

ACA NEWSFILE

(Publication of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Hong Kong)

Editors: Dr KH Wong
ACA Secretariat

Vol 7, no.1 -- January 2000 (issue no.73)

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XXXIst Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)

2:30pm 14 January 2000

2nd Meeting of the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC)

6:00pm 17 February 2000

XVIIIth Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA)

2:30pm 11 February 2000

Staff employed for CPP project

THE Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Services Organisations (HKCASO) has successfully employed two Administrative Officers for the community planning project. They are Ms. Ho Tak-yin and Mr. Tang Chi-wing, Rigo who will serve as designated staff for the project. Both of them have wide working experience, and some of it was related to the work of

An AIDS booth for UNDP meeting

THE Red Ribbon Centre - UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for Technical Support ran a booth during the China Millennium Meeting held in Hong Kong from 16-17 December 1999. The event was organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), one of the co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

As the meeting targeted high level government officials and community leaders from Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau, a variety of resource materials on HIV/AIDS with international perspectives were distributed through the booth. Besides the materials produced by the Red Ribbon Centre and Advisory Council on AIDS, several AIDS non-governmental organisations including Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, HIV Information & Drop-In Centre and Society for AIDS Care also contributed. Many different materials from the UNAIDS China were also shown and distributed, as were some from the Ministry of Health and UNDP. The AIDS booth was the most popular among a total of 7 booths at the Meeting.

One major set-back about the meeting was that AIDS was neglected at the panel sessions, not as originally contemplated. This was really disappointing as the importance of AIDS for China and the globe in the future cannot be over-emphasized. ♂

community planning on HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Ho and Mr. Tang has started visiting the various AIDS services and institutions, for acquaintance with the local situation, knowing the other

workers and exchanging views. They are based at the AIDS Concern which provides administrative support to the Secretariat of the project. We all wish that Ms. Ho and Mr. Tang will enjoy this challenging and rewarding task. ♂

AIDS Hotline 2780 2211

Messages, Counselling
HIV Testing

Advisory Council on AIDS Secretariat

5/F, Yaumatei Jockey Club Clinic, 145 battery Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Tel: (852) 2304 6100; Fax: (852) 2337 0897

Thanks to Bella

MISS Bella Luk, a close partner of all AIDS workers in Hong Kong, has resigned from her post of Chief Executive of the AIDS Concern. Miss Luk is the longest serving Chief Executive of AIDS Concern. Under her leadership, this very first AIDS non-governmental organisation has contributed substantially to the local AIDS programme for prevention, control and care.

Bella's community work on AIDS also extended to serving the Committees under the Advisory Council on AIDS since early years. For this term, she is a member of the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee. Despite her resignation we hope that Bella can continue her enthusiastic endeavours on HIV/AIDS, for participation in the work under the Council as well as the community as a whole. ⚡

ATF on the Net

THE Council for the AIDS Trust Fund (ATF) launched its Internet homepage on 14 December 1999. Details of the ATF, including an introduction to the Fund, membership of the Council and its Committees, terms of reference, as well as the application form for the Fund and explanatory notes for application can be obtained from the website at <http://www.info.gov.hk/atf>. Moreover, summary notes of the projects supported by the ATF since November 1998 were also available.

The AIDS Trust Fund is underpinned by three Committees: Ex-gratia Payments Sub-committee, Medical and Support Services Sub-committee, and the Publicity and Public Education Sub-committee. The Fund has been a major sponsor of the community projects on AIDS. The move of ATF to go cyberspace will hopefully attract more projects for an enhanced community response to HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. ⚡

Targeting travellers for STD/HIV prevention

THE Red Ribbon Centre and the Social Hygiene Service of the Department of Health jointly organised several safer sex activities targeting the cross-border travellers. Starting from late December 1999, these STD/HIV prevention programmes will continue intermittently through to the new millennium, till after Easter Holiday of year 2000.

The campaigns will take place at the Lo Wu border, ferry terminal from Hong Kong to China, and also the speedboats travelling between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Short videos on safer sex and early treatment of STDs will be shown to the travellers, as will condoms and educational pamphlets be distributed. Travellers is one of the priority groups for AIDS prevention. ⚡

Coming World AIDS Conference

THE first world AIDS Conference in the new millennium is going to be held at Durban, South Africa, from 9 to 14 July 2000. This 13th International AIDS Conference will be under the theme of "Break the Silence". South Africa is one of the countries with the highest HIV prevalence in the world. The Conference organisers alleged that amidst others, silence about the devastating impacts of AIDS to Africa and other regions, and the indifference of some governments have to be broken.

