

THE ICAAP10 HERALD

26-30 August 2011, BEXCO, Busan, Republic of Korea

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www.icaap10.org



ICAAP10
Busan, Korea 2011
Diverse Voices, United Action

"Diverse Voices, United Action"



ICAAP10 participants attend the third plenary session at BEXCO on Sunday.

LOC apologizes over protest clash

By Song Sang-ho

The ICAAP10 Local Organizing Committee (LOC) on Sunday made an official apology to participants affected by Saturday's clashes between AIDS activists and police, reiterating that "diverse voices" should be respected.

It also made clear that its primary concern is the security and safety of those partaking in the forum, stressing that "violent action against the affected people is unjustified and unreasonable."

On Saturday afternoon, activists and those living with HIV/AIDS scuffled with police after taking part in a peaceful protest against rising prices for drugs used to treat HIV/AIDS.

Several activists from overseas suffered injuries during the one-hour-long clash. Police took one Korean human rights lawyer to a nearby police station without taking proper legal procedures to question her, activists claimed.

"ASAP (AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific) and ICAAP10 LOC deeply apologize to the affected people. We are very sorry that we failed to anticipate that such a horrible incident could happen," LOC said in a statement. Chair Myung-Hwan Cho and ASAP President Zahid Hussein read the statement following the third plenary session.

"The ICAAP belongs to communities and it means nothing without their active participation. We will try to do our best to assure

that police violent action against the communities is not repeated," Cho said.

ASAP's Hussein said that peaceful actions of activists are a "historical tradition" of the conference.

"This tradition must be respected. Interference by law enforcement agencies is a gross violation of this tradition and goes against the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of speech, expression and association," he said.

The Joint Action of Korean Participants, which led the protest, contended that police violated the protestors' freedom of expression and human rights, calling for an immediate apology from the Busan police chief.

"During the confrontation, sev-

eral people were physically abused by police and security guards from the conference building. Also, several women and transgendered women were dragged by police, their clothes were ripped," the group said in a statement read by its member Lee Jong-geol.

Chang Suh-yeon, the lawyer who was taken to the police station and released hours later, expressed serious regret over the incident.

"To be candid, this conference is themed, 'Diverse Voices, United Action.' It was a serious situation as (police) cracked down on and threatened even peaceful voices with the use of force," she said.

An officer at Haeundae Police Station said the scuffle appears to

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Ministry of Health & Welfare



AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific



UNAIDS



AusAID



Global Fund



WHO



Asian Development Bank



World Bank



UNFPA



US President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)



International AIDS Society (IAS)



Korean Red Cross



Korea Tourism Organization



Busan Metropolitan City



Busan Convention & Visitors Bureau



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The official newspaper of the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific.

“Diverse Voices, United Action”

26-30 August 2011,
BEXCO,
Busan, Korea

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‘Break your silence and speak out’

By Song Sang-ho

Leaders at the forefront of global endeavors to combat HIV/AIDS called on those suffering from the epidemic to break their silence and speak out during the ICAAP10 in Busan.

They also stressed that an embrace social, legal environment is crucial to help them come out and gain access to medical services, support and care, urging the international community to unite to stamp out stigmas attached to the virus.

“I think HIV is still a disease of stigma, discrimination and prejudice. Even though we have managed to break the conspiracy of silence, we still have problems of what I call epidemics of laws,” UNAIDS Executive Director Michele Sidibe told *The ICAAP10 Herald*.

“Laws are really impacting access to services for people living with HIV. There are discriminatory laws which are criminalizing men having sex with men, injecting drug users, commercial sex workers. They hide themselves and don’t have access.”

UNAIDS is a U.N. partnership that leads efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. With the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific, it is co-hosting the ICAAP10.

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have resulted from a mutual misunderstanding, emphasizing that police would not intervene in any peaceful demonstration.

Executive Director of INERELA+ Positive Faith in Action Rev. JP Mokgethi-Heath, who witnessed the clashes, welcomed the LOC statement: “I think it was very positive, I think it was concise and addressed many people’s issues.”

Meanwhile, Sunday’s plenary session focused on the recent progress in basic and clinical HIV research. Renowned researchers expressed hope for enhanced HIV treatment.

