

# THE ICAAP10 HERALD

26-30 August 2011, BEXCO, Busan, Republic of Korea

DAY 1 / FRIDAY, 26 AUGUST 2011

www.icaap10.org



*"Diverse Voices, United Action"*



ICAAP10 staff members make final preparations at BEXCO in Busan on Thursday.

## 10th ICAAP kicks off in Busan

By Yang Sung-jin

The 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP10) kicked off its five-day official run in South Korea on Friday in a bid to collaboratively fight the disease.

Under the theme of "Diverse Voices, United Action," the Busan edition of the biennial conference aims to promote regional collaboration by exploring fresh perspectives and helping the stakeholders join forces to combat the acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

"The conference here in Busan is a particularly meaningful event as it coincides with the 30th anniversary of the discovery of AIDS this year, and I hope all the participants will share diverse views with each other to come up with unified actions against the illness," said Myung-Hwan Cho, ICAAP10 Con-



Participants in the Community Forum get close to demonstrate their determination to fight AIDS together at BEXCO on Wednesday.

gress Chair.

The biennial conference, co-hosted by South Korea, UNAIDS and the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific, is the largest in South Korea and the second biggest forum on HIV and AIDS in the world.

More than 2,500 delegates from

64 countries are to visit the BEXCO convention center at the heart of the southern port city, to navigate a number of well-organized segments including five plenary sessions, 47 oral sessions, 11 symposia and 34 satellite meetings and 28 skill-building workshops. Par-

ticipants can also browse and join some 1,000 poster presentations.

"A great deal of political momentum has been built up in the past year and the 10th ICAAP provides us with an important regional platform to chart out the next steps to take forward these important committees and to forge partnerships," said Steve Kraus, regional director of UNAIDS Regional Support Team, Asia Pacific.

Ju-Yul Lee, professor of Namseoul University and ICAAP10 Secretary General, said the preparations have been well made despite tight schedules. "Community-related sessions are one of the key events in Busan, reflecting a wide range of groups, and we expect a formation of greater networks through ICAAP10," Lee said.

Joo-Shil Lee, director of the National Institute of Health, said the

**Continued on Page 4**



Ministry of Health & Welfare



AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific



UNAIDS



AusAID



Global Fund



WHO



Asian Development Bank



World Bank



UNFPA



US President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)



International AIDS Society (IAS)



Korean Red Cross



Korea Tourism Organization



Busan Metropolitan City



Busan Convention & Visitors Bureau



**ICAAP10**  
Busan, Korea 2011  
Diverse Voices, United Action

**Day 1**  
**26 August 2011**

The official newspaper of the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific.

**“Diverse Voices, United Action”**

26-30 August 2011,  
BEXCO,  
Busan, Korea

The Organizing Committee of the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific commissioned **The Korea Herald**, a leading English-language newspaper in Korea, to publish an official newspaper that reports on the congress. The editors and the organizers are not responsible for the opinions expressed by the interviewees and published in this review or for any consequences arising from the accuracy of the information herein.

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# Message from the chairman

By Myung-Hwan Cho

The Local Organizing Committee of the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, to be held from 26 to 30 August 2011 in Busan, welcomes you all to the Republic of Korea and to the ICAAP10. Looking back on the first ICAAP in Canberra, Australia, the ICAAP has been the crucial event in gathering and reassembling voices from various counterparts across our region to deliver a united action.

The ICAAP10, the largest AIDS forum in the Asia and the Pacific, highlights the significance of the Congress in marking thirtieth year since the first report of AIDS. Since its prevalence in 1981, we have witnessed the striking developments and fought against stigma and discrimination as well as the epidemic itself. Yet, we strive for more and we wish to pave the path for a better tomorrow.

The ICAAP10 aims to recognise and pay tribute to the key affected populations and communities in the region and address impedi-



**Myung-Hwan Cho**

ments to effective HIV prevention for the greater good. Our engagement in halting the AIDS epidemic has been at the forefront of combating the threat towards humanity and our commitment shall become a pivotal step in broadening the scope of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. The ICAAP10 shall be an excellent opening in celebrating the thirtieth year of AIDS discovery and also in visualising our future we want.

During the Congress, various

programmes including plenary, skills building workshops, symposia, satellite meetings dealing with social, economic, cultural, religious and scientific issues will be offered to delegates. Delegates gathered under one roof with space to enhance the mutual contributions in the response to HIV/AIDS, shall be able to exchange latest knowledge, information, skills and technology.

Busan, the host city and the second largest city in Republic of Korea, is a thriving city that appreciates its rich natural, cultural and urban legacies. The city with a palpable presence of modernity along with grand traditions, we are certain your time will be treasured in every way.

