

The Node *... where a leaf arises from a stem*



The Node is a bilingual publication dedicated to global HIV/AIDS issues by Red Ribbon Centre, the UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for Technical Support

Press Statement 21 December 2010

UNAIDS – A year in review

2010 has been a landmark year in the AIDS response. In November UNAIDS reported that the AIDS epidemic had been halted and that the world is beginning to reverse the spread of HIV. In its flagship report, the 2010 UNAIDS Report on the global AIDS epidemic, UNAIDS reported that the rate of new HIV infections had been reduced by nearly 20% in the past 10 years, that AIDS related deaths had been reduced by nearly 20% in the last five years and that the total number of people living with HIV had stabilised.

Investments made to date in the AIDS response were seen to be bearing fruit as the rate of new infections stabilised or decreased by more than 25% in at least 56 countries around the world, including 34 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the area which continues to be most affected by the epidemic. In addition, more than 5 million people were estimated to be receiving antiretroviral treatment—a scale up of 30% in just one year.

However, 2010 was also a year in which for the first time resources for the AIDS response did not increase, with donor disbursements lower in 2009 than in 2008. This disappointing news came at a time when demand is continuing to outstrip supply in the AIDS response. For every one person who starts antiretroviral treatment a further two become infected with the virus.

At the XVIII International AIDS Conference which took place in Vienna in June, the 20,000 participants from 193 countries rallied behind UNAIDS' call for a Prevention revolution and the Treatment 2.0 initiative which will help to ensure a cohesive and resource-maximizing AIDS response.

World leaders gathered at the United Nations for the MDG Summit in September and called for a new model of partnership to strengthen the AIDS response and achieve broader health and development outcomes.

Major developments were brought to light in 2010 in the field of scientific research. These included the CAPRISA study which found a microbicide gel to be 39% effective in reducing a woman's risk of becoming infected with HIV during sex and the IPREX study which found that a pill taken once daily reduces the risk of HIV infection by an average of 43.8% for HIV-negative men, and transgender women, who have sex with men.

In 2010, UNAIDS' board endorsed a new vision of "Zero new infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths." The board also adopted the UNAIDS strategy 2011–2015. The intent of the strategy is to revolutionize HIV prevention, catalyse the next phase of treatment, care and support, and advance human rights and gender equality.

Action Planning Meeting of MSM & TG Multi-City HIV Initiative

7-9 December 2010, Hong Kong

Dr Raymond LEUNG (Senior Medical Officer)
Special Preventive Programme, Department of Health

2 United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) and Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO), Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM) and Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+) started a Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM) & Transgender Multi-City HIV Initiative in August 2010. Six cities including Bangkok, Chengdu, Ho Chi Minh City, Jarkarta, Manila and Yangon were supported under this Initiative. The Initiative synthesized latest epidemiology, promising practices, MSM population size estimate and available resources by means of city scans, and developed 12-month action plans by each city taking part in the 3-day Action Planning Meeting in Hong Kong. The Department of Health took part in the Steering Committee of the Initiative, provided local logistic support and shared lesson learned during the Meeting.

Fifty-eight delegates comprising government officials, MSM and Transgender communities and private sector from the six cities, 44 resource persons coming from Hong Kong, Singapore and regional organizations and some 20 observers from local community and neighbouring cities participated in the meeting. The meeting had much participatory small group discussion both within and across cities, as well as a number of

plenary presentations such as sharing of successful factors by experts in Hong Kong and Singapore which offered useful perspectives for informing the action planning process. Rich collection of resources and references were provided to participants before and during the Meeting. The Meeting introduced an interesting phenomenon of 80/20 in which 80% of the problem usually comes from 20% of the causes and 80% of the impact comes from 20% of the potential interventions, provided an action planning template and briefed on resource estimation tool.

