

ACA NEWSFILE

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

Editor: Dr S S Lee, ACA Secretary

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.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 9 February 1998

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

9:30am 10 December 1997

From World AIDS Day to World AIDS Campaign

In 1988, the World Health Organisation began commemorating the first of December of each year as "World AIDS Day". In 1997, UNAIDS expanded the scope of the project to become the World AIDS Campaign. The theme of this year's Campaign is *Children living in a world with AIDS*. Children, in accordance with the definition of the UN Convention on the Rights of Children, are all people under the age of 18.

Despite the relatively small number of children infected by HIV locally, the theme bears special meaning to us. On one hand, the increase in the heterosexual spread of the infection is putting women at higher risk of infection, and with them, their children. On the other hand, young people are prone to infection because of behavioural risk. We can't agree more with the mission statement of the new World AIDS Campaign - *Fewer children infected, fewer children affected, fewer children*

who are vulnerable to the impact of HIV/AIDS, and an increasing number of girls and boys who are protected in a world that upholds their rights.

Let's do our best. ❀

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

Our HomePage has been completely facelifted in November 1997. It is now called *The Virtual Hong Kong AIDS Office*, a joint page of ACA and AIDS Unit, Hong Kong. It is a bilingual internet page. Apart from the regular reports on HIV/AIDS situation, press releases, new features have been added. All APIs (television spots) are downloadable for viewing; there is a new interactive game to educate on safer sex; a specialised section on Red Ribbon Centre has been added; past issues of publications are stored in archives and are retrievable. Sectioning and

**Red Ribbon
Centre
23046268**

navigability have been improved. Even the address has been simplified - just type in /aids under the Hong Kong SAR Government's address and you can find it - <http://www.info.gov.hk/aids> ❀

Manila Manifesto

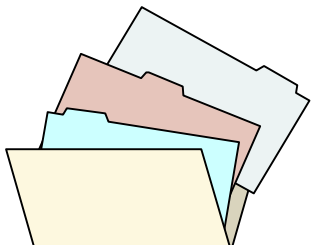
The Manila Manifesto was declared at the closing of the Congress in late October. The paper is reprinted on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of *ACA Newsfile*. ❀

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Council News / Activities



Joint Meeting

The next meeting of AIDS Services Development Committee and Scientific Committee on AIDS will, for the first time, be a joint one.

Scheduled for 10 December, the meeting will be cochaired by Professor MH Ng and Dr Homer Tso.

Members will look at the provision of clinical services in the public sector. ✿

World AIDS Campaign Activities

AT the 27th meeting of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS, activities of the Government and community organisations for World AIDS Day (World AIDS Campaign) 1997 were presented. Some of the highlights are covered in the last page of this newsletter. ✿

Publications

A number of publications (blue-covered) have been released lately. Members should have received a copy of each:

= Procedure for management of needlestick injury or mucosal contact with blood or body fluids - general guidelines for hepatitis B, C and HIV prevention.

(bilingual)

= Surveillance of viral hepatitis in Hong Kong 1997

= Unlinked anonymous screening for HIV surveillance in Hong Kong 1990-1996. ✿

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HIV in Women and Babies

TO update nurses on HIV infection in women and babies, AIDS Unit is setting up a half-day seminar on 17 December at the Lecture Theatre of Ruttonjee Hospital.

Speakers (HIV physicians, obstetrician, paediatrician and nurse-counsellor) will be touching on issues including perinatal HIV infection, paediatric infection, and counselling.

The seminar is actually the third one started since two years ago. It has met with very enthusiastic responses from nurses in Hong Kong. ✿

BYOL

THE next BYOL Seminar will be presented by Miss Loretta Wong and Mr Graham Smith of AIDS Concern at the Red Ribbon Centre on 5 December (1-2pm). The presentation is titled *HIV/AIDS and Older People*.

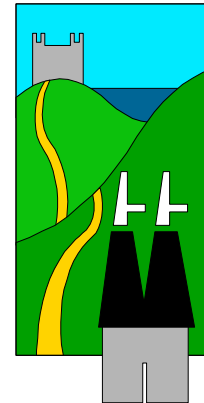
BYOL (bring-your-own-lunch) is an update continuing education series run on a monthly basis for those working in the field of HIV/AIDS. ✿

Activities

Conference on Research

A Conference on behavioural research on AIDS was held in Hangzhou from 2-5 November. It was participated by 47 delegates, among them 11 were from Hong Kong. There were presentations on four themes - injecting drug use, men having sex with men, mobile population and commercial sex workers.

The Conference was organised by the Center for Clinical Trials & Epidemiological Research (CUHK)'s Community Research Programme on AIDS, and China AIDS Network. The next meeting would be in Dailian in August 1998. ✿



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

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RTHK has lauched its new series of sex education drama on television. The new programme is screened on TVB Jade starting 23 November. The weekly (Sundays at 7pm) series would be covering issues on sex education as well as AIDS education. ✿



**Visit the New Hong Kong Virtual AIDS Office
of Advisory Council on AIDS and DH AIDS Unit**
<http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>

The Manila Manifesto



WE, the participants, of the 4th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific held in Manila, Phillipines on the 25th to 29th of October 1997, hereby proclaim the Manila Manifesto.