Your strong commitments and devoted supports are the precursor to the future of the AIDS epidemic.

Let your voice be heard and be the change you wish to see in this world.

*Prof. Myung-Hwan Cho is Chair of ICAAP10 LOC.*

## LOC steps up efforts for ICAAP10

By Yang Sung-jin

The initial momentum for ICAAP10 began in summer 2009 when ICAAP9 finalized Busan as the next venue for the biennial conference.

In November 2009, Korea's Local Organizing Committee was formed, a step that quickly led to a marathon of preparations, meetings, confirmations, contracts, planning, and frantic telephone calls and emails to international experts and researchers involved in AIDS.

Professor Myung-Hwan Cho flew to Manila, capital of the Philippines, in March last year to discuss early-stage preparations with WHO Regional Director Shin Young-soo and ADB HIV/AIDS Coordination Specialist Rikard Elving.

In April 2010, two important developments were made: ASAP (Asia Society of Asia and the Pacific) and the LOC signed a formal contract; UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe offered his views on the overall plan.

But there were too many things

unresolved, and many of the plans were still on the drawing board. Much-needed energy was injected into the preparation efforts in May last year when a flurry of high-level meetings took place with top-ranked delegates from the U.N. making a visit to Korea. The delegates include U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's special envoy Nafis Sadik, UNAIDS Senior Advisor Susan Timberlake, UNAIDS AP Regional Director Steve Kraus.

They met with Korea's health minister, justice minister and other high-ranking government officials to explore how they could host the AIDS forum in Busan.

LOC's members also took part in the International AIDS Conference in July to introduce ICAAP10 and drum up support from participants.

In January, Steve Kraus and Kah-sin Cho from UNAIDS visited Seoul and called for support in organizing the conference. The U.N. delegates met with top politicians and leaders at civil society communities related to AIDS issues. They also consulted with Korea's health agency officials.

In February, Cho made a trip to Washington and called for additional support when he held talks with U.S. AIDS Ambassador Eric Goosby and other leaders. He also requested support from top UNICEF and UNFPA officials based in New York. In recognition of his dedicated efforts, professor Cho was appointed as chair of ICAAP10 LOC in March this year.

With the core projects taking shape at a rapid pace, LOC held the first press conference at the Korea Press Center in downtown Seoul on April 21, unveiling details about the conference in Busan. At the same time, IAC (International Advisory Committee) was held in Seoul to fine-tune steps to ensure smooth operations at the conference.

A massive amount of screening work for submitted abstracts and planning for academic programs was done during a series of meetings at BEXCO in Busan from May 29-31. Following the U.N. General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS in June, LOC has been accelerating efforts to hold the conference successfully.



# ‘A chance to come together and exchange news, ideas and experience’

*Key participants share expectations for 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific*

By Steve Kraus

Director, Regional Support Team, Asia and the Pacific, UNAIDS

Thirty years have passed since the syndrome now known as AIDS was first reported. This year also marks 20 years since the creation of the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific and here, at the tenth ICAAP, we are at a crossroads in HIV response. We have seen impressive progress in the region, but more must be done to ensure gains are



**Steve Kraus**

sustained and built upon further.

This Congress provides a platform for political leaders, affected communities — particularly people from key populations at higher risk — researchers, institutions and other stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific to come together and exchange news, ideas and experience on how to address HIV epidemics in their respective communities. This is the essence of ICAAP, it is why UNAIDS supports it and why we look forward to it. UNAIDS expects that this 10th ICAAP will boost momentum of this vast region's vibrant community spirit and inspire all of us to redouble our efforts in working towards zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

By Tono Permana Muhammad

The Indonesian Gay, Waria and Other MSM National Network

My expectation for this conference is to share our experiences on how partnership can encourage governments to give more attention to HIV program responses for men who have sex with men and transgender people. In Indonesia, the number of cases of HIV among MSM and TG are increasing significantly every year. That means that existing programs are not comprehensive enough.



**Tono Permana Muhammad**

Human rights violations by radically conservative people against homosexuals have caused the situation to worsen. This requires an immediate and serious response from every stakeholder and greater community involvement.

We will start our new-approach program to reduce stigma and discrimination and also increase community self-pride, self-esteem, self-efficacy and self-determination, while encouraging respect for others. Using new positive messages and more media channels, we hope that we can reach more than just openly gay men and transgender people. At ICAAP 10 Busan 2011, we also will learn of the many success stories from other countries which already have the same program, and we will adapt and adopt it in Indonesia.

