

**IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE**

- \* **WHO WPRO Consultation** on page 5
- \* **65th ACA Meeting Summary** on page 6
- \* **New Publications** on pages 7 & 8



**~ Calendar ~**

- The 13th CFA Meeting**  
on 24th March 2009
- The 66th ACA Meeting**  
on 3rd April 2009

**The** technical consultation meeting is a collaborative project between WHO/WPRO – UNDP – UNAIDS and the Department of Health and is to be held at Mira Hotel for the period from **18 to 20 February 2009**.

In early 2008, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon launched the Report of the Commission on AIDS in Asia highlighting that in the absence of interventions, male to male sex could become one of the main sources of new HIV infections in the region, fueling the epidemic to unacceptable levels.

In response to the growing concerns, WHO in collaboration with UNDP and UNAIDS organised a Global Consultation on HIV/AIDS among men who have sex with men (MSM) in September 2008 in Geneva. Within a framework of protection of human rights, the consultation clearly indicated the need to improve the understanding of local epidemics through strengthened strategic information in order to have better data to guide delivery of a minimum package of interventions to revert the growing concern of HIV transmission among MSM. One of the decisions adopted by the Geneva meeting was to conduct Regional Consultations to discuss and adapt Global resolutions to regional contexts.

Considering that the Western Pacific Region is among those areas with the largest number of MSM and in response to requests for action expressed by Member States during the past two Regional Committee Meetings, WHO WPRO together with UNDP and UNAIDS would move ahead with the organisation of a Technical Consultation to adapt the Geneva resolutions to the context of the Region.

As a continuous effort to look at innovative measures and targeted interventions to halt the spread of HIV among MSM in Hong Kong, the Director of Health has agreed with WHO WPRO to co-organise the regional consultation in Hong Kong.

The goal of the technical consultation is to define the contribution of the Health Sector in the provision of comprehensive services for prevention, care, support and treatment of HIV/AIDS among MSM. The proposed audience are national AIDS programme managers, health care providers, civil society, NGOs, other government sectors involved in HIV and MSM, experts, bilaterals and UN agencies.

*Interested readers may look over the next issue of the ACA Newsfile for a detailed coverage of the consultation.*

**Consultation on Health Sector  
Response to HIV/AIDS among Men  
who have Sex with Men**

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

The 65<sup>th</sup> ACA meeting was held on 9 January 2009. There were three major items on the agenda. A summary of the discussion at the meeting is shown below.

### (I) Proposed Schema of Operation of the Community Forum on AIDS

Members noted the following revised terms of reference of CFA adopted at its first meeting in the second term of office on 18 December 2008 and the set of key deliverables.

#### Terms of reference

- 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*).

#### Key deliverables

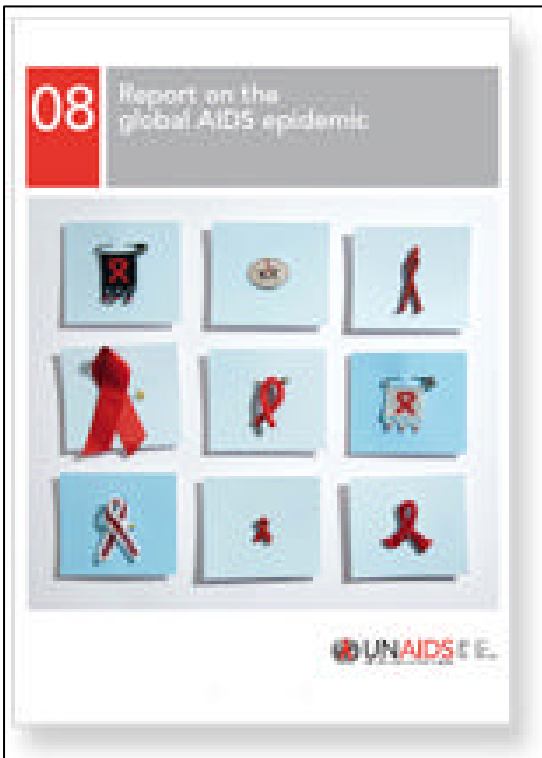
- a. To review and evaluate the implementation of the “Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011” and to propose the strategies for the next 5 years;
- b. To formulate guiding principles and standards for HIV/AIDS outreach programmes in:
  - i) voluntary counselling and testing; and
  - ii) peer education and peer counselling.
- c. To organise a large scale conference for experience sharing and capacity building.

