

ACA NEWSFILE

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Editorial Board

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~ Calendar ~

78th ACA Meeting
20 April 2012

25th CFA Meeting
8 June 2012



ACA issued a press release on 22 March 2012 to announce its **Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong, 2012 – 2016** (available for download from <http://www.info.gov.hk/aids/english/aca/eaca.htm>).

Furthermore, the ACA Secretariat sent out hard copy to members of ACA, CFA, SCAS, ATF, NGOs and UNAIDS China around the same time.

A Summary of 77th ACA Meeting held on 20 January 2012

Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012 to 2016 – final draft

Members noted that after the last ACA Meeting, the Secretariat had further fine-tuned the draft 2012 to 2016 Strategies for public consultation (which lasted from 21 November to 30 December 2011). By the end of the consultation, a total of 13 submissions (from the Government, UNAIDS China office, College of Paediatricians, two community-based groups including Caring Friends and Midnight Blue) were received. The Secretariat had carefully considered all the opinions received and revised the draft Strategies taking into account comments considered realistic and beneficial to the advancement of local response to HIV / AIDS. One submission was received after the consultation period but the views expressed had also been taken into account and additional overseas references had been included in the latest strategies.

The revised draft was thoroughly examined during the meeting. The Secretariat undertook to further update the draft taking into account the comments given by the ACA members. A finalized document would be developed for information of the Secretary for Food and Health while the official document (with Chinese translation) would be published in the first quarter of 2012.

Report on the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), Busan 2011

Members were informed that the 10th ICAAP had been held in Busan, Republic of Korea from 26 to 30 August 2011. The Congress was convened by the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific (ASAP) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in partnership with a number of international bodies. The theme of the Congress was "Diverse Voices, United Action", highlighting the importance of bringing together the many perspectives and uniting them in common understanding and joint action. The Congress attracted over 2,500 delegates from 64 countries. There were 15 Hong Kong participants (including Professor Matthew NG of the Council for AIDS Trust Fund, and Mr CHAN Kai-wai of the Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee). Members were also briefed on the highlights and reflections.

Report of the first meeting of the Community Forum on AIDS (2011-2014)

Members were briefed on the major discussion of the 23rd CFA Meeting held on 8 December 2011 (and a summary of this CFA Meeting was given in the last ACA Newsfile issued in March 2012).

Familiarization Visits to HIV NGOs

Members noted that a series of visits to Red Ribbon Centre and various NGOs (including CHOICE, Zi Teng, Midnight Blue, Action for REACH OUT, Society for AIDS Care, The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, HK (SRACP), Boys and Girls Clubs Association of Hong Kong (BGCA), AIDS Concern, Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, Hong Kong Red Cross, Pui Hong Self-Help Association, Heart to Heart) took place in the last quarter of 2011. Further visits (to the Caritas Youth and Community Service, Chi Heng Foundation, Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA), Rainbow of Hong Kong, St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre, A-Backup) would be organized in February 2012. Members were encouraged to join these visits if possible.

Draft ACA Annual Report

The draft ACA Annual Report (August 2009 - July 2010) had been presented to the members for comments during the ACA Meeting held in October 2011 and the cleared version had been passed to the Senior Official Language Officer of DH in late December 2011 for preparing the Chinese translation. It was anticipated that the Chinese translation would be ready in February 2012.

A Summary of the 23rd SCAS Meeting

A summary of the 23rd Meeting of the SCAS held on 8 November 2011 was tabled at the meeting and the Chairperson went through the summary with the members.

EPD confirmed in March 2012 that waste arisen from community-based VCT carried out by NGOs for screening of HIV infection was not defined as Clinical Waste under the Waste Disposal Ordinance but EPD would like to remind the NGOs concerned to observe strict guidelines on safe handling and disposal of the waste at all times with a view to protect the public from the risk of exposure to infectious waste. EPD's message was conveyed to CFA members on 13 March 2012 and they were also asked to share this news with their colleagues and consider resuming VCT (if suspended) carried out by their organization shortly.

Good News



78th ACA Meeting

Date : 20 April 2012 (Friday)

Time : 2:30pm

Venue : DH Conference Room, 21/F, Wu Chung House, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Three main items on the Agenda -

- Implementation and Monitoring of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012 to 2016
- Update on HIV/AIDS Epidemiology in Hong Kong 2011
- Revisiting HIV infection and the health care workers