

Responding to HIV/AIDS among the Mobile Populations in Asia Pacific

In conjunction with presentation on
Research on HIV/AIDS and International Migration
under the Health and Labour Sciences Research Grant
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan

SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM

AT THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON AIDS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
KOBE, JAPAN 1-5 JULY 2005

Organised by the Japanese Foundation for AIDS Prevention
In partnership with CARAM Asia, RIT and SHARE



Organised by:

Japanese Foundation for AIDS Prevention

4F Terayama Pacific Building
1-23-11, Toranomom
Minato-ku, Tokyo-to
105-0001, JAPAN

URL: <http://www.jfap.or.jp/>



In Partnership With:

Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility

8th Floor, Wisma M L S 31,
Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman
50100 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA

URL: www.caramasia.org



Research Institute of Tuberculosis

3-1-24, Matsuyama
Kiyose-shi, Tokyo-to
204-8533, JAPAN

URL: <http://www.jata.or.jp/>



SHARE

5F, Maruko Building
1-20-6, Higashi-Ueno
Taito-ku, Tokyo-to
110-0015 JAPAN

URL: <http://share.or.jp/index2.html>

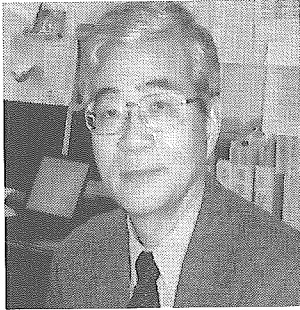


Responding to HIV/AIDS Among the Mobile Populations in Asia-Pacific

In conjunction with presentation on

Research on HIV/AIDS and International Migration

	Page
Welcome from the Chair <i>Dr N Ishikawa</i>	1
Overview of HIV/AIDS among the Mobile Populations in Southeast Asia <i>Ms J Pollock</i>	2
Research on HIV/AIDS and International Migration <i>Dr H Yanai and Ms L Imadzu</i>	3
Emerging Issues in HIV/AIDS Interventions Among Migrant Workers: A Sending Country's Perspective <i>Ms M Marin</i>	4
Emerging Issues in HIV/AIDS Interventions Among Migrant Workers: A Receiving Country's Perspective <i>Dr T Sawada</i>	5
Role of International Organizations in Addressing HIV Vulnerability among the Mobile Populations <i>Mr G. Pramod Kumar</i> ...	6



Name: **Nobukatsu ISHIKAWA MD, MSc. PhD**

Vice Director, the Research Institute of Tuberculosis

Health among immigrant population has been one of my specialities beside TB and public health since I did my MSc on TB among immigrants in London. From 1978 to 1986, I worked in Bangladesh through an NGO for PHC and TB control and demonstrated a model for community based DOTS. I am currently working through JICA for an operational research for community based DOTS and ORT in Zambia.

Words of Welcome

It is my great pleasure and honour to chair this symposium “Responding to HIV/AIDS among the mobile populations in Asia-Pacific”, which is sponsored by the Japanese Foundation for AIDS Prevention, and organised in partnership with CARAM-Asia, SHARE and the Research Institute of Tuberculosis.

In Asia-Pacific today, mobile populations constitute one of the most vulnerable groups with regards to HIV and AIDS. A systematic and a sustainable policy response is urgently needed, and I believe that building a network of professionals and communities across the Asia-Pacific region is definitely a step forward in the right direction.

Tonight, I hope, we will be making that step, as the symposium brings together experiences, expertise and knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among the mobile populations in our region. The speakers will include those representing NGOs, international organizations and government bodies of both receiving and sending countries, and they will give overview of the current situation, discuss the roles of sending and receiving countries as well as international organisations, and how they might cooperate and coordinate their policies. During the panel discussion, newly emerging issues such as those displaced by natural disasters (the recent tsunami) will also be taken up. I very much encourage all of you to take this opportunity to participate in building this network.

I wish you all an enjoyable and an enriching experience.

Name: Jackie POLLOCK

Director, MAP Foundation

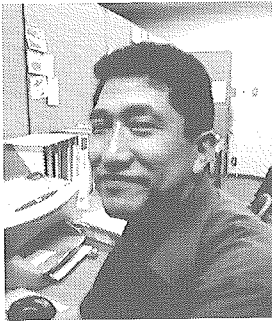
As well as being the director of MAP Foundation, I have also been a member of the Management Committee and a Steering Committee of the CARAM Asia, and a founding member of Empower, an organisation for female sex-workers based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. My areas of expertise include migration and trafficking, women's issues (including sex workers), and HIV/AIDS.

Overview of HIV/AIDS among the Mobile Populations in Southeast Asia

This presentation draws on the experience of NGOs and workers associations networking under the umbrella of CARAM Asia. CARAM was initially formed to address the issue of HIV/AIDS and mobility, but exploring the vulnerability of migrants in relation to HIV illuminated issues of power, control and abuse of more immediate concern to migrants well-being and which if not addressed would render any HIV program impotent.