RECOGNIZING the urgent need for accelerated action, as an ever-increasing number of HIV infections occur throughout the countries of Asia and the Pacific; **REALIZING** that all people are affected by HIV/AIDS; **ACKNOWLEDGING** the increasing social and economic burden and the human development impact HIV and AIDS are having in each of our countries; **HIGHLIGHTING** that some social and economic situations may force individuals, particularly young people, into vulnerable situations, increasing their risk of HIV infections; **HIGHLIGHTING** the significant discrimination

and stigma that people living with HIV infection or suspected of being HIV infected, have been subjected to throughout Asia and the Pacific; **RECOGNIZING** the central role of people with HIV infection in all aspects of response to AIDS prevention and care, particularly advocacy; **RECOGNIZING** the important impact that best practices in the prevention and care of HIV/AIDS have had in Asia and the Pacific; **CONGRATULATING** the selfless efforts of the individuals and organizations in pursuing



AIDS prevention and care often in the face of intolerance and prejudice; **BUILDING** on resolutions and international declarations including the Paris AIDS Declaration of 1994;

RESOLVE to:

- * Strengthen partnership within and between national responses
- * Explore innovative approaches to local resource mobilization
- * Strive to uphold the basic principles of human rights and dignity in responding to the epidemic
- * Further identify, document and replicate Best Practice Experiences existing in our countries
- * Encourage local decision makers and politicians to reflect the priority and urgency of a concerted response to the epidemic through increased allocation of funds in national and local budgets
- * Promote the concepts of vulnerability reduction,

risk reduction and harm reduction in approaches to AIDS prevention and care

* Develop a strategy for the sustainable provision of appropriate treatments and social support for all people infected with HIV

WHILE recognizing the significant role that international support for efforts to minimize the impact of the epidemic in Asia and the Pacific has played to date,

WE call upon the international community to continue their support for an expanded response to the epidemic, through resource provision and capacity development, in Asia and the Pacific to prevent HIV infections and to provide care and support for those infected.

FURTHER

WE call upon the national governments of the region to expand their efforts, through increased funding for AIDS prevention and care, through the involvement of diverse areas of government; and through stronger partnerships with non-government sectors and

affected communities including people living with HIV/AIDS

AND

WE call upon non-government agencies throughout Asia and the Pacific to increase their efforts for AIDS prevention and care; to build stronger partnerships with government partners in responding to the AIDS epidemic; and to involve affected communities in your response.

Declared this 29th day of October 1997, at the Phillipine International Convention Centre, Manila, Phillipines, by the delegates to the 4th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific.



**AIDS
HOTLINE
2780 2211**

**The one-stop
hotline system
for getting
information on
HIV/AIDS and
STDs,
counselling,
arranging for
HIV tests, and
accessing
clinical HIV
services**

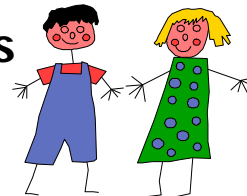
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PROFESSOR Allan Roland of the University of Manitoba, Canada, presented the 11th CT Huang Lecture at the University of Hong Kong on 19 November, titling "Heterosexual HIV transmission: can it be prevented?". Prof Roland gave a splendid review of factors behind heterosexual HIV spread. One important strategy he emphasised was the effective treatment of STD as a means of controlling the HIV epidemic. ❁

WORLD AIDS CAMPAIGN 1997

-----Hong Kong Highlights



ON 1 December 1997, the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS is launching the World AIDS Campaign by the setting up of a sculpture in Fleming Road Garden (Central Plaza). Designed by Mr VAN Lau, a renowned artist, the art-piece features two red ribbons intertwined in the symbol of a heart. The project is the product of the year-long pursuance of the Task Force on Media and Publicity, which strives to better remind the public of the threat of AIDS. Five campaign partners have joined in - The Outstanding Young Persons' Association, Lions Clubs International District 303, Rotary International District 3450, Hong Kong Junior Chamber, and Zonta Club of Victoria. The Secretary for Health and Welfare and the Director of Health have consented to officiate at the ceremony.

An exhibition titled "From World AIDS Day to World AIDS Campaign" will be held concurrently in the first floor foyer of Central

Plaza. The Advisory Council is indebted to Urban Council and the Central Plaza for their unfailing support to the Project.

In the second week following World AIDS Day, Dr David Ho will be visiting Hong Kong upon the invitation of Advisory Council on AIDS. Dr Ho will be the Distinguished Visiting Scholar of United College, Chinese University of Hong Kong, as well as the Lions Visiting Scholar. He will be delivering a public lecture on 8 December, addressing the Lions at a Luncheon meeting on 9 December, and giving another lecture to medical practitioners on 10

"On this day, we want to remember all those directly affected by the epidemic....to thank everybody who is supporting efforts to prevent transmission"

- Peter Piot, Executive Director, UNAIDS

December at the Science Museum. Dr Ho, a world expert on HIV treatment, and TIME's Man of the Year 1996, will also be meeting with members of the Council, academics and NGOs during his stay in Hong Kong.

Many NGOs are holding activities to tie in with the World AIDS Campaign. A Candlelit Vigil was held on 30 November, a joint project of all seven NGOs working on AIDS. Hong Kong AIDS Foundation is working on a publicity campaign along the railway. The AIDS Memorial Quilt Project is putting up an arts exhibition. TeenAIDS is, among other activities, working on drama in schools with Prospects Theatre Co Ltd. The Society for AIDS Care organised a seminar at the Fringe Club in end November. In association with other NGOs, the Council of Social Service is organising the Awards for Media Coverage on HIV/AIDS 1997. ❀