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## The Third Conference on HIV/AIDS International Cooperation Projects in China

Prof CHEN Char-nie, JP, the newly appointed Chairman of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS, will attend the Third Conference on HIV/AIDS International Cooperation Projects in China (第三屆中國愛滋病防治國際合作項目經驗交流會會議) to be held from 3 to 4 September 2005 at Kunming, Yunna.

The Conference is organized by the National Center for AIDS/STI Control and Prevention of the Chinese Center for Diseases Control and Prevention.

The theme of the Conference will focus on the sharing of experiences by government and non-government agencies in HIV/AIDS projects in China.





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The first ACA meeting in its 6<sup>th</sup> term will be held on 7 Oct ober 2005 (Fri day) at 2:30pm at the DH Conference Room, 21/F Wu Chung House, Wan Chai. This will be the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting since its inception in 1990.

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## AIDS situation in second quarter of 2005

**Seventy people** tested positive for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) antibody in the second quarter of 2005. This brings the cumulative total of reported HIV infections to 2,647.

Twenty new cases of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) were reported in the same quarter, bringing to 743 the total number of confirmed AIDS cases reported since 1985. 65% of the new cases were related to heterosexual contact.

Of the 70 new HIV cases reported, 28 acquired the infection via heterosexual contact, 20 via homosexual or bisexual contact, three through

intravenous drug use and one case through transfusion of blood/blood product (non-local). The routes of transmission of the remaining 18 cases were undetermined due to inadequate data.

The 70 cases comprised 48 males and 22 females.
In this quarter, Mycobacterium

In this quarter, Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection is the commonest AIDS defining illness.

Of the 2,647 cumulative total of HIV infections since 1984, around 78% acquired infection through sexual contact. Of them, 69% resulted from heterosexual transmission and 95 infections occurred among injection drug users.

The newly diagnosed cases for this quarter were reported by four major sources:

public hospitals and clinics (33), private hospitals and clinics (8), Social Hygiene Clinics (10) and the DH's AIDS Counselling Service (11). Cumulatively, the four sources have accounted for 44.1%, 21.8%, 15.3% and 13.2% of all reported infections.

Of the newly reported cases in this quarter, 50 (71.4%) have received care at the DH's HIV Specialist Services or the Hospital Authority.

Seventy-one per cent of the reported cases in the first half of 2005 have attended these services where effective antiretroviral treatment is offered according to clinical indication.

		This Quarter		Cumulative	
		<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>	HIV	AIDS
Sex	Male	48	18	2120	641
	Female	22	2	527	102
Ethnicity	Chinese	52	17	1835	581
	Non-Chinese	18	3	812	162
Route of Transmission	Sexual Contacts	48	19	2059	660
	Heterosexual	28	13	1426	503
	Homosexual	17	5	522	126
	Bisexual	3	1	111	31
	Injecting drug use	3	0	95	13
	Blood/blood products recipients	1	0	70	20
	Perinatal	0	0	15	6
	Undetermined	18	1	408	44
	Total	70	20	2647	743

## ACA in its 6th Term

**The** Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS held a reception gathering on the Saturday afternoon on 27 August 2005 at the Red Ribbon Centre. The purpose of the gathering was to

allow ACA members, old and new, to know each other in a leisurely setting and to get basic information about HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong and the operation of the ACA.



















Patterns of health care utilization and health behaviors among street sex workers in Hong Kong.

Wong WC, Gray SA, Ling DC, Holroyd EA. Health Policy. 2005 May 24; [Epub ahead of print]

**Dr. Wong** WC, et al of the Department of Community and Family Medicine, Chinese University of Hong Kong community conducted a outreach study between October 2003 and February 2004 on the current health service use and their beliefs of 89 street female sex workers (FSW) recruited by direct approach and snowballing in Hong Kong. The study subjects underwent minute face-to-face interview, followed by a focus group discussion for selected clients. Dr. Wong found that while these FSWs' perception of personal health was good, a considerable proportion suffered from illnesses but the consultation rate was a third of the mean rate of the general population in Hong Kong. Many street workers experienced difficulty utilizing health service in Hong Kong and even when they did, it was mainly for acute problems. Affordable access to health public services was excluded and many found private services unaffordable due to the high price charged by the practitioners. It was common for these women to self-medicate, delay in seeking medical help, or travel back to China for treatment. The

authors concluded that to reduce sexually transmitted infections and HIV among the street sex workers, it is essential to address the fundamental issue of health care access.



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