The draft city plans cover various issues including building of coordination and relationship (among government and CBO), fostering enabling environment (stigma reduction), targeted prevention (outreach through mainstream and new media), testing (introduction of rapid test and mobile community clinic), positive prevention (partner referral and counselling), developing MSM and TG sensitive healthcare services etc. It is expected that follow up meetings/process would be arranged in each city to work out details of the plan, estimate cost and discuss with donors for funding support. With designated focal point in each city, continuous support and commitments rendered by local governments and the regional partners, and a target to report the progress of the action plans in the coming International Congress on AIDS in Asia and The Pacific, it is likely that there will be a lot of lessons learned which can be shared upon widely and have the

ACTION PLANNING MEETING OF
MSM AND TRANSGENDER POPULATIONS
MULTI-CITY HIV INITIATIVE
7-9 DECEMBER 2010
HONG KONG, CHINA



overall response scaled up within the country and the region as a whole.

On the whole, it was an excellent meeting made possible by coordinated efforts of many parties involved. There was meticulous distribution of work, with city scans and analysis, synthesis report, action plan primer, information and experience sharing,

press materials, meeting report, logistic support etc. looked after by different personnel and agencies. The early involvement of city delegates through the city scans process, lively discussion led by the facilitators, committed support rendered by representatives of regional organizations and active participation of delegates were other elements which made the Meeting a successful one.



‘National Consultation on Scientific Strategy Response to HIV/AIDS in China 2011-2015’ Oct 8-9, 2010, Beijing Capital Hotel

**Dr Kenny Chan (Senior Medical Officer)
Special Preventive Programme, Department of Health**

In the 1990s, warning was raised by many an expert that Asia, especially China, was on the verge of a full onslaught of the HIV epidemic. It was projected that, without swift and appropriate responses, Asia could overtake Africa as the continent having the biggest number of HIV infected persons. These warnings were loud and clear. They behooved that the authorities change their policy from one of avoidance and evasion to full engagement.

And they did. The ‘Four Frees and One Care’ initiative in 2003 was as inspiring as it was life-saving. At the same time, the Chinese leadership openly advocated acceptance of people who were already infected. These steps were consistent with prevailing ideas of an effective HIV strategy and gained the admiration of the world community.

In 2001, the National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention (NCAIDS) was established under the Chinese CDC to take charge of a national HIV programme. Targets have since been set and largely met in the last decade. In preparation of the next 5-year national plan on HIV, NCAIDS held a consultation meeting in Beijing in October 2010.

Its stated objectives were:

- to discuss recent global HIV-related research, guidance and experience, and their implications for China, and
- to discuss strategies proposed for controlling AIDS in China in the next 5 years.



A 2-day meeting dedicated for 5 years

In the capacity of representing the Hong Kong Department of Health, I attended this important meeting that might shape the future of the Chinese HIV epidemic. Prof SS Lee of Chinese University was the other participant from Hong Kong. As it turned out, it would be an intense two days of data presentation, discussion, and debate. The official agenda of the first day, for example, extended from 8.30 am to 8.45 pm. However, this did not deter some enthusiastic participants from forcing their points of view into even later hours.



A humbling 2 days

There was no doubt that I learned a great deal from state-of-the-art presentations by world renowned experts. I was also impressed by data presented by NCAIDS on the progress of the national HIV programme. There had been nationwide expansion of VCT centres in a short period of time, a shining example of national commitment. A rapid scale up of antiretroviral coverage ahead of most developing countries also convinced us that free treatment was for real and not mere political slogan.

On the second day of the meeting, an outline of a draft 5-year action plan was presented for further discussion, after which eight working groups were formed to work out formal recommendations to NCAIDS. It was humbling experience indeed for me to join front line workers in one of the groups. They showed unmistakable zeal and they made comments that were succinct, if not honestly blunt. There was no dulcorating a difficult situation of geographic diversity, cross-ethnic differences, and sometimes bureaucratic inefficiencies. Yet, I saw faces of resolve to improve on the *status quo*. Such sentiment could not be presented by a powerpoint but somehow was well articulated there and then.

An auspicious 2 days

Heated discussion notwithstanding, there was a gung-ho spirit in the meeting that was obviously encouraged by the greater environment of past successes and committed government support. If there were differences, they were related to technicalities rather than broad policy direction. In my mind, the new draft action plan was not without overly ambitious targets, many of which were on par with those of developed countries. Yet, the meeting consistently attempted to push the boundaries.

