

# THE ICAAP10 HERALD

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

DAY 2 / SATURDAY, 27 AUGUST 2011

www.icaap10.org



*"Diverse Voices, United Action"*



Myung-Hwan Cho, chairman of the Local Organizing Committee of ICAAP10, delivers a speech during the opening ceremony.

## Call to fight against HIV/AIDS

By Song Sang-ho

Activists, medical researchers and other participants in an international forum on AIDS here called for more concerted global efforts to combat the epidemic and end prejudice and the stigma surrounding it.

The 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific began its five-day run at BEXCO in Busan on Friday with more than 2,500 people from 64 countries joining this biennial gathering.

With the main theme of "Diverse Voices, United Action," the world's second largest forum on HIV/AIDS drew more global attention than ever as it marks the 30th year since the first case of AIDS was identified in the U.S.

"Responsibility for ending HIV/

AIDS must be shared by all," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his congratulatory speech read by U.N. Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and Pacific Nafis Sadik during the opening ceremony.

South Korean Health Minister Chin Soo-hee also underscored the crucial need for joint responses.

"In the beginning, AIDS was regarded as an incurable disease due to its high death rate and contagious nature. But with the development of medical technology and medications, it is now perceived as a manageable chronic illness," Chin said.

"I believe that international joint responses and cooperation are more crucial for this disease than for other ones. Your attention and efforts will become a cornerstone in the endeavors to fight the illness."

Among high-profile participants

are Fiji President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, UNAIDS executive director Michel Sidibe, WHO Western Pacific regional director Shin Young-soo and Australian Ambassador for HIV Murray Proctor.

"HIV is treatable. But there are challenges to achieving universal access to prevention, treatment and care. Those challenges are political, financial, logistical, legal, social, and cultural," Shin Young-soo said in his congratulatory remarks.

"HIV remains cloaked in stigma and discrimination. We need to listen more closely to the voices of people vulnerable to HIV and people living with HIV."

UNAIDS Executive Director Michele Sidibe said, "Let's accept that our collective effort is important and our solidarity is critical."

Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, vice

president of the Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development at Asian Development Bank, stressed cooperation among all sectors to tide over challenges from the disease.

"By working together as governments, civil society, affected populations, the private sector and faith-based communities — and by maximizing our resources, connections and influence — we make a positive impact on this epidemic," she said.

Also on the first day of the forum on AIDS, UNAIDS appointed K-pop group JYJ as its regional goodwill ambassadors, who will work to raise HIV awareness and speak out against AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.

UNAIDS co-hosting the forum

**Continued on Page 8**



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 2**  
**27 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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Fiji President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau (center, front row in gray suit), World Vision Korea CEO Jong Sam Park (fifth from right, front row), Chu Clinic president Helen Chu (fourth from right, front row) and other participants pose at the end of the AIDS Champions Meeting at Nurimaru APEC House in Busan on Friday.

## Leaders convene to build on U.N. declaration

### *AIDS Champions Meeting looks toward zero deaths, discrimination*

By John Power

Regional leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS gathered prior to the opening ceremony of ICAAP10 on Friday to discuss regional responses and build on the momentum of the U.N. General Assembly High Level meeting on AIDS in New York.

ICAAP10 Chair Myung-Hwan Cho opened the AIDS Champions Meeting at Nurimaru APEC House in Busan by outlining the common goals of the delegates, which included president of Fiji, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, World Vision CEO Dr. Jong Sam Park, and Dr. Helen Chu, the discoverer of the first HIV-positive person in Korea.

“This meeting will highlight the crucial role of existing and emerging leaders across the region to progress the vision for the future: Zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths,” Cho said.

Ensuring that any progress made is not wasted was a consistent theme among delegates.

“We have the declaration that has come out of New York, the HL (high level) meeting. We cannot just accept the declaration and leave it at that, we have to up the ante so that lessons that happened in other parts of the world don’t repeat themselves and I’m afraid they are repeating themselves,” said President Nailatikau.

New targets for HIV/AIDS re-

duction were set at the New York meeting, including halving the number of HIV infections among drug users and eliminating new infections in children by 2015. It is ten years since the U.N. adopted the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which was followed in 2006 by the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Jong Sam Park also cautioned against complacency, while acknowledging the “meaningful progress” ICAAP has made in meeting the U.N.’s Millennium Development Goal 6 to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.

