

## .Calendar.

**XXVIIIth Meeting of  
the Advisory Council  
on AIDS (ACA)**  
2:30pm 19 March 1999

**XXXIInd Meeting of  
the Committee on  
Education and Publicity  
on AIDS (CEPAIDS)**  
6pm 5 March 1999

**XVIIth Meeting of  
AIDS Services  
Development  
Committee (ASDC)**  
to be announced

**XVth Scientific  
Committee on AIDS  
(SCA)**  
9:30am 8 February 1999

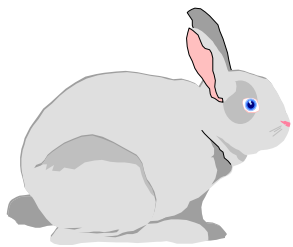
## Hong Kong AIDS Conference

FOLLOWING the last ACA meeting, the Secretariat had written to all Council/committee members informing of the resolution of the Council as regards the organisation of the Hong Kong AIDS Conference *ACA Newsfile* January 1999). A number of inquiries have been received and a group has indicated interest in holding the 1999 Conference.

The Council and the Secretariat are very much impressed by the enthusiasm shown by the community. It is hopeful that a Conference will be held in a new format appropriate to all of us working on HIV/AIDS, people living with it, and the general public in Hong Kong. If you have a plan which you wish to propose, please send to the Secretariat on or before 15 February. A decision would be made in early March. Or, if you know of any party which is interested in making the proposal, please convey our message.

Finally, do let us know if you, as an individual, want to help out in the organisation of the Conference. We would let the future organising committee know of your intent. ✿

## Man See Shing Yee



The Advisory Council on AIDS wishes everyone a prosperous and happy Chinese New Year. ✿

## Page Numbering

FROM January 1999, the page numbering format of *ACA Newsfile* will be changed. The numbers will be continued through all issues in the same year. That would make referencing easier in the future. ✿

**ACA and DH AIDS Unit**

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

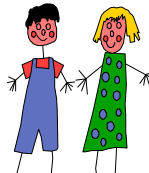
# Council News / Activities

## XVth SCA meeting

AT the forthcoming meeting of the Scientific Committee, members would be examining the HIV testing programmes in Hong Kong, in context of the objectives, methodology and available channels. There would be discussion on the impacts of the introduction of various forms of rapid tests.

The Committee will also address the current mechanism of drawing up professional guidelines. ❁

## Dr Sex Hotline 2337 2121



## Strategy development

THE coming meeting of CEP/AIDS shall examine strategy for the prevention of HIV in two community sectors - firstly, youth and secondly, commercial sex workers. These two targets are the priority targets identified by the external consultants in the 1998 ACA Review, and which the Council had resolved to focus in the coming three years. ❁

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## RRC-UNAIDS

THE Red Ribbon Centre is finalising its agreement with the UNAIDS in becoming one of the international agency's Collaborating Centres. The Centre specialises in the provision of technical support in the

### Award

THE *Youth Action on AIDS* Funding Scheme Prize Presentation Ceremony 1998 will be held on 28 February 1999 at the Red Ribbon Centre. A total of 24 projects had been supported under the scheme last year. The groups/workers will be competing for the best project awards. Dr Thomas HL Ip, Mr Ko Tin-lung, and Ms Catherine Che Kuk-hung, all Ambassadors of the Community Charter on AIDS, will be the officiating guests at the Ceremony. Enquiry on the Ceremony can be directed to the Secretariat at Red Ribbon Centre at Tel: 2304 6268.

Operated through the Task Force on Youth, the Scheme is one of the oldest projects of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS. Since 1991, youth groups (and youth workers in the recent years) have been invited to propose innovative projects for arousing awareness of young people in the community towards the subject of HIV prevention and care. Funding and technical support are provided through the Red Ribbon Centre. ❁

local setting and in the region.

