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Schedule

54th ACA Meeting on
7 April 2006

Website: <http://www.aca-hk.com>



CHP Symposium - Updates on TB, STI and HIV

衛生防護中心研討會 - 結核病、性病及愛滋病

19 February 2006 • Harbour Plaza Hong Kong

Organized by The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health
The Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



CHP Symposium - Updates on TB, STI and HIV

TB, STI, and HIV are three common infectious diseases of major public health significance locally. In fighting the battle against these communicable diseases, the best strategy is to ensure that the health care professionals are well trained and supported and that the community is well informed. The CHP, established in 2004, has set up a health protection system backed by a well trained workforce, solid professional expertise, an informed community and seamless collaboration with local and international partners, so as to strengthen the preparedness and capability in disease prevention and control.

In recognition of the designation of the Public Health Laboratory Centre (PHLC) as a Supranational TB Reference Laboratory by the World Health Organization, the Public Health Services Branch of the Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health will organize the CHP Symposium on **19 February 2006 (Sunday)** at Harbour Plaza Hong Kong, 20 Tak Fung Street, Hunghom. It provides an opportunity to share experience and professional knowledge for combating these diseases.

For registration, please visit the website: <http://www.chp.gov.hk>

*Happy Lunar New Year! Happy Lunar New Year! Happy Lunar New Year!
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53rd ACA meeting

The 53rd ACA meeting was held on 6 January 2006. There were four major items on the agenda. Below is a summary of the discussion at the meeting.

(1) On public health update on rising HIV situation in MSM community, members noted that there had been a persistent high level of MSM infection in the recent 2 years. A record number of 91 HIV cases was reported in the third quarter of 2005, out of which 36 cases were infected from sex between men. Through molecular studies and phylogenetic analysis, a MSM cluster of HIV infection had been identified. The risk of HIV transmission in MSM and the possible reasons for the increase of HIV infection in MSM were also highlighted. To prevent further upsurge of HIV infection in MSM, six priority areas had been identified for community collaboration:

- (a) awareness programme,
- (b) improved condom access,
- (c) unlinked anonymous screening in MSM,
- (d) enhanced support service for infected MSM,
- (e) behavioural change programme employing group dynamics, and
- (f) MSM STI clinic.

(2) As regards the review on “Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2002-2006”, members were presented the resulted of the review on the present progress (up to end of 2005) of the achievements of the 11 targets set out in the current strategy document according to the seven guiding principles:

- (a) The prevention-treatment-care continuum as cornerstone
- (b) Addressing vulnerability and risk behaviours as principles in targeted preventive interventions
- (c) Promotion of acceptance

- (d) Incorporation of concept of professional standard in HIV treatment and care services
- (e) Effectiveness as the implied principle, based on scientific evidence
- (f) Observance of solidarity
- (g) Incorporation of gender as a perspective

The overall assessment was that most of the targets had been met partially or in full.

(3) Regarding an update on mainland and international development in HIV/AIDS strategy and response, members noted the global and regional HIV situation with highlights on HIV epidemic on the mainland. UNAIDS’s effort in coordinating global HIV response as well as the scaling up of effort in the fight against AIDS in China were also presented to members.

(4) For the opinion survey on AIDS programme and 2002-2006 strategies in Hong Kong, members examined the design of the questionnaire on the opinion survey, which intended to collect opinions on the current AIDS programme in Hong Kong and to look at the extent of implementation of the 11 targets set out in the 2002-06 strategies with a view to making preparation for the new strategies. The secretariat would take members’ constructive views into account when finalizing the questionnaire



The next ACA meeting will be held on **7 April 2006**.



Visitors from Chinese Ministry of Health and China CDC

A delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Health and the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention visited Hong Kong to look at the HIV programmes from 12 to 13 January 2006. It was organized by the China AIDS Roadmap Tactical Support Project (CHARTS) Office under the State Council AIDS Working Committee Office.