“Yet we cannot guarantee that this achievement will continue but we can maintain improvement once consistent and sufficient investment ... are added to the ongoing progress to solve the potential problems that might occur,” Park, who chaired the Aids Champions Meeting, said.

Director of Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Byungyoll Jun, who attended as a representative of the Korean government, echoed Park’s sentiments.

“We are still faced with the sobering reality that globally more than 7,000 people are being infected with the virus every day. Many people living with HIV are still dying due to no access to proper treatment, especially in low income countries. And furthermore, the social attitude surrounding people living with HIV continues to be unfavorable in

a global perspective,” said Jun.

Jun added that raising public awareness on HIV/AIDS, improving the availability of free and confidential HIV tests, ensuring the provision of universal medical treatment, and health and social investment in vulnerable populations were key to reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS and improving the quality of life of sufferers.

But cautious optimism was also on show among participants.

“It’s a question of doing what works. I think the good news is that if we put the money in the right places, relatively small sums of money can have a big impact,” David Wilson, Director of Global HIV/AIDS Program at the World Bank, told the ICAAP10 Herald.

Wilson cited India as an example of best practice in HIV/AIDS reduction.

“It recognized it earlier, it developed the right institutional mechanisms, it developed good ways of funding civil society through the programs that made a difference, and it’s improved the quality of those programs. Broadly, India is the exception rather than the rule.”

Australia MP John Hyde, meanwhile, pointed to the lessening of the stigma in his country.

“We’ve come an incredibly long way, if we look at the stigma and misinformation regarding the transmission of HIV, and that’s been through strong education, repetitive education,” he said.

# Community Statement

We are communities of people living with and affected by HIV, representing women and girls, youth, people who use drugs, transgenders, sex workers, men who have sex with men, faith groups, and migrants. Over the past two days we have coordinated, organized, and participated in community forums; sharing our experiences and contexts; collaborating and building partnerships; creating new friendships and alliances. We have come together to discuss the world we currently inhabit, to add to our collective knowledge, to build together our collective vision for change.

Since the last ICAAP, we have taken some strong, sure steps forward. We recently saw the 2nd U.N. High Level Meeting on Youth take place, where the importance of investing in the leadership of young people was once again reiterated. At the Mali Youth Summit, a platform for young people to strategize and prepare for upcoming UN-GASS meetings was created.

The United Nations Global Strat-

egy for Women's and Children's Health integrated a diverse number of sectors such as health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, poverty reduction, and nutrition; focusing on reaching the most vulnerable women and children, including those living with and affected by HIV. It underscores the holistic approach that must be integrated through all our initiatives.

This comes at a crucial time in the global efforts to overcome HIV by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

It is abundantly clear that addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS means tackling the basic inequities — especially of gender — that underscore peoples' realities. The empowerment of key affected populations — especially women, youth, and sex workers across sectors and identities — is imperative. We must affirm that the human rights of key affected populations are at the center of the discussions. It means strengthening collaboration with related movements and

initiatives such as the feminist and the SRHR movements.

Creating safe spaces for the articulation of needs, for the empowerment of new leaders, for spaces in which peoples' capacities can be built is a clear need. We must challenge existing ideas of what "safe" spaces are, challenge existing laws that in the guise of "protection" are instead harmful or violations — such as the criminalization of sex work and people using drugs. It means a creation of mechanisms to report violations and hold those accountable.

Creating sustainable structures with committed core funding for key affected population programs, and especially for key affected population-led initiatives is essential. We call on our development partners to fund programs and initiatives that foster movement building, long-term visions and ideas, and work towards transformative social change.

Self-reflecting on meaningful participation within the move-

ment and within our communities themselves is essential — we must guard against internally marginalizing and homogenizing our issues. We must remember that there are multiple identities and multiple forces within our movements — within our key affected populations. If we're not cognizant of them we will end up tokenizing the very people we purport to work with. This is something that should be intrinsic to everything about our movement including the preparation and planning of ICAAP11 and beyond.

Participation isn't just individual or community based; it's also about movements and participating across lines; and issues and concerns. It's about finding the similarities, the intersectionalities, the crosscutting. It's about building solidarity and collaborating toward a world that truly reflects our collective vision; our collective change.

*This Community Statement has been edited for length.*

## Community Forum and solidarity

By Moi Lee Liow

The theme of ICAAP10, "Diverse Voices, United Action," embodies the aspirations and hopes for key affected communities. Our life experiences, struggles, and needs may be different, but we are united in our collective right to recognition, respect and justice. What's so difficult about that?

