& Calendar &

XLIX Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)

2:30 pm 7 January 2005

<u>XXXIV Meeting</u> 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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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 <u>www.legco.gov.hk</u>

18th APCC Meeting

The 18th APCC meeting originally scheduled for 3 December 04 was advanced by one week and was held on 26 November 04. There were 4 main items on the agenda: (i) HIV situation in female in Hong Kong; (ii) Hong Kong's response on World AIDS Day 2004; (iii) Chief Executive's community project list; and (iv) APCC occasional review: HIV situation in "Men who have Sex with Men" (MSM) in Hong Kong.

The World AIDS Day 2004 was the focus of the meeting. To match the theme of this year's World AIDS Campaign – Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS, members were presented HIV situation in female in Hong Kong under item (i). It was noted that 19% of all reported cases of HIV infection were female (464 out of 2384) as at the end of June 2004. Cumulatively, 94 female AIDS cases were reported at the same period of time. The situation of female with HIV infection was summarized as follows:

- (a) The number of HIV infected female was increasing since 1993.
- (b) Heterosexual contact was the major route of transmission in female.

- attributes for the increase.
- (d) The seroprevalence of HIV in women at reproductive age was low.
- (e) Provision of HIV programmes targeted women was limited, both in scope and coverage.

Knowing full well the World AIDS Day fell on 1 December 2004, members were introduced, under item (ii), the events and activities organized by AIDS NGOs to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and acceptance in Hong Kong around the World AIDS day. A flyer listing out the programme highlights was also given to members.

Regarding (iii), members learnt of the Chief Executive's community project list, a funding scheme allowing NGOs to realize their large scale innovative projects with cost over \$10 million. Funds would be provided by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

At the close of the meeting, members noted the paper under item (iv). The paper was a record on APCC's discussion on the subject and the agreed strategies for HIV prevention in MSM in Hong Kong.

The next meeting was scheduled for 18 March 2005.

The 34th Scientific Committee on AIDS Meeting

The 34th SCA meeting will be held on 14 December 2004. There are 3 major items on the agenda: (i) Unlinked Anonymous Screening for HIV Surveillance in Hong Kong; (ii) Draft Report on Sentinel Syndromic STI Surveillance in Hong Kong; and (iii) Recommended Framework for the Delivery of HIV Clinical Care in Hong Kong. ×

The 16th meeting of the Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People Living with HIV/AIDS originally scheduled for 24 November 2004 has been postponed to <u>2</u> <u>March 2005</u> (Wednesday). The last CPA meeting in the current term of office has been tentatively fixed on 8 June 2005 (Wednesday). ×

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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 HIV and AIDS to address encouraging people to 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 20th 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 1st 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 3rd quarter 2004 not only reported data in the 3rd 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 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.

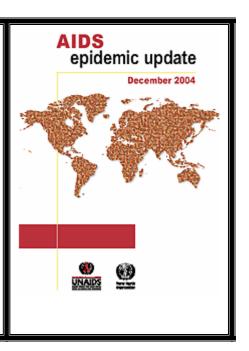
- ຍວ UNAIDS- "Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS" ຍວ
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- め *中国*-"*关注妇女、抗击艾滋*" め

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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



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.