By Kay Thi Win

Deputy Director of TOP and chair of Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers

My expectation for the conference is that sex workers will get a platform to share their voice. Sex workers will be strongly involved with the regional network of sex workers to fight for their rights. Sex work-



**Kay Thi Win**

ers will also take messages from the conference to their country and will implement whatever they learn from the conference. I am personally attending this conference to talk about the law, stigma and discrimination that sex workers face in each and every country. How the law is creating so many problems in the lives of sex workers. How stigma and discrimination are leading to HIV and other STIs. I will also advocate for the rights of sex workers. I want to make sure each and every sex worker will demand of their country “nothing for us without us.”

By Hur Nam-sik

Busan Mayor

I am very pleased that the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific is held here in Busan.



**Hur Nam-sik**

In the last 30 years since the new disease called AIDS was discovered, countries around the world have shared medical knowledge and worked hard to develop new medicines for it.

As a result, we have developed more than 30 AIDS drugs and the disease is now perceived as something like a chronic disease such

as hypertension and diabetes, with which people still can lead a normal life as long as they take good care of their health.

Especially, I believe the ICAAP — a biennial conference where experts, government officials and non-governmental groups gather to piece together their ideas for global anti-AIDS efforts — has played a great role in the process of overcoming AIDS.

I hope this conference with the theme of “Diverse Voices, United Actions” will make big achievements in terms of AIDS prevention and treatment, and in improving the public understanding of it. I also hope that all participants would have a pleasant time during their stay in this attractive city famed for its maritime tourism.

By Lee Sang-kyung

Associate Professor, Department of Bioengineering, Hanyang University

Some 30 years after the discovery and isolation of the human immunodeficiency virus, it still remains incurable. While Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy has succeeded in reducing AIDS to a chronic disease and extending the life-spans of those with HIV to near normal



**Lee Sang-kyung**

expectancies, a cure remains to be discovered. The significant impressive achievements in basic and translational HIV research attained over the last few years appear promising enough to deliver a functional cure (long-term control) and maybe even a sterilizing cure (elimination) for HIV.

With the realization that HIV is no longer a problem of individual patients but the problem of the country and the world, a concerted and united effort is required to battle this virus. The ICAAP 10 symposium aims to enlighten the public with a better understanding of the HIV virus and the progress made in the management of HIV-AIDS.

By Daniel Lee

Executive Director of the Levi Strauss Foundation

In my line of work, you know a pioneer when you see one. Since 1983, the Levi Strauss Foundation has been honored to support advocates in the field who know their communities' needs and have the vision and courage to drive long-term change.



**Daniel Lee**

In Asia Pacific and elsewhere, the

organized response to HIV/AIDS has always started at the community level — driven by the efforts of people living with HIV/AIDS, their caregivers and allies, and activists.

Many of our grantees are attending the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and Pacific this year, and I look forward to hearing more about the ways they are stepping up and re-energizing HIV/AIDS advocacy.

These remarkable people mirror the values that guide both Levi Strauss & Co.'s business practices and the Levi Strauss Foundation's philanthropy: courage, empathy, originality and integrity.

# Music, color to open forum

## *K-pop sensation and ICAAP10 ambassador JYJ to stage special performance*

By Yang Sung-jin

The 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific officially kicks off its run on Friday with an opening ceremony. What some 4,000 visitors from 70 countries cannot miss is the opening performance.

The show consists of six parts, all of which are designed to provide a memorable experience for ICAAP10 attendees. The first performance will be staged by Prof. Jung Sun-hee, a certified traditional Korean dance artist. The theme of the dance is "Sound of Nature," which will give a refreshing opening to participants who have made a long trip to Busan.

The second performance is by Busan City Dance Troupe. Under the theme "Welcome to Korea," the dance team will stage a stunningly beautiful Korean fan dance, called "buchaechum."

Buchaechum, usually performed by groups of female dancers, are mostly staged to celebrate events in Korea, with fans painted with pink peony blossoms pulling off a visually creative display.

Prof. Jung Sun-hee will return for the third segment of the show, shifting her theme to "Harmony and Hope," using red ribbons to wish for success for all the events during the conference.

The fourth performance is reserved for classical music lovers. Veteran soprano Choi Seung-eun is



**K-pop phenomenon JYJ with the members of the Local Organizing Committee for ICAAP10 last week**

set to sing to add color to the opening ceremony.

For the fifth performance, a musical, titled "Black Suit New Girl," will feature 15 seasoned cast members in a plot that is centered upon a group of sisters who help the second youngest prepare for her wedding. Things begin to spin out of control as her future husband learns the eldest sister is HIV positive. The musical, a joint production of the Horn Contents Crew and the Sowol Arts Symphony Orchestra, will offer a chance

for the audience to think over the meaning of family, love and what it means to discover the roots of their own fears and prejudices regarding AIDS.

