

***Red Ribbon Centre –
UNAIDS Collaborating
Centre for Technical
Support***

Technical Collaboration
Report 2002

Hong Kong

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I. Introduction

In Hong Kong, efforts on HIV prevention can be traced back to the year 1985, when the first case of AIDS was reported. In the same year, an AIDS counselling clinic was established by the then Medical and Health Department. Health advice, counselling and HIV testing were offered to people who were worried about contracting the virus. In 1987, the clinic was expanded to become the AIDS Counselling and Health Education Service (ACHES), and the Special Medical Consultation Clinic (SMCC). It ran the AIDS Hotline, HIV clinic, and provided operational support to the Department's Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS.

Following the restructuring of the Government's medical and health services, the Special Preventive Programme (SPP) was reconstituted in 1991. The HIV clinical and public health services have since been led by the Consultant (SPP). In 1994, the programmes were expanded and relocated to the Yaumatei premise, which housed both the clinical and public health arms of the programmes.

The plan of setting up a resource centre was drawn up by SPP, with the primary objective of facilitating the participation of the community to respond to AIDS. With the support of the AIDS Trust Fund, an old maternity home at Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic was converted into an AIDS education, resource and research centre, it was named Red Ribbon Centre and its mission was rightly "to facilitate and enhance the community's response to HIV/AIDS". The Centre had its soft opening in December 1996, and was formally declared open by the last governor of the Hong Kong Government in May 1997.

Red Ribbon Centre (Box 1) has since been the base of the HIV Prevention and Health Promotion Team of the Special Preventive Programmes. In 1998, the Advisory Council on AIDS conducted a review on the AIDS programme and situation in Hong Kong. The review process has alerted AIDS programme individuals of the international responsibility. Hong Kong might or could play in the fight against the global epidemic.

On 8 May 1998, Dr Peter Piot, Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), visited Red Ribbon Centre. The continued dialogue between UNAIDS and Red Ribbon Centre finally resulted in the designation of the Centre as an UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for Technical Support.

Box 1. The Red Ribbon Centre.



II. Terms of Collaboration and Organisation

The Red Ribbon Centre – UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for Technical Support (UCT) is managed as a programme of the Red Ribbon Centre. As agreed between Department of Health and UNAIDS, UCT is committed to:

(a) collaborate in the following fields -

- (i) strategic planning for HIV prevention and care;
- (ii) technical resource networking for promoting and enhancing community responses; and
- (iii) scientific inquiry into socio-behavioural determinants and epidemiological data for the improved understanding of HIV epidemics

(b) engage in the following activities -

- (i) strengthen capacities for an expanded response to HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong and in the region, by facilitating conduction of consultancies, reference services, training, planning, evaluation, exchanges and other supports, as needed;
- (ii) identify, develop, adapt and disseminate best practices in line with strategies formulated by UNAIDS;
- (iii) participate in UNAIDS-sponsored meetings, assist in their organisation, and engage in other advocacy-related activities towards the common goal of HIV/AIDS prevention and care;
- (iv) provide technical support, coordinate and participate in technical resource networks established by UNAIDS, and in close collaboration with other institutions involved in the response in the region;
- (v) promote, support and implement relevant studies and disseminate and apply results of such studies in collaborative research projects with UNAIDS.

UCT is headed by a director, who is the consultant and head of SPP. The day-to-day running of the Centre is organised by the SPP HIV Prevention and Health Promotion Team comprising a medical doctor, public health nurse in-charge, a team of public health nurses, an executive officer and the clerical team. The strategic planning of activities is guided by the Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee, which is appointed by the Director of Health. (Box 2) (refer to Annex A for the terms of reference and composition of the Management Advisory Committee, and Annex B for the organisation of UCT)

Box 2. The Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee at work.



III. Activity Profile and Programme Framework

Items 3 and Item 4 of the Terms of Collaboration encompass the following five categories of activities:

- (a) Capacity building – item 4(a)
- (b) Best practice development – item 4(b)
- (c) Participation in UNAIDS activities – Items 4(c) and 3 (a)
- (d) Technical resource networking – Item 4(d) and 3(b)
- (e) Research studies – Items 4(e) and 3(c)

The Red Ribbon Centre, through the guidance of the RRC Management Advisory Committee, has considered *capacity building* as the most appropriate framework for interfacing Mainland China effectively. The main formats of these activities are: (a) fellowship programme; (b) participation in consultancies; (c) workshops; (d) training courses; and (e) technical forums.