This presentation highlights just a few of the most pertinent issues which impact on the ability of organizations to implement effective HIV/AIDS programs with migrants in Asia. Firstly it looks at the working conditions, an issue of immediate concern to migrant workers and one of the major barriers for successful responses to HIV/AIDS. These conditions include forced labour and the ever present 3D jobs, whose existence is only possible because of the lack of enforcement of occupational health and safety standards. Violence, fear, emergencies and trauma are also of direct concern to migrants and if there is no acknowledgement and no response on these issues, no trust and solidarity can be built to tackle longer-term health issues such as HIV/AIDS.

Finally, some examples of integrated responses are given which aim to show that it is possible to use an HIV/AIDS program to improve working conditions, and a labour rights program to reduce HIV infections and ideally the two programs could be integrated to improve the quality of life of all migrants, including HIV positive migrants.



Name: Yanai HIDEKI MD, Dr.PH

Project Manager, Research Institute of Tuberculosis

After studying medicine at Nagasaki University, Japan, I was trained as a medical epidemiologist. I have lived in Chiang Rai, Thailand since 1997 with my wife and children and have been involved in a field research on TB/HIV.



Name: Lisa IMADZU MSc, Doctoral Candidate LSHTM

Research Fellow, Research Institute of Tuberculosis

I am a medical sociologist. I took my degree at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, U.K. and I have been working with the Research Institute of Tuberculosis since 2002 on HIV/AIDS and migration.

Research on HIV/AIDS and International Migration

The Research Institute of Tuberculosis has been working on TB among migrants for more than 30 years. In the face of rising dual infections of TB and HIV, in 2000, the Institute began its "Research on HIV/AIDS and International Migration". We live in a world where infectious diseases, including TB and HIV/AIDS, see no border, and this reality requires us to work at the transnational level.

The ultimate objective of our research is to reduce HIV/AIDS vulnerability among those people who move to and from our country, and we aim to do so through various epidemiological and social researches. We have so far conducted collaborative researches with our counterparts in Thailand and Cambodia, as well as within our own country, focusing specifically on migrants. We have also been conducting policy studies. So far we have looked at the regional policy on HIV/AIDS among the migrant populations of Western Europe, and we believe that much could be learnt from its experience.

This year, one of our primary goals is to bring together these researches, and build a transnational network through which we can disseminate and share the knowledge, and produce concrete policy recommendations to the governments not only of Japan, but also of various responsible nations. We strongly believe that this network building is crucial if we are to succeed in controlling HIV/AIDS among the mobile populations. I hope this satellite symposium will provide the opportunity to create a partnership in research, action and advocacy.



Name: Malu MARIN

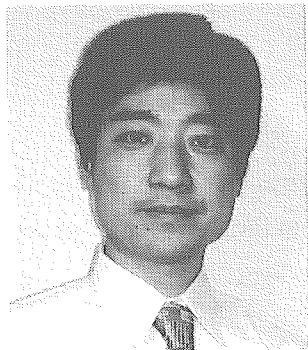
Executive Director, Action for Health Initiatives (ACHIEVE), Inc.

I am a steering committee member of the Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility in Asia (CARAM-Asia), as well as a core group member of Asia-Pacific Rainbow, a regional network of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender in Asia-Pacific. I also work as a trainer, researcher and writer on gender, sexuality, reproductive health and migration issues.

Emerging Issues in HIV/AIDS Interventions Among Migrant Workers: A Sending Country's Perspective

This presentation aims to move beyond existing discussions on mobility and HIV/AIDS which, in recent years, have focused on looking at factors of HIV vulnerability among migrant workers and proposing corresponding interventions. Instead, it intends to reflect on and assess already existing interventions among mobile populations, particularly for migrant workers.

Specifically, the presentation will explore emerging challenges and issues arising from the development and implementation of such interventions in labour-sending countries and identify strategies to address such challenges.



Name: **Takashi SAWADA MD, MPH**

Vice Chair, Services for Health in Asian & African Regions

I have been working in a migrant friendly clinic, organised by a medical cooperative in Yokohama City Japan, since 1991. SHARE is an NGO, promoting prevention and care/support in rural area of Cambodia and Thailand. In Japan, SHARE provides outreach health programs for various migrant communities. Among them we have telephone counselling for HIV positive Thai migrants.

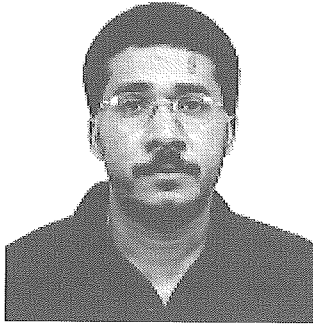
Emerging Issues in HIV/AIDS Interventions Among Migrant Workers: A Receiving Country's Perspective

- Supporting HIV positive migrant in a receiving country: A case study from Japan -

Of the total accumulated number of AIDS cases in Japan by April 3, 2005, those detected among the migrants count for 24.0%, while the migrant population only makes up 1.7% of the Japan's general population. However, health care for HIV positive migrants is not well established and most of the HIV positive migrants are unable to access health care until they develop full blown AIDS so that when they do, they are immediately hospitalised with critical health conditions. Limited language skill, expensive medical fee, unstable social status and lack of information are some of the major the barriers for early access to health care.

