

## .Calendar.

### XXXIInd Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)

2:30pm 14 January 2000

### IInd Meeting of the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC)

6:00pm 17 February 2000

### XVIIth Meeting of the Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA)

2:30pm 19 November 1999

#### APCC first met

AT the first meeting of the newly formed AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC), its organisation and operating mechanism was deliberated. There was active discussion among the members.

It was resolved that the Task Force on Mobile Population, Task Force on Youth, Task Force on MSM and Subcommittee on Media & Publicity will be formed first under the APCC. Dr. Joseph Lau, Mr. Billy Ho, Mr. Chung To and Ms. Bella Luk were elected to be the liaison person and they will contact

#### Ten challenges for AIDS in Asia and the Pacific

IN the opening plenary speech on 24 Nov 1999 by Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director of the UNAIDS, he highlighted ten challenges for us.

1. We need to put AIDS far on the political agenda, and on the national and regional development agenda where it really matters.
2. We need to approach HIV as a development issue, while pushing up public health and medical standards in the response as much as possible.
3. While I believe in the essential role of government to create policies, exercise leadership over certain campaigns and resources, at the same time I strongly believe that community based action will make a decisive difference.
4. Policies to promote a supportive, enabling environment must go hand in hand with "interventions".
5. We must fight harder against stigma and discrimination.
6. We must work with young people just as hard as we work with other groups who are at risk of HIV infection.
7. We need to ensure access to care and treatment.
8. We need to prepare for impact alleviation on a massive scale.
9. We must broaden the partnerships in the response.
10. Lastly, as Prime Minister Mahathir said yesterday, we need to expand the resources devoted to the response.

*While acknowledging that Hong Kong has achieved some of these challenges, we must continue our commitment of facing and fighting against them.*



the relevant people for forming the respective Task Forces/Subcommittee.

These groups will be responsible for the overall coordination of activities in their underpinned areas,

evaluation of the effectiveness of the current responses, responding to the recommendations from the community planning process and making proposals on strategy formulation. The Chinese name of the

Committee was resolved to be 愛滋病預防及護理委員會.

## ACA and DH AIDS Unit

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

*Council News / Activities*



**Capacity building for community planning**



DR. Tim Brown, one of the external consultants of the last year's AIDS programme review, will be in Hong Kong for the week of 8 November 1999 to deliver capacity training for the community planning process in Hong Kong. He will be joined by Mr. Walter Chow, who is the Project Officer of the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mr. Walter has been involved in the community planning in the States for the past years, from which the idea of implementing a similar programme in Hong Kong was borrowed.



A plenary lecture on the overview of community planning for HIV prevention and care will be delivered by the two speakers at 6pm on 8 November, at the Red Ribbon Centre. In addition, a series of general workshops and intervention skills-building ones for vulnerable communities will be run during the week. It is expected to be interactive and beneficial to local workers. An open forum will also be organised to review the progress of the local process thus far and hopefully will add to the coming development. We all look forward to this week for useful sharing and capacity-building. Anyone interested to participate are welcome to contact Mr. John Yip at tel: 2304 6100 or Ms. Victoria Kwong at tel: 2304 6268. ☐



**Brain-storming for HIV and drug use**



A brain-storming session on HIV and drug abuse will be organised by the APCC at afternoon of 22 Nov 1999 at the Red Ribbon Centre. The purpose of the meeting is to invite ideas and ways on augmenting HIV prevention efforts for drug users, a top priority for the local AIDS programme in the coming future.



Presentations on the updated situation will be made. The Secretariat pleads that you would participate in this forthcoming meeting and also disseminate the information to your relevant partners. For details of the meeting, please contact Mr. John Yip at tel: 2304 6100.

**AIDS Hotline**  
**2 7 8 0 2 2 1 1**

**Apology**

THE editor wishes to apologise that the E-mail address of the Council was wrongly printed as aids@health.gcn.gov.hk at the last issue of ACA Newsfile. The correct address should be aca@health.gcn.gov.hk.

**WANTED**

THE Red Ribbon Centre calls for the loan of materials presented at or brought over from the 5th ICAAP. An exhibition will be held at the Centre on the different resources related to the Congress and contributed by Hong Kong as well as countries in the Region and globally. Your support can

lead to good reference for people who had not attended the Congress. All materials you think appropriate are welcome. For details please contact Ms. Victoria Kwong at tel: 2304 6268.



