDS has the following terms of reference :

- (a) To coordinate educational and publicity activities on AIDS in the territory;
- (b) To develop appropriate AIDS prevention strategies;
- (c) To implement educational activities which require collaborative work of different organizations and/or government departments; and
- (d) To evaluate the effectiveness of the AIDS educational programme in Hong Kong.

Membership of CEPAIDS, the Planning & Evaluation Subcommittee and the five working groups for the term August 1994 – July 1996 are shown at Appendix A. CEPAIDS has met four times last year :

first meeting	14 September 1994
second meeting	29 November 1994
third meeting	10 March 1995
fourth meeting	12 July 1995

CEPAIDS, in implementing its publicity and educational programmes, adopts basically a target-oriented approach. The various working groups and the government units/NGOs focus on specific community groups in their conduction of educational programmes.

Publicity Working Group

Since 1993, Hong Kong has witnessed a shift in the emphasis of the AIDS publicity campaign from disseminating information to fostering a caring attitude towards AIDS patients and to tackling the complacency of the public.

In 1994, the Publicity Working Group adopted the theme “AIDS and the Family” for the AIDS campaign to tie in with the WHO’s theme for the 1994 World AIDS Day. Parents and children are encouraged to talk about AIDS in the family in an open manner so as to attain better knowledge on prevention and protection.

In 1995, the campaign took another step forward. A press conference was held on 19 May 1995 to launch a TV API on *The Story of JJ*. It was the first time that Chinese AIDS patient talked about his feeling about the disease, himself and his family on television. The documentary drew a positive response from the public. To keep up with the momentum, two shorter versions, “prevention” and “show care to AIDS patients” were broadcasted subsequently. JJ, however, sadly died in July after fighting a courageous battle against the disease.

On 8 and 9 July, 1995, the Publicity Working Group set up a booth at the *Travelling Light ’95* Exhibition held at the Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Centre. The function was organized to remind the public of the importance of taking preventive measures against AIDS when travelling.

To better promote AIDS awareness, arrangements were made with the MTR for printing an AIDS message on 100,000 pieces of the \$100 Stored Value Tickets in mid-July. A kick-off ceremony was held on 13 July 1995 at the concourse of Central MTR station.

Youth Working Group

Since 1991, the Youth Working Group has been launching annually the *Youth Action on AIDS Funding Scheme* to encourage and mobilize young people to organize innovative projects on education/publicity on AIDS. The Funding Scheme has been a tremendous success in two aspects. Firstly, the projects which were designed by young people appealed more readily to their peers. Secondly, in the process of implementation, the

participants themselves benefited by learning a great deal about AIDS and its impact on the community.

In 1993, a record 20 youth groups had been selected under the Scheme as compared to only 4 in 1991 and 12 in 1992. These groups implemented a vast variety of creative projects including drama shows, mobile exhibitions, football training projects, campaign, funfairs, quizzes, production of caring cards, calendar cards, videos and other educational materials. The Funding Scheme was launched again in 1994. Eight youth groups had filed in project proposals in Phase I of the Scheme. Of these, five proposals had been approved. Another twelve projects were approved in Phase II of the funding scheme.

As in previous years, the Scheme was concluded by an exhibition-cum-award ceremony which was held on 26 February 1995 at the City University of Hong Kong.

The funding scheme entered the fifth year in 1995. Successful applicants were given a ceiling amount of HK\$6000 to implement their proposed programmes. There were nine applications in Phase I of the scheme and seven of them had been approved. More applications from schools would be expected in Phase II, after schools re-open in September.

To pay tribute to the innovative projects launched under the Scheme in the past three years, the working group is in the process of compiling a resource casebook summarizing these projects, and incorporating synopses on the role of young people in the fight against AIDS. The casebook would be published later this year.

Through operating the funding scheme over the years, the Working Group had been able to identify and make acquaintance with a number of youth workers who had shown an interest in AIDS education/publicity work. In an attempt to build up a larger pool of youth workers with such interest, the working group has been publishing a newsletter to network workers in the field. Named *Networking Voice*, the publication featured articles on all aspects of HIV prevention and care for young people. Two

issues have so far been released since January 1995. In view of the good response, the Working Group recommended that it be published once every four months on a regular basis.