Five years is a long time in HIV terms. Paradigm shift sometimes occurs overnight. Any action plan for 5 years should be nothing more than a schema that is readily adaptable to new needs and challenges. Time would tell if the new plan would achieve success to the same degree as the previous one. But after witnessing the faces of determination on our Chinese counterparts, I would not bet against it.

There was an impressive panel of overseas participants from most major global players: the Global Fund, US CDC, World Bank, National Institute of Health, UNAIDS, etc. There were also eminent academicians in the field. On different aspects of HIV control, parallel presentations were made by overseas experts and NCAIDS, focusing on world trends and local situations respectively. Almost invariably intense discussion followed each round of presentations among the audience as to what steps should China take to cater for its own unique needs.

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Challenges on the Chinese front

One would never argue about the uniqueness of China as a vast and diverse country. Strategies in other countries, no matter how successful, might need to be modified when implemented in China.

Our Chinese counterparts did not shy away from voicing their frustrations. Perplexing to them was the generally late diagnosis of HIV. Treatment had become widely available but was hampered by a high dropout rate. The surveillance system had been under continual construction but still beset with uncertainties. The newly established methadone treatment centres were not as popular as had been hoped for. Last but not least, the rising epidemic among men who have sex with men in multiple Chinese cities was causing consternation.

To each of these, the meeting asked further questions and offered constructive criticisms. I was pleased that all discussion was objective and based on science. There was no difference in ideology at all, as the only goal was a pragmatic one, that of controlling the spread of HIV in China.

Services provided to AIDS orphans by Happy Tree in Ruili City, Yunnan

(Ruili City Red Cross and Happy Tree Youth Education Centre)

Work Summary for the period from March to July 2010

Dr. Jerry Wong
General Secretary of Happy Tree Social Services

Background of the AIDS Orphans Caring Centre

Happy Tree always pays much attention to its work of helping AIDS orphans. We established the House of Rainbow Bridge for AIDS orphans 6 years ago in Cambodia, which the premises is provided by Hospital of the Ministry of National Defense of Cambodia. To devote ourselves to serve AIDS orphans in China is our wish. Upon the invitation from Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture Red Cross and Ruili City Red Cross of Yunnan, an AIDS Orphan Caring Centre in Ruili City was set up in 2009 year end and officially opened in February 2010, with our stationed children development experts to take care those orphans which makes this place a “home” after school. The content of this joint project with Red Cross is amended after research because we knew from teachers’ experience that local orphans have a strong feeling of inferiority and reluctant to hear the word of “orphans caring”. Therefore, the Centre is finally renamed as “Youth Education Centre” and opened to all students of the Tuan Jie Primary School which is located opposite the Centre. Our staff performs the caring work to AIDS orphans under the special “unintentional” arrangements. There were 133 names in the orphan list provided by Red Cross at year end 2009 and it is subject to further verification since some students graduated and some new to school for P1 in September 2010 new school year.

Focus of the AIDS Orphan Caring Services

1. Life Education

Aim to develop student to be an upright, positive and gregarious person who have independent,

thinking, life education activities are carried out mainly in the form of games with debriefings during school time. The educational themes brought about by “games” can be imprinted on the subconscious of students through interesting activities and gradually taken in by them, much more effectively than in class.

Life education includes enhancing self-esteem, establishing proper values, encouraging positive life attitudes and teamwork spirits, learning to respect others, building self-confidence and so on. Since most orphans are studying at Tuan Jie Primary School, the Centre is strongly supported by the school and therefore, life education activities are carried out during school time. Our working staff also pays special attention to these orphans and encourages them during the activities.

2. Quality Education

Quality education is different from life education and the aim of the former is to enhance individuals’ qualities. Happy Tree thinks highly of both quality education and life education and they are complemented to each other like railway tracks. Quality education includes eight aspects, and they are inspirational thinking, leadership, economic thinking, learning ability, emotion management, love sharing, custom training and wise decision-making.