The voices of these communities were heard, clearly and passionately, as representatives of key populations spoke at the pre-ICAAP Community Forum.

Access to prevention and care was highlighted as a cross-cutting issue for all key populations, as it is still being held back by pervasive stigma and discrimination. All communities are calling for a rights-based, stigma-free approach to prevention and care. Young people also have a right to comprehensive sex education and safe environments within schools, families and workplaces free from discrimination due to their diver-

sity or sexual orientation.

The PLHIV community says loud and clear that treatment as prevention worked. For treatment as prevention to progress, there must be a rights-based approach without coercion or harassment, and with respect for confidentiality. Affordable treatment including ARV and diagnostics must be guaranteed through TRIPS flexibilities. Women and girls should have access to treatment literacy and be able to access rights-based and gender-sensitive treatment.

Human rights and social protection are demanded by sex workers who deserve the same access to justice and rights as any other citizen in their countries. They demand decriminalization of sex work and control over where and how they work. Migrant workers call for the abolition of discriminatory policies and practices such as mandatory HIV testing and deportation on the basis of HIV status, assurance of equal rights and social protection, and more meaningful involvement



in the HIV response. For women and girls, entrenched gender inequities in the region exacerbate the disproportionate impact of HIV and AIDS on them, underscoring their vulnerability to gender-based violence, violation of their rights and unequal access to services. The drug-user community wants to see governments removing all legal barriers and consider alternative legal frameworks for drug use, and challenges the U.N. bodies to take a stronger role for legal reforms and policy changes at country level. Given the risks and vulnerabilities affecting the MSM and TG communities, their rights and social protection are affected by a range of issues such as intolerance for sexual diver-

sity, and stigma and discrimination.

There is a certain poignancy about the voices from the Korean community heard at this ICAAP. It is a difficult environment for key populations in Korea who are largely invisible. Some activists questioned holding ICAAP in South Korea, where entry procedures and getting visas were challenging for certain communities. But this ICAAP presents an amazing opportunity to direct some international attention on (and empathy with) our Korean friends who have long struggled and suffered in silence. Right now, right here, solidarity is the right buzzword!

*Moi Lee Liow is a member of Key Correspondents.*



# JYJ appointed as UNAIDS ambassador

By Yang Sung-jin

South Korean K-pop sensation JYJ has been named UNAIDS Regional Goodwill Ambassador for Asia and the Pacific at the ICAAP10 underway at BEXCO, Busan.

Formed in 2010, JYJ has three members: Kim Jaejoong, Kim Junsu and Park Yoochun. The appointment came after the group, which is gaining popularity throughout Asia, took the role to help raise the public awareness about the disease and the importance of the biennial conference.

“Jaejoong, Yoochun and Junsu are going to make a big difference in the AIDS response through the UNAIDS ambassadorship,” said UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe at the news conference on Friday. “With their incredible popularity and influence in the Republic of Korea and beyond, I count on them to reach millions of young people in this region and worldwide with important HIV messages,” he said.

As UNAIDS Regional Goodwill Ambassadors, JYJ’s members will take part in a number of events and public appearances. Organizers said JYJ will play a key role for the U.S. agency in enhancing public awareness around HIV and join the effort to end AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.



From left are Park Yoochun, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe, Kim Jaejoong, Kim Junsu and ICAAP10 chairman Myung-Hwan Cho at the appointment ceremony.



JYJ shows love to fans around the world while saying “LoveAlways,” referring to the AIDS initiative by UNAIDS.

They will also highlight AIDS issues through their social media networks, as JYJ’s influence on Twitter and Facebook is extremely powerful.

“Young people in our country

and across Asia need to know more about avoiding HIV infection,” said JYJ band member Jaejoong at the press conference where the group formally accepted the UNAIDS appointment.

His bandmate Junsu expressed his positive feelings about the appointment: “We can reach the goals of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. We are very proud to participate in this cause.”

In an exclusive interview with The ICAAP10 Herald after the press conference, Yoochun said he wants the right message to spread through communities, reaching out to many people involved in the issue.

“For JYJ fans around the world, I really hope we should join forces to deliver the right message,” he said.

“The appointment of goodwill ambassadors has certainly put some pressure upon us, though we feel happy about our role for the cause. After all, AIDS is a serious disease, and there might be some limitation concerning what we can do, but we will make our utmost effort to help as many people as possible,” Yoochun said.

