

# ACA NEWSFILE

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Editorial Board

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## Calendar

The 13th CFA Meeting  
on 24th March 2009

The 66th ACA Meeting  
on 3rd April 2009

## IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE

- \* 65th ACA Meeting on page 1
- \* Summary of 12th CFA Meeting on pages 2 & 3
- \* New publications on page 4

## 65<sup>th</sup> ACA Meeting Agenda

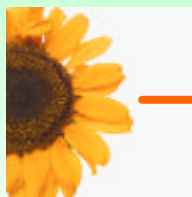
The 65<sup>th</sup> ACA meeting will be held on 9 January 2009 (Friday) at 2:30 pm at the DH Conference Room, 21/F Wu Chung House, Wan Chai.

There are three main items on the agenda:

Proposed Schema of Operation of the Community Forum on AIDS

Capacity Building on HIV Prevention and MSM – Two Visits by US and Australian Experts

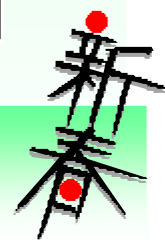
Review of World AIDS Day Activities 2008



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

**Kung Hei Fat Choy!**

**Wishing you Peace and Prosperity in the year of the Ox!**



## Summary Report of the Twelfth CFA Meeting held on 18 December 2008



### (I) Proposed Schema of Operation

The Forum suggested revisions to the terms of reference below and agreed with the proposed schema of operation.

- i. To enhance communication between ACA and frontline HIV/AIDS service delivery organisations and workers;
  - ii. To examine needs and identify gaps in the community;
  - iii. To recommend measures conducive to promoting acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS;
  - iv. To provide a platform for collaboration in combating HIV/AIDS epidemic;
  - v. To enhance the quality of HIV/AIDS service through development of best practices and indicators (*new*); and
  - vi. To advocate and facilitate capacity building with other relevant parties (*new*).
- 
- a. To review and evaluate the implementation of the “Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011” and to propose the strategies for the next 5 years;
  - b. To formulate guiding principles and standards for HIV/AIDS outreach programmes in:
    - (i) voluntary counselling and testing; and
    - (ii) peer education and peer counselling.
  - c. To organise a large scale conference for experience sharing and capacity building.

**A set of key deliverables  
was also proposed**

### (II) Review of World AIDS Day Activities 2008

The Forum noted the PowerPoint presentation of activities held around the World AIDS Day 2008 by Red Ribbon Centre and other NGOs. Red Ribbon Centre organised the World AIDS Day 2008 Kick-off Ceremony on 1 December 2008 at Olympian City 2 and a roving exhibition with 30 exhibition boards at 4 venues at Olympian City 2, Shatin City Hall, Tsuen Wan City Hall and Central Library. It was also a collaborative project of NGO, DH, SZ CDC and Macau CDC. St. John’s Cathedral HIV Education Centre hosted a prayer service for World AIDS Day and its global impact. Hong Kong AIDS Foundation appeared in a TVB programme to raise funds for its China AIDS project on 22 November 2008. AIDS Concern launched an anti-stigma campaign featuring 6 TVB celebrities. Other NGOs such as Hong Kong Rainbow, Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong Red Cross also held World AIDS Day events.



*To be continued on page 3*

### III) Training on HIV Prevention in MSM – Consultancy Visits by US and Australian Experts

The Forum noted that Red Ribbon Centre had invited 2 teams of overseas experts to conduct HIV capacity building and training for AIDS workers in October. Professor Susan Kegeles is the Co-director of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies in University of California in San Francisco. She is also the principal investigator of the research project named “M-powerment”. Albion Street Clinic in Sydney, Australia is the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Capacity Building and Health Care Working Training in HIV/AIDS Cares, Treatment and Support. While appreciating RRC’s efforts to provide training for local AIDS workers, members commented that it would be desirable to take stock of the training need of AIDS agencies and their workers, to cater to the different levels and categories of staff, and to capture and pool local expertise for sharing of experience.

