



Editorial Board

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20th International AIDS Conference



20th International AIDS Conference Report Back Seminar

The report back seminar of the 20th International AIDS Conference will be held in September. Presenters included Dr CHEN Zhi-wei of the University of Hong Kong, Dr Wilson LAM of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Dr SHU Bo-ye of Department of Health, and representatives from NGOs.

Date : 30 September 2014 (Tuesday)
Time : 14:30 - 17:30 (Registration starts at 14:15)
Venue : Auditorium, 4/F, Argyle Street Jockey Club School Dental Clinic,
147J Argyle Street, Kowloon

Interested parties please call Ms Anita Chu at 3143 7200 for registration






Review of the work during the 8th term of ACA and the 3rd term of CFA

Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2012-2016) was released in May 2012, which served as blueprint of HK AIDS programme direction. **The first year review** was conducted in 2013 with input provided by the public hospitals, DH and various NGOs including CFA members, focusing mainly on the ongoing and new initiatives of the five priority areas of action. Its summary was uploaded to the ACA website.

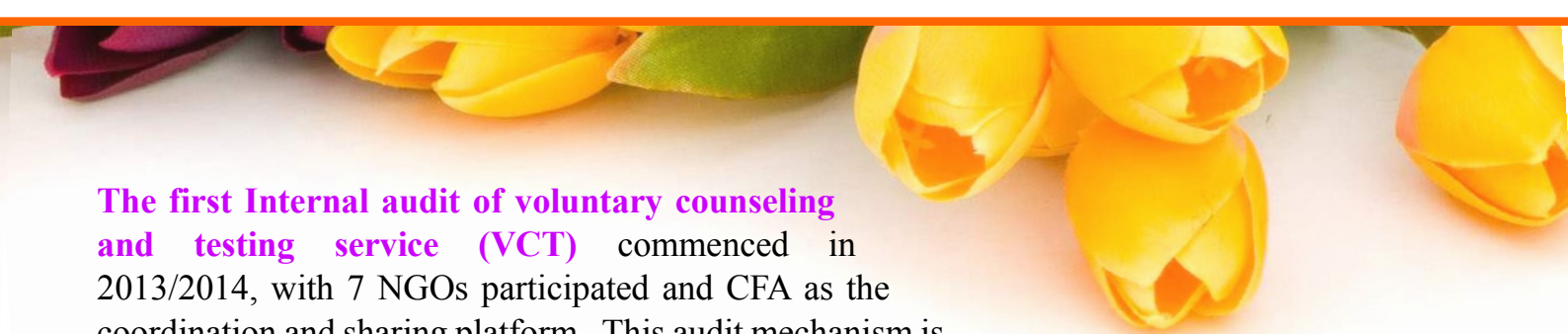
The Recommended Guidelines on HIV infection and Health Care Workers was updated after seeking professional input from the Expert Panel and extensive consultations of ACA and CFA members, stakeholders and the general public. The revised guidelines were released in October 2013 and uploaded to the ACA and DH websites.

The first HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) was launched in 2013 targeting 4 populations of MSM, FSW, clients of FSW and IDU. Altogether 10 NGOs participated with CFA acted as a coordinating platform. As recommended by Dr Tim Brown, the survey collected standardized strategic information through a pre-defined set of core indicators. Results were presented in ACA and CFA and uploaded to the DH website.

Abandoning condom as evidence of prostitution – the issue was raised by CFA members. ACA followed up the issue and communicated with the Police, who replied that law enforcement action would not be solely based on possession of condoms. They would continue to address sex workers' concern and enhance mutual understanding through the established communication channels to explain their enforcement priority. The Police's reply was noted by the CFA members.



A baseline survey on life skills-based (LSB) HIV education in junior secondary schools was conducted in 2012/13 under the direction of the Task Force. With a response rate of >80%, some 80% of participating schools had provided LSB HIV/sex education. The findings have been discussed at ACA and CFA meetings, disseminated to all schools and uploaded to the website of the Red Ribbon Centre. A multi-sectoral seminar was later organized by the EDB for teachers and related workers in March 2014.