The Working Group jointly organized a workshop on "AIDS and Safer Sex" for outreaching social workers with the Committee on AIDS, Hong Kong Council of Social Service. Majority of the participants found the workshop useful. The same workshop would be organized on an annual basis.

Working Group on Schools/Students

The Working Group on Schools/Students had produced quite a number of education/publicity materials for distribution to students, teachers and parents in the past years. The more important ones were :

- (a) An information leaflet on AIDS for secondary students and another for primary students were distributed through schools in June 1993.
- (b) A 44-page booklet entitled ' Facts about AIDS' for teachers and parents was distributed in September 1993.
- (c) A teaching kit on AIDS for primary schools was prepared and distributed in mid-1994. Seminars on the use of teaching kit were held on 12 and 13 January 1995. Medical professionals had been invited to answer questions on HIV/AIDS.

To promote dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS, portable exhibition boards have been on loan to schools to facilitate staging of education programmes.

An in-service training course on sex education, with the inclusion of HIV/AIDS, was held in February 1995.

A circular to spell out Education Department's policy on issues relating to HIV-positive pupils in schools was issued to schools in February 1994. The circular set out guidelines on education placement, public education and prevention, confidentiality, legal liability and block insurance policy for aided schools.

Ongoing seminars on AIDS have been organized for principals and teachers of secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens.

To enrich input to the Working Group, representatives of the Hong Kong Institute of Education and the Vocational Training Council had been invited to join as members.

Working Group on Drug Abuse & AIDS

In collaboration with the Department of Health's AIDS Unit, the Working Group on Drug Abuse and AIDS has been organizing regular/ongoing workshops and seminars for inpatients of drug rehabilitation centres, half-way house residents, aftercare patients, methadone users, social workers and allied workers (e.g. AMS staff) working with drug users.

Since 1991, the working group had been conducting annual surveys on street drug users with the objectives of monitoring their AIDS knowledge, awareness, attitude and behaviour over time. The 1994 survey (404 persons interviewed) showed that 22.8% respondents practised needle-sharing. From the four surveys (1991-1994), it was noted that the age of the local addicts had dropped. The majority of respondents acquired AIDS knowledge from the media.

A pilot project was launched in July 1994 to collect abandoned syringes in the vicinity of Shek Kip Mei Methadone Centre. The project was then extended to Tuen Mun and Yuen Long Methadone Clinics. The objectives of the project were threefold, namely :

- (a) to organize, as an environmental project, clean up the abandoned syringes which posed as a health hazard;
- (b) to educate methadone users on the risks of using and abandoning injecting instruments, and needle-sharing; and
- (c) to distribute AIDS prevention leaflets.

Through the collaboration of the Department of Health's AIDS Unit and the Methadone Clinics, condoms have been available for clients of the Methadone Clinics since May 1994. About 8000 condoms are now distributed per month from these outlets.

Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee

In 1994, the *Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee*, jointly with the *Centre for Clinical Trials and Epidemiological Research* (CCTER), CUHK conducted a survey to evaluate the AIDS education programme in secondary schools in Hong Kong. The survey was conducted to understand teachers' and students' knowledge on AIDS, students' attitude towards condom usage and risk behaviours and teachers' confidence in teaching AIDS prevention. The survey had the following essential findings :

- (a) there were still some popular misconception about AIDS among teachers and students;
- (b) the teaching staff were not well prepared to guide the students in AIDS prevention, quite a number of them were not supportive towards HIV-infected students;
- (c) about 20% of the students were sexually active, a substantial proportion of them were not practising safer sex or were showing attitude inclining towards risk behaviours;
- (d) class teaching might raise knowledge level but had not been able to change attitude or

behaviours. Extra-curricular programmes showed little observable effect; and

- (e) students were strongly subjected to peer's influence in AIDS-related attitude and behaviours.