IV. Lions-Red Ribbon Fellowship Programmes

Fellowship is an individual-level attachment programme. The ***Lions-Red Ribbon Fellowship*** is a professional attachment programme designed by UCT and sponsored by *Lions Clubs International District 303 Hong Kong and Macau*. Each year (since 1999), four fellows from mainland China have been supported to Hong Kong for a period of two to four weeks. The number was increased to 6 in 2002. Fellows engaged in studies, visits and exchange activities in their fields of expertise relating to HIV prevention and care. The fellows were invited to conduct a seminar with AIDS workers in Hong Kong, and were required to submit a report of their work to the UCT upon completion of the fellowship programme. (Box 3)

Box 3. Lions - Red Ribbon Fellow Dr YANG Jun receiving a certificate from Rev Chu Yiu Ming, chairman of the Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee.



By the end of 2002, 15 fellows have joined the scheme, the specificities of which are listed in (Box 4).

Box 4. Lions-Red Ribbon Fellows, 1999 – 2002

NAME OF FELLOW	AFFILIATION	FELLOWSHIP PERIOD	ASSIGNMENT
1. Dr SHAN Guangnai	Senior Fellow, Chinese Academy of Social Science, BEIJING	8 Mar – 21 Apr 1999	Research on prostitution in Hong Kong
2. Dr WANG Quanyi	Lecturer, Peking Union Medical College, BEIJING	9 – 22 Oct 2000	Study of counselling for and support to people living with HIV/AIDS
3. Ms ZHAO Chengzheng	Associate professor, National Institute of Drug Dependence, BEIJING	1 – 13 Dec 2000	HIV and drug use – comparison between Hong Kong and Mainland China

4. Dr LIU Wei	Director, Centre for HIV/AIDS Prevention & Control, GUANGXI	16 – 21 Feb 2001, and 1 Mar 2002	Study of the Hong Kong experience in HIV prevention and control
5. Dr GAN Zhigao	Director, Department of Disease Control of Antiepidemic Station, Liuzhou, GUANGXI	17 – 30 Jul 2001	Study of the Hong Kong experience in HIV prevention and health promotion in drug users
6. Dr REN Xiaohui	Lecturer, Cheng Du West China University of Medical Science, SICHUAN	30 Aug – 13 Sep 2001	Study of the HIV prevention and intervention in women
7. Dr CHEN Jie	Deputy Director, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, GUANGXI	26 Sep – 3 Oct 2001, and 15 Feb – 1 Mar 2002	Study of the Hong Kong experience in the application of methadone intervention for HIV prevention in drug users
8. Dr ZHU Min	Programme Adviser, Provincial Education Commission, YUNNAN	14 – 27 Oct 2001	Sharing of Hong Kong and Yunnan experience in HIV education for youth and schools
9. Dr CHEN Zhongdan	Director, Wuhan Anti-epidemic Station, HEBEI	10 – 23 Oct 2001	Study of the means of peer education for HIV prevention
10. Dr GONG Yuhan	Chief Physician, Centre of AIDS/STD Control & Prevention, Liangshan CDC, SICHUAN	16 – 26 Jul 2002	Study on the Hong Kong experience in HIV prevention, care and control
11. Dr YANG Jun	Physician, Qiao Kou District Anti-epidemic Station, Wuhan, HEBEI	20 Aug – 2 Sep 2002	Development of effective outreach programmes

12. Dr HU Feiyue	Deputy Director, Division of Policy Study & Information, National Center for AIDS/STD Control & Prevention, BEIJING	2 – 15 Sep 2002	Study on HIV policy development in Hong Kong
13. Ms SONG Jingling	Associate Professor, School-based Health Education Programme Office, Kunming, YUNNAN	2 – 15 Sep 2002	Study on HIV prevention, health promotion and behavioural interventions in tertiary students
14. Dr LI Hong	Medical Officer, Provincial Anti-epidemic Station, HENAN	9 – 20 Sep 2002	Study on HIV screening, laboratory testing and HIV counselling in Hong Kong
15. CHENG Yimin	Associate Professor, Department of Social Sciences & Epidemiology, National Research Institute for Family Planning, BEIJING	17 – 29 Nov 2002	Study on methods for promoting condom use in female sex workers and clients

V. Consultancies and UN Meetings

Public health experts from Red Ribbon Centre have joined as **consultants** to provide support to HIV prevention and care programmes in Mainland China and other parts of the world. These assignments are in (Box 5). There were also UN meetings that the Centre had participated in the deliberation of various issues on HIV/AIDS. (Box 6)

In 2002, the main focus was the participation in forums relating to the new Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). The Fund has, in the last year, become an important source of financial support for establishing sustainable programmes on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in resource-poor countries. While Hong Kong does not belong to one of the priority nations, staff had been keeping track with the development and providing assistance as appropriate.