### IV) Survey on HIV Risks in Male Sex Workers



Findings of a research on “Male sex workers (MSWs) in Hong Kong - Their work characteristics, sexual health and HIV related risk behaviours” were presented to the Forum. 141 valid completed questionnaires were received from 161 MSWs surveyed. The study found that local MSWs are in general young (mean age 26.4 years old) and of a higher education as compared to female sex workers in Hong Kong. A large proportion of them worked for their own and provided a range of sexual services including oral sex (80.0%), anal sex (76.6%) and vaginal sex (64.0%). Inconsistent condom use was reported for all these types of sexual activities (52.5% oral, 21.9% anal, and 21.3% vaginal). 49.6% claimed that they had sex with clients after drinking and 36.8% after taking drugs. Only 23.9% and 16.3% of the MSWs thought that they were of higher risk of contracting STIs and HIV compared to other men of similar age. 25.7-33.1% of the respondents never checked for HIV and STIs.

The research also showed that better access to condoms at work and higher perceived risk can predict condom use. However most owners of the sauna and massage parlours avoid providing condoms on their premises, fearing that its presence can be used as supporting evidence for commercial sex activities in court. MSWs also refuse to carry condom with them fearing being prosecuted. It concluded that a multi-strategic approach involving change of legislation on male sex work, education and support from NGO is needed. CFA members found the results very informative and suggested that further analysis of the data be carried out to unravel the behavioural traits of MSWs from different places of origin for better prevention interventions.



## **Recommendation on the Management of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis B Coinfection**

The Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI has recently released a set of recommendations on the management of HIV-HBV coinfection. The recommendations are for the diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of HIV/HBV co-infected individuals.

Chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is the leading cause of liver-related complications and death worldwide. Over 2 billion of people are estimated to have been infected worldwide and more than 400 million are chronic carriers of HBV. The majority of these cases are found in Asian & African countries and many of these areas are also hit hard by the HIV epidemic.

The main routes of transmission of HBV, namely sexual contacts, percutaneous exposure to blood and blood products, and vertical transmissions, are shared by HIV infections. Therefore, co-infection of these viruses is not uncommon. The prevalence of HBV infections among HIV infected individuals from western studies varies from 6–14% overall, including 4–6% of HIV-positive heterosexuals, 9–17% of HIV-positive homosexual men, and 7–10% of injection drug users. Surveillance report in Hong Kong indicated that the prevalence of HBV infections in HIV/AIDS patients from 2000-2006 ranged from 4.9 to 16.4%, which was substantially higher than that of HIV-uninfected clients (2-10%).

*Readers may go to CHP web site at [www.chp.gov.hk](http://www.chp.gov.hk) to have a look at the recommendations.*

## **AIDS Outlook 2009**

AIDS Outlook is a new report from UNAIDS that provides perspectives on some of the most pressing issues that will confront policymakers and leaders as they respond to the challenges presented by AIDS in 2009. In many ways the year ahead will be a year of transition—and acceleration. Many countries are reviewing their national strategies on AIDS. Even though political commitment for AIDS is at an all-time high, recent developments in the financial world will test the resilience of many.

This report is an opportunity for reflection. Reflection on what it has been possible to achieve with leadership as well as for refocusing on some key areas that are impeding progress. It is not a “how to manual” or a “policy statement”, but provides insights based on evidence on new ways to build on and improve the AIDS response.

The report begins by highlighting some recent achievements and challenges in addressing HIV. It provides examples of how countries are applying modelling techniques to better understand HIV incidence, with the aim of reinvigorating HIV prevention. AIDS Outlook concludes with an introduction to combination HIV prevention and its application.

AIDS Outlook relies upon both estimates of HIV prevalence and impact from data collected from around the world—as well as perspectives from those responding to AIDS in countries and communities. Joining data with instrumental voices will help to identify the debates needed and decisions required for countries as they plan their future strategies.

*Readers may visit the website at [http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2008/20081127\\_Outlook.asp](http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2008/20081127_Outlook.asp) to look at the report.*