

ACA NEWSFILE

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

Editor: Dr S S Lee, ACA Secretary

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.Calendar.

**XIIIth Meeting of the
AIDS Services
Development
Committee (ASDC)**
2:30pm 13 June 1997

**XIth Meeting of the
Scientific Committee
on AIDS (SCA)**
9:30am 7 July 1997

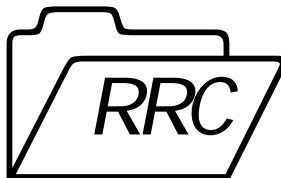
**XXIInd Meeting of the
Advisory Council on
AIDS (ACA)**
2:30pm 11 July 1997

**XXVIth Meeting of the
Committee on
Education and Publicity
on AIDS (CEPAIDS)**
5:30pm 22 August 1997

THE RED RIBBON CENTRE

was officially opened by Mr Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong on 30 May 1997. The project marks a new phase in the progress of Hong Kong's AIDS programme. Red Ribbon Centre symbolises a new means of collaboration between the Government and the community. Housed within a Government venue, the setting up cost of the centre is provided by the AIDS Trust Fund. The mission of the Centre is to facilitate the conduction of AIDS education and research in the community.

The Red Ribbon Centre is composed a display area, a library, an activity hall and training facilities. Even before its official opening, the Centre has provided an avenue for exhibitions and training activities. Local and overseas visitors found the Centre a good focus for understanding the AIDS situation and programmes in Hong Kong. ✻



World
AIDS Day

1 December
1997

Position Paper

THE Secretariat of the Council has prepared a position paper on the current HIV/AIDS situation and the programme on its prevention, care and control. Using this as a background paper, the Council will later stimulate discussion and work out the best mechanism for reviewing the local programmes and/or strategy. ✻

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Advisory Council on AIDS Secretariat

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Council News

SEX/AIDS Education Expo

THE Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS is, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Sex Education Association, hosting a *Sex and AIDS Education Expo* from 17 to 19 October at the Science Museum, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon. Organisations working on sex and/or AIDS education in Hong Kong are invited to set up displays at the Expo to promote sharing of experience on the subjects. There will be exhibition booths and panels at the Expo. The function will also feature seminars for field workers and all who are interested. ❀

**We 've
m o v e d
THE Secretariat of
the Advisory Council
on AIDS has been
relocated to the first
floor of Wang Tau
Hom Jockey Club
Clinic since 15 April.
The new telephone
number is 23046100,
and fax 23370897. ❀**

CEPAIDS met

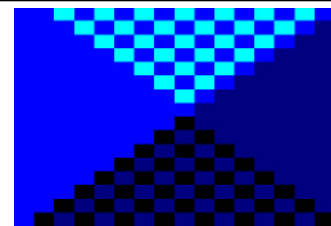
THE 25th Meeting of the *Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS* was held on 30 June. The following subjects were discussed: (a) means of strengthening AIDS education targeting marginal youth; (b) research initiatives on AIDS education and prevention, and the need for a research agenda in Hong Kong; (c) reports of task forces; (d) preparation of an activity calendar; and (e) the staging of an Sex and AIDS education expo later this year.

CEPAIDS is chaired by Miss Carlye Tsui, MBE, JP. ❀

Manila Congress

THE 4th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific will be held from 25 to 29 October 1997 at the Philippine International Convention Centre in Manila, Phillipines. Representatives of Government units and non-governmental organisations have indicated their interest of participation at the last meeting of the *Committee on Education & Publicity on AIDS*. Participants have also agreed to keep their exhibits for display at the Red Ribbon Centre upon their return from the Congress. ❀

**ASDC
meeting
postponed**



THE next meeting of the AIDS Services Development Committee has been postponed to 13 June 1997. The time and venue shall remain unchanged: 2:30pm at Red Ribbon Centre. Agenda and papers for the meeting have already been distributed to members. ❀

Activities

The Management Advisory Committee of Red Ribbon Centre wishes to thank everyone for the support in the last months, without which the opening of the Centre would not have been possible

Charter Publicity

AN exhibition on the Hong Kong Community Charter on AIDS will be staged at the Central MTR Station from 23 to 27 June 1997. The programme forms part of the activities of the Charter's organising committee in arousing awareness of the business community towards the subject of AIDS in the workplace.

The Hong Kong Community Charter on AIDS is a joint initiative of the Department of Health's AIDS Unit and Lions Clubs International District 303 - Hong Kong and Macau. The project was first launched in December 1994. ❀

Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 31 March 1996

		total	(AIDS)
Gender	male	721	(241)
	female	100	(22)
Ethnicity	Chinese	567	(198)
	non-Chinese	252	(65)
Transmission	heterosexual	414	(139)
	homosexual	202	(68)
	bisexual	50	(22)
	Injecting drug use	16	(5)
	blood/bl products	66	(14)
	perinatal	4	(2)
	undetermined	69	(13)
TOTAL		821	(263)

Department of Health, Hong Kong

STD/AIDS Update

THE new issue of *Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update* has recently been issued in late May. The feature article highlights the trend of syphilis diagnosed at the Social Hygiene Service in Hong Kong. The updated quarterly statistics on HIV/AIDS is also presented in the publication.

Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update is jointly published, on a quarterly basis, by AIDS Unit and Social Hygiene Service of the Department of Health ❀

AIDS in China

Focus

The Hong Kong AIDS Foundation has sponsored a **Hong Kong - China Meeting on AIDS** in Beijing from 24 - 26 May. The AIDS situation in China was presented by Dr Shen Jie and Professor Zheng Xiwen at the meeting - *the editor*

THE first AIDS case in China was reported in June 1985. As of the end of December 1996, a cumulative total of 5990 cases of HIV infection have been reported, of which 155 have progressed to AIDS. To date twenty-nine provinces and municipalities have reported HIV/AIDS in the country.

The number of reported infection per year has been increasing steadily, from 531 in 1994, 1567 in 1995 to 2649 in the year 1996. The first case of perinatal HIV transmission was reported in 1995. Sexual transmission has been steadily becoming an important route of HIV spread.

Parallel with the growth of the HIV epidemic, STD (sexually transmitted diseases) has also been on the rise. In 1996, over 390,000 cases have been reported, an increase of 12% compared with that of 1995. Syphilis has notably risen by 83%. The figures were particularly high in the provinces in the south east.

To date injecting drug use is still the commonest mode of HIV spread in China. The HIV prevalence in Yunnan has

remained high at 40% to 50% in some counties. Spouses of some injecting drug users contracted the virus through sexual contacts with their HIV infected husbands. The problem in Yunnan has occurred because of its proximity to the golden triangle, the hub of the drug world. The prevalence in other places like Xinjiang has also risen sharply last year.

The HIV epidemic in China is made up of a number of different epidemics with varying risk factors, localised in different places. With the strengthening of the HIV/AIDS surveillance system, the situation in China is gradually becoming better understood. ❄



AIDS UNIT ON-LINE

<http://www.info.gov.hk/health/aids>

we have been visited over 9000 times since January 1996!!