

ACA NEWSFILE

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

Editor: Dr S S Lee, ACA Secretary

Vol 4, no.11 -- November 1997 (issue no.47)

.Calendar.

XXIVth Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)

January 1998 (to be confirmed)

XXVIIth Meeting of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS)

5:30pm 21 November 1997

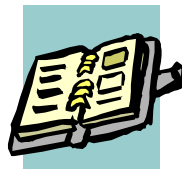
Joint Meeting of AIDS Services Development Committee and Scientific Committee on AIDS

9:30am 10 December 1997

Review to proceed

AT the 23rd meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS on 6 October, it was resolved to conduct a comprehensive review on the local HIV/AIDS situation and the current programmes for its prevention, care and control. The exercise also carries the objective of planning Hong Kong's future strategy on AIDS.

The review will begin early next year, composing of an internal situation assessment followed by consultancies. The Council for the AIDS Trust Fund has subsequently supported the proposal in a meeting of its subcommittee in mid-October. ❀



Seminar for School Principals

A seminar for school heads on the subject of school AIDS education was held on 21 October 1997. The Seminar featured talks on the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS and the local policy for on its control. There was also experience sharing in the implementation of AIDS education in secondary schools.

The function was organised under the auspices of CEPAIDS's Task Force on School AIDS Education, which is convened by Mrs Atty Lai of TeenAIDS. ❀

An Art-piece for World AIDS Campaign

AT a press meeting on 13 October, Mr C K Cheung, convenor of Task Force on Media and Publicity of Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS, revealed that an art-piece will be put on display to arouse public awareness on AIDS. Made in the shape of two red ribbons, the sculpture is designed by Mr VAN Lau, a renowned sculptor in Hong Kong.

Members are pleased that the Urban Council's Recreation Select Committee had finally approved the proposal at its meeting on 15 October. Dr Conrad Lam, ACA Chairman, wishes to thank everyone for the hard work in developing the new Campaign. ❀

**Red Ribbon
Centre
23046268**

Council News / Activities

New Estimates

AT the 12th meeting of the Scientific Committee on AIDS held on 25 September, Professor James Chin presented his new estimation of the HIV/AIDS situation for Hong Kong. He remarked that the previous estimate of 3000 HIV cases given in 1994 was probably too high. With the availability of new data, he estimated that some 1500-2000 cases have occurred as of the end of 1997, while the prevalence (those living and now in Hong Kong) was 1000-1500.

Professor Chin's study was presented to AIDS workers in a special seminar held in the afternoon on the same day. His paper was further discussed by members of the Advisory Council on AIDS on 6 October. The results would be examined again when the Council conducts its situation and programme review next year.

Professor Chin is a clinical professor of epidemiology of University of California at Berkeley.

He is also an honorary professor of the University of Hong Kong, and an adviser to our Scientific Committee on AIDS. ✻

[The names of Professor Chin and Dr James Chien were mixed up in a story of SCMP on 26 September - *the editor*]



SEX/AIDS ED EXPO'97

ON 17 October 1997, Dr the Honourable C H Leong, Provisional Legislator, officiated at the opening of the Sex and AIDS Education Expo, the first of its kind in Hong Kong. The other guests of honour were Dr N K Leung and Prof M L Ng. The Expo featured display booths, exhibition boards, computer games, web pages and performances. Three seminars were held covering the subject of sex/AIDS education in connection with the media, youth and the situation in China. Eight experts from different parts of China also joined the 3-day function.

The Expo is jointly organised by the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS and Hong Kong Sex Education Association. The Organising Committee wishes to thank everyone who has participated and contributed to the project, particularly the hard work of staff of Red Ribbon Centre. ✻

BYOL

THE next BYOL Seminar will be presented by Ms Ann Ip of Action for Reach Out at the Red Ribbon Centre on 11 November (1-2pm). Miss Ip's presentation is titled *Hong Kong street walkers and the female condom*.

BYOL (bring-your-own-lunch) is an update continuing education series run on a monthly basis for those working in the field of HIV/AIDS. ✻

Activities

Manila Congress

THE 4th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific was held in Manila from 25 to 29 October. To give Members a better view of the Congress, new pages are added to this issue of *ACA Newsfile*. Please refer to pages 5 and 6 for our exclusive coverage of this biennial function. ✿



AIDS HOTLINE
2780 2211

DR SEX HOTLINE
2337 2121

Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 30 September 1997

		total	(AIDS)
Gender	male	787	(261)
	female	120	(29)
Ethnicity	Chinese	626	(216)
	non-Chinese	281	(74)
Transmission	heterosexual	473	(159)
	homosexual	217	(71)
	bisexual	54	(22)
	Injecting drug use	16	(5)
	blood/bl products	67	(15)
	perinatal	4	(2)
	undetermined	76	(16)
TOTAL		907	(290)

Department of Health, Hong Kong

DDO Leaflet

A new leaflet on DDO and its relevance for people with HIV/AIDS is under preparation of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the AIDS Services Development committee of the Advisory Council on AIDS. ✿



FIGURES

The Department of Health released its third quarterly statistics at a press meeting on 31 October. Details of the analysis will be published in the next issue of *Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update*. ✿

**Visit the New Hong Kong Virtual AIDS Office
of Advisory Council on AIDS and DH AIDS Unit**

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

The Chairman has recently written to South China Morning Post on the subject of HIV prevention. The letter is reproduced below for Members' information. - *editor*

from the Chairman's Desk

IT was timely that the *Association of Women for Action and Research* (AWARE) brought up the subject AIDS and travelling in the midst of the growing epidemic (letter, SCMP October 2).