As for the sixth and final performance, JYJ, Korea's much sought-after music group, will offer the highlight of the show by staging a dazzling music performance. K-pop phenomenon JYJ comprises Junsu, Jejung, Yuchun; the three talented singers are also gaining rapid popularity as television drama actors in recent months.

Just last week, JYJ were appointed as official goodwill ambassadors for ICAAP10, news that circulated widely across the world via the Internet, including Twitter and Facebook, helping raise public awareness about the importance of the conference.

Ahead of the special opening performance on Friday, JYJ will be also appointed as UNAIDS regional goodwill ambassadors, whose mission is to raise HIV awareness and speak out against AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.

### From Page 1

Busan edition of ICAAP, as with previous forums, will place emphasis on community: "Although basic science issues are duly handled, what we have received this year show that papers handling treatment and support and responses to communities are going strong as expected," said Lee, who also chairs the conference's Scientific Program Committee.

The Community Forum, a pre-Congress event, is set to complete a three-day schedule successfully Friday, with participants expressing their opinions.

"It was an amazing mix of faith traditions here at the Community

Forum. We have Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Catholic and various faith groups gathered here," said Michael Schuenemeyer, executive director of the United Church of Christ HIV & AIDS Network. "It is very enlightening to hear the different perspectives, but also hear the common ground which is about the human worth and dignity, and the importance of compassion."

Expectations from researchers, experts, community members and volunteers are high. Dr. Saliab Ayubi, health program officer of the Afghanistan Delegation of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said, "We have lots of expectations about this conference. We will meet

different people from different societies and organizations from all around the world. We will learn from their experiences how they have managed to combat HIV."

Clifton Cortez, practice leader for HIV, Health and Development at UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, also voiced high hopes: "UNDP is looking forward to engaging in a vibrant exchange of ideas and information among delegates from across the region and hope that we can, with others, transform the knowledge gained from the experience-sharing that takes place at ICAAP into concrete results in the global and regional response to HIV and AIDS."

Meanwhile, LOC members were putting final touches to the planned

opening ceremony on Friday that will include the special performance of K-pop sensation JYJ, who is the official goodwill ambassador for ICAAP10.

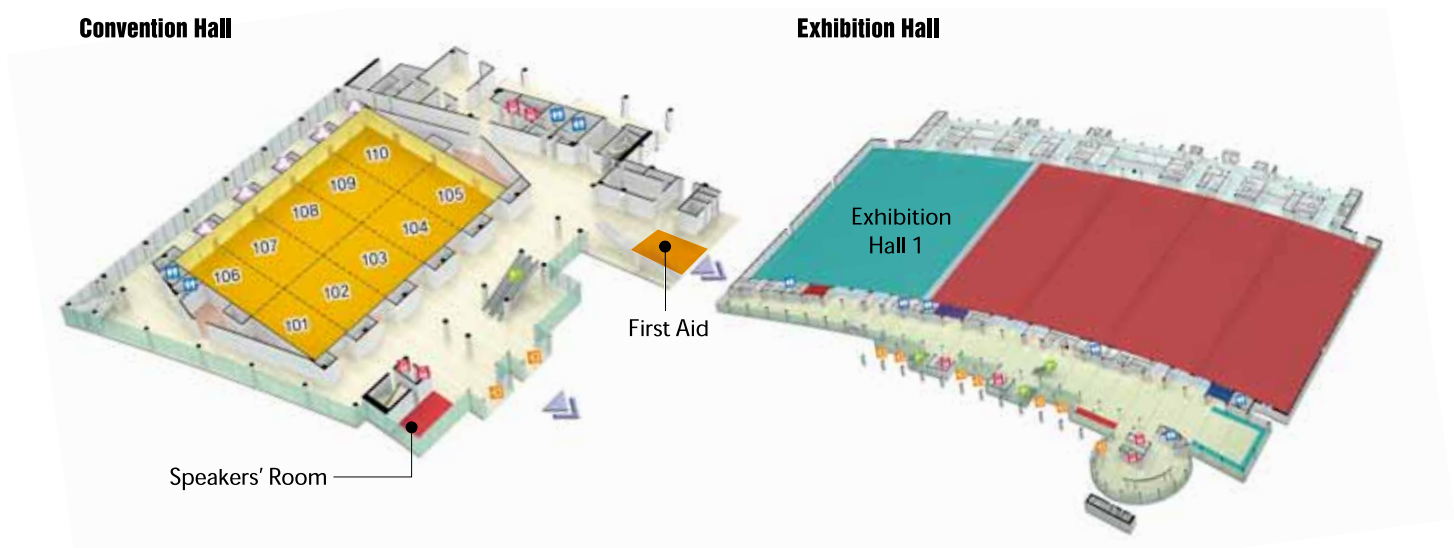
Since the first meeting in 1990, ICAAP has been held in Australia, India, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and, two years ago, Indonesia.

