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Schedule

57th ACA Meeting on
5 Jan 2007
5th CFA Meeting on
19 Dec 2006

56th ACA meeting

The 56th ACA meeting was held on 13 October 2006. There were four major items on the agenda. A summary of the discussion at the meeting is shown below.

On AIDS Education in Hong Kong Schools, with the assistance of the PowerPoint, the representative of EMB outlined the AIDS education in Hong Kong schools and highlighted that the promotion of AIDS education would be through (a) the school curriculum and programmes outside the lesson time, (b) provision of training courses for teachers and (c) resource support for schools.

Members noted that EMB would continue to promote AIDS education through:

- Review of existing school curriculum under the New Senior Secondary Curriculum;
- Production of resources and reference material for schools; and
- Provision of training courses for teachers.

As regards whether AIDS should be taught as an independent subject in schools, EMB representative presented the limits and possibilities of “Independent Subject Approach” with graphs and figures. Members generally felt that an independent subject approach might not be suitable for schools in Hong Kong.

The draft Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011 was presented to members. Members noted the four strategy objectives as follows:

- Reduce HIV spread;
- Achieve early HIV diagnosis;
- Restore health of HIV/AIDS patients; and
- Maintain low HIV prevalence.

Apart from the preface and the appendices, there would be six chapters in the strategy document:

- Overview of strategy development;
- Review of HIV situation and response;
- Framework for strategies 2007-2011
- Priority areas for action
- Working towards the common goals; and
- Key strategies documents –UNAIDS,WHO and Mainland China

Members also agreed that the revised draft strategy would go through a public consultation including open forum, inviting views from AIDS and related organizations and posting on the internet.

...to be continued on page 42





For UNAIDS core indicators for monitoring Hong Kong's AIDS Programme, it was noted that ACA came up with a set of core indicators for Hong Kong using data in 2003. As UNAIDS had recently proposed a new framework of 9 core indicators to be adopted for monitoring HIV situation in low prevalence epidemics like Hong Kong, the matter was further discussed and examined at the meeting. According to the new guidelines published by UNAIDS in 2005, the core national-level indicators would be divided into 3 categories:

- (i) National Commitment and Action
- (ii) National Knowledge and behaviour
- (iii) National-level programme and impact

Member unanimously agreed to prepare the second set of core indicators using the new version of guidance from UNAIDS.

The last main item on the agenda was a report on XVI International AIDS Conference and Hong Kong AIDS Dialogue. Members were given a presentation on the features of the XVI International AIDS Conference held in Toronto from 13 to 18 August 2006. "Time to deliver" was the theme of the conference. It followed by a summary of the "Hong Kong AIDS Dialogue 2006", which was organized by ACA and Red Ribbon Centre (RRC) on 16 September 2006. The one-day conference was attended by almost all AIDS specific NGOs and stakeholders. Interested readers may go to page 44 for a special feature on the event.

★The next ACA meeting will be held on 5 January 2007.



The Fourth CFA Meeting



The fourth CFA meeting was held on 5 October 2006. There were four items on the agenda.

Matrix for Community Assessment and Evaluation for Preparing Hong Kong AIDS Strategies 2007-2011

Members were given a systematic review of the process of the community assessment and evaluation. A matrix was created to describe the methodology used by the working groups to come up with the recommendations.

Report on XVI International AIDS Conference and Hong Kong AIDS Dialogue

Members noted the features of the XVI International AIDS Conference held in Toronto from 13 to 18 August 2006 and the "Hong Kong AIDS Dialogue 2006" organized by ACA and Red Ribbon Centre (RRC) on 16 September 2006.

HIV Prevention Campaign in MSM

Members agreed that there would be a need to scale up the HIV prevention effort in MSM community in view of consistent increase in the number of HIV infections in the MSM. They noted the objectives of the HIV campaign targeting MSM and the campaign programmes.

