

.Calendar.

XXXXII Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)

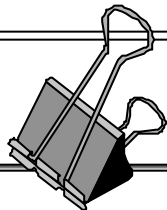
2:30pm 10 January 2003

XXVI Meeting of the Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA)

2:30pm 10 December 2002

Informal Pre-meeting of the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC)

6pm 29 November 2002



IN THIS ISSUE:

we have.....

Council News on page 51 and 52

In and around Hong Kong on page 53

FOCUS on the Pearl River Delta Workshop on page 54



Useful Hong Kong websites

For new members, the following are authentic websites for understanding the HIV/AIDS situations and programmes in Hong Kong:

Forming "New" Committees

THE Advisory Council on AIDS has resolved to form the same three committees as in the previous term, which are, the *Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA)*, *AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC)* and the *Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People living with HIV/AIDS (CPA)*. While the names have remained unchanged, the terms of reference are being revised. The means of appointing members to the committees have also been refined.

How can one become a member of the one or more of the committees? There are four pathways. Firstly, individuals representing selected agencies working on HIV/AIDS are nominated and then appointed to a committee. This is one important channel of membership appointment for the APCC. Secondly, there are those who represent the interest of selected communities, for example the vulnerable or priority communities as defined by the community planning process, for appointment to the APCC. The same category also includes those reflecting specific expertise for the CPA and SCA. Thirdly, all ACA members are invited to join as member of one or more of the committees. Lastly, the committee chairmen, on the recommendations of the committees, could co-opt members to the respective committees.

October was a particularly busy month for the committee chairs and the secretariat to work out the procedures for forming the committees. For the first time, the Council is inviting the *Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service Organisations (HKCASO)* to nominate individuals who could reflect the interest and needs of people in the seven communities that they have been very familiar with during the community planning process.

It is hoped that the new membership would give the committees the new driving force to face up the new challenges of the new term! So watch out! And for ACA members who have not yet returned the 'election form' please do that as soon as possible. ⌘

Virtual AIDS Office www.aids.gov.hk - The core clearinghouse on AIDS information

27802211.com (www.27802211.com) - The web version of the AIDS Hotline with games, info and Q&A

Harm Reduction Page www.harmreduction-hk.com - information on the ABCs of harm

reduction in Hong Kong

Dr Sex Hotline www.DSonline.com.hk - The animated version of Dr Sex Hotline. It's the sex education part of the AIDS programme with a lot of information presented in an interesting and interactive environment.

Advisory Council on AIDS www.aca-hk.com - the link to all! ⌘

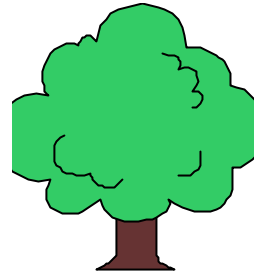
How about task forces?

THE Council has resolved that task forces or subgroups of the committees would not normally be formed unless absolutely necessary. If there are issues or tasks that could be best dealt with through the focused attention of a smaller number of people, such forums could be coordinated by a representative organisation or that an interagency group can be established on a time limited basis. Under such circumstances, task forces are no longer the subsidiaries of the committees. This would give maximum flexibility to task forces to pursue their tasks efficiently. In order to avoid the cumulation of unnecessary administrative work, the Council Secretariat would not undertake to provide support as 'secretaryship' to subgroups under committees.

As an example, the Task Force on Youth has since initiated changes in the accountability system. The operations-charged task force is seeking affiliation with the Red Ribbon Centre to continue its 'tasks' of publishing the "Networking Voice" for youth workers, and the coordination of the "Youth Action on AIDS" Funding Scheme that has been facilitating the involvement of young people in projects on HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and the promotion of acceptance in the last ten years.