The latest venue, Busan, is regarded as ideal for international forums such as ICAAP given its excellent infrastructure and stunning beach. The country's second-largest city has already hosted major international events such as the 2002 Asian Games, 2005 APEC and some of the games for the 2002 FIFA World Cup finals.



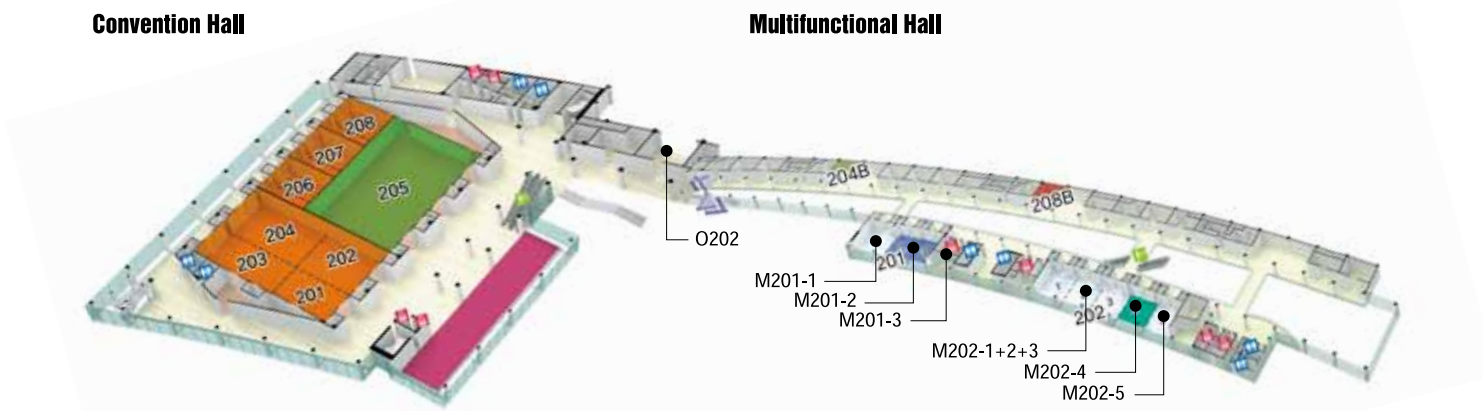
## CONGRESS VENUE

1F



1F	Room	Function
Convention Hall	C101-110	Session Rooms
	-	Speakers' Room
	Small Room	First Aid
Exhibition Hall	Exhibition Hall 1	Welcome Reception (26. Aug.) Poster Display AP Village Exhibition Registration/ Information

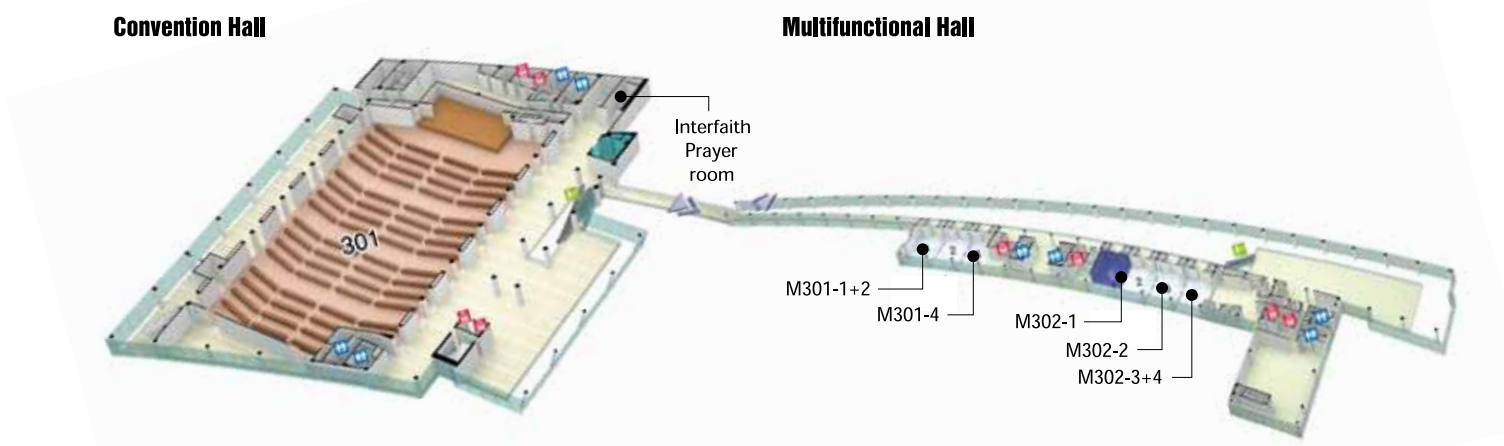
2F



2F	Room	Function
Convention Hall	C201-208	Session Rooms
	C206-1	Interview Room
	C206-2	Small Meeting Room 1
	C207-1	Small Meeting Room 2
	C207-2	Community Office
	C208	Scholarship Center
	O202	PCO Secretariat

