

.Calendar.

XXVIIth Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)
2:30pm 18 December 1998

XXXIst Meeting of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS)
6pm 12 November 1998

XVith Meeting of AIDS Services Development Committee (ASDC)
date to be confirmed

XVith Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) 9:30am 26 February 1999

AIDS Prevention in Asia - an update

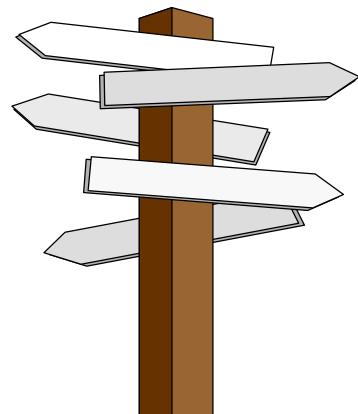
THE Conference "Prevention of AIDS in Asia - an update" hosted by Harvard AIDS Institute and HOPE Worldwide Health Corps will be held between 13-19 (a two-day state-of-art presentation will be given on 14-15 November). As the Conference's local partner, the ACA wishes the Conference every success.

In the last months there have been criticism by HKCASO (Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service Organisations) on the organiser for their lack of consultation of the community in the process. At a time when Hong Kong's AIDS programme is turning a new page, the Council wishes all parties to put aside their difference, and to focus on how we could improve the HIV/AIDS situation - both prevention and care - here and worldwide.

Let us make use of the opportunity to build up our own capacity to face up the challenge of HIV/AIDS, and to seek means of collaboration with local, Mainland and overseas partners. - ACA

The Action Brief

In October 1998, UNAIDS (Joint United nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) published its first issue of a newsletter to enhance sharing of information with partners around the world. Titled *The Action Brief*, the newsletter can also be viewed from UNAIDS's website at www.unaids.org. The first issue featured World AIDS Day, and gave an update on recent and coming events. ❄



DR SEX HOTLINE 2337 2121

Committee News

New API

THE Task Force on Media and Publicity of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS met on 29 October to discuss on the launching of a new API (announcement of public interest) focussing on condom use. The new TV spot will feature a television celebrity, and members are pleased with the progress so far. ❁

Funding Scheme in Action

THE 1998 Youth Funding Scheme on AIDS has so far supported 24 projects on AIDS education activities targeting young people. Under this scheme, youth workers and youth groups are encouraged to propose innovative projects to arouse young people's awareness towards AIDS prevention and care. Each project, if supported, receives not more than HK\$8000 to implement the plan.



The scheme is operated by the Task Force on Youth of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS. Technical support is provided via the Red Ribbon Centre. ❁

New Force

Convened by Dr Joseph Lau, CEPAIDS' s new Task Force on Travellers (TFT) has a membership list including Mr. Billy Ho, Mr Tony Pang, Ms Bella Luk, Ms OC Lin, Sr Ann Grey, Ms Elijah Fung and new faces like Ms Paulina Kwok of Caritas and Ms Linda Wong of Federation of Women' s Service Centre.

The Task Force's focus will be on travellers going to mainland China and Macau, and their regular partners that may be affected. Prevention work on travellers has been identified* as one of the priority areas requiring focused efforts for prevention. Comments can be made to tft@cuhk.edu.hk.

[* Readers may wish to refer to the July 1998 issue of ACA Newsfile for details on the priority areas identified by the external consultants during the ACA review]

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

AIDSHotline
2780 2211

Targeting drug users

THE Task Force on Drug and AIDS met on 14 October. The Group reviewed the current situation and examined the progress of preventive education conducted. It was agreed to revise some of the education materials to better bring out the key messages of harm reduction and HIV prevention. ❁

Quarterly Statistics

THE Department of Health released its quarterly reported HIV/AIDS statistics on 29 October. A total of 32 new cases of HIV

infection and 10 AIDS have been reported between July and September 1998. Breakdown of the cumulative data is tabulated below. More detailed analysis will be provided in the publication *Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update*, a joint publication of Special Preventive Programme and Social Hygiene Service of Department of Health. It can also be viewed on AIDS Unit's website at www.info.gov.hk/aids. ❀