3. Intelligence Education

Eight multiple intelligences of human beings advocated by contemporary psychologist Howard Gardner, which include linguistic intelligence, logical-mathematical intelligence, spatial intelligence,

bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, musical intelligence, interpersonal intelligence and naturalist intelligence, to be the supplemental education activities. Happy Tree has prepared syllabuses and procedures for life education, quality education and intelligence education to help working staff and volunteers to carry out classes and activities.

4. Student Activity Centre (Youth Education Centre)

Students are arranged in batches to enjoy the facilities in the Centre, so they will have a nice place to go after school and less time to lingering outside so as to reduce the chance of involving into drugs and crimes. Facilities at the Centre include a library room, an activity room, video broadcasting, chess, electronic keyboards, ping-pong tables and a coaching room and so on.

5. Special Activities

Youth Education Centre holds regular activities (such as art class, cooking class and handicraft class) and special activities (such as English summer camp). Children development experts will invite orphans and some ordinary kids to take part in these activities, thus reducing sensitiveness of those orphans brought about by their sense of inferiority. The experts will get close to orphans through class activities, get to know each other and establish a mutual trust relationship and pave way for individual caring and coaching.

6. Individual Caring and Coaching

Children development experts will visit orphans on their own or with school teachers. In fact, they will also visit the relatives' families where orphans to live at, observe the environment and provide appropriate life or hygiene education in a friendly and caring approach.

7. Monthly Subsidies for Orphans

Currently we provide subsidies to about 60 orphans in the region (including children from poor families) through Red Cross.

8. Life Education Training for School Teachers

Tuan Jie Primary School (3 schools in total along

with branch schools) and No. 3 Middle School of Ruili invited Happy Tree in Hong Kong and Youth Education Centre to provide various trainings in relation to life education in order to enhance the relevant awareness of school teachers.

Children Development Experts

Sent from Hong Kong: (Manager of the Centre) Ms. Kimmy Tam - Bachelor of Health Science, Registered Nurse, Certificate of Children Development Research, Certificate of Manager of After School Caring Centre, Hospital Play Specialist, Neuro Linguistic Programming Trainer, Registered Hypnotherapist

Appointed at the local area: Miss Chen Hong

Opening Ceremony of Youth Education Centre

Name:	Ruili City Red Cross and Happy Tree Youth Education Centre
Time:	March 24, 2010 Morning
Venue:	3rd Floor of the Attached Building of Mengmao Health Centre
Presence:	Pai Gui Hong, vice mayor of Ruili City Government and president of Ruili City Red Cross; Zhang Lei Hong, deputy president of the Red Cross in Dehong Prefecture; Peng Su (mistress of ceremony), deputy president of the Red Cross in Dehong Prefecture and Ruili City Red Cross; Representatives of Bureau of Health; Representatives of Bureau of Education; Representatives of Women's Federation; Representatives of Youth League; Representatives of No. 3 Middle School of Ruili; Representatives of Tuan Jie Primary School; Representatives of Mengmao Health Centre; Responsible and working staff of Hong Kong Happy Tree Social Services Limited

Agenda:

Introduce the work plan and content of this project briefly and discuss the areas that need to be supported and the issues that should be emphasized in the project with persons present at the meeting. Also express hopes that the project will be extended to schools and help improve physical and mental health of orphans through care in all respects.



■ Students are taking part in a group game in the multi-function room of Youth Education Centre



■ Opening Ceremony of Ruili City Red Cross and Happy Tree Youth Education Centre held on March 24, 2010



■ Students are reading books in the library room of Youth Education Centre



■ Students are looking up information with computers in the library room of Youth Education Centre

Various Activities

• Activities held in Youth Education Centre

The Youth Education Centre has organized 18 group games in total with 525 participants and the games are mainly targeted to students of all grades in Tuan Jie Primary School. Students need to register when they take part in activities in the Youth Education Centre and each one will get a name badge. According to the registration, 471 students have been to the Youth Education Centre. We will know the performance of orphans in activities through registration system, take more care of them and provide targeted education and coaching to them, making their lives healthy and happy. There is a library room, a multi-function room and an activity room in the Youth Education Centre. 117 students have borrowed books and 332 students have borrowed activity appliances.



