



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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AGENDA

Submitted by: Viet Nam

**APEC SEMINAR ON SOCIAL POLICIES FOR MIGRANTS TO
PREVENT THE TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS**

**Ha Noi, Viet Nam
18 – 19 September 2008**



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

AGENDA

APEC SEMINAR ON SOCIAL POLICIES FOR MIGRANTS TO PREVENT THE TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS (HA NOI, 18-19/9/2008)

*Organized by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam
Ministry of Health of Viet Nam*

Day I: 18/09/2008

8.30 - 9.00	Registration	
	Opening Session	
9.00 – 9.10	Welcoming remarks	H.E. Doan Xuan Hung, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
9.10 – 9.20	Keynote speech	Ambassador Juan Carlos Capunay, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat
9.20 – 9.25	5 minutes break	
9.25 – 12.30	Session I: Best practices in APEC member economies' domestic experiences in addressing population movement and its relation with HIV/AIDS	Chaired by Dr. Nguyen Thanh Long, Director-General, Viet Nam Administration of HIV/AIDS Control, Ministry of Health of Viet Nam
9.25 – 9.50	The Philippines' approach to protecting migrant workers living with HIV	Ms. Grace Relucio Princesa, Executive Director of the Office of the United Nations and other International Organizations, The Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs

9.50 – 10.15	HIV/AIDS Prevention Policy among Migrant Workers and Foreign Spouses - Chinese Taipei's experiences	Ms. Yen-Fang Huang, Center for Disease Control, Department of Health, Chinese Taipei
10.15 – 10.40	Social policies on Labour Management in relations with HIV/AIDS- Viet Nam's perspectives	Mr. Hoang Van Quynh, Director, Division of Information and Communication, Department of Social Evils Prevention, Ministry of Labour, War Invalid and Social Affairs of Viet Nam
10.40 – 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 – 11.25	Migrant Workers and HIV/AIDS in China	Dr. Wang Xiao Chun, China's Center for Disease Control
11.25 – 11.50	Viet Nam's policy on HIV/AIDS protection in mobility groups	Mr. Chu Quoc An, Vice Director-General, Viet Nam Administration of HIV/AIDS Control, Ministry of Health of Viet Nam
11.50 – 12.15	HIV control among labor migrants in Russia	Mr. Alexey Bobrik, Deputy Director of the Open Health Institute (OHI), Russia
12.15 – 12.45	Discussion (<i>sharing information and discussing any recommendations on potential national strategy that can be adopted</i>)	
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 – 17.15	Session II: Social policies relating to migrant workers and HIV/AIDS in the Workplace	Chaired by Mr. David Patterson- Canada's HIV/AIDS consultant
14.00 – 14.30	Role and responsibility of business coalitions on mobile workers and HIV/AIDS prevention	Mr. Anthony Pramualratana, Director, Thailand Business

	at workplace	Coalition on AIDS (TBCA)
14.30 – 15.00	The Vietnamese business social responsibility and settlement against HIV/AIDS	Mr. Phung Quang Huy- Director, Office of Employers, Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI)
15.00 – 15.15	Coffee Break	
15.15 – 15.35	Current social policies for migrants living with HIV/AIDS in Vietnam: problem and recommendations from insiders' perspectives	Ms. Trieu Thu Lien- Vietnam's group "For the Bright Tomorrow"
15.35 – 16.05	Gender issue in HIV/AIDS - How to enable an environment with critical services for women in relations to HIV/AIDS	Akiko Takai, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Viet Nam
16.05 – 17.00	Discussion (<i>recommendations on national, regional level policies to address HIV/AIDS and migrant workers in the Workplace</i>)	
18.30 – 21.00	Welcoming Dinner	West Lake Potomac Cruise Restaurant, 36 Thanh Nien Road, Tay Ho dist., Ha Noi

Day II: 19/09/2008

9.00 – 12.30	Session III: International and regional cooperation on mobile workers and HIV/AIDS	Co-chaired by Ms. Nguyen Minh Hang, Assistant Director-General, Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Viet Nam MOFA and Mr. Andrew Bruce, Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration Vietnam (IOM)
9.00 – 9.25	HIV/AIDS prevention in Viet Nam and in the	Mr. Eamonn Murphy,