Professor Emeritus Praphan Phanuphak, director of the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Center, stressed the importance of early HIV detection and treatment.

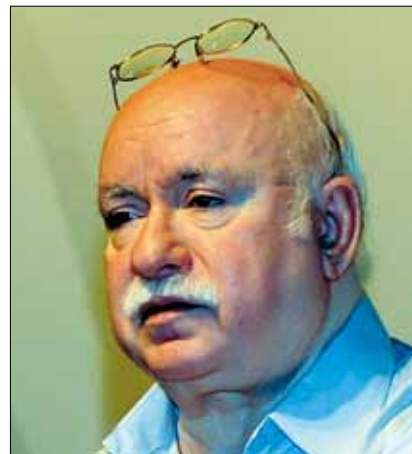
“Earlier treatment will benefit you, for example, to be healthier and live longer as well as benefit their sex partners. The HIV Pre-



Michele Sidibe

vention Trials Network-052 trial, which was released on June 2011, clearly shows that earlier treatment can prevent transmitting HIV to their uninfected partners by 96 percent,” he said.

“However, to benefit from earlier treatment you need to know that you are infected early. HIV counseling and testing has to scale up, and by some active approach such healthcare workers should try to talk to all patients who come for any medical services in the hospital



Zahid Hussein



Ursula Schaefer-Preuss

problems. I think HIV is, in a way, (linked to) social, economic problems. So we have to find a way out and as one can see in the Asia-Pacific region, it is possible.”

ADB, which co-sponsors ICAAP10, has been a major investor in this Asia-Pacific region with strong relationships with finance, planning and infrastructure sectors to influence HIV/AIDS strategic policy in the region.

She also appreciated the Seoul government’s efforts to host this event.

“I would like to thank the Korean government for hosting this important conference. I know it was not easy to do this all the many different challenges involved,” she said.

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Myung-Hwan Cho

or clinic or using mobile counseling and testing service.”

Lee Sang-kyung, bioengineering professor at Hanyang University, offered a positive outlook for HIV/AIDS treatment.

“Thirty years after the discovery of the HIV, the virus still remains incurable. However, significantly impressive achievements in basic HIV research appear promising enough to deliver long-term control and maybe even a cure for HIV,” he said.



Various posters on HIV/AIDS are displayed at the exhibition hall.

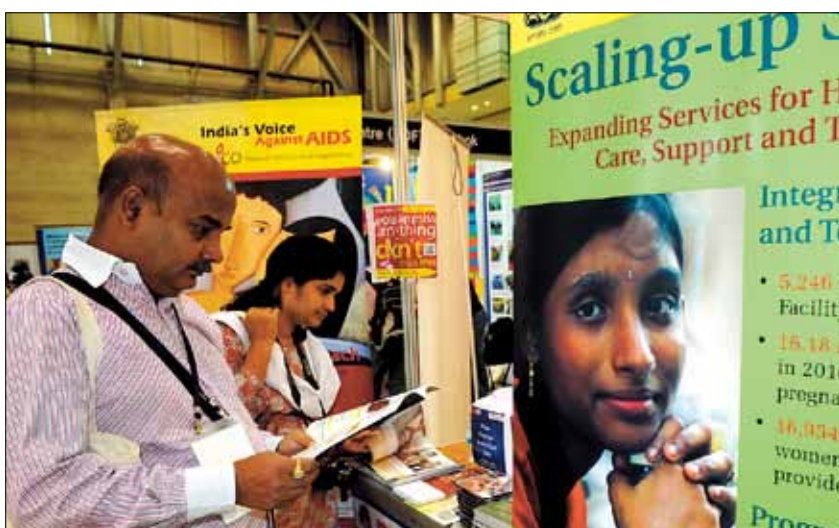


Activists hold posters demanding the WHO pay more attention to people with hepatitis C.

PHOTO GALLERY



A woman smiles after winning an iPod Touch in a lucky draw at the exhibition hall.



A participant reads a booklet at the exhibition hall.



Participants from Thailand promote the next ICAAP to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2013.



Busan's nightscape

Busan: A city alive at night

By John Power

Like other large Korean cities, Busan doesn't stop moving when the sun goes down — quite the opposite. With what are by many countries' standards liberal licensing laws, many restaurants, clubs, bars and karaoke rooms stay open through the night into the early hours.