On the basis of the above findings, the Working Group had made recommendations to the ACA on improving the existing AIDS education programmes for school-aged youth. A press conference was held in October 1994 to publicize the results of the above survey.

The Subcommittee was planning to commission the CCTER of CUHK to conduct two other surveys in late 1995, namely : (i) a survey to evaluate effectiveness and public acceptance of the new series of TV APIs recently produced; and (ii) a public awareness survey on AIDS to monitor general knowledge and attitude of the community.

The Working Group on Workplace

The Working Group on Workplace has been formed to replace the Community Working Group. The first meeting was held in March 1995. The aim of the working group is to advise companies/organizations to adopt non-discriminatory policy towards their employees.

The Working Group on workplace has the following terms of reference :

- (a) to promote the establishment of AIDS policy in companies/organizations and the Hong Kong Community Charter on AIDS;
- (b) to advise companies/organizations on conducting HIV/AIDS education and formulating non-discriminatory policy in workplace;
- (c) to formulate *model policy* for the reference of companies/organizations;

(d) to develop training and educational packages for use of administrative personnel or related bodies in providing HIV/AIDS education to employees.

The Hong Kong Community Charter on AIDS

The Hong Kong Community Charter on AIDS is a joint programme developed by the AIDS Unit of the Department of Health and the Lions Clubs International, District 303 – Hong Kong and Macau. The objectives are to enhance AIDS awareness and to encourage adoption of non-discriminatory policy in the workplace.

Companies and organizations in Hong Kong are welcome to show their support by signing the Charter. Signatories would be presented a plaque if they have fulfilled the commitments as stated in the Charter. As of the end of June 1995, 28 companies/organizations involving and estimated 240,000 employees/members have signed the Charter. The Urban Council and the Regional Council would formally sign the Charter in a ceremony to be held on 24 August 1995.

World AIDS Day 1994 and 1995

Since 1988, the first of December every year have been commemorated worldwide as the World AIDS Day.

Following the lead of the United Nations proclaiming 1994 the International Year of the Family, WHO had designated the theme of the World AIDS Day 1994 “AIDS and the Family”. In view of the success of *AIDSweek’93*, the committee considered it necessary to strengthen the programme by organizing, instead, an *AIDS Fortnight* in 1994. An ad hoc working group comprising representatives from AIDS Concern, Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Department of Health and the Information Services Department was formed to coordinate education/publicity activities for the *Fortnight*. The

AIDS Fortnight was held from 20 November to 4 December 1994. Activities by various organizations were conducted at different locations. To help publicize the activities, a programme leaflet was compiled and made accessible to the public. To mark the opening of the *Fortnight*, an AIDS Awareness Day was held on 20 November at the piazza of the HK Cultural Centre. Its launching ceremony was officiated by the Secretary for Health and Welfare. The theme for the AIDS Awareness Day was “AIDS and the Family”. The event was presented in the form of a carnival with game stalls and performance to attract families. Support was sought from the AIDS Trust Fund in organizing the AIDS Awareness Day and to publicize the *Fortnight*.

To commemorate the World AIDS Day 1995, a series of activities will be conducted by various organizations in November and December. Arrangement has been made with the Post Office and approval been given for inserting a postal slogan “World AIDS Day 1 Dec” together with a new AIDS campaign logo from 20 November to 4 December 1995 on all local mails. Under the auspices of the Advisory Council on AIDS, a symposium has been scheduled to be held at First Pacific Place Conference Centre on 24 November 1995. Joint publicity for the World AIDS Day will also be organized by the CEPAIDS in association with the NGOs.

New Campaign Logo

A new campaign logo, in the form of a heart and a red ribbon, has been designed by the Information Services Department for the use of the Committee in its AIDS education campaign in 1995. This new logo is also adopted for use in this report.

5. Scientific Committee on AIDS

Renamed Committee

The Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) was renamed from the former Scientific Working Group on AIDS to give it equal status to the other two committees under the ACA i.e. the Committee on Education & Publicity on AIDS and the AIDS Services Development Committee.