■ Students are spending their free time in the multi-function room

Upon invitation, Teacher Tam from the Youth Education Centre is acting as a counselor and taking part in the Young Pioneer activity of Tuan Jie Primary School.



■ Teacher Tam is directing the Young Pioneer activity of Tuan Jie Primary School

Trainee Teachers Took Charge of the International Children's Day Activities

In preparation of 2010 Children's Day celebration, the Youth Education Centre designed games and explained the purposes, rules and processes of these games to teachers of Tuan Jie Primary School. Teachers and students of all classes took part in the games held by the Youth Education Centre and Tuan Jie Primary School to celebrate the International Children's Day. Students learnt to know what love is, how to respect others, how to express themselves and how to work in a team through games. In the world of love there is no limit to races or ages.



■ Teacher Tam is training the teachers of Tuan Jie Primary School for International Children's Day activities

Examples:

Game 1 - Angel card: Write down the names of all students in class on angel cards and let each student take a card at random that bears other student's name. They are required to put down a few positive words of encouragement to such students on the cards and learn to know that it is a virtue to admire and appreciate others.



■ Teacher Tam is demonstrating the Children's Day activities to teachers of Tuan Jie Primary School

Game 2 - Dragon Dance: Students put their hands on each other's shoulders from behind and make up a long queue. They follow teachers' instructions and move forwards, backwards and sideways in a concerted action. Students will learn to know the teamwork spirits that focus on cooperation and mutual help through the game and understand that everyone in the world is important and no one can survive alone. They will also know that people should help and care about each other to make a better world.

Trainings for Teachers of Tuan Jie Primary School and No. 3 Middle School of Ruili

Subject: Awareness and enhancement of self-esteem

Trainer:	Dr. Jerry Wong from Happy Tree
Time:	May 21, 2010
Venue:	Tuan Jie Primary School
Participants:	Teachers of Tuan Jie Primary School and its second branch school (55 persons)

Trainer:	Dr. Jerry Wong from Happy Tree
Time:	May 24, 2010
Venue:	No. 3 Middle School of Ruili
Participants:	Teachers of No. 3 Middle School of Ruili (70 persons)
Content:	The Youth Education Centre organized an educational training named “Five Senses of Self-esteem” in respect of how to strengthen the senses of safety, uniqueness, connection, direction and capability of students and how to combine theories with games to teachers of Tuan Jie Primary School and its second branch school and No. 3 Middle School of Ruili. Teachers also learnt how to help students to trust others and to be trusted by others through different ways and how to strengthen the close cooperation of groups, and became aware of the vision of education from different aspects of various games.



■ Dr. Jerry Wong is conducting a training at Tuan Jie Primary School



■ Dr. Jerry Wong is conducting a training at No. 3 Middle School of Ruili

• 2010 English Summer Camp Hosted by Ruili City Red Cross and Happy Tree Youth Education Centre

Time:	July 5-8, 2010
Hosted by	Ruili City Red Cross and Happy Tree Youth Education Centre
Supported by:	Hong Kong Happy Tree Social Services
Venue:	Tuan Jie Primary School of Ruili City Ruili City Red Cross and Happy Tree Youth Education Centre
Targeted group:	students of Tuan Jie Primary School of Ruili City (75 students from Grade 6)
Instructors and Participants:	* 23 Chinese immigrants and their children in Shanghai, including 6 adult instructors and 17 middle school students who go to international schools and speak English in daily life.
Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The courses and activities of English Summer Camp are mainly in English and in the form of vivid and interesting activities. * Enhance the interest of students in Ruili in English and give them a chance to practice. * Give students in Shanghai a chance to know Yunnan and approach minorities. * Enhance the opportunities and spirits for students in Shanghai to serve our country. * Give students in both Ruili and Shanghai a chance to communicate with and learn from each other.



■ Opening Ceremony of 2010 English Summer Camp



■ A Class at 2010 English Summer Camp

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■ Closing Ceremony of 2010 English Summer Camp