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ACA Secretariat

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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)**

6:30pm 16 March 1999

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

to be announced

**XVIth Scientific
Committee on AIDS
(SCA)**

9:30am 25 June 1999

World AIDS Campaign 1999

THE theme of the World AIDS campaign 1999 would be "LISTEN, LEARN, LIVE! World AIDS Campaign with children and young people". The theme was derived by the UNAIDS after much discussion with its partners and co-sponsors. The campaign was officiated on 25 February 1999 in Brazil by Brazil President Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS.

The theme was chosen to highlight the importance of open communication with young people, to discover their needs, and to combat harmful cultural attitudes. LISTEN is to attend to children and young people's concerns and feelings; LEARN is to learn from each other and respect others' views; and LIVE is to create a world without stigma and discrimination and also fewer people become infected with HIV.

As an UNAIDS Collaborating Centre, the Red Ribbon Centre has started disseminating, in its adapted format, press release of the UNAIDS to the local community. ☒

Protecting the Environment

IN an effort to protect the environment, the Secretariat of the Advisory Council and its Committees will be producing its documents, papers, and minutes in a

double-sided manner. Working for a betterment of health of the community, the ACA is also concerned with the health of the environment. The plastic folder for

containing the documents of meeting will be omitted by the same token. Members will receive the new printing format of the documents for the coming meetings. ☒



ACA and DH AIDS Unit

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

Nearing end of term

THE current term of office of the Advisory Council on AIDS will expire on 31 July 1999, so will the three committees under its charge - Scientific Committee on AIDS, Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS and AIDS Services Development Committee.

At the last meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS on 18 December 1998, members reviewed the operation of the Council in context of its proposed programme strategies, and made preliminary suggestions on how the future Council would best achieve its roles.

Advisory Council on AIDS was first appointed in 1990. The first two terms (1990-1993, 1993-1996) were chaired by the Director of Health. The current term came into office on 1 August 1996 for a period of three years. Some members serving a two-year term have had their appointments extended for another one year in 1998. In accordance with the strategies developed late last year, a plan will be proposed by the current Council both to strengthen its role and to streamline the operation. A new Council will be appointed by the Government effective from 1 August 1999. ☞

New Year "Fortune Box"

THE Red Ribbon Centre has produced a "Fortune Box" as a give-away educational item for the Chinese New Year. The box is in red colour and featured with the slogan of "loving and healthy generations". The box was distributed to the public via the government inter-departmental exhibition booth at the New Year

Fair of Victoria Park. In addition, with the help of the Caritas group, the boxes were distributed to the elderly and the single parent family before the New Year. A seasons greetings together with some health messages is delivered during this important festival of the year. ☞

AIDS Hotline
27802211

New Section

A new section titled *Reading Room* is introduced in this issue. From time to time, relevant local or international article will be abstracted for readers' interest. ☞

HIV tests

AT the XVth meeting of the Scientific Committee on AIDS, the application of various types of HIV testing methods were discussed. The tests were found to be important in several components of an AIDS programme, namely: (i) diagnosis of infection, (ii) care of infected people, (iii) prevention of HIV transmission, and (iv) surveillance of the infection. Accessibility of testing and quality assurance of the various conventional and non-conventional HIV antibody tests were prime concerns. Newer tests, e.g. virus resistance testing, in the pipeline, were noted which may have impact on care of patients in the coming future. ☞

Disability Discrimination & AIDS

THE article "Disability discrimination in America: HIV/AIDS and other health conditions"

provides a good overview of the role of legislation in protecting people from discrimination. Though the legal system differs somewhat from that in Hong Kong, the experience is educational to those of us working on

HIV and equal opportunities in Hong Kong.

In the USA, the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) was enacted in 1990 (in contrast with the *Disability Discrimination Ordinance* 1995 in Hong Kong). Some points highlighted in the author's assessment are: (a) State laws vary

considerably, and their application affects the extent that federal laws are used; (b) the debate on how and why HIV is treated as a form of disability if ADA is referred; (c) what constitutes discrimination and the applicability in other diseases.

Authored by Lawrence O Gostin et al of Georgetown University Law Center, the article appears in the *Journal of American Medical Association* vol 281, pp 741-752, on February 24, 1999. The paper (abstract and full text) can also be viewed in JAMA's website HIV/AIDS Information Centre www.ama-assn.org/special/hiv/hivhome.htm. ❖

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

		total	(AIDS)
Gender	male	971	(331)
	female	175	(41)
Ethnicity	Chinese	790	(280)
	non-Chinese	356	(92)
Transmission	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)

Department of Health, Hong Kong

Dr Sex Hotline
2337 2121



"Youth Action on AIDS" Funding Scheme - its 8th year

THE 1998 "Youth Action on AIDS" Funding Scheme was officially completed following its Prize Presentation Ceremony on 28 February 99 at the Red Ribbon Centre. Twenty-four projects had been supported last year, the highest record since the commencement of the scheme in 1991. Nearly HK\$170,000 were allocated to the projects and some 40,000 young people were reached by the various projects.

A wide array of themes and topics in relation to HIV/AIDS were focussed by the projects. For example, there was coverage on the knowledge and the attitude of youth on HIV, pubertal development of youth, love and sex of youth, sex education and safer sex. Parallel to the extensive areas covered by the

projects, the activities were also delivered in multiple formats. Some examples were day camp, singing competition, training course, exhibition, quiz, and questionnaire survey, carnival. These, as designed by the youth themselves, are generally more of the



youth. The impact may thus be greater for these important targets in the prevention of the future of HIV epidemic.

At the Prize Presentation Ceremony, three Best Project Awards were announced. They went to Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association's Tuen Mun Outreaching Team, Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association's Shatin Social Service Centre, and the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group's Verbena C & Y Centre cum Study Room. The winners admitted that through participating in the scheme, they had become more aware of the HIV/

FOCUS

AIDS issue.

The vast experience of the youth projects accumulated from the past eight years is a good reference for other people organising programmes for youth. Projects conductors had submitted report to the Task Force on Youth of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS upon completion of their work. Summary of the activities from 1991-1994 had previously been published in a manual.

Entering into its ninth year, the funding scheme will continue to support youth projects. Similar to last year, the 1999 scheme will be accepting application under 3 categories: institution, youth, and students, comprising at least five members for each group. A maximum of HK\$8000 would be granted to each successful group applicant to help them implement their project. Copies of the information leaflet and application form can be obtained from the Red Ribbon Centre. ✂

Congratulations