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HIV Care Continuum & Beyond steering committee's new report calls on Asian territories to reprioritise HIV and end the epidemic

- New white paper, titled [HIV Care Continuum & Beyond: A New Era for Asia](#), draws on a broad multi-lingual literature review of six Asian territories, extensive consultation with key communities and interviews with experts over 12 months, revealing a worrying resurgence of cases and significant gaps in care.
- Expert HIVCCB steering committee proposes 14 key recommendations to help territories address four major challenge areas: (1) Stigma and discrimination; (2) HIV prevention; (3) HIV testing, diagnosis and treatment; and (4) Quality of life,
- At the 3 December forum to launch the white paper, the steering committee urged Asian territories to bring HIV back up on their public health agendas and leverage the important work being done by healthcare professionals, community organisations and policymakers across the region.

Hong Kong, 5 December 2022 – The HIV Care Continuum & Beyond (HIVCCB) initiative has released its long-awaited analysis of the current HIV landscape in six key Asian territories and called for modern, community-led solutions to help end the long-running epidemic.

The white paper, titled [HIV Care Continuum & Beyond: A New Era for Asia](#) and launched at a **virtual forum on 3 December 2022**, examines the efforts of China, Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, and South Korea to end HIV, improve care and enhance quality of life for people living with the disease.

Drawing on a broad multi-lingual literature review and consultation with HIV communities and experts across the six territories, the paper reveals how rising complacency and low prioritisation of HIV prevention has slowed, and in some cases, reversed Asia's progress against HIV.

Last year, there were 260,000 new HIV infections in Asia and the Pacific and UNAIDS data shows new HIV infections rising in places where they had been falling, such as in Philippines and Malaysia.¹ Meanwhile, of the 6 million people currently living with HIV in the region, almost a third are not accessing treatment.² Furthermore, new HIV infections among young people have significantly increased in 7 of the 20 studied territories in Asia and the Pacific.³ At the same time, almost 1.4 million people living with HIV in Asia are aged 50 years or older.⁴

Responding to this current challenge, the HIVCCB steering committee, made up of 12 leading experts on HIV in Asia including clinicians, researchers, and advocates, has delivered 14 recommendations aimed at tackling four crucial challenge areas: (1) Stigma and discrimination; (2) HIV prevention; (3) HIV testing, diagnosis and treatment; and (4) Quality of life.

Commenting on behalf of the HIVCCB steering committee, **co-chair Midnight Poonkasetwattana, Executive Director of the APCOM Foundation**, said the white paper represents months of work by the expert group to unravel complexities in the HIV care continuum, and it should encourage action from policymakers, healthcare professionals and community organisations alike.



*Midnight POONKASETWATTANA, HIV Care Continuum & Beyond Steering Committee Co-chair (Right)
&
Dr Annette SOHN, HIV Care Continuum & Beyond Steering Committee Member (Regional) (Left)*

On behalf of the HIVCCB co-chairs and the committee, Mr Poonkasetwattana said:

“I am very humbled to be part of a group of experts on HIV in Asia standing shoulder to shoulder on the HIVCCB to catalyse our efforts towards the 95-95-95 targets and ending the HIV epidemic in this region.”

“Crucially, the HIVCCB is also looking beyond the clinical focus of the standard HIV care continuum to address stigma & discrimination, HIV prevention, and quality of life for people living with HIV and key populations – all critical issues in Asia.”

“This initiative has the community at the heart of the response, which includes people living with HIV and key populations represented as part of the steering committee.”

“We need the political will and investment into the community, including community-led services as a strategy to combat the challenges of stigma and discrimination.”

Media and expert interview inquiries, email HIVCCB@sandpipercomms.com

About the HIV Care Continuum & Beyond initiative

Established and funded by ViiV Healthcare, the global specialist HIV company majority owned by GSK, with Pfizer and Shionogi as shareholders, the HIV Care Continuum & Beyond initiative was born with the goal of developing actionable insights into the challenges and solutions to the HIV epidemic in Asia. It is led by a steering committee of experts on HIV in Asia including leading HIV academics, healthcare professionals, community organisations and patient advocates in China, Hong Kong SAR, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

This initiative is in partnership with the APCOM Foundation, the Institute of HIV Research and Innovation (IHRI), TREAT Asia/amfAR, Lourdes Association, Taiwan Love and Hope Association, and Love4One. Research, content and logistical support is provided by Sandpiper Health.

The HIVCCB Steering Committee

Dr CAI Weiping

Chief Expert, Infectious Disease Center, Guangzhou Eighth People's Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University – China

Andrew CHIDGEY

Chief Executive, AIDS Concern – Hong Kong

Dr CHOI Jun Yong

Professor, Yonsei University College of Medicine – South Korea

Dr Nittaya PHANUPHAK

MD, PhD, Executive Director, Institute of HIV Research and Innovation (IHRI) – Regional

Midnight POONKASETWATTANA

Executive Director, APCOM - Regional

Dr Annette SOHN

Director, TREAT Asia/amfAR - the Foundation for AIDS Research - Regional

Dr Paul HSU

Secretary General, Taiwan Lourdes Association - Taiwan

Dr LIN Hsi-Hsun

Dormer chairman and current director, Taiwan AIDS Society - Taiwan

PARK

Representative, Love4One – South Korea

Dr WANG Zhifeng

Professor and Deputy Director of Health Policy and Management, Peking University - China

Dr WONG Chen Seong

Consultant Infectious Diseases Physician at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) – Singapore

Dr Ben YOUNG

Head, Global Medical Directors, ViiV Healthcare – United States

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