The first Internal audit of voluntary counseling and testing service (VCT) commenced in 2013/2014, with 7 NGOs participated and CFA as the coordination and sharing platform. This audit mechanism is a part of an ongoing effort to ensure quality and uniformity of VCT service provided by NGOs. The results were reported in ACA and CFA.

Issues affecting HIV/AIDS community response were discussed in ACA or CFA, which included: clinical waste management for field HIV testing, access to medical care at various medical settings by people living with HIV/AIDS, management of HIV infected haemophilia patients who also suffered from Hepatitis C, and the funding mechanism of AIDS Trust Fund.

Direct dialogue was held between stakeholders and CFA members to exchange views and deepen mutual understanding. During this term, a Judiciary was invited to discuss about using condoms as prosecution evidence, a representative from Environmental Protection Department to explain clinical waste issues, and a doctor from Hong Kong Red Cross to discuss about blood donation policy.

Observer mechanism was launched in CFA since June 2012, which aimed to widen participation by members of the public and relevant workers on HIV/AIDS response. Meeting information is available on ACA website. Those who are interested can join the meeting upon prior registration with CFA secretariat.

Capacity building and networking was achieved during this term through co-organizing two scientific events with AIDS Institute of HKU, including the Hong Kong Symposium on HIV/AIDS 2012 and the public lecture delivered by Nobel Laureate Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi in July 2013. Both events were well attended by HIV/AIDS programme workers.

Sharing of knowledge and experience - The Boys' and Girls' Club Association of HK, Caritas, AIDS Concern and CUHK shared their survey findings on young MSM, young FSW and internal stigma; DH presented on the topics of self HIV testing, universal antenatal HIV testing and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT), population and community viral load, and HIV prevention, care and treatment cascade. Report back seminar of visits and conferences was also well attended by ACA and CFA members.



A Summary of the 33rd CFA Meeting held on 11 June 2014

Results of internal audit on quality assurance on HIV voluntary counseling and testing services (VCT) in community settings in 2013

The Quality Assurance Guidelines on HIV VCT Services in Community Settings was drafted in 2009. DH subsequently drafted a checklist based on the Guidelines in early 2013. The first internal audit exercise was implemented from October 2013 to March 2014. Members noted the results of internal audit and discussed ways to make improvement, which included strengthening external training of NGO staff by DH, training on infection control, provision of external control kits by manufacturers and procurement of equipment for temperature control. The checklist has been revised and sent to AIDS Trust Fund for consideration.

Survey on mental and sexual health of young female sex workers in Hong Kong 2014

Caritas, Hong Kong gave a presentation on the findings from a survey conducted on young female sex workers in Hong Kong during the period from June to December 2013 as well as a subsequent discussion forum held in March 2014. In summary, young female sex workers (aged 26 or below) were less likely to practice safer sex and to do HIV testing, but more likely to involve in drug use, and had weaker social network. Members shared their experience of working with young FSW and highlighted the importance of mental health issues and drug use problem in young FSW.

MSM HIV / HCV awareness campaign 2014

Members noted that in view of the record high HIV cases reported to DH and the case series of Hepatitis C infection among HIV positive MSM in the last few quarters, DH would conduct an HIV/HCV awareness campaign in the second half of 2014. Similar to the MSM campaigns in the last few years, posters and different giveaway items theming safer sex would be produced. NGOs were invited to help disseminate the items and spread the health messages to the MSM communities during the period of the campaign.

Annual NGO workshop in 2014

DH would conduct annual training workshops for new NGO staff about HIV knowledge and counseling skills. The coming basic course would be held on 16 and 23 September 2014 (two half-day sessions), and an advanced course would be conducted on 21 October 2014 (one half-day session). Recruitment will start in early August. Those interested may contact Red Ribbon Centre at rrc@dh.gov.hk.