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**AIDS Hotline**  
**2780 2211**

# 68th ACA Meeting

Members of the ACA met on 9th October 2009 at its 68th Meeting. There were three major items on the agenda:



**Estimated Risk of Transfusion Transmitted Infections**

**HIV Seroprevalence and Behavioural Risks in Men who Have Sex with Men – the Second Prism Survey**

**Report on the 9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific 2009**

Members noted that the objective of the report was to determine the residual risk of HIV, HCV, HBV through blood transfusion for the period January 2006 – December 2007

and that the estimated residual risks for transfusion transmitted infections (TTI) from mathematical modeling were as follows:

Infection	Estimate of residual risk with tested blood per unit
HIV	Approximately 1 in 1 million
HCV	Less than 1 in 5 million
HTLHBV	Approximately 1 in 11,000
HTLV	Considerably less than 1 in 10 million

Members were informed that the estimated residual risk of TTI in Hong Kong might be even lower after the effect of performing nucleic acid test (NAT) tests on individual samples since April 2007. However, more do-

nation data was required before a reasonable estimate could be made.

The meeting was pleased to note the actual risk of TTI of HIV was extremely low.

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## **HIV Seroprevalence and Behavioural Risks in Men who have Sex with Men – the Second Prism Survey**

Members were updated that the Red Ribbon Centre of the Special Preventive Programme had conducted the first PRiSM Survey in December 2006 – January 2007. The HIV prevalence was 4.05% which served as a useful benchmark data to monitor the HIV epidemic in men who have sex with men (MSM). Based on the successful model of public-academic-community collaboration, the second round of PRiSM was conducted in late 2008 to early 2009 with the following main objectives:

- (a) to collect urine samples from MSM attending saunas and bars/discos for the estimation of HIV prevalence among local MSM population; and
- (b) to collect HIV-related behaviour data and estimate the coverage of HIV prevention services

among MSM in Hong Kong.

The HIV prevalence of the second PRiSM, being 4.3%, was a bit higher than the first one. Nevertheless, it revealed stable HIV prevalence, similar risk behaviours and higher testing rate among MSM frequenting saunas and bars. While sero-behavioural markers had to be regularly monitored, it was important that efforts be continued to promote safer sex and regular HIV testing for this vulnerable population.

On MSM internet survey front, members were informed that the website, Fridae.com, had conducted a Asia Internet MSM Sex 2009 Survey by recruiting samples across various countries in Asia through online marketing techniques and community partnership. It had been successful to recruit more than 8000 respondents across the Asia countries including Hong Kong to understand the characteristic and profile of MSM. The Special Preventive Programme would tap this existing model to conduct internet survey for the Hong Kong MSM community. The data would provide insight into the gaps of the PRiSM survey.

## **Report on the 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific 2009**

Members noted that the 9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) had been held in Bali, Indonesia from 9-13 August 2009. The theme of the 9<sup>th</sup> ICAAP was “Empowering People, Strengthening Networks”. The 5-day Congress was made up of scientific, community and cultural programmes, embracing opening and closing ceremonies, plenary sessions, oral sessions, poster presentations, skills building workshops, symposia, satellite meetings and booth exhibitions. For Hong Kong delegations, it comprised participants from a variety of affiliation, including advisory body, government, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations. Mr Chung To and Dr Chen Zhi-Wei of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS as well as Mr Daniel Chu of the Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee were funded by the Council

for the AIDS Trust Fund to attend the Meeting. For the first time over ten years, the Red Ribbon Centre had run a booth at this ICCAP to share with participants from all over the Region on the local HIV MSM response. It featured a recap of the concerted efforts of the local AIDS workers and stakeholders over the last years, covering from surveillance & epidemiology, community actions, government response, strategy development, to international collaborations.

Members were highlighted that universal access was one emphasis of UNAIDS and the World Health Organisation. There had been improvement in the prevention coverage of most at-risk populations but still fell short of the targets for the Region. Funding was a big topic in this Congress and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) bore the brunt. According to GFATM, the funding by itself and international donors for AIDS in the globe had increased in the last few years.

# Photos Corner



**WAD 2009 in Hong Kong**



# Photos Corner



**More about WAD  
2009 in Shenzhen**