

# ACA NEWSFILE

(Publication of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Hong Kong)

**Editor:** Dr S S Lee, ACA Secretariat

**Vol 4, no.2 -- February 1997**

## .Calendar.

**XIIth Meeting of the  
AIDS Services  
Development  
Committee (ASDC)**  
2:30pm 10 March 1997

**Xth Meeting of the  
Scientific Committee on  
AIDS (SCA)**  
9:30am 25 February 1997

**XXIst Meeting of the  
Advisory Council on  
AIDS (ACA)**  
2:30pm 11 April 1997

**XXIVth Meeting of the  
Committee on  
Education and Publicity  
on AIDS (CEPAIDS)**  
5:30pm 26 February 1997

## Meeting Highlights

ACA held its 20th meeting on 10 January. The following issues were highlighted:

1. The surveillance programme shall be strengthened.
2. An external review of Hong Kong's AIDS programme is planned to pave the way for new strategies.
3. There was lively discussion on the need of integrating AIDS education in sex education programmes in Hong Kong. Mr CL Ho of Education Department briefed members of the role of his department at the meeting.
4. It was agreed that the next *Hong Kong AIDS Conference* should be held in another 2-3 years' time, possibly in the wider perspective of the Pearl River Delta region. —

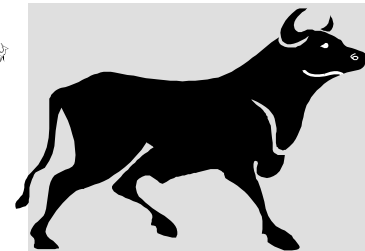
## New Chinese Name

A new Chinese name has been adopted by the Council effective from 1 January 1997. This follows proposal of members and as advised by the Commissioner for Official Languages. —

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## World TB Day

THE World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Global TB Programme has announced that the 24th of March be observed as **World TB Day**, underlining the importance of a global effort in preventing and controlling the TB epidemic. The move bears additional meaning to us working on AIDS as a dual epidemic of HIV/TB infection is exerting its impact on many parts of the world. —



Happy New Year  
of the Ox

**AIDSHOTLINE 2780 2211**  
**DRSEXHOTLINE 2337 2121**

# Epidemiology



THE Department of Health held a press meeting on 28 January to inform the public of the updated reported statistics on HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. The year 1996 had witnessed a total of 134 cases of HIV infection reported under the Department's surveillance system. The cumulative data are in the box on the right. Readers interested in the details of the report are requested to refer to the upcoming *quarterly STD/AIDS update* report jointly published by AIDS Unit and Social Hygiene Service of the Department of Health.

For the first time, the quarterly press meeting was held in the lecture room of Red Ribbon Centre on the second floor of Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic, located near the Lok Fu MTR Station. —

## Globally.....

AN estimated 29.4 million persons have been infected with HIV since the pandemic started over a decade ago. The Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) estimated that 22.6 million people are now living with HIV - 21.8 million adults and 0.83 million children. In 1996, there were about 3.1 million new infection globally, and 1.5 million HIV/AIDS associated deaths.

About 8500 new cases of HIV infection are occurring daily, including 1000 children. A majority of the newly infected adults are under 25 years of age. —

### Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 31 December 1996

	<i>total</i>	<i>(AIDS)</i>
<b>Gender</b>	male	683 (225)
	female	93 (20)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	534 (183)
	non-Chinese	242 (62)
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	389 (127)
	homosexual	195 (67)
	bisexual	46 (20)
	Injecting drug use	14 (4)
	blood/bl products	66 (14)
	perinatal	4 (2)
	undetermined	62 (11)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>776 (245)</b>

Department of Health, Hong Kong

## What's on

**The Task Force on Youth  
of  
The Committee on Education and Publicity  
on AIDS**

**requests the honour of your presence at**

**The "Youth Action on AIDS"  
Funding Scheme  
Prize Presentation Ceremony 1996  
to be held at**

**Red Ribbon Centre**

**on 2/F Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic  
200 Junction Road East, Lok Fu, Kowloon  
on Sunday 23 February 1997 at 3 pm**

*For enquiries, please contact Mr S Y Mak at 23046268*

## Charter

### moves on

THE Hong Kong Community Charter on AIDS held its Fourth Signing Ceremony on 23 January 1997. Through the efforts of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 26 community organisations have pledged to sign the Charter to support its motives of providing AIDS education in the workplace and to foster a supportive attitude towards those living with the infection. Nine of the organisations were present at the special signing ceremony held concurrently with the Lions movement activities. The weekend also featured exhibitions and a quiz which were well attended by members of the public.

The Charter is a joint project of AIDS Unit of Department of Health and Lions Clubs International - Hong Kong & Macau District 303. The programme was launched in December 1994. —

## AAAs

AIDS Awareness Ambassadors appointed by CEPAIDS last year appeared at the Lunar New Year Flower Fair in Victoria Park on 1 and 2 February. They worked as volunteers for AIDS Concern at its stall in the Fair. In the meantime, the Task Force on Media and Publicity are working on a new line of activities for arousing public awareness in the coming year. (The *Publicity Working Group* has been renamed as *Task Force on Media & Publicity* since the beginning of the year). —



On 24 January, Dr Conrad Lam, chairman of the Council visited *TeenAIDS* at its centre in the *WareHouse* in Aberdeen. Dr Lam and Mrs Atty Lai of *TeenAIDS* share their views and thoughts with fellow ACA members.

IT is difficult to introduce *TeenAIDS* without introducing the *Warehouse* located at the Old Aberdeen Police Station. Founded in 1992, the *Warehouse* is a registered charity providing facilities and activities for teenagers in Hong Kong. We are sad to hear that Professor Frank White, founder of the *Warehouse*, had passed away in December 1996.

Mrs Atty Ching Lai, Director of *TeenAIDS* is pleased that her organisation has been accommodated within the *Warehouse*. She outlined activities of *TeenAIDS* and the changes witnessed in the past years. Established in 1995, *TeenAIDS* is a relatively young organisation working on AIDS awareness in young people in Hong Kong.

"I started as a volunteer of *TeenAIDS*," recalled Atty. "When Ms Anne Anglim, the founder

of *TeenAIDS* left Hong Kong a year ago, I was put in charge of the group and its programme." "I like the challenge....I like working with young people." There are now over 100 volunteers working with *TeenAIDS*. Youth programmes are now regularly conducted in schools. "At the beginning, we worked with international schools, but now it's basically a local programme."

How does *TeenAIDS* conduct its activities? Is there any uniqueness in its approach. "Teenagers don't like being lectured (Editor's note: who do?!). We convey messages through activities, through games, and through interacting with them."

What is the major obstacle in providing AIDS education to young people. "We need the support of teachers and principals. Sometimes they are sceptical if they don't understand what we are trying to achieve. We need

## Dialogue

*Dialogue* is a new section of ACA Newsfile devoted to establishing better links with people and/or organisations working on AIDS in Hong Kong

- the editor

to make them feel comfortable - and very often with effort, we succeed." "A good programme is not about safer sex, but the skills to make informed decision. After all it is not just AIDS that we are looking at, but the wider context of sex education."

Is resource a matter of concern. "We are relying a lot on public donation, but fortunately people have been very supportive of our activities."

How does Atty feel about the NGO (on AIDS) movement in Hong Kong. "It seems that we are entering a new phase. Each NGO is working on one or some specific issue(s) which together give a new face to the local programme."

**AIDS Unit On-Line**  
**<http://www.info.gov.hk/health/aids>**