

Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Mr WONG Man-kong ACA Secretariat

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IN THIS ISSUE We have

- **62nd ACA Agenda** on page 13
- **10th CFA Agenda** on page 14

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

- **MSM HIV Campaign** on page 15
- **Report of AIDS in Asia** on page 16

Schedule ➤ 10th CFA Meeting on 1 April 2008 ➤ 62nd ACA Meeting on 11 April 2008

62nd ACA Meeting Agenda

The 62nd ACA meeting will be held on 11 April 2008 (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. A Review of HIV and AIDS Situation in Hong Kong 2007

2. A Joint Assessment of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care in China (2007)
3. Five-year Plan on MSM and HIV in Mainland China (2007-2010)

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

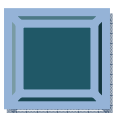
MSM HIV Prevention Campaign

- ◆ Zero Infection
- ◆ Zero Drug Abuse
- ◆ Zero Hopelessness

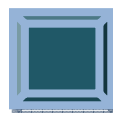


Tenth Meeting of the Community Forum on AIDS

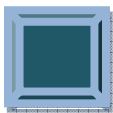
The 10th CFA meeting has been rescheduled to be held on 1 April 2008. There will be four main items on the agenda:



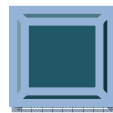
Presentation of AIDS Concern's Visit to HIV Prevention Programme in MSM in New South Wales, Australia



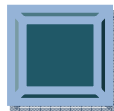
Annual HIV and AIDS Statistics 2007



Presentation of the AIDS Trust Fund Guiding Principles for Funding Applications to Medical and Support Services and Publicity and Public Education Applications



Family Planning Association's Hong Kong Youth Sexuality Study 2006



Readers may look up the next issue for more information about the 10th meeting.

Your Health Your Life – Healthcare Reform Consultation Document

Your Health Your Life – Healthcare Reform Consultation Document



The Food and Health Bureau has recently issued the above document for the purpose of public consultation. Stakeholders, people living with

HIV, patients with HIV-related illness and their family may take the opportunity to express their views on the healthcare reform in particular the financial options in relation to HIV and insurance coverage.

Views on the consultation document should reach the Food and Health Bureau on or before 13 June 2008. For more information, please visit the website at: www.bestrong.gov.hk

**Men Who have Sex
with Men
HIV
Campaign**

**Men Who have Sex
with Men
HIV
Campaign**

**Men Who have Sex
with Men (MSM)
HIV Prevention
Campaign**

The 10-month MSM HIV Prevention Campaign organised by the Special Preventive Programme of the Department of Health from July 2007 to April 2008 is to promote the practice of safer sex as a norm in the MSM community with the following objectives:

- (a) To raise awareness of MSM on impending threat of HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs);
- (b) To inform MSM of the urgent need to adopt preventive measures by avoiding unprotected sex, reducing the number of sexual partners and practising safer sex;
- (c) To inform MSM of the danger of abuse of soft drugs or psychotropic substances before sex;
- (d) To decrease the barrier created by discrimination and stigma on AIDS and gay status in HIV prevention; and
- (e) To empower MSM in HIV prevention and appeal to and engage the MSM community in participation in HIV prevention.

The 3-phase campaign comprises three components including

- (i) 1st phase of “**Zero Infection 零感染**” – risk communication and

promotion of prevention of HIV infection and STDs, and avoidance and reduction of risks;

- (ii) 2nd phase of “**Zero Drug Abuse 零濫藥**” – dissemination of information on harmful effects of common soft drugs and tackling the increasing trend of abuse of soft drugs, especially in parties where MSM might have sex; and
- (iii) 3rd phase of “**Zero Hopelessness 零絕望**” – empowerment of MSM to build a healthy relationship, encouragement of safer sex in a supportive manner and promotion of HIV testing for those ever engaged in risk behaviours.

The campaign has been progressing to the final phase now with the core message of early HIV antibody test. “By having an early HIV test, you can receive care early and enjoy a healthier life. HIV test is your hope.” – is the message to be conveyed.

The campaign is the continuation of the “Do it Safely Campaign” launched in 2006. For more information about the MSM campaign, please visit the website at: www.21171069.com

REDEFINING AIDS IN ASIA - Crafting an Effective Response

The above titled report was presented to Mr Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, on 26 March 2008 by the Commission on AIDS in Asia. The Commission was set up in June 2006 to study and assess the impact of AIDS in Asia and to recommend strategies for a stronger response to HIV and AIDS. The Commission's terms of reference are:

- To objectively assess the state of the AIDS epidemic in Asia and the Pacific region in terms of incidence, awareness, prevention, and treatment and its progression at existing and scaled up levels of national and international efforts;
- To analyse the socio-economic composition of the infected and affected populations and the impact of the epidemic on them at household, community, workplace, and societal levels;
- To analyse the medium- and long-term implications of the presence of a large HIV infected population in Asian societies and its impact on the socio-economic environment in the affected countries. Special focus needs to be given on human resources, labour productivity, poverty reduction, social stability, and household savings;
- To assess the impact of the epidemic on Governments, with regard to allocation of limited resources to health budgets, strain

on existing health systems, diversion of resources from priority areas of social and economic development, issues of national security, and the ability to stay competitive in the emerging global economic scenario; and

- To provide specific recommendations on the nature of institutional reforms and policies that need to be adopted to minimize the adverse impact of HIV and AIDS on households, community, society, and the economy.

The independent Commission was sponsored by the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other two cosponsors, UNICEF and UNDP. The Commission believes the report deepens and refines the understanding of Asia's pandemic, and pinpoints the critical components of a viable and sustainable long-term response that can curb AIDS in Asia. The findings and recommendations contained in the report are intended for people from all walks of life who care about the societies they live in and the people they share them with.

Interested readers can visit the official website to access the 200 strong pages report at: www.unaids.org