2F	Room	Function
Multifunctional Hall	M201-1	PLWHA Lounge
	M201-2	Donor Lounge
	M201-3	VIP & Plenary Speakers Lounge
	M202-1+2+3	Common Ground (Community Dialogue Space)
	M202-4	
	M202-5	

3F



3F	Room	Function
Convention Hall	C301	Opening Ceremony Plenary Sessions Closing Ceremony
	Small Room	Interfaith Prayer Room
	M301-1	Virtual Media Centre
Multifunctional Hall	M301-2+3	Press Room
	M302-1	7 Sisters Office
	M302-2	ASAP/IAS Office
	M302-3+4	UNAIDS Office





Representatives from MSM (men who have sex with men) and transgender groups from the Asia-Pacific region hold hands in solidarity.

# The faces behind the fight for change



People attend a plenary session of the Community Forum.



Participants in a Community Forum session shout to show support for those suffering from HIV/AIDS.



A religious group member looks at photos displayed during a session to discuss religious responses to HIV/AIDS.



Participants have a tea break.



# Busan, a city of contrasts

By John Power

Seoul may be South Korea's capital, but no city in the country incorporates such an effortless blend of contrasts as Busan.

In Korea's second city of 3.6 million people you will find sea, sand and gritty fish markets a short hop from upscale boulevards and gleaming sky scrapers.

Located at the southern tip of the peninsula, Busan combines the bustle of a big city with a more relaxed pace of life than the capital and a colorful populace with its own distinctive accent and demeanor.

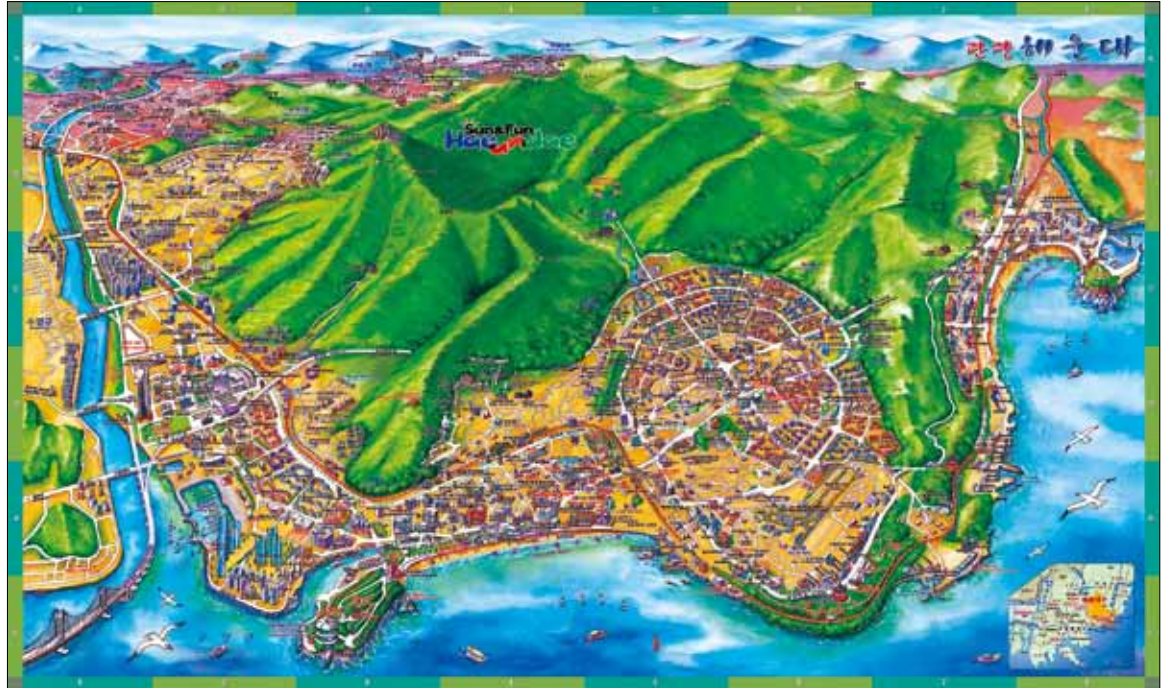
With the world's biggest department store and some of Asia's tallest buildings under construction to its name, visitors might be forgiven for thinking that Busan is a relatively young city. In fact, despite such outward appearances of modernity, the city has an extremely long history. The first settlements in the area date back to B.C. 18,000, and a wealth of historical sites remain to this day, many of them the result of Buddhist, Confucian and monarchial influences.

