

## .Calendar.

**XXVIth Meeting of the  
Advisory Council on  
AIDS (ACA)**

2:30pm 18 September 1998  
[to be confirmed]

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

6pm 13 August 1998

**XVIth Meeting of  
AIDS Services  
Development  
Committee (ASDC)**

date to be confirmed

**XVth Scientific  
Committee on AIDS  
(SCA) date to be confirmed**

from Geneva to Hong Kong  
THE World AIDS Conference in Geneva had not been featured with significant breakthroughs or enlightenment. The atmosphere was one of pragmatism and collaboration. Though it would be difficult to immediately "bridge the gap" between developed and developing countries, the consensus was that more needed to be done.

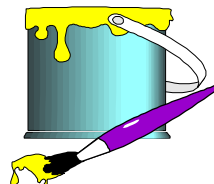
Back in Hong Kong, the gap carries a different meaning. The AIDS situation and programme review called for creating partnership to bridge the gap between various components of the programme - between Government and community, between research and intervention, between AIDS Trust Fund and the overall strategy.... The title of the external consultancy report has best summarised the approach for the next phase of Hong Kong's response - moving ahead together. ❀

## Meeting postponed

THE 26th meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS, originally scheduled for 10 July, had been postponed to 18 September. In its place a special briefing was organised enabling Dr Tim Brown to present the final consultancy report to members of the Council, committees and NGOs (see page 4 for details) ❀

## Fresh from Geneva

IN August, Red Ribbon Centre is staging an exhibition of presentations made by Hong Kong delegates at the recent World AIDS Conference in Geneva. This would be one way to share experiences among AIDS workers in Hong Kong, particularly those who have not had the opportunity of visiting Geneva. Scientific papers, speeches, photos and booth exhibits would be on display. For enquiries, please contact Miss Victoria Kwong at 23046268. ❀



DR SEX HOTLINE 2337 2121

## News / Activities

### Prevention of AIDS in Asia - an update

THE Advisory Council on AIDS is the local partner of *HOPE Worldwide's* upcoming AIDS Conference titled "Prevention of AIDS in Asia - an update". The highlights of the Conference will be a two-day state-of-art presentations on 14 and 15

November. The presentations will focus on four themes: (a) defining the problem, (b) translating medical advances into effective management, (c) patient support and care, and (d) the social and behavioural context.

There would also be field experiences in

Cambodia and China, as well as the possible organisation of satellite meetings and exhibitions by community groups. *HOPE Worldwide* is currently seeking the support of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund for funding the participation of local people. Local participants are urged to send in their registration on or before 1 August for consideration of the sponsorship. ❀

### BYOL

**Red Ribbon Centre is currently undertaking an evaluation of the BYOL seminars which have been set up since a year ago. A questionnaire has been distributed to participants to seek their views on their satisfaction with the programme, and whether the series should be continued in the longer term.**

[ BYOL - *Bring-your-own-lunch* is a series of seminars for people working on various aspects of HIV/AIDS prevention and care ]



### Strategy development

THE coming meeting of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS) will focus on the development of strategy on HIV prevention. Mobile population and MSM (men who have sex with men) will be two priority areas to be examined. The approach will be in line with the recommendations made in the external consultancy report released last month. ❀

### Hotline-on-line

YOU can now listen to AIDS Hotline messages not just through phone (27802211) but from the HomePage "Virtual AIDS Office of Hong Kong", maintained jointly by AIDS Unit and Advisory Council on AIDS. The address is [www.info.gov.hk/aids](http://www.info.gov.hk/aids) ❀

**ACA and DH AIDS Unit**  
**<http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>**

**Focus on Travelling**

THE strategy on HIV prevention in mobile populations will be discussed at a coming meeting of the CEPAIDS. In parallel, Department of Health and Hong Kong Sex Education Association are joining hands to distribute safer sex messages at the Lo Wu Border. One campaign will be held on 3 August. ❀

**Know the Hotline**  
 AN exhibition will be staged at Kwai Chung Metroplaza to let the public know of the services provided through the AIDS Hotline (27802211). The function will be held on 22 and 23 August. ❀

**Second Quarter**

ON 7 August the Department of Health releases the new surveillance data collected under the voluntary reporting system. In the second quarter (March to June 1998), 61 cases of HIV infection were reported, bringing the cumulative total to 1066. Two contracted

the virus from their mother. Overall sexual contact is still the commonest mode of HIV transmission.

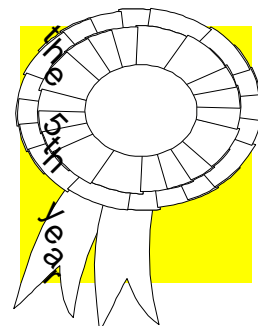
AIDS Unit maintains a voluntary reporting system contributed by clinicians and laboratories providing confirmatory HIV tests. Analysis and public release are made on a quarterly basis. ❀

**Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 30 June 1998**

		<b>total</b>	<b>(AIDS)</b>
<b>Gender</b>	male	912	(314)
	female	154	(35)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	732	(261)
	non-Chinese	334	(88)
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	579	(200)
	homosexual	239	(82)
	bisexual	58	(24)
	Injecting drug use	17	(5)
	blood/bl products	67	(16)
	perinatal	6	(2)
	undetermined	100	(20)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1066</b>	<b>(349)</b>

*Department of Health, Hong Kong*

**ACA NEWSFILE**



## Progress

THE final consultancy report had been presented by Dr Tim Brown at a special briefing session held by the Advisory Council on AIDS on 10 July. The document has also been sent to all members of the Council, the three committees, task forces and NGOs.



A special working group was subsequently set up to examine how to respond to the report and to carry forward recommendations contained therein. The Group, comprising chairmen of the committees and the Council chairman, has met in July and would be

reporting to the Advisory Council on AIDS at its next meeting. The Chairman has repeatedly remarked that the 'review' was not the end but the beginning of a whole process of programme improvement. New plans will be developed in the second half of the year. ❁

## APPEAL

YOU are welcomed to propose plans on implementing the recommendations made in the external consultancy report. As the title of the report has suggested, we should be moving ahead together! ❁

## Review

### Briefing

ON 10 July, Dr Tim Brown, one of the four external consultants, gave a presentation at a special meeting set up by the Advisory Council on AIDS. Attended by members of the Council, committees and NGOs, the briefing had stimulated discussion on how to improve the future AIDS programme in Hong Kong.

At the beginning, Dr Conrad Lam, the Chairman, gave an opening introduction. Dr Brown's presentation was followed by discussion convened by Dr Homer Tso. Dr Margaret Chan, the Vice-Chairman, gave the concluding remarks at the end. ❁

