HIV IN ASIA: HISTORY, CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

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Why should you care about HIV in Asia?
Compared to Sub-Saharan Africa, HIV prevalence rate in Asia low (20% of PLWHA live here), but with over 50% of world population here ...(China, India, USA, Indonesia top 4 most populous nations on earth...)
• SOUTH AFRICA & INDIA each with 5 million PLWA.

• This # represents 20% for S. AFRICA, but only 1% for INDIA. ASIA -flashpoint for global HIV-AIDS epidemic in next decade.
• In INDIA, # of new infections double every 14 months, soon overtake S. Africa
• In CHINA, # of AIDS cases grow by 30% each year, more than 10+ million PLWHA in 2010.
• Although overall prevalence remains low, even relatively small increases in HIV infection rates in India with population of one billion people could translate into large numbers of people becoming infected.
• In many Asian countries HIV prevalence low in general population
• Significantly higher among those engaging in high-risk behaviors (IDU, MSM, CSW and clients, blood donors)
What drives the HIV epidemic in Asia?
Vulnerable communities dominate HIV in Asia
- IDU
- CSW (male and female), clients, families, kids
- MSM
INTRAVENOUS DRUGS

- Opium-producing Golden Triangle bordering Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam. Male IDUs infect Females
- Easier talk about IDU than about sex (CSW, MSM)
✓ IDUs share gear with others
✓ 90% Indonesian IDUs share, 50% IDUs in treatment HIV+
✓ 68% Nepalese IDUs in treatment HIV+, public toilets store shooting gears for use by IDU friends
✓ 45% wives of Manipur IDUs HIV+
✓ Needle exchange program
• **INDONESIA**, with serious IDU problem, vibrant sex industry, high STD rates, migrant labor, cultural resistance to using condoms (<10%), low HIV knowledge (84%, 14-17 yrs)

• Underreporting, passive reporting system, Islamic resistance to explicit HIV risk reduction messages
COMMERCIAL SEX

✓ CSW (F/M, ST/gay) survival & drugs, truckers, military
✓ Size adult male using CSW, 5% Hong Kong, 22% Thailand (lowered to 10%)
✓ # clients per night (1 client Philippines vs 4 clients Thailand)
✓ Condom use, 2% Bangladesh, 10% E. Timor, 33% Philippines, 90% Cambodia, 90% Thailand
✓ Availability of STD screening, treatment
✓ Conflation of CSW, MSM, IDU epidemics
✓ Increasingly HIV affects Asian females, 1990, Chinese males: 9:1 female
  2002, Chinese males: 4:1 female
  2007, Chinese males: 3:1 female
✓ Vietnam 300,000 CSW, where 1:80 females in HCMC is CSW
CAMBODIA

✓ Fastest growing HIV epidemic in Asia, with 49% CSW HIV+, 6% blood donors

✓ Success 100% condom use program: 40% CSW HIV+ 1998 dropped to 23% 2000, condom sale 100,000 1994 rose to 11.5 million 1998, 29% military unsafe sex CSW in 1997 dropped to 3% in 2001
THAILAND

- After India, China, Thailand ranks third country with largest PLWHA
- Famous 100% condom use program (military HIV infections of 143,000 in 1991 dropped to 20,000 in 2000)
- Poor women, sex tourism, bar owners
- Youth, females 15-24
MSM

- Hidden from view, difficult to reach for education, testing, treatment
- High rates unsafe sex in urban areas
- Sexual mixing of MSM, CSW, IDU
2005 study of MSM prevention in 11 Asian countries concluded that reached only 8% MSM

- Condom use low (12%)
- Believed low risk
- Social pressure to marry/sex with women
- Stigmatized, persecution, neglect
MALAYSIAN MSM
(n=517)

✓ Islamic, homosexuality criminalized
✓ 3.9% MSM HIV+ VS 0.5% general pop
✓ 59% never HIV tested before
✓ High knowledge but 50% UAI
✓ Malay Islamic MSM more UAI
MALAYSIA PRISONERS

✓ 4% Malaysians admit drug use
✓ Mandatory imprisonment, HIV tested, 6.25% HIV+, 15 times greater than general population (0.4%)
✓ There are jails, some prisons with 10% HIV+ prisoners, oversampling?
"From its birth, the campaign against AIDS was much more than a battle against disease. It was a cry for human rights. It was a call for gender equality. It was a fight to end discrimination based on sexual orientation. And it was a demand for the equal treatment of all people."
Thank you

謝謝