JYJ has been involved in a number of charitable activities, making donations to relief efforts in disaster-struck areas of Japan, as well as to child health campaigns.

For international participants at ICAAP10, JYJ staged a special performance as part of the opening ceremony late Friday.

## Civil society vital to fighting AIDS

By Global Fund

Experience has shown that only with a vibrant civil society can we hope to reverse HIV. Because many of the groups which are most at risk from the virus are marginalized or invisible, it is only through strong civil society networks that we can hope to provide effective care, support and awareness-raising.

The Global Fund is in many ways itself the creation of a civil society and this is why civil society has a special role in its structures in all aspects of its work and governance. Civil society plays a vital role as the principal recipient, sub-recipient and sub-sub-recipient of Global Fund grants; and as a powerful voice calling for access to

treatment, prevention and care, mobilizing resources and ensuring the response to the three diseases reaches those who need it.

The International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) is the largest meeting ground for everyone working to fight HIV in the region — governments, civil society, people who live with HIV, private sector, international agencies — to come together.

The Global Fund will take the opportunity to strengthen partnerships during this conference with the civil society and partners such as the government, private sector and UN agencies to work together and use each other’s strengths to fight AIDS in the region and to ensure that the gains we have made

in the battle are not lost.

Since its creation in 2002, the Global Fund has become the main financier for AIDS, TB and malaria with approved funding of over \$21 billion in 150 countries. The funded programs provided lifesaving antiretroviral therapy to 3 million people, detected and treated 7.7 million cases of tuberculosis, and distributed 160 million insecticide-treated nets — saving at least an estimated 6.5 million lives.

In Asia, through the end of 2010, the Global Fund approved over \$5.1 billion in funding, and currently provides Asian countries with the majority of international funding available to them for the three diseases — nearly 40 percent for AIDS, over 50 percent for TB

and nearly 80 percent for malaria. A total of 46 out of 223 approved Global Fund grants in Asia currently go directly to civil society groups as principal recipients.

The Global Fund remains deeply committed to funding key targeted interventions that reach those who need them most. This is why, starting from last year, the Global Fund created a \$200 million reserve (over five years) for funding HIV proposals which only focus on most at risk populations.

During ICAAP, the Global Fund will be taking the opportunity to present to its partners in Asia the results of its funding in the region over the past ten years at a satellite session from 12-1:30 p.m. Saturday.

# Three decades of arduous struggle against HIV/AIDS epidemic

By Song Sang-ho

In the three decades since HIV and AIDS were first identified, patients, activists and medical researchers have been struggling against not only the disease itself but also the social stigma it brings.

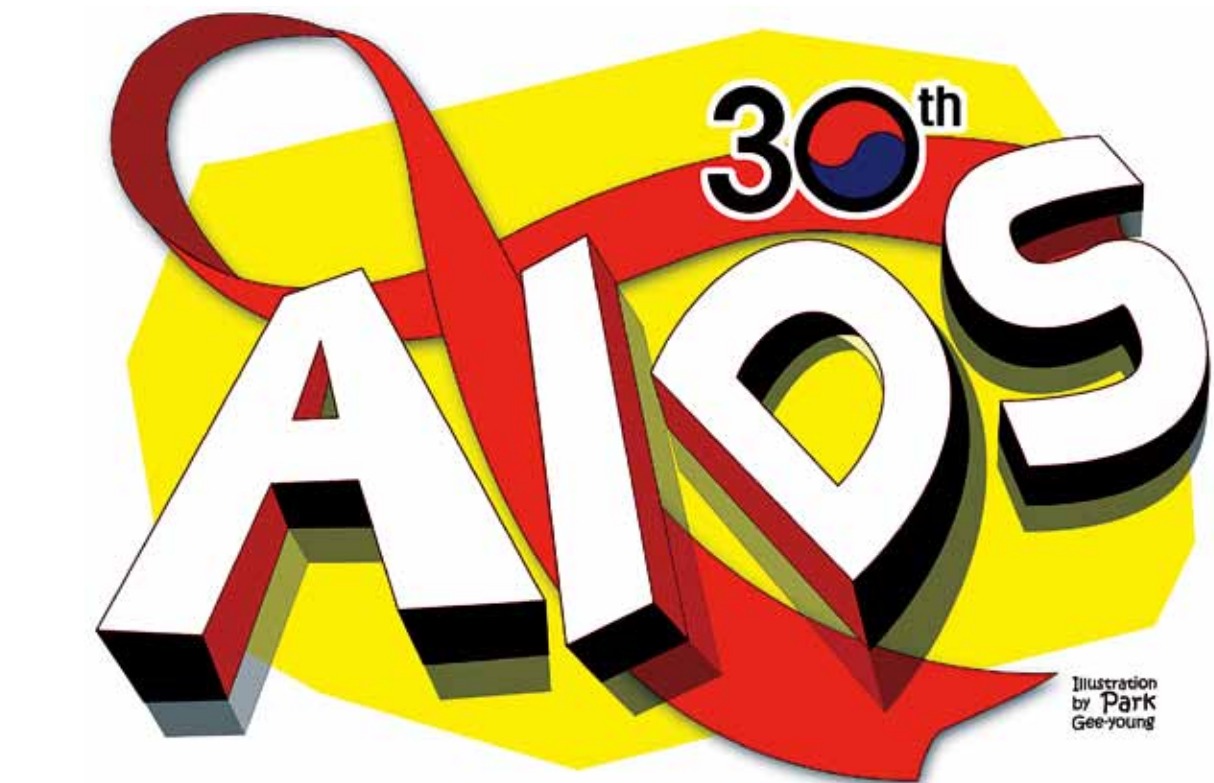
Thanks to their strenuous efforts, AIDS is now perceived as a chronic illness rather than a death sentence. Medical experts paint a sanguine picture through their research, saying that as long as patients take good care of themselves, they can lead long, healthy lives.

