

**SuSYM**

**Getting to Zero: Prevention of HIV among men and women who inject drugs in Asia is achievable by 2015**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Health Organisation, Asian Network of People who Use Drugs, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNODC, WHO, ANPUD, GFATM, and UNAIDS)

Between 3-4 million men and women inject drugs in Asia. Prevalence of HIV among people who inject drugs is as high as 52% in some countries and even higher prevalence has been reported at sub-national levels.

While the effectiveness of needle and syringe programme (NSP) and opioid substitution treatment (OST) in HIV prevention is well documented the coverage of these life saving interventions remains low. By middle of 2011, approximately 14% of people who inject drugs were reached with needle and syringe programmes and some 5 % were reached with OST. Over 300,000 people are detained in some 1,000 compulsory centres with limited or no access to interventions recommended by WHO, UNODC and UNAIDS.

In 2010, WHO, UNAIDS, UNODC, ANPUD and the GFATM developed a Regional Harm Reduction Strategy for Asia and the Pacific 2010-2015. The UNAIDS 2011-2015 Strategy "Getting to Zero" calls for prevention of all new infections among people who use drugs in 20+ focus countries, including several countries in Asia.

This Symposium aims to review and discuss priority actions for intensification of scale-up of recommended interventions to optimal levels in the priority countries and way forward for operationalization of the global and regional strategies in Asia.

Chair :Christian Kroll, UNODC and Jimmy Dorabjee, the Asian Network of People who Use Drugs (ANPUD)

The proposed symposium session relates to the conference track Meeting the challenge of Universal Access - Treatment, Care, Support, Prevention and Social Protection.

**Speakers:**

1. How many people who inject drugs need to be reached to achieve universal access (and zero new infections) in the priority countries in Asia?

Speaker: Dr Anne Bergenstrom, UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, Thailand

2. Harmonisation of law, policy and practice in support of harm reduction in Thailand

Speaker: Mr Jon Ungphakorn, Former Senator for Bangkok: Commissioner, Global Commission on HIV

and the Law

3. Expansion of the national methadone maintenance programme and needle and syringe programmes in China – way forward to achieve optimal levels of coverage

Speaker: Dr Shusen Liu, National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China

4. Addressing problematic use of opiates and amphetamine type stimulants in Asia - Shifting away from compulsory centres to community based treatment – leading the way in Malaysia

Speaker: Dr Sha'ari bin Ngadiman, Ministry of Health, Malaysia

5. Reflections on two decades of harm reduction in India -what next?

Speaker: Mr Luke Samson, Director of Sharan; President of the Indian Harm Reduction Network