

# ACA NEWSFILE

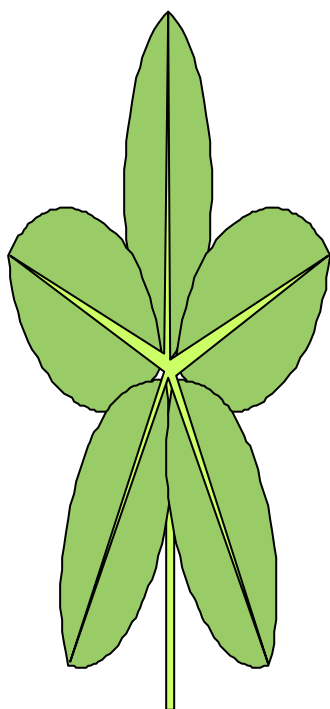
(Publication of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Hong Kong)

**Editors:** Dr KH Wong  
ACA Secretariat

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## .Calendar.

THE XXXth meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS will be held at 2:30 pm on 24th September 1999.



## New Council 1999-2002



THE following members have been appointed to the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS for the fourth term, for a period of three years with effect from 1 August 1999:

Dr Homer Tso, JP (Chairman)  
Dr Margaret Chan, JP, (Vice-chairman)  
Prof MH Ng  
Ms. Carlye Tsui, JP  
Dr. Patrick Li  
Mrs Diana Wong  
Dr. Richard Tan  
Professor CN Chen, JP  
Mr YF Hui, JP  
Professor YL Lau  
Mr Vincent Lo  
Rev Chu Yiu Ming  
Professor Peter Lee  
Mr. Daniel Lam, JP  
Professor Sara Ho  
Chief Executive of Hospital Authority or representative  
Director of Social Welfare or representative  
Director of Education or representative  
Secretary for Health & Welfare or representative

## Roving exhibitions

IN September 1999, the Red Ribbon Centre and Social Hygiene Service of the Department of Health will be jointly organising a roving exhibition on AIDS and sexually transmitted

diseases in housing estates. Starting with Hing Tung Estate at Shaukeiwan on 1 September, the exhibition will be toured through Wo Che Estate at Shatin, Tin Yiu Estate at Tin Shui Wai, and Lok Fu Estate at Lok

Fu, lasting for 5-7 days at each location. Exhibits will be displayed, and educational pamphlets will be distributed. The function aims to raise the awareness of the public in AIDS/STD knowledge with prevention and safer sex practices. ■

### Advisory Council on AIDS Secretariat

1/F Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic, 200 Junction Road East, Kowloon, Hong Kong.  
Tel: (852) 2304 6100; Fax: (852) 2337 0897

## **Missing Sister Maureen**

WITH most reluctance, we have to say goodbye to Sister Maureen McGinley. For the past 25 years, Sister Maureen has devoted her life to the welfare and good of Hong Kong. She has initiated and participated in numerous community projects.

Of course, our acquaintance with her was most impressed with her efforts in mobilising the community's response to AIDS in the last decade. She was among the first to care for the HIV-infected haemophiliacs. She was the key person in establishing the first few AIDS non-governmental organisations in the locality. She founded the Society for AIDS Care, which provided home nursing care and hospice care (at Look Out) for HIV/AIDS patients. She served as a member of the Advisory Council on AIDS from 1993 to 1999.

As a result of her extraordinary work, Sister Maureen was elected to be one of the nuns that will head up and run the Congregation of Columban Sisters. Unfortunately, with the new appointment, Sister has to relocate to England. Ms. Nichole Garnaut will act as the Director General of the Society for AIDS Care till a replacement be found. We all wish Sister a most enjoyable new task and living. ■



## **New AIDS Hotline**

THE AIDS Hotline, with all-in-one call mission, operated by the Department of Health has recently undergone revision and updating. Apart from re-arranging the prerecorded messages covering a wide range of topics on HIV/STD, new information was added to the system. The most updated HIV/AIDS statistics can also be listened via the Hotline, so

## **Funding for community planning process approved**

THE AIDS Trust Fund has lately approved the funding application "Facilitating the Community Planning Process - Moving Ahead Together" submitted by the Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Services

Organisations. The prime objective of the project is to identify priority activities and needs to be implemented for the priority HIV prevention groups, as well as their capacity-building needs. A Community Planning Committee will also be set up as part of the entire process. Community planning process is a new initiative put under the AIDS Strategies. It would have great impact on the local AIDS programme in the coming years. ■

can current hot topic. Telephone counselling is provided by experienced nurse counsellors, through whom free and anonymous HIV testing can be booked. Established since 1987, the AIDS Hotline now received some 6000 calls per month. Its telephone number is 2780 2211 and no caller display is installed. ■

## Hong Kong participating in PWA Conference

WITH sponsorship from private donors and the Council for the Trust Fund, a group of nine persons from Hong Kong, including people living with HIV/AIDS (PWA), attended the 9th International Conference for People Living with HIV/AIDS held in Warsaw, Poland from 13-19 August 1999.

"Uniting for Equality", the conference was attended by over 500 delegates from about 40 countries. Five areas were highlighted in the Conference: access to treatment, human rights, living with HIV/AIDS, marginalised communities, and skills building. Seminars and workshops were organised by PWAs themselves, in addition to those by AIDS workers and academics.