Haeundae is perhaps the most famous nightspot in the city, attracting a varied mix of foreigners and Korea's young and well-heeled. Although pricier than other parts of the city, night revelers can tank up without breaking the bank at one of the strip's "hof," Korean-style pubs that serve obligatory plates of food. For something more familiar to Western tastes, there's Fuzzy Navel, an expat hangout a short walk from the beach that serves up tasty Mexican fare and a long list of cocktails.

Clubbers can check out the upscale Club Elune, near the Paradise Hotel, which often attracts international DJs, and nearby Club Maktum.

For a younger, student-heavy crowd, the area around Kyungsoong University, reached by Subway Line 2, is chock-a-block with drinking holes. Vinyl Underground and Ghetto, both foreigner-friendly, are favorites.

Right in the heart of the city, there's Seomyeon, a neon-lit shopping and nightlife hotspot, also accessible by Subway Line 2. Highlights include O'Brien's Irish Bar and Restaurant, Club Foxy and Champion Night Club.

If drinking and dancing the night away is not your scene, there are always Busan's spectacular night views to keep you up after sundown. Bongsudae Peak on Mount Hwangnyeong, a 30-minute's walk from Subway Line 2's Mount Geumnyeong Station, offers a stunning view of the city — look out for the multi-colored light show of Gwangan Bridge to the east. For those who'd rather do without the hike, the 120-meter-tall Busan Tower offers similarly majestic views from Mount Yongdu Park in the heart of the city.

Workshop to focus on media and HIV

By Yang Sung-jin

After 30 years of covering the virus, journalists still view HIV as mainly a health story without any links to social or cultural issues. In response to this, a workshop entitled "The Media and HIV" is scheduled to be held at ICAAP10 on Monday in Room C109. The aim is to challenge journalists to extend the framing of HIV from primarily a health story to one linked to macro socio-economic, cultural and political factors.

Prof. Trevor Cullen, head of journalism at Edith Cowan University, Australia, will chair the workshop. Other speakers include Roy Wadia, Executive Director of The Heroes Project in Mumbai, India, and Prof. Euichul Jung from the Media and Advertising Department at Sangji University in Korea.

The speakers will cover a range of topics from media coverage of HIV to examples of effective HIV Journalism and the reporting of HIV in Korea.

"I hope the workshop will move journalists beyond seeing HIV as merely a medical problem. Journalists need to realize that HIV operates like a magnifying glass that magnifies the exploitation of women, domestic violence, gender inequality, illiteracy, the lack of health facilities and the kind of rampant poverty that forces people to migrate,"



Prof. Trevor Cullen

Cullen said.

"These connections have important implications for political and financial reporters, editorial page writers, television producers and radio journalists," he said.

He said the media should play a bigger role in framing the HIV message and influencing public perception of the disease.

Cullen, who has been involved with AIDS since the mid-1980s, said he was delighted to share his research and expertise at such an important international health conference.

"HIV is still a major problem in many countries and the media is such an important player in the HIV message and narrative," he said.

Report stresses need to reflect affected women's voices

By Shobha Shukla

Women have specific sexual and reproductive health needs that are often not sufficiently addressed in HIV and AIDS programs, and they lack opportunities and support to express their voices properly.

A report issued by the Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (www.asiapacificalliance.org) and Citizen News Service (www.citizen-news.org) at ICAAP10 called

for zero tolerance for gender-based violence, discrimination and criminalization of key affected populations.

The report, released at Women Community Forum, details strategies addressing the needs and rights of affected women and girls at heightened risk of HIV/AIDS, which include women and girls living with HIV, female sex workers, transgender women and female partners of drug users.

National HIV programs should address gender inequality that

makes it harder for women to use STI/HIV prevention options for safe sex, the report said. More government and donor support is needed to increase the use of female condoms and other safe preventive methods, and to enhance the knowledge of women and girls so that they can use these solutions effectively.

Countries need to bring about legal reforms that de-criminalize drug use and sex work, and provide supportive healthcare services, which strengthen links between

HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health, and their relationships with public health, development and human rights.

The report also noted that all HIV and AIDS related health care service centers should provide counseling to deal with mental health issues and not just for issues related to sexually transmitted infections.

Shobha Shukla is Editor of Citizen News Service (CNS).