## Into the third quarter

THE updated HIV/AIDS statistics was announced by the Department of Health on 5 November. Fifty new HIV infected cases were reported from July to September 1999, bringing the cumulative total to 1305.

The male-to-female ratio for the new reports was about 3:1, reinforcing the importance of heterosexual transmission. No perinatal infection was found for this quarter. Nearly all of the cases with known risk factors were due

to sexual transmission. However, one new case was attributed to injecting drug use, making the toll to 21 IDUs. Compared with the past, more non-Chinese were diagnosed and reported in this quarter. A majority of them are Asians.

In the report of Prof. James Chin's recent consultancy visit to Hong Kong, he commented that *there is an urgent public health need to reduce, to the extent possible, the sharing of drug injection equipment among those*

*IDUs who continue to engage in this risk behaviour.* Concerted efforts among workers in the fields of AIDS and drug abuse is a must to achieve this pledge.

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## Proceedings

THE Proceedings of Workshop on HIV surveillance and epidemiology in the Pearl River Delta Region held on 11-12 December 1998 at Macau was completed. The workshop was an activity organised by the AIDS Scenario and Surveillance Research (ASSR) II project jointly undertaken by the University of Hong Kong and Department of Health. The proceedings is a comprehensive account of this most stimulating and interactive workshop. Anyone who is interested to buy a copy of the Proceedings (at HK\$50) can contact Red Ribbon Centre. ✉

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

		Total	(AIDS)
<b>Gender</b>	male	1095	(373)
	female	210	(46)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	903	(318)
	non-Chinese	402	(101)
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	729	(254)
	homosexual	274	(90)
	bisexual	67	(25)
	injecting drug use	21	(6)
	blood/bl products	68	(18)
	perinatal	9	(4)
	undetermined	137	(22)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1305</b>	<b>(419)</b>

Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR

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



## 5th ICAAP at Kuala Lumpur

THE 5th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) was held from 22 to 27 October at Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia. This most important regional conference is the last international AIDS congress for this century and was attended by over 3000 people from 67 countries/places, the greatest number recorded ever since the first ICAAP. The Local Organising Committee is chaired by Dr. Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir. The AIDS Society of the Asia and the Pacific (ASAP), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and several other organisations were the sponsors, supporters, or co-sponsors of the event.

The opening ceremony was officiated by Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia. His speech showed commitment from the highest level of the government and was most impressive. He called for organising an AIDS summit for the Region to discuss common areas of concern on combating the epidemic.

Under the theme of "The next millennium: taking stock and moving forward", the Congress featured daily plenary sessions, oral concurrent sessions, skills-building workshops, poster

sessions, satellite meetings, community forums and exhibitions. Similar to previous conferences, the programme is divided into four tracks: basic or laboratory science (Track A), clinical research and care (Track B), epidemiological, behavioural intervention and social research (Track C), and research on broader range of social behavioural and ethical science (Track D).

There were over 30 delegates coming from Hong Kong - from the AIDS non-governmental organisations, Department of Health, Health & Welfare Bureau, Universities and other institutions. Dr. Homer Tso and Prof. CN Chen represented the Advisory Council on AIDS while Dr. Samel Yu represented the Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee, to attend the Congress. Close to 20 oral and poster presentations were made by the Hong Kong participants, as well as numerous sharings at different occasions. Two booths were set up - one by the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation and the other by Red Ribbon Centre. They provided good contacts for other delegates to learn about Hong Kong's response, gather resources and

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exchange experience. The Hong Kong AIDS Foundation also hosted a satellite symposium titled "Community resistance to HIV/AIDS intervention in Chinese communities". The protest of Richland Gardens residents against the Kowloon Bay Health Centre was taken as a focus for illustration. Dr. Tso was one of the key note speaker of the symposium. There was heated discussion among the participants from various Chinese communities.

Many countries in the Region were heavily hit by the epidemic, and worse so, they do not have the commitment or resources for their prevention and care programmes. In one of the plenary "From Manila to Kuala Lumpur", the progress of the programmes in the past two years was reviewed. It was sad to learn that very little has been accomplished regarding the 97 Manila Manifesto. Of course, there were good community projects with a culturally-inducive element which however need to be scaled up. For this year, personal commitment and promise was advocated instead of a joint statement. Hong Kong has been lucky for both the size of and response to the epidemic. Yet the scenario in neighbouring countries serves to remind us to upkeep our efforts and never be complacent. ☒