

point PACIFIC

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

global perspectives on HIV/AIDS

point PACIFIC is a publication of the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team and aims to provide Asia-specific HIV/AIDS-related news summaries, in addition to client narratives.



WORLD UPDATES

August >> Taiwan has removed a HIV/AIDS prevention advertisement depicting a nun saying, "Although I don't need one, even I know." A spokesperson for the Catholic Church stated, "It's inappropriate to use religious figures in the advertisement, and that it's a bad image for the Catholic Church." (Agence France-Presse)

The Institute of Human Virology will collaborate with the Chinese Centre for Disease Control on clinical trials, technical assistance and development of tests and vaccines. One goal is to help China find the drug combination that works best for its population. (Associated Press)

September >> Two South Korean women contract AIDS from HIV tainted-blood transfusions, the South Korea Red Cross confirms. South Korea has had 16 contamination cases through blood transfusions since 1987. (Asia Pulse)

China implements herbal treatment program for HIV/AIDS patients. Doctors aim to increase immunity and ease symptoms to give patients a better quality of life. According to the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, eleven provinces and municipalities have been included. (Xinhua News Agency)

October>> In Singapore, the Health Ministry will implement a program allowing HIV/AIDS saliva self-test kits to be made available to the public by the end of this year. (Channel NewsAsia)

Though Iran's Ministry of Health recognizes only 11,221 AIDS patients, HIV/AIDS specialists estimates the number to be over 100,000. One issue is the "Prison- Addiction-AIDS" triangle where inmates share infected syringes then transmit HIV to family members or sex partners once they are released. Officials are expected to show more sensitivity to this hidden disaster. (BBC)

Compiled by Rose Liu

Client Commentary

By Pravit O.

If you are Asian and are coping with HIV/AIDS, you probably have had difficulties finding someone to talk to about certain issues that our cultures see as taboo.

My name is Pravit. Like so many others, I left my friends and family in my hometown in Thailand and became HIV-positive in America in 1999 during my adult life. I was devastated because I had no one to turn to for support. After a while, I believed that I could only depend on myself because I didn't know where to go for help. One year later, I met a social worker at a hospital and was referred to APAIT. When I applied for their services, their immediate response made me feel that I was not alone. They provided legal advice, housing assistance, and mental health support at a time when I needed it the most.

Today, I am so thankful for having signed up with their program because their services have made a difference in my life and in the lives of my friends and family. Participating in their program and talking to compassionate people about this disease has encouraged me to live independently and to have faith in myself. I believe that sharing our experience will help us fight this epidemic, especially by empowering individuals and even communities who might become "victims" simply because they believe that there is no help out there.

Would you like to share your experiences about Asia and HIV-related information in Asia? Contact Marie Auyong at mariea@apaitonline.org for submission guidelines.