Royal Thai embassy and SHARE have been collaborating to provide information on AIDS for Thai migrants in Japan, through joint outreach programs and telephone counselling, since 2004. The national ARV treatment program in Thailand enabled us to secure ARV treatment for all HIV positive migrants after going back to Thailand. However, last year, 7 of 21 newly diagnosed Thai AIDS patients died in Eastern Japan. Unstable working conditions and lack of interpreters who can respect privacy are deterring migrants to seek and continue treatment in Japan. Furthermore, most of the undocumented migrants are not given proper diagnosis or treatment until they were confined with serious opportunistic infections, because they could not afford to pay expensive medical fee even in out patient ward.

As a receiving country, MoHLW of Japan has been supporting JFAP to train medical interpreters and social workers. However, considering the diverse factors that prevent migrants from accessing health care, it is necessary to promote human rights-oriented approach, including development of a system to secure emergency treatment for all migrants.



Name: **G. Pramod Kumar**

Senior Programme Specialist, UNDP Regional HIV and
Development Programme for Asia

I have been working on HIV/AIDS for more than a decade, first as a full time journalist and then with the UNAIDS and UNDP. Besides strategic programme support, I have been working on advocacy and communication on HIV/AIDS issues in the Asia Pacific.

Role of International Organizations in Addressing HIV Vulnerability among the Mobile Populations

As the seemingly irreversible globalization leads to more and more borderless marketplaces and workplaces across the world, an issue that continues to be a blindspot is the HIV vulnerability of millions of people who are constantly on the move in search of sustenance and better lives. Despite increasing evidence that migrant populations are one of the most marginalized communities and among the most vulnerable to HIV, policies and programmes tend to overlook their vulnerability leading to a steady spread of the epidemic. The key to addressing this vulnerability is the acknowledgement of the “unsafe” nature of their mobility and mounting appropriate responses in a rights and gender sensitive manner. International organizations, owing to their multi-country presence and trans-border and regional experiences, can take a lead in advocating for such responses, bringing together different stakeholders including governments, CBOs, bi and multilaterals and devising regional platforms and plans of action. The regional initiatives are best placed to address the multitude - from generation of data to resource mobilization.

UNDP, along with UNAIDS, has been a key interlocutor in advocating for safe mobility initiatives to address the HIV vulnerability of migrants in South Asia and South East Asia. The Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM), UNDP and UNAIDS have mobilized in partnership with the national governments, CSOs, bi and multilateral agencies, the business sector, PLWHA groups etc is an example of the possibilities in trans-border collaboration to address migration and HIV. The RCM, which was preceded by a series of policy consultations, has senior level participation from all the countries in South Asia and has emerged as an influential block in devising plans, policies and programmes. The RCM, in consultation with various stakeholders – mainly national governments – and the CCMs (Country Coordinating Mechanism) has submitted a US \$ 59 million proposal to the GFATM to address migration and HIV in South Asia.

Acknowledgement

Speakers:

Dr Nobukatsu Ishikawa
Ms Jackie Pollock
Dr Hideki Yanai
Ms Lisa Imadzu
Ms Malu Marin
Dr Takashi Sawada
Mr G. Pramod Kumar

Secretariat:

Mr Chiaki Ito

Design and Printing:

CARAM Asia
Kyoshin Ltd.

Responding to HIV/AIDS Among the Mobile Populations in Asia-Pacific

In conjunction with presentation on

Research on HIV/AIDS and International Migration

© June 2005

Published by Kyoshin Ltd.

For further information, please contact:

Ms Lisa Imadzu or Mr Chiaki Ito

3-1-24 Matsuyama, Kiyose, Tokyo 204-8533, JAPAN

Tel: +81 424 93 5711

Fax: +81 424 92 8258



Key Speakers:

Ms Jackie Pollock (CARAM Asia)

“Overview of the HIV/AIDS among the mobile populations in Southeast Asia”

Dr Hideki Yanai and Ms Lisa Imadzu (RIT)

“Research on HIV/AIDS and International Migration”

Ms Malu Marin (ACHIEVE)

“Emerging issues in HIV/AIDS interventions among migrant workers – a sending country perspective”

Dr Takashi Sawada (SHARE)

“Emerging issues in HIV/AIDS interventions among migrant workers – a receiving country’s perspective”

Mr G. Pramod Kumar (UNDP)

“Role of international organizations in addressing HIV vulnerability among mobile populations”