

The 67th ACA Meeting was held on 10 July 2009. There were four major items on the agenda.

A summary of the **discussion** at the meeting is shown below:

(1) Complaint by NGOs on Confiscation of Condoms by Police Officers

This item was reported at the last ACA Newsfile (issue No. 188) at length. The Chairman of ACA has written a letter to the Commissioner of Police proposing that regular dialogue between relevant NGOs and the Police be maintained to facilitate communication on how to prevent any misunderstanding. If there is a need, the Department of Health's Red Ribbon Centre can provide training for frontline police officers and recruits to raise their awareness on the use of condoms for safer sex to prevent HIV infection.

(2) The Hong Kong Universal Antenatal HIV Testing Programme - A Progress Report (2001-2008)

The report outlines the progress and performance of the Hong Kong Universal Antenatal HIV Testing Programme (UATP) in preventing mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV with analysis covering the findings of the eight-year period, emphasizing on 2008 upon introduction of rapid HIV testing.

Members noted that the key indicators and outputs showed that the overall performance of the programme had been consistently effective meeting the programme pre-defined objectives. The acceptance of the programme as expressed by the percentage of women with HIV testing performed in public antenatal services had remained stable and high. The proportion of delivering women with HIV status clarified reached a record high of 99.5 % in 2008, after incorporation of rapid testing for late presenting mothers. The report recommended to:

To be continued....

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~ Calendar ~

ICAAP IX Report Back Seminar on 17 Sept 2009

The 15th CFA Meeting on 22 Sept 2009

The 68th ACA Meeting on 9 Oct 2009



Continued..

- (i) continue to promote early prenatal care;
- (ii) continue current universal antenatal HIV testing programme;
- (iii) support the new practice of rapid HIV testing at local hospitals;
- (iv) continue the monitoring and evaluation of this programme; and
- (v) strengthen communication within all departments involved in the field.



(4) Interim Review of the Eight Targets of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011

Members were presented the progress and achievement of the following eight targets of the “Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011”:



(3) Draft Quality Assurance Guidelines on HIV Voluntary Counselling and Testing Services in Community Setting

Members noted that the draft guidelines had been discussed at the CFA meeting on 3 July 2009 and only minor amendments had been proposed. The Meeting concluded that the guidelines served to provide basic guidance for service organizations to take reference for improvement and suggested NGOs to provide feedback to CFA should they encounter any problems during implementation.

- Increase condom use of MSM, sex workers and clients to $\geq 80\%$;
- Incorporate rapid HIV testing for late presenting mothers to close gap of MTCT;
- Develop one or more resource allocation plans to guide programme funding;
- Review ATF funding mechanism to improve effective funding of community-based response;
- Regularize community surveillance of risk populations at 1-2 year intervals;
- Improve HIV testing coverage among risk populations;
- Sustain quality HIV care of international standards to people living with HIV/AIDS; and
- Enhance collaboration with Mainland China through regular or ad-hoc programmes / projects.

ICAAP IX

The 9th ICAAP in Bali, August 2009

First held in Canberra in 1990, the 9th regional AIDS Conference of its kind—International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) – took place in Bali, Indonesia from 9 to 13 August 2009. The Meeting, under the theme of “Empowering People, Strengthening Networks” was organised by the Indonesian government, and sponsored by the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific, the UNAIDS and several other international agencies. It was attended by over 3000 delegates from some 65 countries. The 5-day program primarily featured opening and closing ceremonies, plenary sessions, oral sessions, poster presentations, skills building workshops, symposia, satellite meetings, booth exhibitions and community village.

Similar to past ICAAP, the Opening Ceremony was officiated by the country chief. Nevertheless, Indonesia has demonstrated high level political commitment and leadership in its fight against AIDS in last few years, as depicted clear by Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the President of the *Republic of Indonesia* at the Opening. The multi-fold increase in AIDS budget, the marked elevation of networks of the affected communities and the escalation of HIV-related services were some examples. Moreover, Indonesian First Lady Ani Yudhoyono was herself an AIDS Ambassador, with personal commitment in the domestic and

international AIDS response.

Funding is a big topic of the Meeting, of which the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) was a focus. The GFATM has been a significant source of funding for many countries and places, covering governmental and civil society programmes. Sharing, exchange and discussions to clarify and improve funding issues were aimed for in different sessions. Community participation is another highlight. The largest ever Community Forum preceding the ICAAP was held in Bali, with separate meetings for multiple affected community groups. The Asia Pacific Village was a huge platform for lively interactions with the civil society and community partners. Universal access for prevention, treatment, care and support was of course called for in the Meeting, albeit a big challenge. All in all, big differences and diversities existed within the Region, in both the epidemic and response.

It was recognised that some 20 participants from Hong Kong attended the 9th ICAAP, and made over 10 official presentations in oral, poster, satellite and other sessions. The Red Ribbon Centre also ran a booth featuring the local concerted response to the MSM epidemic. A report-back seminar will be held on 17 September for participants to share with other AIDS workers the experience gained.

ICAAP IX

Photos ~ the 9th ICAAP

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Notice

A report-back seminar will be held on 17 Sept