Hong Kong AIDS Publications

Members were given to know that research publications about HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong written by staff of the Special Preventive Programme of the Department of Health were collected by RRC in the past. They supported the proposal that RRC would extend the invitation to local NGOs, academics and researchers involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and care to send in their HIV/AIDS publications on a regular basis. It would fill the gap in local HIV/AIDS research.

★The fifth CFA meeting will be held on 19 December 2006



A Preview of World AIDS Day Activities

First of December is the World AIDS Day. This year's theme is "Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise". An AIDS prevention campaign is important to raise the awareness of the general public on HIV/AIDS. The Special Preventive Programme of the Department of Health will take this opportunity to launch a series of activities to promote the general public's awareness of HIV/AIDS and the practice of safer sex to prevent HIV infection.

premiere of four promotional videos on HIV/AIDS produced by RTHK. Pre-promotional activities will be started from the end of Nov 2006, including the broadcast of the re-edited "Dom Dom" API on "Stop AIDS" on televisions and KCR trains and advertisements on buses, MTR and Lo Wu Departure Hall. Parallel activities include radio programmes and segments and distribution of posters on HIV/AIDS.

The Red Ribbon Centre (RRC) has collaborated with Radio 2, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to organize a kick-off ceremony on 1 Dec 2006 at Central Atrium of Olympian City 2, Kowloon. It serves as a

Director of Health and other guests of honour including Prof CN CHEN, the ACA Chairman will be invited to officiate at the ceremony on the first of December 2006 to mark the occasion.



HIV/AIDS STATISTICS IN HONG KONG updated 30 June 2006					
		This Quarter		Cumulative	
		<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>	<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>
Sex	Male	71	21	2414	704
	Female	19	4	590	120
Ethnicity	Chinese	50	15	2041	638
	Non-Chinese	40	10	963	186
Route of Transmission	Sexual Contacts	48	17	2280	720
	Heterosexual	22	11	1537	544
	Homosexual	24	5	620	142
	Bisexual	2	1	123	34
	Injecting drug use	13	3	140	20
	Blood/blood products recipients	0	0	72	21
	Perinatal	0	0	17	6
	Undetermined	29	5	495	57
Total		90	25	3004	824

A Special Feature on Hong Kong AIDS Dialogue

The Hong Kong AIDS Dialogue was organized by the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS and the Red Ribbon Centre. It was a one-day local AIDS conference held on 16 September 2006 (Saturday) at Exhibition Hall, Public Health Laboratory Centre in Nam Cheong Street from 0900 to 1800 hrs. It was organized into 3 distinct sessions – Experience sharing by NGOs; Report back session from International AIDS Conference in Toronto and Skills Building Workshop.

The event attracted 261 delegates attending including 201 local delegates, 27 Macao delegates and 33 Mainland delegates. During the AIDS Dialogue, the 7 community assessment and evaluation reports were disseminated by CD and hard copies. Community Forum on AIDS was instrumental in taking on the tasks of community assessment and evaluation and contributed greatly to the exercise.

It has been some time ago before Hong Kong had a local AIDS meeting. Hong Kong Council of Social Services organized the last meeting in 2001. The organizers were excited by the favourable response from fellow AIDS workers in the region.

AIDS NGOs attending the event had the following preliminary feedback and suggestions:-

- (a) Hong Kong AIDS Dialogue should be held on a regular basis;
- (b) It was a good opportunity to share experience;
- (c) Regional participation and presentation by Mainland and Macao colleagues should be encouraged;
- (d) The programme was too tight and there were too many presentations scheduled for one day;
- (e) Individual programmes should be organized into thematic tracks similar to the community assessment exercise such as MSM, sex workers and clients, injecting drug users, cross border travelers, youth, women, PLHA etc.;
- (f) It would be desirable to turn it into a 2-day event as there was not enough time for Q&A;
- (g) There was too much emphasis on HIV Prevention in MSM but not in other areas; and
- (h) There should be a greater involvement of NGOs in planning and organizing the Dialogue.

MSM Coaster

