



7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific
7th ICAAP Secretariat, c/o Convention Linkage, Inc.
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June 1, 2005

The Seventh International Congress
on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific

**The Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific
Decide Plenary and Topics**

The Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (7th ICAAP), a major gathering aimed at facilitating prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and promoting information sharing, will take place at the International Conference Center Kobe (ICCK) in Kobe, Japan from July 1 to 5.

The conference will gather people living with HIV/AIDS, scientific researchers, community activists, health professionals and government and international agency representatives, all of whom are united in the search for more effective strategies and increased political commitment to the problem of prevention and treatment in the Asia-Pacific region.

Participants will include individuals from a wide range of political, economic and socio-cultural fields, such as Mr. J.V.R. Prasada Rao (Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS), Mr. Jim Yong Kim (Director of HIV, World Health Organization), Mr. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Minister of Healthcare, Nutrition and Uva Wellassa Development, Sri Lanka), and Prof. Hiroaki Mitsuya (Kumamoto University, Japan).

Distinguished guests included, but as many as 60 countries, such as China, India, Thailand and Cambodia, will be represented to further add to the color of the conference. Such individuals include people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, representatives from vulnerable communities and health care specialists that are working on further prevention and effective treatments. Such participation and contributions by these individuals shall ultimately lead to the success of the 7th ICAAP.

Under the main theme "Bridging Science and Community," the congress will feature a plenary session followed by symposia organized under a variety of sessions each day. A total of 22 sessions will cover 90 topics, such as countermeasures for HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, cross-border strategies, prevention and treatment within communities and pressing challenges.

There will be 45 oral sessions (10-minute presentations followed by 5-minute discussions) on 270 topics. The sessions will be held under the five main themes of "Basic and Clinical Sciences," "Treatment, Care and Support," "Prevention and Epidemiology," "Culture, Gender and Sexual Issues" and "Political and Social Contexts." There will also be displays of some 1,500 posters.

Skills building workshops will provide opportunities to improve various skills that participants can apply to their daily work, such as practical techniques for prevention

and treatment of HIV/AIDS, skills for effective running of community programs, and how NGOs can work with governments.

There will also be cultural programs (art, performances, etc. at congress venue and other sites in Kobe), Community Forum (Japanese NGOs, community workers and Seven Sisters coalition of regional networks will be meeting on the afternoon of July 1), Positive Forum (on the morning of July 1) and Youth Forum (for young people throughout the region). In addition, there will be exhibitions (for participating NGOs etc. and also commercial entities) and satellite meetings (to further specify mutual goals/interests among participants).

Recent estimated numbers of positive individuals are rapidly growing in the Asia-Pacific region, especially East Asia. UNAIDS reported that the number of positive people in East Asia rose 44.7% to approximately 1.1 million in 2004. It is the fastest growth rate in the world, exceeding that of East Europe and Central Asia (former Soviet Union and East European countries).

Infections have gradually increased in Japan as well, rising to 1,165 reported cases in 2004, the first time the number exceeded 1,000. It can be stated that the epidemic is on the increase in Japan and can no longer be ignored.

In this sense through sufficient discussions during the course of the 7th ICAAP, our announcements of the result of the congress should have a significant impact on Asia-Pacific countries including Japan.

The timing of the 7th ICAAP is significant, as it will immediately precede the G8 Summit in Scotland from July 6, and then the UN Millennium +5 Summit in September. Both meetings are expected to discuss the issue of HIV/AIDS because of its current global political, economic and socio-cultural impacts. In addition, results will be announced this year concerning targets set by the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) in 2001 and the WHO and UNAIDS's "3 by 5" Initiative (to provide access to antiretroviral therapy for three million people living in low- or middle-income countries by the end of 2005), and the UN's Millennium Development Goals project's interim report will be issued.

Expectations are thus high for the 7th ICAAP to promote further initiatives for prevention and treatment in this landmark year.