Exhibition of Posters

RED Ribbon Centre is currently staging a display of posters on sex and AIDS education collected from all over the world. The exhibition is a good reference for those of us working on HIV prevention and education activities. ❀

Julian Gold in Hong Kong

DR Julian Gold, Director of Sydney's Albion Street Centre, will be in Hong

Kong in the first week of November. As an expert in HIV management and community-based care, Dr Gold will be giving a number of presentations, including a seminar hosted by the Hong Kong Society for Infectious Diseases.

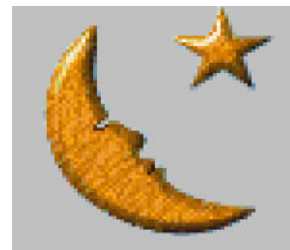
The Albion Street Centre is the largest day centre offering treatment to HIV/AIDS patients in Australia. ❀

Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 30 September 1998

		total	(AIDS)
Gender	male	936	(322)
	female	162	(37)
Ethnicity	Chinese	755	(270)
	non-Chinese	343	(89)
Transmission	heterosexual	600	(209)
	homosexual	242	(82)
	bisexual	59	(24)
	Injecting drug use	17	(5)
	blood/bl products	67	(16)
	perinatal	6	(3)
	undetermined	100	(20)

TOTAL	1098 (359)
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Department of Health, Hong Kong



A Conference hosted by China AIDS Network and Hong Kong AIDS Foundation was held in Dalian from 1-3 October. Dr Joseph Lau has kindly provided us the following report.



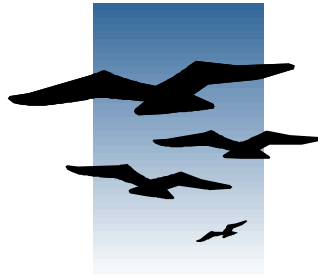
THIRTY-three members of China AIDS Network (CAN) from 19 provinces met in Dalian with representatives from 5 NGOs of Hong Kong to share experience in last year's work on AIDS.

The Conference was a continuation of a previous one in Hangzhou, with the participation of experts in surveillance, behavioural intervention and research.

Issues discussed included the setting up of behavioural surveillance systems, methodological issues in risk behaviour survey, management of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA) in a prison setting, cultural factors affecting AIDS campaigns, evaluation of AIDS hotline service, affectionate sharing of counselling experience, attitudes and behaviours of commercial sex workers (CSWs) in some detention centres, and need for youth intervention programmes in China.

One important presentation was that of

the HIV situation in Xinjiang, describing the highest HIV rate in injection drug users. Workers there are facing heavy resource constraints, reminding us of our relatively better support we have in Hong Kong.



While the formal presentations form the key parts of the conference, the informal parts are clearly of equal importance, for purpose of networking. After years of exchanges, participants have become friends in a 'real' sense. We were able to speak our minds, give critical views of each other's work and provide mutual support to one another. There were discussions on possible clinical trials on Chinese medicine, cost-effectiveness analysis and quality of life (QOL) studies...

The Conference has been a very enjoyable experience. Our collaboration with our 'Tung Dao' (people on the same road) in China has been growing and its importance is obvious as AIDS is not a geographically isolated problem. Conferences like this is one of the key meeting places for exchange of experience and ideas. Hong Kong's involvement in the Chinese network has also deepened.

At the Conference, Dr. CH Leong was elected the vice-president of CAN, while O C Lin of Hong Kong AIDS Foundation and myself are now serving as two of the secretaries of the Network. We are looking forward to similar events of better quality and wider participation in the future, of course, with the presence of all who are interested. ✨

[Dr Joseph Lau is the Director of CCTER, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and is affiliated with CEPAIDS]