The SCA has the following terms of reference :

- (a) To supervise and evaluate the HIV/AIDS surveillance system in Hong Kong.
- (b) To develop technical and professional guidelines on HIV/AIDS prevention, management and control.
- (c) To recommend and develop training for health care professionals on all aspects of HIV/AIDS prevention and management.
- (d) To recommend and undertake research on the clinical, scientific and epidemiological aspects of HIV/AIDS with special reference to Hong Kong.

The membership of the SCA is at Appendix A. It met three times last year, as follows: -

- (i) first meeting 28 September 1994
- (ii) second meeting 21 February 1995
- (iii) third meeting 28 June 1995

New Guidelines for Health Care Workers

The Scientific Committee on AIDS had, during the period August 1993 – July 1995, formulated or been involved in the formulation of the following guidelines on HIV/AIDS :

- (a) ***HIV antibody testing : recommended measures to generate quality results*** – This has been printed into a leaflet for distribution to private and public laboratories.
- (b) ***Guidelines on management of HIV infection in children*** – This was formulated in 1994 and revised in 1995 following new informations collected locally and overseas.
- (c) ***Prevention and management of tuberculosis in HIV-infected patients in Hong Kong*** – The final version has been produced and distributed as an information paper.
- (d) ***The choice of safe clotting factor concentrate for treatment of haemophilia in Hong Kong – recommended guidelines.*** A new set of guidelines has been drafted to replace old specifications.
- (e) ***Precautions for handling and disposal of dead bodies*** – A proposal was made to the Advisory Council on this issue. An interdepartmental committee comprising the Urban Services Department, Regional Services Department, the Hospital Authority and the Department of Health was formed to

establish a new set of guidelines for relevant settings which involved operational procedures in these departments. The final version, English/Chinese, has been distributed to related institutes.

- (f) ***Prevention of Transmission of HIV in Health Care Settings – guidelines and practices*** – Formulated in 1990, the guidelines have been revised in mid-1995.
- (g) ***Procedure for Management of Needlestick Injury and Mucosal Contact with Blood or Body Fluids*** – Formulated together with the Department of Health's Scientific Working Group on Viral Hepatitis Prevention in 1992, revision has recently been introduced.

Unlinked Anonymous Screening

As part of an ongoing surveillance programme, unlinked anonymous screening (UAS) was introduced since 1990, the conduction of which was under the supervision of the Scientific Committee on AIDS.

In late 1994, 4762 neonatal blood samples were tested for HIV antibody under the system and none showed positive result. Tests were performed on urine samples of injecting drug users attending methadone clinics. Since April 1992, only two positive cases had been detected.

In March 1995, 475 saliva samples were obtained from street injecting drug users and tested for HIV antibody. No positive case was detected.

In January and May 1995, 653 blood samples from newly admitted inmates of 3 prison/correctional institutions were tested for HIV antibody. Three

positive cases were detected. The Committee has resolved to continue with UAS on different groups on a regular basis.

External Quality Assurance Programme

In 1994, 17 laboratories (2 public and 15 private) participated in the External Quality Assurance Programme administered by the Hong Kong Medical Technology Association, with the technical support of the Department of Health's Virus Unit. The results in 1994 were comparable to those obtained in previous years.

AIDS Scenario and Surveillance Research

As described in Chapter 2, surveillance of HIV/AIDS prevalence in Hong Kong has been administered through a voluntary reporting system, an unlinked anonymous screening programme on different high-risk and low-risk individuals, and a regular surveillance on selected groups. Taking the benefit of expert advice from Professor James Chin, former epidemiologist of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS, the SCA had taken a review of the current HIV/AIDS surveillance system in early 1994. The conclusion was reached that the system had focused primarily on establishing HIV prevalence in different risk groups. A scenario construction exercise was considered necessary to better prepare Hong Kong for the impacts of the epidemic. On the other hand, surveillance of AIDS-related risk behaviours should be undertaken to supplement epidemiological surveillance.