	region- Experience from the UNAIDS	Director, Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Viet Nam
9.25 – 9.50	APEC HIV/AIDS Workplace Guidelines: Guidance on Migrant and Mobile Workers	Mr. David Patterson-Canada’s HIV/AIDS consultant
9.50 – 10.15	IOM’s experience on international and regional cooperation on mobile workers and HIV/AIDS	Mr. Andrew Bruce, Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration Viet Nam (IOM)
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 – 10.55	Mekong Sub-regional cooperation in reducing HIV vulnerability related to population movements	Ms. Nguyen Hoang Diep, Former Country Programme Manager, Canada South East Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Programme (CSEARHAP) in Viet Nam
10.55 – 11.20	Internally displaced people and conflict-affected populations who are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS- Recommendations for APEC Cooperation	Ms. Ann Burton, Senior Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinator, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
11.20 – 11.50	Discussion (<i>recommendations on APEC’s cooperation on HIV/AIDS and mobile workers</i>)	
11.50 – 12.15	Wrap – up	By Ms. Nguyen Minh Hang, Assistant Director-General, Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam
12.15 – 12.30	Closing remarks	By H.E. Trinh Quan Huan, Deputy Minister of Health, Viet Nam

**APEC Seminar:
Social Policies for Migrants to Prevent the Transmission of HIV/AIDS
18 – 19 September 2008, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

**Opening Remarks by Ambassador Juan C Capuñay
Executive Director, APEC Secretariat, Singapore**

I would like to thank Vu Quang Minh - Director General, of the Multilateral Economic Cooperation Dept, Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his kind invitation and the opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts on the issue of social policies for migrants to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Often, as we consider the challenges of current times, we think of escalating food prices; the consequences of climate change; or the scarcity of energy, water and other natural resources. In recent years, attention has been given to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and war. HIV has been relegated to a somewhat lower-tier of awareness.

Given this scenario it may be that we have become accustomed to its existence. Perhaps we have become desensitised or possibly it is the reflection of a lack of concerted effort by governments to prevent it and mitigate its effects. According to UNAIDS, no part of the world is yet able to declare victory over the virus. While the rate of infection has fallen in some economies; over all progress has been negated by the growing infection rates in others. Sometimes statistics are manipulated to suggest that the situation has improved or deteriorated dramatically. But the truth is that, last year, the number of individuals receiving treatment was equal to the number of individuals who were newly affected.¹

HIV is sometimes dismissed as a social pathology. And in many instances, patterns of transmission are associated with personal choices and thus many governments have relinquished responsibility.

However, the effects of HIV are an economic phenomenon. HIV decreases the size and quality of a workforce. It decreases the amount and efficacy of production. It exhausts health and welfare resources and impedes socio-economic prosperity.

As we consider the idea of HIV migration, it will be important to determine our intent. Do we intend to stop the geographical movement of those infected with HIV? Or do we intend to stop the spread of HIV from infected to previously uninfected bodies? The answers to these questions will define our approach.

¹ UNAIDS, 2007

As it stands today, striking disparities exist among our own economies. In formulating policy that can effectively decelerate the migration of HIV, one must first consider the factors affecting its prevalence.

Apart from having the greatest income levels, the economies with the lowest rates of infection are those who have the highest rates of literacy and those in which minorities are treated most equitably.

Conversely, HIV prevalence has been inextricably linked to poverty; inaccessibility of information; social discrimination and stigma.

Some might ask how APEC – a decidedly economic body – can mitigate the spread of a virus. But considering the correlation of HIV to the economic competitiveness of our economies, APEC could play a very significant role.

By making it easier for small and medium sized enterprises to operate legally, function effectively and extend beyond border limits, APEC expands the range of opportunities for individuals to generate personal wealth. This is particularly true for micro-enterprises, for whom the ease of doing business can determine their ability to insert themselves into a global marketplace.

By strengthening the region as a whole, APEC enables each member economy to realise the full benefits of globalisation and, in turn, to provide citizens with greater financial security and stronger social welfare systems.

Less directly, many of the developments derived from APEC initiatives have a mitigating effect on the spread of HIV. For example, technological networks are key in disseminating life-saving information across the region.

Access rates still vary widely: whereas in the most developed APEC economies, cellular phone subscriptions have reached well over 83 percent and internet use over 44 percent, developing economies have only a 22 percent rate of cellular subscription and as little as 8 percent internet use. In Bangkok this past April, Ministers acknowledged universal broadband as imperative and declared their ambition to achieve this target by 2015.

Later, in June, Education Ministers became aware that education must evolve more rapidly and address the changing needs of citizens in a global and complex social network. In the past, emphasis has been on subjects considered “basic” such as science and mathematics. But now, it is recognised that students require a different set of tools.

As people become more mobile and as technology allows for an exponentially greater number of interactions, they need to be equipped with abstract reasoning skills, the ability to converse logically in different languages and across cultures. They need to be critical, aware, and able to make wise choices that lead to long-term prosperity.

If, then, it is true that HIV is a largely social disease, these skills will be critical to alleviation.