For further details please contact:

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Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific

Congress Organizer: 7th ICAAP Organizing Committee
Co-Organizers: Japanese Society for AIDS Research
 Japanese Foundation for AIDS Prevention (JFAP)
 Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association (JATA)
Sponsors: AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific (ASAP)
 Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
Co-Sponsors: Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organization (APCASO)
 Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+)
 Asia Pacific Network of SEX Workers (APNSW)
 Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN)
 AP-Rainbow (Asia-Pacific Network of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgenders)
 Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM-Asia)

Date: July 1 – 5, 2005

Location: International Conference Center Kobe (ICCK)
 (some activities also in Portpia Hall and Portpia Hotel)

Congress Schedule

	July 1 (Fri.)	July 2 – 4 (Sat. – Mon.)*	July 5 (Tue.)
9:00 – 10:30		Plenary Sessions	Plenary Sessions
11:00 – 12:30	Community Forum	Symposia Oral Sessions	Rapporteurs Session
12:30 – 14:30	HIV Positive Forum Youth Forum	Satellite Meeting Poster Viewing Time	Closing Ceremony
14:30 – 16:00		Symposia Oral Sessions Skills Building Workshops	/
16:30 – 18:00	Opening Ceremony (17:00 – 18:30)	Symposia Oral Sessions Skills Building Workshops	
18:30 – 20:00	Welcome Reception (18:30 – 20:30)	Satellite Meetings	

* Exhibitions, cultural programs and poster displays will take place from 9:00 to 18:00 daily on July 2 4.

**The seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific
Program organized by Local Organizing Committee (as of May 31st)**

1) Plenary Sessions

July 02, 2005

Concept: HIV epidemic and Regional Response

1. Asian-Pacific overview of the HIV epidemic and response

J.V.R. Prasada Rao UNAIDS Thailand

2. Political leadership

**Mr. Nimal Siripala De Silva Minister of Healthcare, Nutrition, and Uva
Wellassa Development Sri Lanka**

3. Community leadership in Treatment Advocacy

**Ms. Periasamy Kousalyan. D. Coordinator of the positive women's network of
South India India**

July 03, 2005

Concept: Cross Border Approaches

4. Drug use and harm reduction in Asia and the Pacific

**Tariq Zafar AHRN Executive Committee Chairman, Nai Zindagi Director
Pakistan**

5. Regional strategies to cope with HIV / AIDS among mobile populations

Sharuna Verghis Regional Coordinator, Caram-Asia Malaysia

6. The sex trade in the 21st century

Carol Jenkins APNSW Thailand

July 04, 2005

Concept: Prevention and Care in Community

7. 3 by 5 initiative: its progress and challenges

Jim Yong Kim Director of HIV, WHO Switzerland

8. Sexuality education: A human rights perspective

Sunil Pant Blue Diamond Society Nepal

9. The critical role for AIDS vaccine in the comprehensive AIDS agenda; an update

Seth Berkley International AIDS Vaccine Initiative U.S.A

July 05, 2005

Concept: Future Challenges and Perspective

10. Integration of prevention and care

Tim Brown East-West Center, Hawaii University U.S.A

11. Chemotherapy and AIDS: Past, Present, and Future

Hiroaki Mitsuya Kumamoto University Japan

12. Gender Issues

**Nafsoah Mboi Consultant of Indonesian National AIDS Committee
Indonesia**

2) Symposia

Invited lectures will discuss cross-track issue in the Symposia. Symposia are consisted of 5 tracks; Basic and Clinical Science, Treatment, Care and Support, Prevention and Epidemiology, Culture, Gender and Issues, Political Economic and Social Contexts. Four or five speakers will be involved in every session.

July 02, 2005

- New Leadership Pushing the Boundaries
- Gender, Sexuality, and Vulnerability
- Beyond tokenism; the challenge of making involvement meaningful for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS
- Anti-Retroviral Treatment in Asia and the Pacific (Diagnosis, Monitoring, and Care)
- Decriminalization and Policy Change
- Testing

July 03, 2005

- Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
- Three ones
- Comprehensive Approach for Care, Self-help and Community Support in the Context of ART Scale-Up
- Safe-T Lessons from Transgenders
- Harm Reduction and Feasibility
- Learn From the Success-Bridging Continents
- Globalization and Mobility

July 04, 2005

- Access to Treatment in Asia and the Pacific
- Promotion of Sexual Health Amongst Adolescents In and Out of School
- Economic Impact of HIV/AIDS
- Islam: pragmatism and compassion responses to HIV and drug use, the Iran and Pakistan Experience
- Helping Community to Help Itself
- Vaccine Development
- Does Religion Help or Hinder HIV Prevention and Care?
- PREP/Microbicide

Oral Sessions and Poster Presentations will be driven by submitted abstracts. Other programs will be announced in the following briefing and press release.