"It is now known that the anti-retroviral treatment can stop the disease from worsening and enable AIDS patients to live for as long as healthy people do," said Choi Jun-yong, a medical doctor at the division of infectious diseases at Yonsei University's Severance Hospital.

"We have yet to reach the stage where we can completely cure it. But it is like diabetes and hypertension, which can be managed through long-term, consistent treatment even though they cannot be fully cured."

The first cases of AIDS were announced in the U.S. on June 5, 1981. A weekly report, published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said that five young homosexual men in Los Angeles were found to have contracted a disease paralyzing their immune system.

Since the discovery, HIV/AIDS has killed more than 25 million people around the world. Some 33 million, including 6,292 South Koreans, are currently living with the virus.



When the disease first came into the spotlight, affected communities were at a loss as the media churned out a deluge of articles highlighting its deadly nature and comparing it with the Black Death, which killed about 25 million people in the 14th century.

As the first HIV infection was found in the gay community, it triggered widespread public alienation toward homosexuals.

The disease, however, was also found to be transmissible through heterosexual sex, blood transfusions, the sharing of needles by drug addicts, and from mother to child.

In 1983, a French research team led by Luc Montagnier identified HIV for the first time. The discov-

ery was hailed as a critical breakthrough, encouraging members of the medical profession who were struggling to develop a vaccine.

But it was not an easy task, as the virus has a countless number of mutated forms, which researchers have found challenging to identify and keep track of.

Despite these difficulties, researchers have succeeded in developing medication to help stop the proliferation of the virus in patients' bodies.

In particular, what is called anti-retroviral cocktail therapy has dramatically changed the landscape of AIDS treatment and significantly raised the life expectancy of patients.

What has also worsened the

plight of HIV or AIDS patients and their loved ones, particularly during the "dark" periods of the 1980s–90s, is prejudice and misconceptions.

"What first comes to their mind when they think of AIDS is just death ... They also think of many negative things such as promiscuous sexual activities, same-sex relationships and its contagious nature," said Youn Gabriel, a 43-year-old HIV-positive patient.

But as a series of TV personalities and public figures such as U.S. actor Rock Hudson and Freddie Mercury, singer of the British band Queen, died tragically, the public started to view HIV patients with more compassion.

## Asia-Pacific Inter Agency Task Team launches NewGen Asia

By UNICEF

As the U.N. Year of Youth comes to a close, there is increasing recognition of the importance of young people as partners, innovators and leaders capable of developing and implementing creative solutions to tackle the many development challenges facing the world.

At the same time, across the Asia Pacific, young people account for an increasing number of new HIV

infections. While overall prevalence is low, several groups engaging in high risk behaviors are identified as significantly more at risk -- they are referred to as 'young key affected populations' and include young people engaged in transactional sex; young men who have sex with men; transgender young persons; and young people who inject drugs. Recent data from the Global Commission on AIDS in Asia indicated that in the region, 95 percent of all

new infections in young people are among YKAPs, even though this group makes up only 5 percent of the youth population.

