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Focus on HIV/AIDS

AIDS scientists meet in Malaysia; hope for early cure

Scientist from around the world assembled in Kuala Lumpur expressed optimism over their search for a cure for the disease, with more funding and research breakthrough boosting their hope.

To coincide the international AIDS conference, on Pathogenesis, treatment and prevention “30 June – 3 July 2013” organized by IAS. WHO has also released a new guideline for the use of drugs. Nearly 10 million people infected with the AIDS virus will now be able to receive AIDS related drug. This may avert 6.5 million deaths by 2025 but will add some of dollars 2 million a year as expense.

Now Global HIV/AIDS summit in Malawi

Malawi had the first summit on HIV/AIDS organized by UNAIDS and Lancet Commission on 28 and 29 June in Lilongwe. The main agenda is to engage with various sectors to deliberate on strategies to ensure the vision of new Zero Infection to be realized in the coming decade. UNAIDS and Lancet Commission from AIDS to Sustainable Health was launched in May 2013. The commission aims to catalyze political momentum to shape the debate on the future of the health in the post 2014 development agenda and accelerate progress toward this end. The commission would also explore opportunities to systematically reflect on evidence and make recommendations and build on current consultations and the findings of the UN High Level panel of eminent person on the post 2015.--- Malawi News

Book tells of HIV/AIDS struggle in Pacific

A book titled “Treatment is my life now” has testimonies of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Pacific and issues they face while undergoing treatment. Lead

researcher, Hillary Gorman says the book will highlight how they tried to eliminate the fear and stigma associated with those living with HIV AIDS.“It is evident in this report that health workers played a key role in educating people living with HIV/AIDS and with their families along with important networks who continue to do this type of work.”Joeli Colati, who was one of the peer researchers, says the book will bring reality to people in the Pacific, their awareness of the disease and its treatment. “It has also allowed us to know and understand people living with HIV/AIDS much better. Knowing who we are, it has also increased our confidence and to enable us to gain experiences of research.” For Alice Buko, being part of the team shed more light into how people living with HIV/AIDS lived their lives on a daily basis and challenges they faced. “This experience as a peer researcher has encouraged me to do more for my fellow HIV brothers and sisters. Having the opportunity to understand and hear their respective experiences and has challenged me to keep advocating.”--- FBC

New HIV/AIDS Funds for Asia

Nepal and Cambodia are part of 6 countries who will receive USD 20 million under U.S “key population challenge fund” to expense for their national program for HIV prevention, treatment and care services for key population. Beneficiary of the program include homosexual community, intravenous drug user and sex worker. The other 4 countries are from Africa. This fund is part of PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) ---The Africa Report

People with AIDS in Vietnam get employment

More than 1400 people living with, or affected by HIV/AIDS have been able to find a job or run their own businesses with support from five year programs funded by U.S government in Vietnam. Besides the job placement support and training, people with HIV also receive more than one hundred thousand dollars loan through Vietnam micro providers

27 June, HIV/AIDS Testing Day in USA.

27 June was the national HIV/AIDS testing day in America, the USA health services have encouraged everyone to know their status and get tested for HIV/AIDS. It was noted that testing is critical in decreasing future infections and a gateway to treatment. C D C estimates that 1.1 million people in America are HIV positive and one in five do not know their status that is 20% of the population. 5000 get infected each year in the USA. “Act against AIDS leadership initiative” include radio network and other stakeholders produce programming to raise awareness. It’s a partnership between C D C and leading national organization representing population hardest hit by AIDS.

HIV/AIDS in India; People to people education in Chennai and Hepatitis C in Manipur

HIV/AIDS cases have been declining in India, if official data to be believed. One example of awareness program is in Chennai where select group of Metro rail worker are training there colleagues at worksite where hundreds of worker work for months on the construction of Metro train network. They are given lessons on prevention of HIV and STDs, under this program training of master trainers for prevention campaign also take place, 850 master trainers were selected from worker and given training.

- **Manipur** The death rate due to hepatitis C has gone up in Manipur considerably, an opposition leader in Manipur assembly pointed out, those fatalities of people living with HIV/AIDS and TB has come down drastically but the death rate has gone up in Hepatitis C. It was suggested to set up a separate cell to control deaths from Hepatitis C. Imphal has also received attention from several civil society organizations to conduct an advocacy program.
- **Assam** Rifles is also organizing awareness program for their soldiers. Under the theme of "Avoid the scare – be aware"
- **Nagaland** is 6th among HIV/AIDS prevalent state in India. Mainly due to high prevalence of drug abuse and multiple change of partner and unsafe sex said – commissioner of excise, Nagaland

ICAAP 11; Largest Gathering on HIV/AIDS in Asia and Pacific

Convened by the AIDS Society of Asia-Pacific (ASAP) and hosted by Population and Community Development Association (PDA) in cooperation with UNAIDS will organize ICAAP 11 (International conference on AIDS in Asia-Pacific) in Bangkok on 18 - 22 November 2013. This conference will bring together around three thousand civil society representatives working on HIV/AIDS related issues, government officials, UN agencies, Policy makers including parliamentarians and others. The issues related to science, leadership, people living with HIV, Youth and women will be discussed. Those who have not yet applied to participate should visit <http://www.icaap11.org>. In case of difficulty "foundationforleadership@gmail.com" can also be contacted.

Message for Leaders

An AIDS – free generation is within sight

– Ambassador Eric Goosby, U.S Global AIDS coordinator.

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About iLead

Several interested individuals and small scale enterprises have launched “Foundation for Leadership Initiatives” (Registered) to support developmental leadership. The **iLead** is an effort to provide information on who leads.

Contact: Shiv Khare at foundationforleadership@gmail.com