A proposal was submitted to the Council for the AIDS Trust fund in March 1994 to seek funds for strengthening the local surveillance system. A sum of HK\$1.59 million was approved in July. A new project named ***AIDS Scenario &***

Surveillance Research was subsequently born. The research project aimed at establishing a behavioural surveillance system to monitor the risk level of Hong Kong in the AIDS epidemic, and to construct scenarios to facilitate policy formulation in its prevention, care and control.

The first scenario report *Estimation and Projection of HIV Infection and AIDS Cases in Hong Kong* was presented by Professor James Chin at a symposium on World AIDS Day 1994. Qualitative and quantitative behavioural studies are underway to pave the way for a behavioural surveillance system in Hong Kong.

6. AIDS Services Development Committee

New Committee

In anticipation of an increase in the number of HIV-infected people in the years to come, it was considered necessary to examine how services for HIV/AIDS patients should be developed in the medium to long term. The AIDS Services Development Committee (ASDC) was thus formed in the second term of the ACA and charged with such responsibility.

The ASDC has the following terms of reference: -

- (a) To recommend on the strategy of developing clinical and support services for HIV-infected individuals in Hong Kong.
- (b) To coordinate available services and facilitate their access to people with HIV/AIDS and their relatives who require them.
- (c) To evaluate the quality and availability of AIDS services in the territory.

The membership of the ASDC and its two working groups are at Appendix A. The Committee has met four times, as follows: -

- (i) first meeting 19 September 1994
- (ii) second meeting 13 December 1994
- (iii) third meeting 20 April 1995
- (iv) fourth meeting 29 June 1995

A Review of Services Provided to People with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong

The ASDC submitted its first review report in July 1994. The report summarized all the

accomplishments and constraints of the current system of service provision. It then propounded some basic principles which should be adopted in the planning and delivery of services and came up with 21 specific recommendations (see annual report 93/94) on future development.

In addressing the issues raised in the review, a Clinical AIDS Services Coordination Group, an Evaluation Working Group and an Editorial Board for compiling a manual for social welfare personnel were formed.

Clinical AIDS Services Coordination Group

There have been concern about the insufficient coordination of patient services and their limited access to people with HIV/AIDS. To address these problems, a Clinical AIDS Services Coordination Group was thus formed under the ASDC with the following terms of reference:

- (a) to advise on the effective coordination of existing clinical services provided in the private and public sectors;
- (b) to identify technical constraints, duplications, and other shortcomings in the provision of AIDS services;
- (c) to improve the accessibility and quality of clinical services to people with HIV/AIDS;
- (d) to promote continuity of care for patients with HIV/AIDS.

The membership of the group comprised representatives from 14 private hospitals, the Hospital Authority, the Hong Kong Medical

Association, the Hong Kong Dental Association, the Hong Kong College of Nursing and the Department of Health.

The coordination group had met twice and a joint statement, which reflected the unified stand of all members, had been drawn up. It stressed the non-discriminatory principle adopted in the care of people living with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong.

The Working Group on Evaluation

For the purpose of evaluating the quality and effectiveness of service projects conducted for people with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong, the Working Group on Evaluation under the auspices of the ASDC was thus established. It has the following terms of reference :

- (a) to evaluate the effectiveness and quality of service programmes and projects developed for people with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong, as determined by the ASDC; and
- (b) to recommend ways of improving the quality and effectiveness of services delivered to people with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong.

The Working Group has met twice. It was decided that a) a stock-taking exercise be conducted to take note of service initiatives developed by various organizations, b) the 21 recommendations made in the last year's review exercise be studied and c) research projects conducted by tertiary education institutes in Hong Kong be collected.

Hospice Care

The needs of people with HIV/AIDS for hospice services have been a subject of concern in the community. A special meeting was convened by the ASDC on 20 April to collect views of community organizations, government departments and public bodies. Community organizations represented included AIDS Foundation, AIDS Concern, Society

for AIDS Care, HIV Information & Drop-in Centre, AIDS Memorial Quilt Project and the Committee on AIDS of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

Following the views reflected by different parties, the Hospital Authority undertook to develop pilot hospice services for people with HIV/AIDS. A home/hospice care team is being formed by the Society for AIDS Care. Members were also informed of the Department of Health's intention to set up an integrated day treatment center for STD (sexually transmitted diseases), skin Diseases and HIV/AIDS.

