

INVITATION

APCOM in collaboration with Naz Foundation International and UNAIDS Presents

- Symposium:** The missing piece: MSM and national responses to AIDS in Asia and the Pacific [Session Code: TuSYD04]
- When/Where:** Tuesday 21 August 2007 at Room D02 between 1100 Hrs and 1230 Hrs
- Chair:** JVR Prasada Rao, Director, UNAIDS RST
- Co-Chair:** Shivananda Khan: CEO, Naz Foundation International
- Local Co-Chair:** Sherman De Rose. Companions on a Journey, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Synopsis: Despite growing evidence which establishes male-to-male sex as one of the driving forces of HIV transmission in Asia and the Pacific, only few HIV interventions strategically focus on prevention, treatment, care and support for males who have sex with males (MSM) and transgenders. In recognition of the need to build, strengthen and increase interventions addressing HIV-related vulnerabilities of MSM and TG in Asia and the Pacific, an AP regional International Consultation was held in New Delhi, India between 23rd and 26th September 2006 (see www.risksandresponsibilities.org).

This International Consultation brought together government officials, policy-makers, donors, researchers, grassroots and community based organisations across Asia and the Pacific. The Consultation provided an opportunity to inform and develop strategic advocacy initiatives and deliberate on key policies related to these issues

The Consultation clearly identified that addressing the sexual health needs of MSM and transgenders in the Asia Pacific region was a key missing link in the national and regional responses to HIV and AIDS, and part of this was driven by the lack of knowledge, understanding and information.

The Symposia will seek to answer the question "How can we address the knowledge, funding and service gap affecting MSM and transgender which hosts a disproportionate burden of the HIV epidemic"

Overall Objective:

To highlight the urgent need to address the gross under-investment, lack of knowledge and service provision for MSM and transgenders in Asia Pacific region, and the means to achieve this.

Speakers

1. **The evidence: Male-to-male sex in Asia and the Pacific – an overview**
Carol Jenkins
2. **The epidemic: The growing epidemic among MSM in Asia and the Pacific**
Frits van Griensven, CDC
3. **The investment and coverage: HIV expenditure on MSM programming in Asia and the Pacific**
Brad Otto, Constella Futures
4. **Bridging the gap**
Swarup Sarkar, UNAIDS RST