There have been increasing efforts made to expand prevention, treatment and care services to KAPs, but addressing the specific needs of young KAPs — and overcoming their particular barriers to service — has remained a challenge as has ensuring the meaningful participation of YKAPs in the AIDS response.

To address these issues, the Asia-Pacific Inter Agency Task Team for HIV and Young Key Affected Populations has developed a multi-pronged capacity development initiative. The initiative, known as NewGen Asia, is being launched at the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific and involves several activities to develop the capacity of the new generation of young leaders in this important area.



# Legal environment and universal access

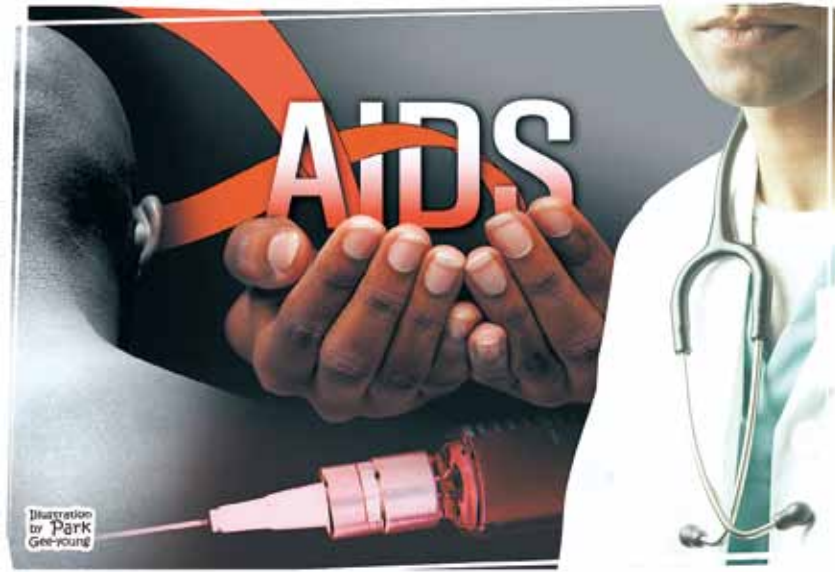
By Ishdeep Kohli

About 90 percent of countries in the Asia-Pacific region still have laws and practices that obstruct the rights of people living with HIV and those at higher risk of HIV exposure.

The law and its application can have a profound impact on the lives of people, especially those who are marginalized and disempowered. The law is a powerful instrument to challenge stigma, promote public health, and protect human rights.

In light of this, the Global Commission on HIV and Law was officially launched on June 24, 2010. The Global Commission on HIV and the Law is an independent body comprising some of the world's most respected legal, human rights and HIV leaders.

Across the region, legislation and law enforcement often lag behind national HIV policies, with the result that the reach and effectiveness of HIV prevention, treatment and care programs are undermined. For example, 19 countries still criminalize same-sex relations and 29 countries criminalize some aspect of sex work. Many countries in the region enforce compulsory detention for people who use drugs



and in some cases (11 countries in Asia) issue the death penalty for drug offences.

In India, the 2009 Delhi High Court ruling striking down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 'to decriminalize same sex relations between consenting adults', has been a very important step in this direction and has generated a lot of expectations and excitement among the people who are either affected by HIV or those with different sexual preferences.

According to J.V.R. Prasada Rao, Special Adviser to the Executive Director UNAIDS, "in spite of re-

cent progress, insufficient coverage of services for people living with HIV, men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and people who use drugs is still a reality and the lack of legal protections just drive these populations underground. If we don't invest in strengthening legal protections for these populations, we will jeopardize the gains we have made in the region. This also means stepping up action to tackle inappropriate criminalization."

"It's really hard for us to implement life-saving services like HIV counseling and needle/syringe pro-

grams when the police are empowered to walk into our centers and arrest who they like. Who would want to come into a drop-in center where safety and confidentiality cannot be ensured? The police are too powerful, and no one has trained them in the value of harm reduction services," stresses Karyn Kaplan, whose organization, Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group has advocated for harm reduction since 2002.

Kay Thi Win of Population Services International, Myanmar, has addressed key obstacles that keep sex workers from accessing HIV services, hampering progress in reducing new infections and providing treatment and care: "Every day we confront brutal realities – arrest, violence, discrimination. Sex workers in the region are routinely denied access to health services. They are frequently harassed and often face criminal charges and detention."