While I take issue with the generalisation that the engagement of some Asian businessmen in commercial sex is "corporate goodwill", I do share AWARE's concern for women in this part of the world who are vulnerable. In tackling the problem, the Advisory Council on AIDS feels it crucial to bring two programmes together - the workplace programme and public education programme for both men and women.

The workplace is the best forum for instilling AIDS awareness and fostering a positive attitude towards those infected, both key objectives of

any meaningful AIDS programme. The Lions Clubs International and the Department of Health should be commended for starting up the Hong Kong Community Charter on AIDS in 1994. Three years on, I am a bit upset by the mediocre response of the local business community. By distancing themselves from the subject of AIDS, the business world has denied the important role it could play in Hong Kong. As travelling is fast becoming an important factor behind contraction of HIV, the development of innovative workplace programmes is urgently needed.

How about public education? In the last decade, our Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS has been involved in the development and co-ordination of numerous education efforts in the local community. The

concept of conducting gender-specific activities is important, but is difficult to put into practice, particularly with a relatively low HIV prevalence in Hong Kong.

Educationists would agree with me that when the problem is big, it is too late to make changes; whereas when it is small (numerically), it is hard to arouse and sustain people's awareness. As the risk of catching HIV in the female population is still small, its emphasis in any education initiative may not easily touch the hearts of the audience. We must not promote AIDS awareness in isolation, but in context of other areas of women's concerns. Some examples are STD, family relationships and women's health.

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STOP PRESS

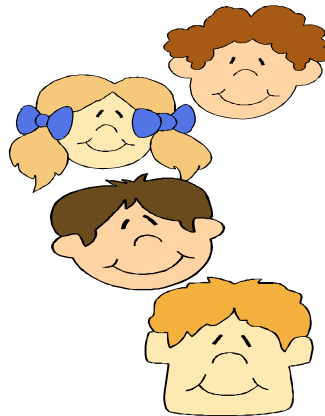
Congress News

SOME three thousand people were at the 4th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific held in Manila, Philippines. The theme of the biennial Congress is "Partnership across borders against HIV/AIDS". The opening was officiated by His Excellency Fidel Ramos, President of the Philippines, with messages delivered by Dr S T Han, Regional Director of World Health Organisation Western Pacific Regional Office, and Dr Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS.

The five-day Congress featured daily plenaries, concurrent sessions on various subjects, special lectures, skills building workshops and satellite symposium. Scientific presentations were grouped under four subthemes - [A] Why is HIV spreading in the

Asia-pacific, [B] How are we dealing with the problem, [C] What should be done, and [D] What do we expect in the future.

There were also display of poster abstracts, commercial and non-commercial exhibitions. Non-governmental organisations, UN agencies and academic institutes set up exhibition booths to promote dialogue with counterparts. Apart from the organised activities, the Congress has provided an ideal forum for workers in the region



The IVth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific 25-29 October 1997 Manila, the Philippines

to meet and discuss informally on issues of mutual concern. There were re-establishment of old and establishment of new contacts.

Hong Kong participated actively at the Congress. Dr Patrick Li and Miss O C Lin of the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation were members of the International Programme Committee. Department of Health, Health and Welfare Bureau, Education Department, and Social Welfare Department had sent representatives to the Congress. Dr Homer Tso and Miss Carlye Tsui of the Advisory Council on AIDS, and delegates from many of the NGOs took part in the function - Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, AIDS Concern, Society

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{CONGRESS}

for AIDS Care, HIV Information and Drop-in Centre, TeenAIDS. There were also academics from the universities and people living with HIV/AIDS.

A total of 14 oral and 3 poster abstracts were presented by Hong Kong's delegates. Hong Kong AIDS Foundation and Red Ribbon Centre each set up an exhibition booth at the Congress. A special satellite seminar titled "Strategies on HIV/AIDS prevention in Chinese Community" was hosted by the Foundation on 26 October.

The Congress closed on 29 October. Miss Marina Mahathir, chairman of the fifth Congress announced that Malaysia would be hosting the next Congress two years later in 1999. ❁



Congress Highlights

There have not been a great deal of new information presented at the Congress. The Congress, however, consolidated knowledge cumulated over the last years. It also emphasises on a number of important issues:

- combination antiretroviral treatment to HIV/AIDS patients, its access and impacts.
- the need for cross-border collaboration in fighting HIV infection.
- partnership in HIV prevention and care.
- the importance of effective surveillance, both on HIV/AIDS and risk behaviours.
- STD/AIDS programme integration.
- AIDS programme evaluation.
- role of NGOs.



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[from the Chairman's desk]

Similarly, education for men should be geared towards high risk behaviour instead of just AIDS. For such activities to make any impact, the integration of STD and AIDS education is a must.

I am glad that the idea of integration is beginning to take shape, at least from the perspective of our Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS.

The Committee is joining hands with the

Hong Kong Sex Education Association in launching a *Sex and AIDS Education Expo'97* (October 17-19, Science Museum).

Organisations working on AIDS, sex education and STD are, for the first time, coming together to share experiences and to develop a future collaborative strategy. I do hope that this is not the end, but the beginning of a whole new era for AIDS prevention work.

[SCMP 16 October 1997]