



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

WHO Workshop to Promote China-Hong Kong-Macau Collaboration  
in Drug Abuse Prevention and Control

The World Health Organization (WHO) in cooperation with the Hong Kong Government and The Chinese University of Hong Kong is sponsoring a Tripartite Workshop here from December 2 to 6, 1991 to promote policy and technical collaboration between China, Hong Kong and Macau to reduce the demand of illicit drugs. Some 40 senior government officials from these areas and representatives of United Nations Agencies and Non-Government Organizations will attend the week-long Workshop to formulate common strategies and programme planning in treatment, rehabilitation, prevention, education, research and manpower training.

Over the last five to seven years, there has been a significant increase in opium and heroin production in the 'Golden Triangle' area bordering the Province of Yunnan, China. This increase is associated with a shift of heroin trafficking from the traditional route through SE Asia to a new route across southern China to Hong Kong and thence to Western countries. A rise in drug trafficking in this border area has also led to a major increase in related social and health problems including the risk of HIV infection.

Under the sponsorship of WHO, a national training course on drug abuse prevention and control was held in Kunming (Yunnan) in March 1991, and a visit was made to the Ruili border region by three consultants including Dr Robert Fisher of USA and Dr James Chien of Hong Kong. One of their recommendations was for China, Hong Kong and Macau to develop a closer working relationship on drug-abuse and AIDS prevention. All parties concerned agreed readily and extra funding was promptly made available by WHO.

A local Organizing Committee was convened by Prof C N Chen, Head of Shaw College and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. This Committee has been working closely with Dr Naotaka Shinfuku, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Adviser to the WHO plan for the Workshop. Mr Allistair Aspray, Secretary for Security, will officiate at the opening of the Workshop on Monday morning, December 2, 1991 at the Shatin Town Hall.

During the week, the official delegates and registered observers will also visit different treatment and rehabilitation programmes including that of methadone clinics of the Department of Health, Drug Addiction Treatment Centre of the Correction Services and voluntary rehabilitation centres of the Society for the Aid and Rehab of Drug Abusers. The Workshop will conclude on Friday afternoon, December 6 and adopt a set of recommendations for WHO and the three Governments concerned. Prof Gerald Choa, Chairman of the Action Committee Against Narcotics, will preside over the closing ceremony of this historic Workshop to launch a continuous collaborative effort in demand reduction.

November 27, 1991

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Dear Editor,

A press conference for the above Workshop will be held on November 29, 1991 (Friday) at 3:30 pm at the Seminar Room I, 2/F of the Prince of Wales Hospital. You are cordially invited to send a reporter/cameraman to cover the press conference. Should you need further information, please contact Mr Albert Au Yeung at 6097267.

Clara Lee (Mrs)  
Information Officer