The afternoon plenary on Saturday will discuss legal impediments to universal access which also enhance stigma and discrimination.

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

## View on concern for AIDS research and education

By Dr. N.M. Samuel

The Indian government provides free antiretroviral drugs to people living with HIV/AIDS. The number of those receiving the drugs has increased tremendously and we witness the disease being listed as a chronic disease.

However, individuals infected with HIV require more than drugs — they need counseling, nutrition supplements and support for their emergency clinical states. Individuals not expecting to live are living longer and we need to provide services to meet their needs.

The most vulnerable are women and children. C.A.R.E., a not-for-profit organization just does that in Namakkal in rural south India and among the tribes in Kolli Hills. Clinics are conducted for women and children and nutrition supplements are provided free of charge. Special eye and dental clinics are

conducted regularly and free spectacles are provided.

C.A.R.E. continues to provide education on stigma and discrimination, the role of the faith based groups to provide care to sexual minorities, on clinical management of HIV/AIDS and anti retroviral therapy and on screening for cervical cancer in HIV-positive women.

C.A.R.E. is concerned on the developmental abnormalities of infants born to HIV-positive mothers. Research protocols are being drawn up to study the issue.

The ICAAP10 is the second-largest conference in the world on HIV/AIDS and we congratulate the chair, Myung-Hwan Cho and the local committee for hosting it in Busan.

It is our hope that those who attend the ICAAP10 in Busan will return to their countries fully charged to fight stigma and discrimination against individuals who may be

IDU or belong to sexual minorities. We must acknowledge that services need to be provided to those most vulnerable in our countries — women and children. We hope that ICAAP10 will set a gold standard for the future of HIV/

AIDS in Asia and the Pacific.

*Dr. N.M. Samuel is president of Concern for AIDS Research and Education (C.A.R.E.) Foundation in India.*

### LET'S LEARN KOREAN!

Where are you from?

어디서 오셨어요?

*Aw-dee-saw oh-shosh-aw-yo?*

What is your name?

이름이 어떻게 되세요?

*Ee-rum-ee aw-toe-kay dway-se-yo*

Delicious!

맛있어요

*Mash-iss-aw-yo*

May I have the menu?

메뉴주세요

*Menu jew-se-yo*

Chicken

닭고기

*Tak go-gee*

I am from ...

저는 ... 에서 왔어요

*Jaw-nuhn ... eh-saw-wosh-aw-yo*

How much is this?

이게 얼마예요?

*Ee-go Awl-ma-yeah-yo?*

I can't eat spicy food

나는 매운 음식을 먹을 수 없어요

*Na-nuhn may-oon uhm-sheek-uhl soo awps-aw-yo*

May I have fork please?

포크 주세요.

*Po-ku jew-se-yo*

Beef

소고기

*So go-gee*





ICAAP10 participants attend the opening ceremony.



Activists and some ICAAP10 participants stage a protest.



A performer hits a Korean traditional drum.

## PHOTO GALLERY



People register to join ICAAP10.



A Korean traditional fan dance.



JYJ performs during the opening ceremony of ICAAP10 in Busan.



# Using social media for positive change

By John Power

Campaigners from Asia-Pacific are seeking ways to use social media to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among gay and bisexual men.

"Gay people have adopted a lot of new technologies at a much faster rate than many other groups of people. Look at the way gay men are using technologies, mobile technologies, faster than anyone else. The academics, the researchers, the HIV prevention people are simply not keeping up," Dr. Stuart Koe, the founder of fridae.com, Asia's largest gay and lesbian portal, told a working group on the sidelines of ICAAP10 on Thursday.

More than a dozen campaigners joined Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health's technology working group to discuss how gay men use social media and ways such media

could be used for education on safe sex and HIV testing. Workshops were also held on faith, the health sector, social research, living with HIV and transgender health.

Pallav Patankar of the Mumbai-based Humsafar Trust said that one worrying trend to be tackled in his country is the advertising of unprotected sex on gay dating sites.

"A large part of the sex work industry, male-to-male sex, has gone into dating sites, and what we are seeing is people writing their phone numbers and they're directly getting in touch with people. I think the most scary part of it is 'barebacking' which is constantly being mentioned on sites" the Singaporean said.

In Sri Lanka, where Facebook and cell phone networks facilitate the sex industry, LBGT group Diversity and Solidarity Trust is us-

ing the same technology to promote HIV testing.