Disability Discrimination Bill

The Committee welcomed the government's initiative in including HIV/AIDS as one form of disability in the new anti-discrimination law. Members were, however, worried about the wording in the draft Bill regarding requests for information which could have been misinterpreted as an endorsement of pre-employment or in-service HIV testing. Amendments have been made following comments made by ASDC and other community groups. [A coalition was formed by the following organizations in asking for the Bill's amendment – AIDS Concern, AIDS Foundation, Hong Kong AIDS Memorial Quilt Project, Society for AIDS Care and HIV Information & Drop-in Centre of the St. John's Cathedral]

Manual for Social Welfare Personnel

In order to better prepare social welfare personnel in their provision of services to people living with HIV/AIDS, an editorial board was formed to compile a manual to meet their specific needs. Following comments given by the advisers, and with input of members of ASDC, the completed draft was examined and endorsed by the ACA in July 1995. The manual will be published for distribution before the end of the year.

Appendix A : Membership Lists

Dr. LEE Shui-shan

Advisory Council on AIDS (Third Term : August 1994 – July 1996)

Chairman : Dr. Margaret CHAN, *JP*

Members : Dr. the Hon. Conrad LAM, *JP*

Prof. NG Mun-hon

Ms. Carlye TSUI, *JP*

The Honourable TIK Chi-yuen

(up to June 95)

Mrs. Pamela CHAN, *JP*

Dr. Margaret KWAN

(up to March 95)

Dr. Susan LEONG, *JP*

Ms. Esther FUNG

The Honourable Timothy HA,

MBE, JP

Mr. Walter CHAN Kar-lok

Miss Sally YEH

Sister Maureen McGINLEY, *MBE*

Dr. Patrick YUEN

Dr. David FANG, *JP*

Dr. Homer TSO

Mr. LAW Chi-keung

Dr. Lawrence LAI, *JP*

Mrs. Shelley LAU, *JP*

(up to July 95)

Mrs. Doris HO, *JP*

(from July 95)

Council

Secretariat : Mr. Aaron KWOK, secretary

(up to Nov 94)

Mr. YAU Sin-ying, secretary

(from Nov 94)

Miss Windy LAU

Miss Teresa TO

<p>Committee on Education & Publicity on AIDS [CEPAIDS]</p>
--

Chairman : Ms. Carlye TSUI, *JP*

Members : Prof. S.H. LEE, *ISO, JP*
 Mr. CHEUNG Che-kwok
 Mr. TSE Wang-lap
 Dr. Joseph LAU
 Dr. James M.N.CH' IEN, *MBE*
 Mr Ernesto M. CORPUS
 Mr. Eddy LI
 Ms. Ann LAM
 (up to Feb 95)
 Dr. Margaret KWAN
 (up to Mar 95)
 Mr. Frederick TONG
 Mr. FUNG Cheung-tim
 (up to Mar 95)
 Miss Kay KU
 (from Mar 95)
 Mr. Billy HO Chi-on
 (from Mar 95)
 Mr. Graham SMITH
 Ms. Melanie ORHANT
 (Nov 94 – May 95)
 Sister Ann GRAY
 (from May 95)
 Mr. Harold YAU
 Mrs. June TONG
 Mr. A.J.L. DICKINSON
 Miss Esther FUNG
 (from April 95)

Mr. HO Chung-nin

Mr. KWOK Wai-cheung

Miss Elsa TSE

(up to Oct 94)

Miss Tracy WONG

(Oct 94 – July 95)

Miss WONG Yuet-wah

(from July 95)

Mr. FUNG Man-lok

Dr. WONG To-chuen

(up to Dec 94)

Dr. K B CHAN

(from Dec 94)

Dr. LAM Ping-yan

(up to Jan 95)

