

COORDINATION MEETING REPORT
HCMC AIDS ASSOCIATION
HCMC March 15th 2007

Date: Thursday, 15 March 2007
Time: 08:00 – 11:30
Venue: Health Education and Communication Center
(Meeting Hall A – 1st Floor)
59B Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, District 1, HCMC

Chairperson: PhD. MD. Le Truong Giang, Vice Director of HCMC Provincial AIDS

Co-chairperson: Mrs. Nancy Fee (UNAIDS Viet Nam)

Participation: 60 representatives from 50 international and national organizations

Coordination meeting in HCMC is held quarterly by HCMC Provincial AIDS and UNAIDS. This is the forum for organizations and individuals working on HIV prevention with the purpose of sharing information and experience. This meeting's topic is "*HCMC AIDS Association*".

1. Report: "HCMC AIDS Association" M^{ph}, MD. Le Thuy Lan Thao, Vice Director of HCMC PAC

- Introduction to the rationale, legal framework, conditions and procedures for establishing AIDS Association according to Government decree 88.
- Establishment conditions: objectives conforming to the law, no overlapping in terms of name and activities area with the previously formed Associations in the same area; having Association regulations, head offices, enough members: ≥ 50 .
- Mobilizing Board: number ≥ 5 members (tasks, estimated participants,)
- Establishment Profile: Application form, list of mobilizing board members, draft association's regulation, activities orientation, head of board of mobilization's profile, documents clarified the Association head-quarter's assets.
- Name in Vietnamese: Hội phòng chống AIDS TP. Hồ Chí Minh. International name: Ho Chi Minh City AIDS Association.
- HCMC AIDS Association is a social, professional and voluntary organization for civilians and organizations those who are working on HIV/AIDS and residing in Ho Chi Minh City
- Goals of Ho Chi Minh City AIDS Prevention Association: to unite and consolidate individuals and organizations working on HIV/AIDS for a better

cooperation, mutual help and assistance to contribute to the city's fight against HIV/AIDS; as well as to protect and look after the legitimate rights of the Association's members

- Ho Chi Minh City AIDS Prevention Association has a wide range of activities and its own head office. The Association also has legal status, stamp, and bank account according to legal regulations.

2. Updates on National AIDS Prevention – Nancy Fee, Viet Nam UNAIDS Country Coordinator

- National M&E Framework: National M&E workshop in January 2007, publications on Action Plan number 4 in National M&E is going to be finalized and disseminated in the upcoming period. The new IBBS released.
- Decree guiding the implementation of Law on HIV/AIDS prevention: Law has become effective on 1st January 2007. The drafted decree is being finalized by MOH and Government. UN has concerned about the occupations requiring compulsory HIV testing before recruitment, and harm reduction in closed settings (for example, 05/06 centers).
- Round 7 of GFATM: announced on 1st March 2007, and deadline for proposals' submission is in early July.
- The 6th draft of Harm reduction Action plan 2007 – 2010: MOH held a seminar to disseminate the Draft of Harm reduction Action Plan. MOH called for contributions to the draft.

3. Updates on HIV law – Brianna Harrison, Rights-based Programme Officer - UNAIDS

- HIV law was raftified by the National Assembly in June 2006, became effective on 1st January 2007 and replace the ordinance dated 1995.
- HIV law content: included some social, technical and medical solutions to HIV prevention. HIV law is based on rights to give out prevention, care, treatment and support methods for PLWH; and conditions to carry out HIV prevention.
- Fight against discrimination.
- Government is drafting assisting documents: Prime Minister's decrees, guidelines, and decisions, and multi-ministerial circular, etc.
- Law implementation decrees: although not yet mentioned all related implementation issues mentioned in the HIV law, major issues were mentioned are as follows, implementing harm reduction activities, managing and distributing ARV, caring for PLWH; joining HIV prevention activities with socio-economic programs; and listing occupations which require HIV testing before recruitment.

- The process has the participation of many parties but the final result has not yet come. Participations of related parties include those from international community, local NGOs, and PLWH in Hanoi in December 2006. Many representatives suggested changing some terms in the decree. UN contributed details to MOH and worked closely with the Legislation Department on the sensitive issues.
- 2 most concerned matters in the decree: applying harm reduction intervention in close settings; and some occupations requiring HIV testing before recruitment.
- The current status of the decree: Government Office is still working on and discussing about the decree. Issues of UN's concern have been transferred to the Government, Party and National Assembly. MOH has acknowledged that the decree will be passed by Prime Minister by the end of March 2007.

4. Other issues:

- Draft of National action plan for Harm Reduction Intervention and HIV Prevention have been sent to representatives for ideas contribution.

5. Next meeting:

- Next meeting will be held in the second week of May 2007 (tentative)
- Next meeting's topic:

Care and treatment