Red Ribbon Centre was officially opened in May 1997. Its mission is to facilitate and enhance the community's response to HIV/AIDS. It has been, in

the last one-and-a-half years, working closely with UNAIDS in networking, sharing of information, organisation of technical workshops and the production of education materials. ❁

## WHO/WPRO WEBSITE

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) - Regional Office for the Western Pacific is now offering access to STD and HIV prevalence data in the Region through its website at <http://www.who.org.ph/technical/programme/std.htm>. Other features of the Site includes selected documents published by the Office on STD, HIV/AIDS, latest surveillance reports, slides on the epidemiology of STD/HIV. Regular updates is released by the Regional Office for the information of readers who are interested or are working on the subject in the region. ❁

### Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 31 December 1998

		total	(AIDS)
<i>Gender</i>	male	971	(331)
	female	175	(41)
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Chinese	790	(280)
	non-Chinese	356	(92)
<i>Transmission</i>	heterosexual	635	(221)
	homosexual	244	(83)
	bisexual	62	(24)
	Injecting drug use	17	(5)
	blood/bl products	67	(16)
	perinatal	6	(3)
	undetermined	115	(20)

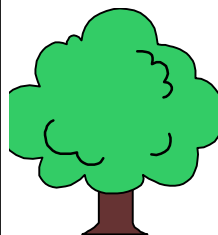
TOTAL	1146 (372)
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Department of Health, Hong Kong Kong

## Year End Review

ON 5 February, the Department of Health would be releasing an update of the HIV/AIDS reporting data at a quarterly press meeting to be held at the Red Ribbon Centre. The cumulative number of reported HIV infection now stands at 1146. The details would be presented in a

coming issue of Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update, a joint publication of AIDS Unit and Social Hygiene Service of the Department of Health. HIV/AIDS is not a notifiable disease by law. A voluntary reporting system has been in place to keep track of the epidemic in Hong Kong. ❁



AIDS Hotline  
27802211

## NIMBY - what can be done?

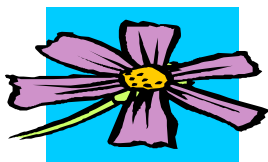
AIDS Services Development Committee (ASDC) had a fruitful discussion centering on the paper "Preparing the Kowloon Bay Primary Health Care Centre to serve the community" at its 16th meeting on 28 January 1999.

The subject has been examined by ASDC on several occasions in the past in view of the objections to the Project expressed in the neighbourhood, notably residents from the Richland Gardens. The Centre is now scheduled to start operation by mid-1999, while the residents' protests are still going on.

The new Centre houses a multitude of health facilities - a general outpatient clinic, a student health service centre, an X-ray service, a nursing home for elderly people, and an integrated day treatment centre (IDTC) for patients with skin diseases, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. The residents feared that HIV and other infectious diseases might spread in the district. They

also complained about the insufficiency of consultation, though the Government held that the normal process of consultation had been undertaken.

At the meeting Mr. HW Mak reviewed overseas literature on NIMBY (Not In My Backyard Syndrome) which served as good reference for our situation. There were discussions on how to ensure that the much wanted services could be



delivered to people in need. Members considered the objections of the neighbouring residents unfounded, but suggested that a more proactive approach be adopted to work with the local community.

Members stressed the importance of protecting the rights of users of the new service, proposed means of promoting understanding of residents, establishing trust and

avoiding confrontation between government, patients, and residents.

The following resolutions were made in concluding the discussion: (a) the development of the project, including IDTC, should be firmly pursued; (b) an advisory committee could be set up to involve the community in the running of the services; (c) the IDTC should not be singled out while working on the strategy in the development of the whole Centre; (d) outreaching and informal networking with the community shall be considered, with organisation of visits to the Centre; (e) the acquisition of assistance and participation of mainstream NGOs should be encouraged.

The meeting considered that these strategies should be developed before the Centre opens, and be continued after its opening. Members agreed that despite the controversy, the incident has become a good lesson for service-providers in the planning of their activities for clients. ❁