



IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE

70th ACA Meetingpages 13 to 15

Dr Tim Brown Consultancy Visit.....page 16

~Calendar~

- 17 June 2010
- 18th CFA Meeting
- 2 July 2010
- 71st ACA Meeting

70th ACA Meeting

**A Summary of the
70th ACA meeting
held on 9 April 2010**

Complaint by NGOs on Confiscation of condoms by Police Officers

Members noted that a liaison mechanism had already been in place since May 2008 to maintain communication with non-government organisations (NGOs) and sex workers to address matters of mutual concern. With a view to stepping up the dialogue, the Police had met the sex workers six times in 2009 compared with only twice in 2008. Since all properties seized by the Police were required to be properly recorded and subject to audit checks, the Police would not seize any property unless it is lawful

to do so and considered necessary for Police purposes. NGOs were suggested to record down the incidents of unreasonable seizure of condoms. In case there was prima-facie evidence of abuse by Police, they could make a formal complaint to the Police for investigation. The meeting agreed that there was no need for further action at this stage. If the NGO could come up with a specific case, the Police would investigate.

HIV Strategy and Situation in Macao

The overall HIV rate in Macao had been maintained at a relatively low level. Sexual transmission had continued to be the major mode of HIV spread in respect of both local and non-Macao residents. The meeting noted that similar to Hong Kong, Macao had an AIDS Commission to advise on prevention and control strategies. Recently, Macao was

working on legislations conducive to HIV prevention for public health purpose, e.g. methadone treatment and syringe programme targeting drug users. Patients with or at risk of sexually transmitted infections could either turn to private clinic or clinic subvented by the Government which provided service for non-local residents in particular for treatment.

“Find One Treat One” : a Strategy to Prevent HIV-1 Spread in Hong Kong

Under the proposed “Find One Treat One” strategy, antiretroviral therapy should be provided to all infected and newly infected men who had sex with men (MSM). To prevent new infections among MSM, it was essential to prevent these spreaders from passing their viruses to their partners. Since acute infection was important in HIV-1 transmission dynamics among MSM where there were high rates of partner change, it was necessary to provide effective ART to all infected and newly infected MSM immediately to minimize the number of secondary infections. As AIDS physicians in Hong Kong had excellent

records of treating patients with high adherence rate and few drug resistance issues, the best way to control an epidemic is always to eliminate the source of infections at the very early stage. Members opined that the prime prevention measure of sexual transmission was condom use. There could be ethical concern if the aim of treatment was to benefit other rather than the patient himself. The meeting considered that more information and scientific evidence should be collected before the proposal could be studied in details.

20th Anniversary of Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (1990-2010)

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of ACA, the following activities were proposed:

(i) ACA 20th Anniversary Album

The Album would document the achievements/works of ACA and acknowledge the contribution and services by chairpersons, members and collaborators for the past twenty years. Photographs that had been taken during the ACA functions/events would be included in the Album.

(ii) ACA 20th Anniversary Reunion Gathering cum Photo Exhibition

All past and presents members of ACA and its committees would be invited to the Gathering to:

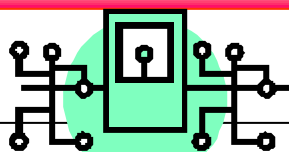
a) acknowledge efforts of ACA members and its Committees over the years; and

b) have a meaningful occasion to let old and new friends working in the field of AIDS to come together to chat and share.

In memory of the special occasion, ACA Secretariat would explore the feasibility of producing the ACA 20th Anniversary souvenir cover with the Hong Kong Post. ACA 20th Letterhead and ACA Newsfile-head would be designed.

Members suggested that a seminar should be convened to mark the special occasion. As to the theme of the proposed seminar, it could be finalized at a later stage. The proposed seminar could provide a platform for AIDS expert/professionals to exchange their views on AIDS front.

***Dr Tim Brown ~ Consultancy Visit
from 15 to 19 March 2010....***



Gallery on page 16

ACA NEWSFILE

An Open Lecture held on 17 March 2010 organized by Special Preventive Programme, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health at Public Health Laboratory Centre, Nam Cheong Street, Kowloon



Working Meeting with NGOs