"We are using mobile phones for testing mechanisms. Since we have a huge network of mobile networks, we send messages just advertising that this testing will be taking place in this place," said Niluka Perera, the group's youth coordinator.

New Zealand's Simon Harger-Forde, Director of HIV Prevention and International, said reaching the country's indigenous Maori population was a challenge that his organization had to meet in a creative fashion.

"They were hooking up but really unhappy about the online platform they were using, basically. The most popular place they took up online was a New Zealand-based site. So international sites had not got a lot of support. We developed as a prevention initiative an online dating

site called bro online," he said.

Koe sees major potential in Facebook, which avoids the problem of having to build a high profile for a site from scratch.

"Have you ever thought of, instead of creating your own website or creating your own intervention, of going to where people are? Because these are where the social networks are already happening."

He added that the site allows for those working in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention to reach people directly like never before.

"Facebook, I think, has really changed the way that internet intervention can be seen. Right now it has become so much easier because you can go directly to where people are. And because of the way all the 'likes' work, if one person likes your thing, all their friends get to see it and that how it goes viral," he said.

## Asian Administrators Meeting discusses future challenges of HIV/AIDS

By Song Sang-ho

The Asian Administrators Meeting on Friday offered a crucial venue for government officials, scholars and activists to discuss concerns about and future responses to HIV/AIDS.

During the sixth meeting here at BEXCO in Busan, dozens of people from seven countries including Japan, China and Cambodia, and four civic groups touched on a wide range of issues with a focus on those surrounding "key affected populations" vulnerable to HIV.

The conference was organized by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

"We talked about challenges — classic challenges, but also new challenges. The classic prevention was based on promotion of condoms and needles. This is classic — what we have been doing for years," said WHO country officer for Vietnam Fabio Mesquita.

"But I think we got to a point that this is not enough — still necessary, but not enough. The next step is biological prevention, what we called treatment as prevention. People who

are taking therapy are less likely to transmit HIV than people who are not under the therapy."

The meeting was also an opportunity to understand how South Korea has so far responded to the epidemic.

"The main focus is to understand the Korean policies that are undertaken and also share ideas with other participants from other countries, and get information and be able to take back to their respective countries," said Noriyuki Hiraga, senior official at the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Participants also shared the need to enhance the public understanding of the disease to remove social stigma against the epidemic.

"In the history, there have been Hansen's disease and many other infectious diseases. It is a history of stigmatization and isolation," said Aikichi Iwamoto, medical professor at the University of Tokyo.

"Of course, for some infectious diseases, you need to isolate them, but usually for sexually transmitted diseases, isolation doesn't really help. So, I think common awareness among the general population is very important."

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is a U.N. partnership that leads efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

The welcoming reception was a treat for the eyes and ears of the participants. Despite different languages and cultures, all looked united while enjoying a brilliant performance by JYJ and a musical, "Black Suit New Girl."

Prior to the opening ceremony, key participants reaffirmed their commitment to joint, global responses to the disease during the AIDS Champions Meeting, an effective platform to discuss ongoing challenges facing affected communities.

Announcing their statement to wrap up the meeting, regional leaders from governments, parliaments, civil societies and private sectors called for more efforts to tear down the barriers, which limit access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

They particularly focused on giving high-level support to help address a series of issues concerning "key affected populations" such as sex workers, injecting drug users, homosexuals and transgender populations.

Before the official conference kicked off, a three-day pre-congress Community Form, which ended

on Friday, brought together many groups at the vanguard of the campaigns to overcome prejudice and discrimination against those living with HIV.

"One of the problems is that for too long, we have held on to a myth that HIV is about morality. It's got nothing to do with morality," said Rev. JP Mokgethi-Heath, executive director of a South Africa-based group, "INERELA + Positive Faith in Action."

"If HIV teaches us anything, it's that the virus doesn't discriminate, it simply seeks an opportunity. So it doesn't ask a question, whether you or gay or heterosexual, Korean or American, black or white. Those opportunities have nothing to do with morality. They've got to do with protecting yourself."

Mokgethi-Heath was infected with HIV in 2000 himself.

The forum consists of five plenary sessions, 47 oral presentations, 11 symposia, 24 satellite meetings and 25 skill-building workshops. Around 1,000 posters on AIDS will also be presented during the conference.

These meetings will delve deep into a wide range of issues such as human rights of AIDS patients, legal environments for them, and progress in AIDS treatment, measures to wipe out social stigma and misconceptions, and civil society engagement.