Among the most popular is Beomeosa, a Silla Kingdom-era Buddhist temple, originally constructed in A.D. 678. The original structure was destroyed in the 16th century during a Japanese invasion, but was rebuilt in 1713 and has remained intact ever since. Perched high on Mt. Geumjeong, the temple offers not only beautiful architecture and artwork representative of the time but panoramic views of the city. The easiest way to the site is to take advantage of the city's user-friendly subway system and alight at Beomeosa Station on line 1. The no. 90 bus a short walk from exit no. 5 or 7 goes to the temple.

Less well-known but just as worth a visit is Seokbalsa, a temple noteworthy for the Buddhist statues carved into the surrounding rock. Somewhat off the beaten track, exercise enthusiasts can take in the site as part of the Mt. Geumjeong hiking trail, by way of the South Gate and Namman Village.

While the city holds its own in history, it is Busan's beaches that draw the crowds in the summer months. The city has seven in total, by far the most popular being Haeundae, a 1.5 km stretch of white sand set against a backdrop of busy bars and restaurants. A little smaller is nearby Gwangalli, which at night is set against the glow of the illuminated Gwangan Grand Bridge spanning the bay. For those looking for something a little quieter, there is the more isolated Songjeon. Both Haedundae and Gwangalli are easily reached on line 2 of the subway, while Songjeon is a short taxi ride from Jangsan Station on the same line.

Being a port city, it should be no surprise that Busan prides itself on its produce from the sea, which features in abundance on restaurant menus in the city. A local favorite is "dongnae pajeon (동래파전)," a savory pancake with spring onion, chili peppers and mixed seafood, which is often enjoyed with "makgeolli (막걸리)," a milky rice wine. "Hoe (회)," or raw fish, is another Busan specialty, which is typically wrapped in a let-



A map of Haeundae, Busan



A crowded Haeundae Beach in summer

tuce or perilla leaf with a liberal dollop of "doenjang," a condiment produced from soybeans.

Jagalchi Fish Market, on subway line 1, is a must for fish lovers and sightseers alike. Korea's biggest fish market is not just a place to dine on fresh catch from the sea while knocking

back "soju," the local, ubiquitous spirit; it's also a venue to soak up some unforgettable sounds, sights and smells. Jagalchi bustles with hawkers and hagglers well into the night as the market's famously tough and efficient women gut, skin, behead and fillet the day's catch.

## LET'S LEARN KOREAN!

### Hello

안녕하세요

*An-young-ha-se-yo*

### My name is ...

저는 ... 이에요

*Jaw-nuhn ... ee-eh-yo*

### Where is the ...

- bathroom?
- restaurant?
- hotel?
- church?
- police station?
- supermarket?

### Thank you

감사합니다

*Kam-sa-hab-nee-da*

### Do you speak English/Korean?

영어/한국어 할 줄 아세요?

*Yawng-aw/han-kook-aw hal-jool-a-se-yo?*

### ... 어디예요?

- 화장실이 -
- 식당이 -
- 호텔이 -
- 교회가 -
- 경찰서이 -
- 슈퍼마켓이 -

### *Aw-dee-eh-yo?*

*Hwa-jang-shill-ee*

*Shick-dang-ee*

*Ho-tel-ee*

*Kyo-wheh-ka*

*Kyong-chal-saw-ee*

*Syoo-paw-ma-ket-ee*



# Key Correspondents' diverse voices

By Hester Phillips

The reporters are part of the Key Correspondents Team, a global network of more than 250 community-based writers from around 50 countries. A large number of KCs are people living with or affected by HIV. All the KCs are volunteers and include those working in advocacy, media, health and development.

KCs "speak their world" in order to make the world listen. They are invaluable in documenting local realities and giving a voice to the voiceless to ensure those not able to tell their stories are heard. Reporting from international conferences means KCs are able to open up dialogues that connect local voices to international HIV/AIDS and TB responses.

KCs at this year's ICAAP come from across Asia and beyond. KC Ishdeep Kohli from Mumbai, whose work on gender, children, reproductive health and human rights has appeared on e-forums, online newsletters, partner publications and in the mainstream media, says: "Being a Key Correspondent is first of all about raising awareness and also about

sharing experiences and learning from each other.