In the opening plenary lecture, Dr. Peter Piot stated that "*involving people with HIV in the fight against the epidemic is one of the best ways to overcome prejudice and discrimination*" and "*people with HIV must play an integral role in HIV prevention and care programmes ..*"

Hong Kong delegates will be compiling a conference report, with the assistance of AIDS Concern. Ms. Loretta Wong is the co-ordinator of the project. ■

Under the theme

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

### Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 30 June 1999

		Total (AIDS)
<b>Gender</b>	male	1057 (364)
	female	198 (45)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	871 (310)
	non-Chinese	384 (99)
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	697 (246)
	homosexual	264 (89)
	bisexual	67 (24)
	injecting drug use	20 (6)
	blood/bl products	68 (18)
	perinatal	9 (4)
	undetermined	130 (22)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1255 (409)</b>

*Department of Health, Hong Kong*

### Drug Symposium and Workshop

THE 1999 Mainland and Hong Kong Drug Dependence Conference was successfully held in Hong Kong from 1-8 August. It was a joint collaboration between the Mainland and Hong Kong academics, officials and other workers in the field. A workshop on HIV and Drug was organised within the Symposium with earnest participation.

It was acknowledged that there were about 600,000 drug abusers officially registered in the Mainland. The importance of drug use impacting on the HIV epidemic in China is clear enough as 70% of all reported infections were due to injecting drug use. There was good sharing and exchange of experience between local and Mainland counterparts in the Workshop. ■

## ***Declaration of Sexual Rights***

*The World Association for Sexology made the following declaration at the 14th World Congress of Sexology held in August in Hong Kong.*

Sexuality is an integral part of the personality of every human being. Its full development depends upon the satisfaction of basic human needs such as the desire for contact, intimacy, emotional expression, pleasure, tenderness and love.

Sexuality is constructed through the interaction between the individual and social structures. Full development of sexuality is essential for individual, interpersonal, and societal well being.

Sexual rights are universal human rights based on the inherent freedom, dignity, and equality of all human beings. Since health is a fundamental human right, so must sexual health be a basic human right. In order to assure that human beings and societies develop healthy sexuality, the following sexual rights must be recognized, promoted, respected, and defended by all societies through all means. Sexual health is the result of an environment that recognizes, respects and exercises these sexual rights.

1. ***The right to sexual freedom.*** Sexual freedom encompassed the possibility for individuals to express their full sexual potential. However, this excludes all forms of sexual coercion, exploitation and abuse at any time and situations in life.
2. ***The right to sexual autonomy, sexual integrity, and safety of the sexual body.*** This right involves the ability to make autonomous decisions about one's sexual life within a context of one's own personal and social ethics. It also encompasses control and enjoyment of our own bodies free from torture, mutilation and violence of any sort.
3. ***The right to sexual privacy.*** This involves the right for individual decisions and behaviors about intimacy as long as they do not intrude on the sexual rights of others.

4. ***The right to sexual equity.*** This refers to freedom from all forms of discrimination regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, social class, religion, or physical and emotional disability.

5. ***The right to sexual pleasure.*** Sexual pleasure, including autoeroticism, is a source of physical, psychological, intellectual and spiritual well being.

6. The right to emotional sexual expression. Sexual expression is more than erotic pleasure or sexual acts. Individuals have a right to express their sexuality through communication, touch, emotional expression and love.

7. ***The right to sexually associate freely.*** This means the possibility to marry or not, to divorce, and to establish other types of responsible sexual associations.

8. ***The right to make free and responsible reproductive choices.*** This encompasses the right to decide whether or not to have children, the number and spacing of children, and the right to full access to the means of fertility regulation.

9. ***The right to sexual information based upon scientific inquiry.*** This right implies that sexual information should be generated through the process of unencumbered and yet scientifically ethical inquiry, and disseminated in appropriate ways at all societal levels.

10. ***The right to comprehensive sexuality education.*** This is a lifelong process from birth throughout the lifecycle and should involve all social institutions.

11. ***The right to sexual health care.*** Sexual health care should be available for prevention and treatment of all sexual concerns, problems and disorders.

***Sexual Rights are Fundamental and Universal Human Rights***

## Visiting NGOs by the new Chairman



FROM 17 to 26 August 1999, Dr. Homer Tso, new Chairman of the Advisory Council on AIDS paid visits to the AIDS non-governmental organisations: TeenAIDS, Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, HIV Information & Drop-in Centre, Action for REACH OUT, AIDS Concern, Society for AIDS Care at Look-out, and the AIDS Project of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

The visits were arranged with the objectives of realising the operations of the NGOs, learning of their aspirations for the new term of the Council, sharing ideas on the AIDS programme and enhancing communication between the Council and the NGOs. Many areas were touched during the dialogues, including specific activity areas of

NGOs, community planning process, funding of the organisations, local epidemic in the context of mainland China and her surrounding countries, targetting and involving priority communities for prevention, promoting acceptance of AIDS patients in the society and involvement of main stream organisations. All these would be important for achieving the targets laid down in the AIDS Strategies 1999-2001.

While all organisations have the same mission of striving for a better HIV/AIDS prevention and care programme for Hong Kong, the focus and direction of each organisation has become established over the past years' work. Different expertise was gradually being developed within the NGOs, which is indispensable for the local AIDS programme in the

way ahead. Given the often limited resources accessible to the NGOs, the commitment and dedication of the workers are sincerely acknowledged.

The Chairman would like to express, on behalf of the Council, his gratitude to the hospitality of the different organisations. The visits are but an on-going communication and interaction process between the Council and the NGOs. The Chairman will be meeting with the HKCASO, AIDS Advocacy Alliance, the patients group, and other service providers in due course. It is expected that with the community planning process and other activities for the coming 2-3 years, more collaboration of the various AIDS workers/ organisations will lead to a better collective effort to combat AIDS for the new century. ■

**Dr Sex Hotline**  
**2337 2121**

