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**Appointment to the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS**

Congratulations to **Prof CHEN Char-nie, JP** ( 陳佳靄教授太平紳士), on his appointment as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) for three years from 1 August 2005. Congratulations are also extended to the following persons on their appointment as Members to the ACA for three years from 1 August 2005:

Prof	CHAN Wing-tai, JP	陳永泰教授太平紳士
Ms	CHAN Yu	陳瑜女士
Prof	CHEUNG Mui-ching, Fanny	張妙清教授
Ms	CHU Kam-ying, Elsie	朱錦瑩女士
Dr	FAN Yun-sun, Susan	范瑩孫醫生
Prof	FOK Tai-fai	霍泰輝教授
Mr	KO Chun-wa, MH	顧振華先生
Mr	William KO, MH	高威林先生
Prof	LAM Tai-hing, JP	林大慶教授太平紳士
Dr	LEE Man-po	李文寶醫生
Prof	MAK Ping-see, Diana	麥萍施教授
Mr	PANG Shing-fook	彭盛福先生
Lt Col	TSANG Hing-man, Alfred	曾慶敏上校
Prof	WONG Lung-tak, Patrick, JP	黃龍德教授太平紳士
Miss	YAU Ho-chun, Nora, MH, JP	邱可珍女士太平紳士

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**51st  
ACA Meeting**

The last ACA meeting in its fifth term of office was held on 22 July 2005. There were four main items on the agenda.

(1) On moving into the sixth term of office of the ACA, members noted the following factors which might affect the work of the ACA in the coming years:

- (a) HIV epidemiology – the number of infection in MSM, old people and IDU was on the rise.
- (b) Incidents in Hong Kong and around the world – there was a recent upsurge of bilateral movement of residents of Hong Kong and the mainland
- (c) Policy and administrative environment, including public health infrastructure – after the

formation of the CHP, there was a need to separate the SCA from the ACA.

Members were also presented the three options for the future structure of the ACA:

(2) Regarding the Safer Sex Campaign 2005, members were introduced the background and programmes of the campaign, which aimed at promoting the practice of safer sex and removing the taboo on condom in the public. The components of the campaign included

- (a) A new TV and radio API with a theme song and a slogan
- (b) A launching ceremony on 4 September 2005
- (c) A sex education workshop as a closing event on 25 September 2005
- (d) Free distribution of condom at various public venues

Members made valuable comments on the production of the new API and the promotion of the Safer Sex Campaign.

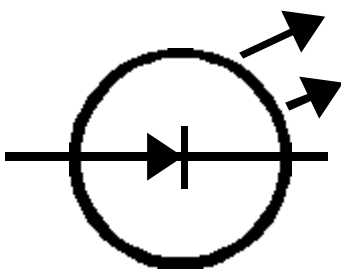
(3) As regards the report on the 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific 2005, members noted the participation in the Congress by the ACA members and the main features of this year's Congress. (photos are on page 31.)

(4) Concerning the report on the review on social and support services to people with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong, members noted the report submitted by the CPA and the inadequacy of services in five specific areas and the proposed remedial measures.

At the end of meeting, members proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his leadership and dedication to the work of the ACA.



*Dr Homer Tso, Prof CN Chen, Prof Lau, Rev YM Chu of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS attended the 7<sup>th</sup> ICAAP at Kobe, Japan from 1 to 5 July 2005*



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### *16<sup>th</sup> CPA Meeting*

The Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People Living with HIV/AIDS met on 13 July 2005. There were three main items on the agenda.

(A) Members further discussed the report on the review on social and support services to people with

HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. It was agreed to submit the report to the ACA for endorsement at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting to be held on 22 July 2005.

(B) Regarding the new registration card (RC) for people with disabilities of the Central Registry for Rehabilitation, members noted the issue of new card commencing 1 July 2005. New features of the card included cardholder's photograph, deployment of security papers, insertion of an end date. Members were of the view that the type of

disabilities should not be shown on the new RC.

(C) For the new API featuring Yao Ming and Magic Johnson, members were given to know the background and the production of the API. They agreed to further pursue the opportunity to work with Yao Ming to promote the acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Chairman thanked members for their support and active participation in CPA's meetings and activities.

**Highlights of the Government's Responses to the Recommendations made in the Report 'The Forgotten Tragedy, The Unforgettable Trauma – Addressing the needs of people affected by haemophiliac and HIV infection in Hong Kong'**  
**Published by the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS**

**The** Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) conducted a study to assess the needs of HIV infected haemophiliac patients in Hong Kong and issued a Report to the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) in September 2004. The Bureau has taken up the recommendations with the relevant departments and agencies as well as the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund (ATF).

**The** ATF Council will very soon launch an additional ex-gratia payment scheme. The details are as follows:-

- (a) ex-gratia assistance will be made on an annual basis to patients and their family;
- (b) no financial means tests (e.g. income and asset limits) will be required;
- (c) there will be no pre-set ceiling for the total amount of ex-gratia payments that an individual patient may get;
- (d) the annual payments payable to the patients will be adjusted annually according to relevant indices; and
- (e) \$360,000 would be given to the families or widows of the patients who passed away after the launch of the

ATF in 1993 and who have not received the \$300,000 one-off grant given to such families or widows under the old scheme launched in 1993.

**The** Department of Health (DH) is finalizing the operation guidelines with the concerned departments. The payment will be disbursed on an annual basis. The first payment will cover the period from April 2005 to March 2006.

**To** facilitate patients' access to services at HA hospitals and DH clinics, a system will be put in place to waive patients on payments relating to in-patient and out-patient services, as well as on drug provisions. This arrangement will also apply to the treatment of hepatitis C. Patients will also be offered the option to seek their different treatment services in one hospital as far as possible. Care providers will assist to coordinate the various treatment services for the patients.

**DH** would chair a case review panel comprising representatives from SWD and HA to monitor and follow up regularly on the needs of each of the patients and their carers

as necessary. This standing structure ensures that cases are brought up on a regular basis so that coordinated efforts can be made to address the unique needs of patients and their carers.

**It** is understood that a peer support group by patients and their carers has already been registered. SWD/DH will assist by making available a room at the Red Ribbon Centre/Integrated Treatment Centre (ITC) for the group to facilitate the group's operation and the conduct of activities and provide the necessary assistance to facilitate their funding application from the ATF.

**The** additional ex-gratia scheme will be launched as soon as the operational guidelines are finalized. It is expected that patients will be invited to make applications in late July/early August 2005. The case review panel is already in operation and the medical fee waiver systems are also in place. Relevant Medical Social Workers (MSWs) will provide patients and their families with detailed information.