"I would be happy if parliamentarians and politicians are here and they get the opportunity to listen to stories and voices of communities at ICAAP. It is important that the momentum continues in all areas in the fight against HIV and AIDS."



Fellow KC Otgoo Tsdendemberel, co-founder of LGBT Centre, the first-ever Mongolian LGBT human rights organization, says: "The experience I gain as a KC will be beneficial in terms of disseminating information both domestically and internationally and correcting biased and stereotypical understandings among the general public of Mongolia about HIV, AIDS, STIs and other relevant issues."

KC Ishwarchandra Haobam from Manipur, India has worked as an HIV/AIDS counselor at a Catholic medical centre and on a youth project in South Asia. Currently a Program Officer for India's National AIDS Control Organisation, Ishwar says he will be focusing on issues surrounding harm reduction, treatment and policy, adding: "ICAAP is a plat-

## KCs at ICAAP10 in Busan



Ishdeep Kohli,  
Mumbai, India



Moi Lee Liow,  
Malaysia



Tsdendemberel  
(Otgoo) Otgonbaatar,  
Mongolia



Ishwarchandra  
Haobam,  
Manipur, India

- Vijay Nair, Andhra Pradesh, India
- Josephat Kamugisha Bakarweha, Tanzania
- No Migy, Cambodia

form where I can gather information on regional response on HIV/AIDS and explore innovative ideas that have implications for our local settings."

Throughout ICAAP and beyond KCs' work will appear on [www.healthdev.net](http://www.healthdev.net), a lively website full of news on health and development from communities around the world, read by campaigners, health professionals, academics, policy makers and journalists. KCs' work also appears in the mainstream media and feeds into health-care consultations and advocacy projects.

The KC team is an independent

network, supported by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. The Alliance provides long distance mentoring in writing and training opportunities. It also provides international platforms to showcase KC work.

To join the KC team, please visit the Alliance booth (no. 43) in the Exhibition Hall or email Hester Phillips at [kcteam@aidsalliance.org](mailto:kcteam@aidsalliance.org). Watch out in September for [www.keycorrespondents.org](http://www.keycorrespondents.org), the KC team's new website.

*Hester Phillips is program support officer of Key Correspondents.*

## Community Forum voices: 'Nothing about us without us'

By Ishdeep Kohli

Key affected populations and communities must be engaged in making decisions on developing, designing, implementing and evaluating HIV policies and programs, "Nothing about us without us." "Let's mobilize, get organized and strategize! Let us unite in all our diversity." These are combined voices from the Community Forum comprising of civil society representatives from the Asia Pacific region together with experts, donors, human rights activist and other stakeholders.

The Community Forum is a pre-ICAAP space for community networking, discussion and strategizing. It aims to ensure that people's voices, needs and issues are heard and addressed in the Congress. Organized by the Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/

AIDS (7 Sisters), this year's Community Forum focuses on discussions and strategizing around three critical issues: 1) Access to Prevention and Care, 2) Treatment as Prevention 3) Human Rights and Social Protection.

The full day event on Aug. 25 combined of plenary discussions and community breakout workshops. The breakout sessions represents each of these population groups: PLHIV, Youth, MSM and LGBT, PUD, migrant, women, sex workers and interfaith. On Friday representatives from each population will report back from the breakout sessions. A collective statement representing all communities will be adopted at the end of the forum.

The Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM) MSM meeting highlights HIV and syndemic issues that increase the risk and vulnerabilities of MSM and

transgender people in the region. The focus is 'Beyond Numbers — Getting to Zero,' what are the forces driving HIV among MSM and transgender people in Asia Pacific.

John Rock adviser with APN + (Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS) voices his concern at the Community Forum, "The community is concerned about the free trade agreement (FTA) currently under negotiation between India and European Union, this threatens the production of generic medicines which will among others affect HIV patients. The EU-India draft FTA, as it stands, places trade interests over human rights, there is an immediate need for global action to ensure affordable access to treatment."

Dean Lewis, regional coordinator of Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs, (ANPUD), highlighted basic issues, "There is urgent need for

clean needles, syringes and adequate provision of oral substitution treatment (OST) as a core element in the package of harm reduction services for HIV prevention intervention among IDUs remains a critical gap. Also people who inject drugs are most at risk for Hep C infection. Although hepatitis C is a curable disease, the medications are prohibitively expensive and out of the reach of the majority of those infected."

Greg Gray from KHANA stressed, "Human rights as the core element for HIV prevention, treatment care and support efforts. Provider initiated counseling and testing for HIV testing, needs to focus on community led initiatives; the initiative must be from the affected populations themselves."

*Ishdeep Kohli, based in Mumbai, is a member of Key Correspondents.*