The delegation comprised Dr Hao Yang, Deputy Director General of the Department of Diseases Control of the Ministry of Health, Dr Han Meng-jie, Deputy Director, National Centre for AIDS Control and Prevention, Dr Yu Dong-bao, Project Manager of CHARTS, Ms Wang Xin-lun, Director of the Health Communication Center of the National Centre of Health Education and Dr Pang Lin, Research Scientist of the Division of Health Education & Behavior Intervention of National Centre for AIDS Control and Prevention.



The delegates visited the Red Ribbon Centre (RRC) on the first day of their visit. Dr.

Raymond Ho of the Special Preventive Programme (SPP) introduced the general situation of HIV/ AIDS in Hong Kong and gave an overview of the programmes and activities of SPP, including clinical care, HIV prevention programmes and surveillance activities. He also described on the policy aspect, including the structure, function and importance of the ACA regarding the prevention, care and control of HIV infection and AIDS. Dr. Krystal Lee gave the delegation a short account of various HIV-related surveillance programmes in Hong Kong. Lastly, Dr. Albert Au presented an overview of the health promotion and prevention activities of RRC.

The delegates shared with staff of SPP the current HIV situation in different parts of China and the challenges they were facing. The preventive activities targeted at injecting drug users were discussed. They talked about the Methadone programmes set up in China recently which would be scaled up in the near future. They showed great interest in the integration of HIV screening programme into the methadone treatment programme in Hong Kong and the technology of using urine to test for HIV.

The delegates had a busy schedule the next day. They visited the Violet Peel Methadone Clinic in the morning and the Kowloon Bay Integrated Treatment Centre in the afternoon. In between, **Prof. CN Chen, ACA Chairman** and Dr. PY Leung, Controller, Centre for Health Protection joined the lunch meeting with the delegates. They had an in-depth discussion on AIDS strategies in Hong Kong and the roles of ACA in the response to HIV/ AIDS. There was a fruitful exchange of information on HIV/AIDS related issues common both to Hong Kong and the Mainland.

On the whole, the delegates were impressed by the comprehensive HIV programme in Hong Kong.

Meeting with Malaysian Minister of Health and his Delegation

~15 to 17 December 2005

Headed by Datuk Dr. Chua Soi Lek, the Minister of Health and Miss Gaye Phillips, Representative of UNICEF Malaysia, a delegation consisting eight officials from the Ministry of Health Malaysia and UNICEF Malaysia paid a study visit to Hong Kong on HIV surveillance and harm reduction on 15 to 17 December 2005.

The study was initiated because harm reduction measures had been identified as one priority to stop the spread of HIV/ AIDS in Malaysia recently. Just before their visit here, a methadone substitution program was piloted in October 2005. A needle-syringe exchange and condom promotion program was also scheduled to be launched in early 2006.



Prof CN CHEN, Chairman of the ACA and Dr Susan FAN, Convenor of the Community Forum on AIDS, together with Prof YL LAU, Chairman of the Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI met and discussed with the delegates the role and operation of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS in Hong Kong. The meeting focused on the relationship between the ACA as the main advisory body and the Government in formulating and executing HIV related policies in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's experience in setting up the territory wide antenatal HIV screening

programme through research, partnership and capacity building activities and the swift response from the Government to the ACA's study report on the needs of patients with haemophilia and HIV infection published last year were referred to at the discussion meeting. The delegation was impressed by the effective functioning of the ACA with voluntary participation of local community leaders, academia and health care professionals.



During the two and a half days' visit, the delegation also visited the methadone clinics, social hygiene clinics, Red Ribbon Centre and Integrated Treatment Centre. Datuk Dr Chua and his delegates also had meetings with Dr York CHOW, Secretary for the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, Dr PY LAM, Director of Health, Dr YW CHAN, Chief Staff Officer of Auxiliary Medical Service and other health care workers on HIV surveillance and harm reduction programme in Hong Kong.

The delegates rated positively about the study visit.

