

## ⌘ Calendar ⌘

**XLIX Meeting of the  
Advisory Council on AIDS  
(ACA)**

2:30 pm 7 January 2005

**XXXIV Meeting of the  
Scientific Committee on  
AIDS (SCA)**

2:30 pm 14 December 2004

**XIX Meeting of the AIDS  
Prevention and Care  
Committee (APCC)**

6:30 pm 18 March 2005

**XVI Meeting of the  
Committee on Promoting  
Acceptance of People  
Living with HIV/AIDS  
(CPA)**

2:30 pm 2 March 2005

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Web site: <http://www.aca-hk.com>

## Health Panel examined HIV/AIDS



On 8 November, HIV/AIDS was raised as one of the agenda items of the LegCo Health Services Panel meeting, chaired by the Honourable Andrew Cheng and with the participation of Dr the Honourable Kwok Ka-ki, the deputy chairman and other members. The administration, headed by the Director of Health, had prepared a paper titling *“The Government’s Responses to HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong 1984 – 2004”* for the information of Panel members. He was joined by Dr PY Leung, Controller of the newly established Centre for Health Protection (CHP), and Dr SS Lee of CHP’s Special Preventive Programme.

The tight schedule did not allow the Panel to go into the details of the paper. Questions raised by LegCo members ranged from the number of condoms distributed to commercial sex workers, the threat of HIV epidemic resulting from the increase in human mobility, promoting acceptance of patients and men having sex with men, and the efforts of the Government in helping HIV infected haemophilia patients in the territory. In response to the latter question, the Government explained that a report had been received from the Advisory Council on AIDS, and was studying the recommendations contained therein. The report *“The Forgotten Tragedy The Unforgettable Trauma”* was submitted to the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food the previous week. The subject was discussed at meetings of the Advisory Council on AIDS in 2003 and 2004.

*“The Government’s Responses to HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong 1984 – 2004” can be downloaded from the LegCo’s website [www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)*





## World AIDS Day 2004

UNAIDS has announced “Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS” as the theme for World AIDS Campaign 2004. This year-long World AIDS Campaign, with the strapline “Have you heard me today?” seeks to raise awareness about, and help address, the many issues affecting women and girls around HIV and AIDS. The campaign, culminating on World AIDS Day – 1 December 2004, explores how gender inequality fuels the AIDS epidemic, and helps to accelerate the global response to HIV and AIDS by encouraging people to address female vulnerability to HIV. This year also marks the twentieth year since the first case of HIV was diagnosed in Hong Kong. World AIDS Day 2004 offers an appropriate timepoint for us to reflect on Hong Kong’s responses to HIV/AIDS, and to inspire new initiatives for the years to come.

To respond to the campaign and to memorialise this epoch of 20<sup>th</sup> year of response, government and non-governmental organisations in Hong Kong organised a range of activities focusing on different aspects of HIV/AIDS. A new 15-second announcement in the public interest (API), aiming at raising the awareness of HIV/AIDS and promoting hotline service in female, was screened around the period of World AIDS Day. A poster, tying in with the theme of API, was distributed to related organisations. The AIDS Prevention and Care Committee have also sent letters to nearly 300 women’s organisations in Hong Kong to appeal for their participations in World AIDS Campaign.

The Red Ribbon Centre, in conjunction with Mingpao, launched a project titled “0.2-Twenty Years of AIDS in Hong Kong” to

mark the 20th year of Hong Kong’s responses to HIV/AIDS. 10 most inspiring persons were chosen by a vetting panel for public voting. A sharing ceremony of the most inspiring persons, officiated by Mrs Betty Tung, Patron of the Red Ribbon Centre – UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for Technical Support, was held at Hong Kong Central Library on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2004. As a parallel event, a posters and newspaper archives exhibition on Hong Kong’s response of 20 years kicked off on that day and will rove around different districts in the coming months. A commemoration booklet was published to highlight some special milestones in the past 20 years. The publication features a collection of reprints of articles about HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. The press meeting for HIV situation in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2004 not only reported data in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter but also reviewed the pattern of HIV infection in Hong Kong in the last 20 years on 30 November 2004.

Special programmes focusing on HIV/AIDS were produced by RTHK and TVB. These programmes were released around the period of World AIDS Day. Non-governmental organisations organised different functions to promote HIV awareness, safer sex and acceptance of people living with HIV, in forms of exhibition, candle light vigil, treasure hunt, party, concert and camp. A World AIDS Day activity calendar has been published by the Red Ribbon Centre through the coordination of APCC. The flyer listed out the programme highlights of government and non-governmental organisations working on different aspects of HIV/AIDS. It acted as a joint publicity programme and provided information on the activities held around World AIDS Day for the media and public.

☞ UNAIDS- “Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS”  
☞ 香港- “妳您我我齊關心”  
☞ 中國- “关注妇女、抗击艾滋”

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## AIDS Epidemic Update 2004

A new UNAIDS/WHO report released on 23 November 2004 shows that the number of women living with HIV has risen in each region of the world over the past two years, with the steepest increase in East Asia. Women are increasingly affected, now making up nearly half of the 37.2 million adults (aged 15-49) living with HIV worldwide. These latest findings were published in AIDS Epidemic Update 2004, the annual report by UNAIDS and WHO. The complete report can be accessed on the UNAIDS website – [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

## AIDS epidemic update

December 2004



### Third International Conference on HIV/AIDS and Other Viral Diseases



China CIPRA and the Guangxi Medical University will organize the Third International Conference on HIV/AIDS and Other Viral Diseases from December 1-3, 2004, in Nanning, Guangxi

province of China. This conference will be sponsored by the China CDC and the NIH, co-sponsored by Chinese Academy of Medical Science, Committee on Virology of the Chinese Society for Microbiology and the US CDC.

The main objectives of the conference are to

1. Introduce the latest research developments in HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases;
2. Provide opportunities for Chinese scientists to communicate with international colleagues and explore possible ways of cooperation;
3. Strengthen the collaboration between China and the USA

on infectious diseases.

The theme of the conference is Scientific Approaches to Prevention and Care. Topics to be discussed during the conference will include: 1) ART treatment, 2) vaccine development, 3) epidemiology and interventions, 4) preventive measures, 5) policy and social issues, 6) other related issues.

Dr SS LEE, ACA's Secretary, and Dr KH WONG of the Special Preventive Programme will attend the conference.