Dr. CHAN Wai-man, *JP*

(from Jan 95)

Dr. LEE Shui-shan

Secretaries : Mr. Aaron KWOK

(up to Nov 94)

Mr. YAU Sin-ying

(from Nov 94)

Dr. LO Yim-chong

(up to Mar 95)

Dr. Teresa CHOI

(from Apr 95)

Planning & Evaluation Subcommittee
(of CEPAIDS)

Co-conveners : Ms. Carlye TSUI, *JP*
Dr. Joseph LAU

Members : Mr. CHEUNG Che-kwok
Dr. Margaret KWAN
(up to Mar 95)
Dr. LEE Shui-shan
Dr. LO Yim-chong
(up to Mar 95)
Dr. Teresa CHOI
(from Apr 95)

Secretary : Mr. Aaron KWOK
(up to Nov 94)
Mr. YAU Sin-ying
(from Nov 94)

Working Group on Youth
(of CEPAIDS)

Conveners : Mr. FUNG Cheung-tim
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Mr. Billy HO Chi-on
(from Mar 95)

Members : Dr. LEE Shui-shan
Dr. LO Yim-chong
(up to Mar 95)
Dr. Teresa CHOI
(from Apr 95)
Mrs. LAM Li-shuet
(Apr 94 – Jan 95)
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Miss Jennie CHOW
Mr. KO Chun-wa
Mr. LEE Yiu-wah, David
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Mr. MA Yun-kwong
(from Feb 95)
Mr. Aaron KWOK
(up to Nov 94)
Mr. YAU Sin-ying
(from Nov 94)
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Mr. YUEN Wai-sum
Mr. Larry SO
(July 94 – Sept 94)
Mr. Roger CHAN
(from Sept 94)
Mr. CHAN Chiu-kwong
(from Mar 95)

Secretary : Mr. Leo SIN
(up to Apr 95)
Mr. NG Wai-ming

(from Apr 95)

***Working Group on Schools/Students
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Dr. LO Yim-chong
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Dr. Teresa CHOI
(from Apr 95)
Ms. Pauline KAN
Ms. Lina LAU
Mr. Aaron KWOK
(up to Nov 94)
Mr. YAU Sin-ying
(from Nov 94)
Mr. Y.K. LAU
Dr. Amy CHIU
Ms. Catherine LAM

Secretary : Mr. HUI Tat-keung

***Working Group on Drug Abuse and AIDS
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(up to Dec 94)
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(from Dec 94)
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(up to July 95)
Mr. Anthony TANG

(from July 95)
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Mr. Petain YUEN
Mr. TONG Wai-chuen
Mr. Paul WONG
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Miss Karen IP
(up to July 95)
Mr. Arthur LEE
(from July 95)
Mr. CHAN Shun-chi, Peter
Mr. CHOI Kwok-wai
Dr. LO Yim-chong
(up to Mar 95)
Ms. Frances LEUNG
(from Oct 94)
Dr. WONG Ka-hing
(from Jan 95)
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(up to Oct 94)
Mr. Aaron KWOK
(up to Nov 94)
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(from Nov 94)
Ms. CHAN Siu-kuen
(up to Sept 94)
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(from July 94)
Mr. Timothy KWAN
(from July 94)
Mr. CHEUNG Tsang-sun
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Secretary : Dr. L.C. KWAN

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(from Mar 95)

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Secretary : Miss Linda CHAU
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Mr. Frederick TONG
Dr. LEE Shui-shan

Scientific Committee on AIDS

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Secretaries : Dr. L.C. KWAN
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[ASDC]

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Mr. YAU Sin-ying
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Working Group on Evaluation (of ASDC)

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Members : Fr. Louis HA
Rev. CHU Yiu-ming

Resource Mr. KO Chun-wa

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***Clinical AIDS Services
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(of ASDC)***