### (II) Capacity Building on HIV Prevention and MSM – Two Visits by US and Australian Experts

Members learned 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 and also the principal investigator of the research project named “M-powerment”. Albion Street Centre 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. Members were aware of the observations and recommendations made by the overseas experts and would look at the training opportunities for local AIDS workers to improve their programmes.

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

Members were presented the 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.



### *The 2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic*

Dr Peter Piot, UNAIDS Executive Director, states in the Foreword of the report that “The *2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic* confirms that the world is, at last, making some real progress in its response to AIDS.” He says that “This 2008 global report is the most comprehensive ever, based on country unprecedented



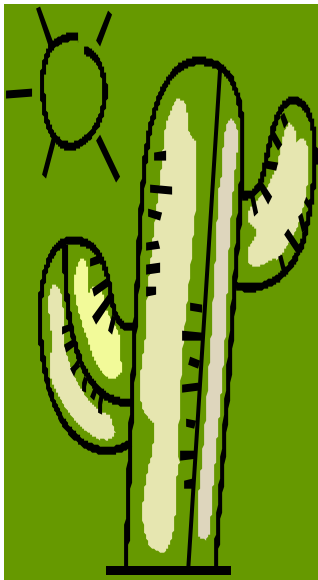
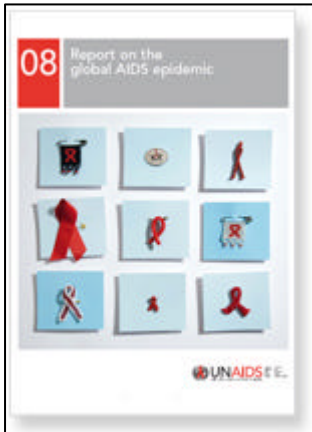
inputs with un- scope and detail. able information and why, as well the key chal- our quest to re- to come.”

It contains valu- about what works as highlighting lenges we face in spond effectively to AIDS—now and in the decades

**To extend these scattered successes to more countries in all regions — and to sustain these achievements in the coming decades — the following key actions are needed.**

- \* *Base national action on sound evidence of what works to address documented national needs, ensuring full implementation of evidence-informed policies and programmes.*
- \* *Plan for the future, by implementing strategic planning and evaluation mechanisms that extend beyond three- and five-year time cycles.*
- \* *Invest in a truly effective response to HIV, with particular attention to evidence in- formed HIV prevention strategies that help contain national epidemics.*

*To be continued on page 8 ...*



## ...continued

- \* *Couple programmatic scale-up with measures to reduce the societal factors that increase HIV risk and vulnerability, including gender inequities, stigma and discrimination, and social marginalization.*
- \* *Empower people living with HIV to help lead national HIV responses and involve civil society in the development, implementation and evaluation of national HIV strategies.*
- \* *Harmonize and align the efforts of all stakeholders with nationally driven HIV strategies and priorities, strengthening the quality and flexibility of technical support to expedite programme scale-up.*
- \* *Mobilize sufficient financial resources to reach the global target of universal access, putting in place innovative mechanisms to sustain financing for the long term.*

Readers who are interested in reading the full report should visit the website at [www.unaids.org/en/](http://www.unaids.org/en/)

## China-US Cooperation Global AIDS Program Phase I Program Summary

**The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) started its Global AIDS Program (GAP) in China five years ago. The US CDC GAP in China has made considerable progress and has facilitated China's HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care programs for the last five years. The program is an example of a productive and successful bilateral HIV/AIDS collaborative program.**

**Interested readers may visit the website at [www.uscdc.cn/en/index.jsp](http://www.uscdc.cn/en/index.jsp) under Program Outcomes to have a look at the summary.**