Box 5. Consultancies conducted through the UCT Programme, 1999 – 2002.

DATE	CONSULTANT(S) / TRAINERS(S)	LOCATION	MISSION
22 – 24 Mar 1999	Ms Victoria KWONG & CHU Lai Wah	Dali, YUNNAN	Dali Medical College International Symposium on HIV/AIDS prevention, transmission, care and healthy living
20 – 22 Oct 1999	Dr SS LEE	GENEVA	International consultation on HIV/AIDS reporting and disclosure
19 – 28 Nov 1999	Dr KH WONG	HAINAN & GUANGXI	Evaluation of China AIDS Network STD/AIDS Prevention among women in the service industry
25 – 31 Aug 2000	Ms Elise CHU & Georgiana CHEUNG	INNER MONGOLIA	National Training Course on AIDS counselling and laboratory safety
4 – 9 Sep 2000	Dr SS LEE	Urumqi, XINJIANG	UNDCP project on assessment methodologies for non-captive groups and community-based interventions
19 – 20 Nov 2001	Dr SS LEE	GENEVA	Interim WHO ARV Treatment Working Group for the establishment of anti-retroviral guidelines in resource limited settings
4 – 8 Aug 2002	Dr SS LEE	BEIJING	Preparation for submission to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria (GFATM)
17 – 20 Sep 2002	Dr SS LEE & Ms Elsie CHU	Zhigui, HUBEI	WHO health promotion project development, focusing on the promotion of safe injection in health services and the community

Box 6. Participation in UN meetings, 1999 – 2002.

DATE	MEETING	LOCATION	PARTICIPANTS
22 Apr 1999	UNAIDS APICT Task Force on Drug Use and HIV Vulnerability meeting	Bangkok, THAILAND	Dr SS Lee (Task Force member)
26 Oct 1999	V International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific – UNAIDS Symposium: Mapping the Beat: Drug use and HIV vulnerability in Asia	Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA	Dr SS Lee (speaker): Building the foundation for HIV prevention in drug users

3 Sep 2000	IX International Congress of World Federation of Public Health Associations – UNAIDS symposium on HIV/AIDS	Beijing, CHINA	Dr SS Lee (speaker); The Red Ribbon Experience
18 Apr 2001	UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and Ministry of Health Joint Feedback Seminar on Strategic Planning for AIDS Prevention and Care	Nanning, Guangxi, CHINA	Dr SS Lee
23 – 25 Apr 2001	Ministerial Segment of UN ESCAP 57 th Session – regional preparation for UNGASS	Bangkok, THAILAND	Dr SS Lee
2 – 4 May 2001	UN Regional Task Force on Drug Use and HIV Vulnerability meeting	Denpasar, INDONESIA	Dr SS Lee (Task Force member)
4 – 8 Jun 2001	UN ESCAP III Asia-pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth (theme on HIV/AIDS)	Bangkok, THAILAND	Dr KH Wong
12 Jun 2001	World Bank Third Asian Development Forum Policy Seminar: the dual burden of HIV/AIDS and TB in the future economy	Bangkok, THAILAND	Dr SS Lee (speaker): the why's and how's of behaviour change
25 – 27 Jun 2001	United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS	New York, USA	Dr SS Lee, Dr Margaret Chan (Director of Health) in China delegation
7 – 9 Feb 2002	Asia Pacific Biregional Workshop on Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria	Beijing, CHINA	Dr SS Lee
27 Jun 2002	Meeting of the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in China	Beijing, CHINA	Dr SS Lee (presentation on the challenge of capacity building in HIV prevention and care)
4 – 5 Jul 2002	Meeting of the Global Reference Group on HIV Prevention among Injecting Drug Users	Vienna, AUSTRIA	Dr SS Lee (as member)
12 – 13 Dec 2002	Meeting of the UN Regional Task Force on Drugs and HIV Vulnerability	Hanoi, VIETNAM	Dr SS Lee (as member)

VI. Technical Forums: Workshops and Visits

Workshops are specially designed training programmes organised under the auspices of the UCT. These were normally three to five day programmes developed upon request of public health or other agencies to facilitate the development of policy on HIV prevention, care and control. (Box 7 and 8) In the three year period, three workshops have been organized for different agencies from the Mainland.

Box 7. Mainland Visitors at the Red Ribbon Centre, sharing views with Dr Homer Tso, chairman of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS at one of the workshops.



On the other hand, brief half-to-one day **visits** from overseas agencies were commonly received by the Centre. A total of 29 visits involving some 261 people from around the world have been handled in the year 2002, a majority of which were from Mainland China. (Box 9)

Box 8. Workshops for Delegates, 1999 – 2002.

