



7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific

7th ICAAP Secretariat, c/o Convention Linkage, Inc.

PIAS TOWER 11F, 3-19-3 Toyosaki, Kita-ku, Osaka 531-0072 JAPAN

Phone: +81-6-6377-2188 Fax: +81-6-6377-2075

E-mail: info_icaap7@secretariat.ne.jp

Program Overview

The HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has spread over the entire region of Asia and the Pacific, has hit the susceptible populations hard. Even in Japan, where the rate of HIV positive has been low to date, the number of reports of infection is on the rise, and an expansion of the epidemic has become a serious concern for the region. It is evident that our present action will determine the future course of HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific. The goals of ICAAP are to deepen one's knowledge and understanding of the epidemic and related issues in the region, to share experiences, lessons learned, and hopes, and to gain insights on what must be done for the future.

"Bridging Science and Community" is set as the theme for the 7th ICAAP. Science has served as an important driving force for the advancement in molecular analysis of HIV and pathophysiological understanding of HIV infection, and drugs are developed at a rapid pace. Despite these advancement and development, strategies to prevent, treat and care HIV/AIDS will not be effective without active and impartial participation of various communities.

Year 2005 is the year in which the Declaration of Commitment of the UN General Assembly Special Session of HIV/AIDS in June 2001 expects member states to report progress of implemented measures to achieve their national goals. It is also the year during which the "Treat 3 Million by 2005" (3 by 5) will be evaluated for the first time. This initiative is advocated by WHO/UNAIDS, and an interim report on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be released. 7th ICAAP aims at encouraging participation from PLWHA and vulnerable communities and sharing achievements in the fields of science and community as well as every effort made for prevention, care and treatment.

The Congress will present works from participants in a variety of forms. Plenary sessions and Symposia will involve speakers who are active in the front lines of the fight against HIV/AIDS. Abstracts submitted by participants will be reviewed and selected for Oral and Poster sessions. Presentations will be divided into five tracks as described below.

[Track A: Basic and Clinical Sciences]

Track A will focus on a wide variety of topics in basic and clinical sciences, such as virology, immunology, epidemiology, human genome science, treatment, clinical trials, prevention, drug discovery, drug resistance, adverse event, opportunistic infections, vaccine development.

[Track B: Treatment, Care and Support]

Track B will focus on issues related to community responses as well as treatment, care and support. Some key topics are the "3 by 5" initiative, treatment options for minimizing side effects, palliative and terminal care; and treatment, care and support in resource-limited settings.

[Track C: Prevention and Epidemiology]

Track C will focus on trends, dynamics and impact of the HIV epidemic in the Asia/Pacific region as well as research for an in-depth understanding of HIV vulnerability and prevention activities rooted in various communities.

[Track D: Culture, Gender and Sexual Issues]

Track D will focus on issues such as sexual issues that are closely related to HIV/AIDS and are the single most deeply rooted cause of stigma, discrimination and denial. Issues involving gender, empowerment of women and children and cultural issues are included.

[Track E: Political, Economic and Social Contexts]

Track E will focus on ways to respond to the social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS.



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Government leadership and a coalition with a wide range of sectors such as infected individuals, the socially disadvantaged, NGOs/CBOs, business enterprises and international agencies are essential for effective implementation of policies.

In addition to the above sessions, there will also be Skills Building Workshops, Cultural Programs, Forums, Satellite Meetings and Exhibitions.

[Skills Building Workshops]

Skills Building Workshops will provide opportunities to Congress participants who are working in HIV/AIDS related fields such as PLWHA, NGO staffs, educators and medical personnel to learn and improve skills that they can apply to their daily works.

[Cultural Programs]

Multiple cultural programs will take place in the International Conference Center Kobe, the main congress site, and various facilities located in the central part of Kobe City. These programs include a cultural program which presents performance and video images (KAVCAAP), a club event (Insert) and a forum open to the general public.

[Community Forum]

Community Forum will be held in collaboration with the Seven Sisters coalition of Asia Pacific HIV/AIDS networks on the first day of the Congress, July 1 (prior to the Opening Ceremony). The forum will not only provide an orientation for community delegates but also an opportunity to network and share experiences.

[HIV Positive Forum]

HIV Positive Forum is a forum for PLWHA. Despite differences in nationality, ethnicity, religion and sexuality, PLWHA are confronted with a common challenge. The forum aims to deepen their understanding and expand their networks through discussions, which they can bring back to their communities and reflect them in their local activities.

[Youth Forum]

Youth Forum is a forum for people under 25 years old. The forum will be organized by young people and will provide a place for discussion for the younger generation who are susceptible to the impact of HIV/AIDS, as well as to expand their networks.

[Satellite Meetings]

Satellite Meetings will be organized and operated by international agencies, administrative agencies, NGOs, or business enterprises and are approved by the Congress organizers. The meetings will take place during lunchtime and in the evenings.

[Exhibitions]

HIV/AIDS related activities by international agencies, administrative agencies, NGOs and business enterprises will be exhibited and introduced. It will provide a great opportunity to view current measures taken in the Asia/Pacific region as well as the world.