The International AIDS Conference, being held every two years, is the largest conference of its kind. Besides scientific programmes, there will be a heavy community programme for the coming conference. The 1st of February 2000 is an important deadline date for the conference, as well as for its abstract submission, scholarship applications, early registration fee and NGO booth request. ⚡

Safer sex campaign at market

On 15 December 1999, an innovative safer sex campaign was organised at the Bowrington Road Market at Wanchai. The event was undertaken by Mr. Wong Man-tat, an ambassador of the Hong Kong Community Charter on AIDS.

Mr. Wong delivered a brief talk to raise the awareness of "Kaifongs" on AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. This was followed by distribution of educational materials and condoms. Response from the public (mostly household women) was good and most of them were receptive to the campaign, and accepted the condoms given to them. The event was joined by Ms. Carlye Tsui, who is the Chair-person of the Executive Board of the Charter.

Under the Ambassador scheme, the ambassadors subscribe to the three values of leadership, partnership and community support. Through their work, ambassadors could enable fellow colleagues and others to know more about AIDS and to concern about the infected. **⌘**

1999 year end global HIV/AIDS epidemic

THE Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has lately released its revised update on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. As of December 1999, it was estimated that some 33.6 million people were living with the virus, of whom 14.8 million and 1.2 million were women and children respectively. In 1999 alone, there were 5.6 million new infections and 2.6 million AIDS deaths. Since the start of the epidemic, about 50 million individuals were infected with the virus, which was greater than the number projected by the World Health Organisation a few years ago.

The global epidemic is undoubtedly very heterogeneous and dynamic. While Africa is still the nations most severely affected by the epidemic, the future situation relies greatly on that of Asia which has the largest bulk of the world's population. Sadly, more than 90% of the infections is in the developing countries where HIV treatment is unaffordable. Unprotected sex and injecting drug use were still the most common causes of HIV transmission. The challenge of HIV/AIDS to mankind will be no less as we turn into the 21st century. **⌘**

Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 30 September 1999

		Total	(AIDS)
Gender	male	1095	(373)
	female	210	(46)
Ethnicity	Chinese	903	(318)
	non-Chinese	402	(101)
Transmission	heterosexual	729	(254)
	homosexual	274	(90)
	bisexual	67	(25)
	injecting drug use	21	(6)
	blood/bl products	68	(18)
	perinatal	9	(4)
	undetermined	137	(22)

TOTAL	1305	(419)
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Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR

Meeting with HIV/AIDS patients



DR. Homer Tso, Chairman of the Council, had an information sharing meeting with some 25 patients (including their relatives) and health care workers of the QEH Special Medical Service on 13 November 1999. Subsequently, a summary of the views expressed by patients was written. The original summary was depicted below.

1. Inadequate AIDS education to public. Suggest media to use positive attitude instead of threatening message for AIDS promotion, such as production of TV program base on true life story or invite movie star as AIDS ambassador.

2. The bad experience of some patients are:

* Feel the ignorance of some health care worker in AIDS care

* Feel the stigma

* Note exaggerated precaution in some health care settings

* Careless in handling patients' confidentiality

3. The attitude of some health care workers towards AIDS patients need to improve:

* Stress the need to educate health care workers on handling confidentiality

* Expect health care worker to be professional and ethical

4. Concern the care, support system and coping for newly diagnosed AIDS patients and patient who does not start anti-retroviral drugs yet.

5. The man-power of QEH AIDS Unit is too tight, which hinder the patients to communicate with health care workers.

Suggest increase manpower and training in this specialty.

6. Generally, patients have lack of confidence to seek medical and dental care out of AIDS unit because they worry the

anticipated stigma and inexperience of some GP on AIDS care. Suggest to form health care network amongst Hospital Authority.

7. Wish not to change the present payment in AIDS treatment and drugs.

8. Suggest evening and public holiday clinic so as to minimize the influence of work.

9. Suggest 24 hours hot line to entertain patient's emergency enquiries.

10. Worry the tightened CSSA policy.

11. Wish to have legal protection on job, wish not to be "fired" even if their diagnosis was known to employer.

12. Suggest establishment of patient group and select one patient representative to speak on behalf of AIDS patients.

13. Conduct research to identify the difficulties and problems of AIDS patients and implement policy accordingly.

14. Suggest no compulsory HIV screening during pre-employment body check.

15. Positive comment to health care system and workers in Hong Kong.

16. Seeking for possibility of increase job opportunity for AIDS patients:

* Suggest explore post from organization that has signed the Community Charter or assist patients to establish small business for self support.

17. Wish to have channel to express patients' views to Advisory Council. ⌘

ACA and DH AIDS Unit

<http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>