(a) from Mainland China

DATE	AGENCY	PATICIPANTS
30 Nov – 4 Dec 1998	Various Ministries, BEIJING	8 professionals and administrators from the Ministries of Health and Civil Affairs, Bureau of Broadcast and TV Administration, Chinese academy of Preventive Medicine
1 – 4 Aug 2000	Ministry of Railway and Ministry of Health, BEIJING	9 professionals and administrators
27 – 29 Dec 2000	Guangzhou municipal government, GUANGDONG	19 professionals and administrators from the sectors of health, justice, planning, finance, publicity, and public security
15 – 18 Dec 2001	Fujian Health Department, FUJIAN	8 experts from the Fujian Health Bureau
8 – 10 Apr 2002	Jiangxi Health Department, JIANGXI	10 professionals and administrators from the sectors of health, public security, prison, education and publicity
14 – 16 Apr 2002	Jiangxi Health Department, JIANGXI	11 professionals and administrators from the sectors of health, public security, prison, education and publicity

28 – 30 Sep 2002	Institute of Health Education, National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention, Chinese CDC, BEIJING	3 professionals in health promotion
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(b) from Overseas

DATE	AGENCY	PATICIPANTS
23 – 25 Sep 2002	Family Health International	Counselling Team of Bach Mai Hospital and representatives from National AIDS Bureau, Hanoi, VIETNAM
11 – 15 Nov 2002	Family Health International	Government Officials on HIV/IDU from NEPAL

In collaboration with the University of Hong Kong, UCT has engaged in a continuous study to better understand the HIV epidemiology in the Pearl River Delta Region. Two workshops (***First and Second Workshop on HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology in the Pearl River Delta Region***) were held, in December 1998 and June 2000, with the participation of public health experts from 12 cities in the region. These activities have helped to consolidate the network of health professionals in HIV and behavioural surveillance. Two proceedings have also been published to record the events and to disseminate the conclusions in these fora.

Box 9. Visits to the Red Ribbon Centre, 1999 – 2002.

YEAR	Mainland		Other countries	
	No. of visits	Total visitors	No. of visits	Total visitors
1999	6	21	7	8
2000	11	72	6	10
2001	23	173	5	15
2002	23	230	6	31
TOTAL	63	496	24	64

In November 2002, the Third Workshop was organised by the RRC-UCT in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of Guangdong and Shenzhen. This was also the first time that the forum was held in the Mainland (in Shenzhen). Participants had resolved to hold the workshop every two years in cities in the Pearl River Delta Region. (Box 10)

Box 10. The Third Pearl River Delta Workshop in November 2002, in Shenzhen.



VII. Best Practice Development

There were three levels of activities relating to best practice development. **Firstly**, best practice documents received from UNAIDS were kept in the Centre's library for the information of people working on HIV/AIDS programme. Whereas appropriate, they're distributed to agencies in Hong Kong. **Secondly**, a series of model programmes in Hong Kong have been identified. These were published in the 2000 yearbook of Red Ribbon Centre. **Thirdly**, the Centre has been working closely with other agencies in the identification of best practices of local and international importance.

VIII. UNAIDS Ambassador

In 1999, UCT responded to UNAIDS' s call for an expanded advocacy role in HIV prevention and care through the appointment of celebrity as ambassador. Miss Miriam Yeung, a famous pop singer was appointed the UNAIDS Hong Kong Ambassador to help spread the AIDS message. Over the last four years she has been actively involved in a whole range of activities in Hong Kong. In late 2001, Miriam appeared in a public performance in Beijing to promote AIDS awareness in China. (Box 11)

Box 11. Miss Miriam Yeung, the UNAIDS Hong Kong Ambassador in Beijing 2001.



Box 12. Miss Miriam Yeung at the launching of the Harm Reduction Media Campaign.



In the year 2002, she was engaged in the following activities (Box 12 and 13):

- (a) A harm reduction media campaign to promote awareness of the public to methadone use.
- (b) Launching of the Dr Sex Hotline website, which was a new interactive means of enabling young people to know about sex, safer sex and the prevention of HIV and STI.

Box 13. Activities of UNAIDS Hong Kong Ambassador, 1999 – 2002.