With the formation of the new committees and the new *modus operandi*, the ACA system is looking forward to a more streamlined approach in effectively developing future strategies on HIV prevention, care and control in Hong Kong. ⌘

More Council News



Secretaries

THE Council Secretariat would like to advise that Mr John Yip would continue as the administrative secretary of the

three committees (SCA, CPA and APCC) for the third term of office. For each committee a professional staff of Special Preventive Programme would provide technical support, and therefore function as joint secretary with Mr Yip. They are: Dr WY Wan (APCC), Dr Michael Chan (SCA) and Dr Kelvin Low (CPA). ⌘

Reported HIV/AIDS Statistics (updated 30 June 2002)

		HIV		AIDS	
		total / Q2 2002		total / Q2 2002	
Gender	male	1524	55	510	11
	female	339	10	75	4
Ethnicity	Chinese	1298	50	459	13
	non-Chinese	565	15	126	2
Transmission	heterosexual	1067	39	388	12
	homosexual	351	11	101	3
	bisexual	88	1	29	0
	injecting drug use	48	2	9	0
	blood/b products	68	0	19	0
	perinatal	14	0	6	0
	undetermined	227	12	33	0
TOTAL		1863	65	585	15

NOTE:


The "total" refers to the cumulative total number reported since 1984, under the voluntary HIV/AIDS Reporting System. "Q2" refers to the period March to June 2002. The "AIDS" number is a subset of the "HIV numbers" and the two should not be added.

SOURCE:

Special Preventive Programmes, Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR Government

in & around Hong Kong

STI Guidelines

The *Recommendations in Case Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Hong Kong 2002* is an updated version of the clinical and public health protocols in the management of STD in Hong Kong published by the Social Hygiene Service, Department of Health. The new document can be downloaded from the **Virtual AIDS Office** at www.aids.gov.hk 

VISITOR

DR JOAN MacNeil of the Family Health International was in Hong Kong in the first week of October. She met with Dr SS Lee, Secretary of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS and also director of the Red Ribbon Centre - UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for Technical Support. The visit was part of the fact-finding mission of FHI to explore means of collaboration between agencies.  (appearing in the picture are, from left to right: Dr Joan MacNeil, Dr SS Lee and Miss Victoria Kwong of the Red Ribbon Centre)