***Editorial Board for the Manual for
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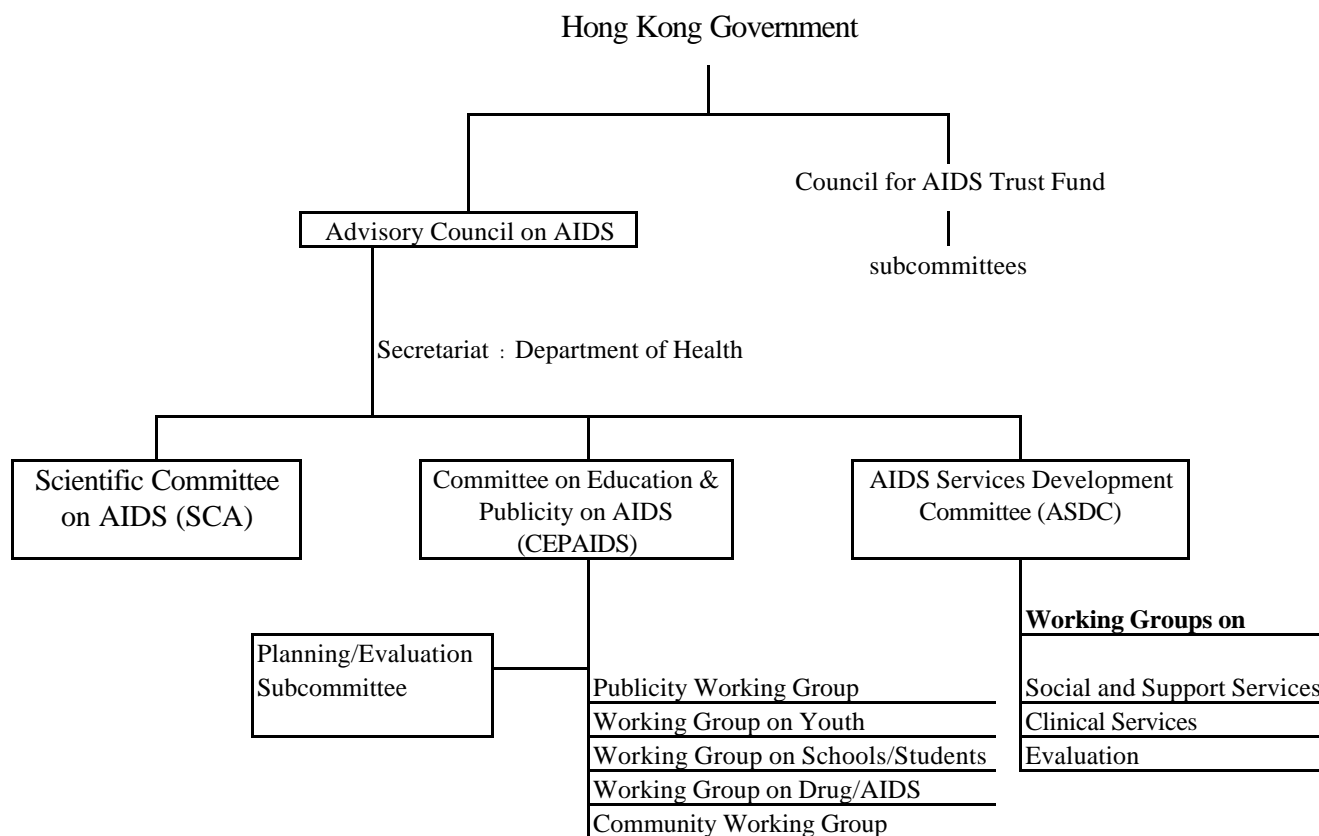
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Ms. Agnes YEUNG

Director of Social Welfare

Secretary: Mr. YAU Sin-ying

Appendix B. Organizational Structure of Hong Kong's AIDS Programme



Operational government departments and public organizations (major ones) :

- Department of Health
- Information Services Department
- Education Department
- [Hospital Authority]
- Social Welfare Department
- Council of Social Service

Non-governmental organizations : (on AIDS) :

- Hong Kong AIDS Foundation
- AIDS Concern
- AIDS Memorial Quilt Project
- Society for AIDS Care
- HIV Information & Drop-in Centre

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