DATE	EVENT
Nov 1999	Visit to Red Ribbon Centre
Dec 1999	World AIDS Campaign "I Care" Party for youth
	Meeting with Dr Emile FOX, CPA UNAIDS China
Feb 2000	"Youth Action on AIDS" Funding Scheme Prize Presentation Ceremony cum Exhibition
Mar 2000	Participation in patient support group
	Radio channel
May 2000	"Let us share, show our care" Red Ribbon Centre Third Anniversary Publicity Function and Open Day
Jul 2000	Teen AIDS Walker 2000 Charity Walk
Oct 2000	Appeal to youth on "Positive Response" VCD
Dec 2000	World AIDS Campaign "Positive Response" Day
Feb – Apr 2001	Radio show "Safety Seven"
Apr 2001	UNAIDS poster campaign 2001 "I Care ... do you?"
May 2001	"Building a Harmonious Community" Red Ribbon Centre Fourth Anniversary Publicity Function and Drawing Contest
Nov 2001	"Fluttering Red Ribbon" Public Performance in Beijing
Dec 2001	World AIDS Day "We care 27802211.com" campaign
May 2002	Harm Reduction Media Campaign Launching Ceremony
Jun 2002	Walk Hand in Hand 2002 Charity Walk
Aug 2002	Dr Sex Hotline www.Dsonline.com.hk Website Launching

IX. Technical Resource Networking

Red Ribbon Centre operates a resource centre rich in its production and collection of education materials in Chinese (and English). These include posters, leaflets, comic books and other education items developed by the SPP HIV Prevention and Health Promotion Team. The Centre also functions as the publisher of SPP's other programmes on clinical services, policy development and surveillance as well as research. Policy guidance, technical guidelines, medical and nursing manuals are therefore the other category of resource materials produced through Red Ribbon Centre.

Box 14. The Node.



As the “international arm” of Red Ribbon Centre, UCT has been communicating actively with agencies around the world to support activities in other countries through our distribution of resource materials for reference purposes. All the newly produced items are regularly distributed to all provinces in the Mainland through the UNAIDS China Office in Beijing. The number of sets of items (including leaflets, posters, videos, periodicals) amount to about 200 per month.

Beginning March 1999, a periodical “The Node” (Box 14) has been published regularly to update on the activities of the UCT programme. Twelve issues have been published by the end of the year 2002.

X. New Initiatives

The Red Ribbon Centre has been focusing on the **building of capacity** in its development of programmes on HIV/AIDS. The new focus is in line with the terms of collaboration drawn up between Red Ribbon Centre and UNAIDS ago. The following crystallizes the plans to realize the new focus:

Development of formal training– Structured courses are being designed to meet the needs of professionals in the region. The objective is to systematise training activities on HIV prevention and care. The technical experiences of Special Preventive Programmes in the last fifteen years shall enable Red Ribbon Centre to develop training modules relevant to Hong Kong and the neighbouring cities. In the design of these courses, the following strategies are proposed:

- (a) observance of the prevention and care continuum, a model that has been adopted for a long time in Hong Kong.

- (b) integration with related disciplines and specialties in clinical science and public health, for example, infection control, clinical infectious diseases.
- (c) Collaboration with other expertise agencies in Hong Kong and the region, including clinical services, universities and community-based organizations.

Two courses are under preparation, and would be conducted in the year 2003. These are (a) workshop on methadone treatment for HIV Prevention and (b) the HIV management course.

The ***Training Workshop on Methadone Treatment for HIV Prevention*** is organised in collaboration with the UN Regional Task Force on Drugs Use and HIV Vulnerability, UNAIDS South East Asia and Pacific Intercountry Team, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific and the UNDCP Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific. This would be a three-day interactive training programme for people involved (or to be involved) in the development of methadone substitution treatment in countries like China, Indonesia, Nepal and India. The workshop is scheduled for 2-4 April 2003 in Hong Kong.

The ***Diploma in HIV Management*** is a collaborative effort between Red Ribbon Centre and the School of Professional and Continuing Education of The University of Hong Kong. The course is designed for health professionals in the region who are involved in one or different aspects of HIV management. The course is divided into five modules: clinical management, public health management, information management, social context and infection control. The first course is scheduled to begin in late 2003.

XI. Acknowledgements

The setting up of the UCT programme has been an exciting experience for the Red Ribbon Centre. The HIV Prevention and Health promotion Team acknowledges the support of the Department of Health, Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee, Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS and UNAIDS China Office.

Annex A: The Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee (2001-2003)

Terms of Reference

To advise on the effective running of the Red Ribbon Centre

Chairman

Rev CHU Yiu Ming

Vice-chairman

Dr Samuel YU

Members

Mr Billy HO

Mr Tony PANG

Mr LO Chiu Fai

Dr Dennis WONG

Mr CHEUNG Che-kwok

Consultant (Special preventive Programme), Department of Health

Secretary

Executive Officer, Red Ribbon Centre

Annex B: Organization of Red Ribbon Centre UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for Technical Support