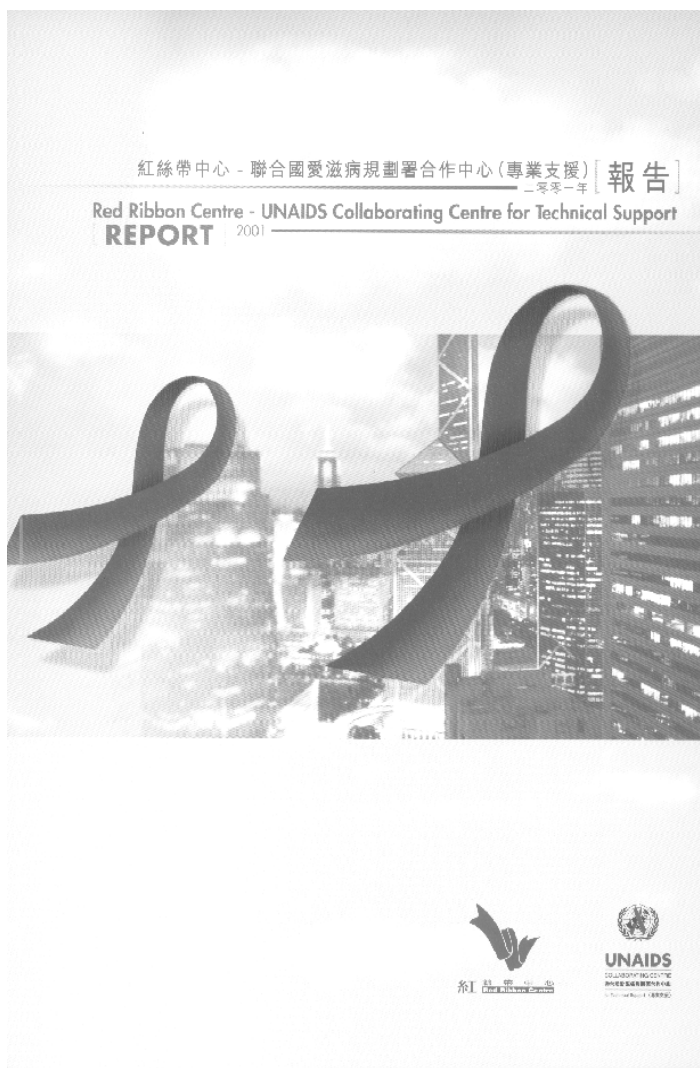
Occasional review

THE Red Ribbon Centre has just released its annual report to cover its activities for the year 2001. There is a special INTERVIEW section which, coincidentally, could be a useful reference for ACA members who wish to know more about their fellow members.

Dr Homer Tso, the Council Chairman, was interviewed by Mr Lo Chiu Fai of the Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee. Dr Richard Tan, a Council member, talked with Dr Samuel Yu about his "history" of joining Hong Kong's AIDS activities.

In the same issue, Miss Anna Wu, an active member of the Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People Living with HIV/AIDS, and Miss Christine Feng, a new member of our Council, both gave a message to the Centre.

Red Ribbon Centre is an initiative of the Department of Health's Special Preventive Programme. It became an UNAIDS Collaborating Centre in 1998, and is currently a focal point for people and agencies working on HIV/AIDS here in Hong Kong and the region. 



The Pearl Phenomenon


Focus

THE Third Workshop on *HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology in the Pearl River Delta Region* would be held from 7 to 9 of November in Shenzhen.

For members who are new to the AIDS field, you may be puzzled by the 'identity' of this workshop, the first one of which was held in Macao in 1998 and the second one in 2000. The biennial workshop is neither an official nor an informal meeting. It's a technical workshop involving delegates working on HIV surveillance and epidemiology in the cities in the Region. A very open attitude has been adopted in the last two meetings by welcoming the participation of whoever is interested.

The history of this workshop series could be dated back to 1996 when the Advisory Council on AIDS organised the first Hong Kong AIDS Conference. The participation of some technical people in the region, through the encouragement of Dr James Chin, a renowned epidemiologist, ended in the organisation of the workshop. The number of cities joining the workshop has since increased. For the upcoming meeting, there would be the participation of 13 cities including Hong Kong and Macao. Hong Kong has always been, and is still, the major driving force in setting up this interesting forum.

From the brochure, it can be noted that the agenda has been

increasing in both breadth and depth. In the past there were discussions on HIV situations, prevalence data and debates on the implications of collecting behavioural data. In the coming workshop, there would be presentations and discussions on a few new topics.

The new topics for the workshop are (a) the profile of opportunistic infections, including (and emphasising) tuberculosis coinfection and *Penicillium marneffeii* infections; (b) molecular epidemiology; and (c) perinatal infections and the prevention of



mother-to-child HIV transmission. The cities would, as in the previous workshops, present the HIV situations and exchange views on behavioural data collected in the last years.

Before closing, one last session would be devoted to the promotion of discussions about the common pattern (if any) of the HIV infections in the Pearl River Delta Region. There had been suggestions of developing a common situation report (something like a map) for

the region. This would be a difficult but meaningful task for technical people working on HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong and the neighbouring cities.

One unique feature about the coming workshop is the exclusive use of Chinese as the medium of presentation and discussions. Another feature would be the absence of any invited speakers from overseas. While there are drawbacks because of such arrangement, the forum can become a very focused event for enabling people in the region to exchange views on a wide range of related subjects. After all, the geographical boundaries between the cities are becoming blurred. It is meaningless to talk the HIV situation in Hong Kong without addressing what is happening next door.

Finally, on administration. The workshop is not an official function of the ACA, though ACA has been giving the backing all the times. Be sure to join it. The registration fee is just RMB300, which you can pay at the door. There are no sponsors for the event, and your active support is appreciated. And, we should all feel proud of this project - we pioneered this Pearl River Delta concept before many people in the commercial sector or industry began their navigation! ⌘

S S Lee

The Advisory Council on AIDS Website www.aca-hk.com