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Schedule

55th ACA Meeting on
7 July 2006
4th CFA Meeting on
26 Sept 2006
Website: <http://www.aca-hk.com>

55th ACA Meeting

The 55th ACA meeting will be held on 7 July 2006 (Friday) at 2:30 pm at the DH Conference Room, 21/F Wu Chung House, Wan Chai. There are three main items on the agenda:

1. HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong 2006 - Living on the Edge - Consultancy Report by Dr Tim Brown
2. Community Assessment and Evaluation Reports
 - (a) Cross-border travellers
 - (b) Men having sex with men
 - (c) Youth
3. UNAIDS Core Indicators for Monitoring Hong Kong's AIDS Programme -2005 Interim Report

↳ Interested readers may watch for the next issue of the ACA Newsfile for more details.



~ Congratulations ~

Congratulations to Prof. FOK Tai-fai on his appointment as Justices of Peace with effect from 1 July 2006

The Third CFA Meeting

The third CFA meeting was held on 26 June 2006. The meeting continued to examine in detail the reports submitted by three working groups on (a) Men having sex with men; (b) Youth; and (c) Cross-border travellers.

The importance of conducting research to obtain information about the behaviour and attitude of hard-to-reach populations was raised by several members. Funding resource remained a major concern. The worries of the exhaustion of the AIDS Trust Fund without replenishment were hanging over some AIDS NGOs.

As CFA had accepted all seven reports submitted by the working groups, it was agreed that the working groups would cease to operate. CFA would hand the seven reports in to ACA for their deliberation. The seven working groups were formed under CFA for the community assessment and evaluation for preparing Hong Kong AIDS Strategies 2007-2011. They were: (a) Commercial sex workers and clients; (b) Injecting drug users; (c) Women and Children; (d) People living with HIV/AIDS. Progress reports of the following three working groups were made: (a) Men having sex with men; (b) Youth; and (c) Cross-border travellers.

The next item on the agenda was a summary of the external consultancy report on estimation and projection of HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. Members were presented the key findings and recommendations in the report written by Dr Tim Brown, the external consultant on Estimation and Projection of HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. Members noted the six recommendations which were made to reflect the relative urgency of the various situations contributing to Hong Kong's exposure to HIV in the near future.

The fourth CFA meeting will be held on 26 September 2006



Women and AIDS in Hong Kong

On 19 June 2006, Ms CHAN Yu (ACA member) was invited by the Women's Commission to speak in one of the afternoon sessions on the topic of Women and Health in its Conference titled "Together We Build A Harmonious Community" at the Hong Kong Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai. The title of Ms Chan's presentation was "Women and AIDS in Hong Kong: A Gender Analysis of Epidemic, Intervention Program and Policy Making." The content of Ms Chan's talk was summarized below:-

In Hong Kong, the "women and AIDS" issue is not in the public eye as a result of gender bias and misconceptions such as married women and those persons in stable relationship are not required to practice safer sex. There has been an increasing proportion of HIV-infected women since the beginning of the epidemic in the 1980s. Sexual transmission is the predominant route of transmission accounting for over three-quarters of the reported HIV cases. Women aged 20-39 are most susceptible to HIV infections among female subjects. Women may unknowingly get infected by their regular male partners after visiting sex workers. Attention is drawn on the increasing mobility of the cross-border population and its impacts on HIV/AIDS prevention and testing services for women.

The significant attributes of gender inequalities and gender role stereotypes in women's vulnerabilities to HIV infection should be addressed. HIV prevention and care strategies should include: empower women to implement safer sex practices; enhance women's

knowledge and awareness for equal rights; integrate gender equity issues into sexual health and AIDS education programmes; encourage women taking part in AIDS prevention and peer education; promote collaboration between health care professions and women groups in an integrate model; provide more support to female caregivers of HIV/AIDS patients, and secure long-term funding to women and AIDS projects and researches.

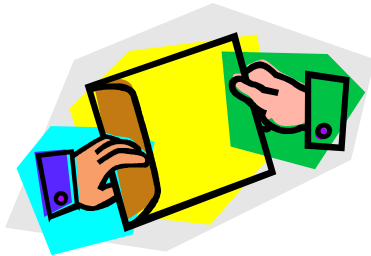


Women and AIDS has long term impacts on public health, family and interpersonal relationships, nurturing of young generation and resource demands on economic and social developments. Political commitment to include "women and AIDS" in a public policy framework will be a crucial and sustainable strategy in HIV prevention for Hong Kong and the global scene.

Ms Chan's talk was well received by the delegates attending the seminar. Regular meetings between AIDS stakeholders including policy makers, government officials, service providers, researchers and women will keep "Women and AIDS" issue alive in the public eye and provide opportunities for collaboration and scaling up HIV prevention in the area.



Tripartite meeting on infectious diseases held in Dongguan



The sixth tripartite meeting of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Expert Group on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases was held in Dongguan on June 28 and 29.

During the meeting, public health and medical experts of the three places reviewed the works by the three parties in monitoring, prevention and communication of infectious diseases situation since the fifth meeting held in Macau last year.

They also held in-depth discussions on a number of public health issues which included preparedness for influenza pandemic, co-operation in response to outbreaks of public health incidents, recent situation of infectious diseases, operation of the notification mechanism, surveillance and control of pneumonia of unidentified cause and scientific researches, public health information system development, and future directions of infectious diseases prevention and treatment.

After thorough discussion, consensus on the following subjects was also reached:

(1) Strengthen the response system to deal with emergency public health incidents and major infectious diseases by implementing the agreement of co-operation on emergency public health incidents in the three places.

(2) Step up communication and co-operation in the preparedness for influenza pandemic to reduce as far as practicable the health, social and economic impacts in case of an outbreak of influenza pandemic.

(3) Improve operation of the notification mechanism and set up an information platform on trend of infectious diseases.

(4) To continue mutual visits and training of health care professionals to cover areas of surveillance and outbreak investigations, contingency management, clinical epidemiology, laboratory tests and infection control management, etc.

(5) Co-operation in scientific researches, including AIDS, influenza and human avian influenza and dengue fever, etc.

Members agreed that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Department of Health would organise the seventh tripartite meeting scheduled to be held in July next year.

Dr Lam Ping-yan, Director of Health, Dr Wong Ka-hing; Consultant Physician in HIV/AIDS, and more than 60 experts on infectious diseases from the three places participated in the meeting. Dr Lam and Dr Wong are respectively Vice-chairman and Secretary of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS.

A New Look of the Red Ribbon Centre

Prof CHEN Char-nie, Chairman of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS, together with other six officiating guests, unveiled a new look of the Red Ribbon Centre



at the opening ceremony of its new wing on 23 June 2006.

Other ACA members including Lt Col Alfred TSANG Hing-man, Ms CHAN Yu, Ms Elsie CHU Kam-ying, and Mr KO Chun-wa also attended the ceremony. They together with the Chairman participated actively in the discussion after the talk given by Mr Joel Rehnstrom, the Country Coordinator of UNAIDS in China. The subject of the talk was “Challenges and Opportunities in the Response to AIDS in Mainland China” and the talk was held immediately after the opening ceremony at the new hall of the RRC.



Officiating Guest (from right to left)
Prof CHEN Char-nie,JP, Miss YEUNG Chin-wah, Mr Joel Rehnstrom, Dr P.Y. LAM,JP, Mrs Selina TSANG, Dr P.Y. LEUNG,JP, Prof CHAN Tai-kwong, JP and Dr Samuel YU