In the APEC region – which is among the strongest economic associations in the world - the spread of HIV is also linked to discrimination.

Statistics show that an economy's infection rate is inversely related to the amount of discrimination exercised against minorities. That is to say, economies who protect those most likely to suffer discrimination are the ones which incur the lowest rates of transmission.

This means that to moderate the spread of HIV, it is imperative to consider minority groups and to bring them into institutions from which they may otherwise be excluded. Through more inclusive policies, economies can draw marginalised groups into the very institutions that will decrease their risk of infection.

Let me turn to the way forward; APEC is at a distinct advantage. Transcending borders between 21 unique economies, each with its distinct cultural, historic and socio-economic context, APEC is able to analyse and assess policy from a multiplicity of viewpoints. Drawing a range of experts and decision-makers, APEC is an ideal forum in which to exchange experiences and to propose new and innovative approaches.

Indeed the world is changing. Many things happen quickly with results that are immediate. Many challenges are ongoing and are a result of globalization and the new global architecture. We must not ignore them. Rather, we must leverage on the unique position and particular strengths of our union.

Given the influence of HIV/AIDS on the functioning of our economies, solutions require commitments from governments, civil society, and business. Effective public private partnerships can go a long way in helping to solve this long-term issue.

APEC's Health Working Group can make a solid contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS. By sharing our experiences and lessons on the social management of migration we will be better able to develop effective social administrative policies to improve control HIV/AIDS transmission among migrants.

Indeed, APEC can positively contribute to the reduction and control of the economic consequences of the migration of HIV; and we must do so.

OPENING REMARKS

BY H.E. DOAN XUAN HUNG, VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*Ambassador Juan Carlos Capunay, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health of Viet Nam to make some remarks at a very important APEC event today. As you may know, this year marks the 10th anniversary of Viet Nam's APEC membership. Being one of the most newly joined members, taking stock of what we have done in the last several years, we are happy for and proud of our contributions to APEC. This event is therefore among the activities to commemorate our 10th anniversary and also reflects our further commitments to APEC's development.

Please allow me, at the outset, to express our appreciation and warmest welcome to Ambassador Juan Carlos Capunay, Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat, delegates from APEC member economies, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, and distinguished Vietnamese colleagues who are here today for this Seminar on "*Social Policies for Migrants to Prevent the Transmission of HIV/AIDS*". It is my strong belief that your presence with valuable experiences will bring about fruitful outcomes to the Seminar, thus making essential contributions to APEC's endeavor in better controlling HIV/AIDS and further promoting the social management capabilities of each member economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the past quarter of century, along with many other critical issues, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has become one of the most urgent health problems facing

the world. In the Asia Pacific region only, as of 2008, about 8, 2 million people have suffered from living with HIV. By 2020 this number will undoubtedly increase with a fast rate if efforts to prevent the spread of this deadly disease are not accelerated. In recognition of the scale and severity of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, for many years now, APEC Leaders and Ministers have placed high priority on this issue. At their meeting in Ha Noi in 2006, APEC Leaders agreed to promote cooperation within APEC in the fight against the transmission of HIV/AIDS. In Sydney, APEC Leaders endorsed the APEC Guidelines to support APEC workers living with AIDS and called for the strengthening of APEC's capability to combat APEC diseases, including HIV/AIDS. The enhancement of human security, including health security, was categorized as the highest priority for 2008-2009 APEC capacity building projects. In the APEC Health Working Group, prevention and control of HIV/AIDS is also identified as one of three priorities for this year and the years to come.

Being deeply aware of the devastation by such epidemic, Viet Nam has also considered the prevention of HIV/AIDS as a significant task in our socio-economic development. Our Government has mobilized all relevant agencies at every level in the fight against the transmission of such fatal disease, and attached great importance to regional and international cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In response to APEC Leaders' and Ministers' instructions, and in serving our own interest, Viet Nam proposed to hold an APEC Seminar in Viet Nam on HIV/AIDS with specification on the policies relating to mobile workers and people. Our proposal has received strong support from all member economies, and as a result, I am glad to see all of you here today. I am hopeful that, through different sessions, the Seminar will provide a good opportunity for participants to exchange views on theories and practices, experiences and lessons on social

management on migrants. It will give momentum for intensifying cooperation not only among APEC member economies but also among APEC and international and non-governmental organizations in combating HIV/AIDS. I am also convinced that the Seminar will be a valuable chance for Vietnamese experts from different Ministries and Agencies to exchange views and experiences with APEC colleagues and representatives of international and non-governmental organizations in preventing the HIV/AIDS transmission. With your valuable expertise and active participation, I do hope that our Seminar will come out with feasible recommendations for future cooperation in APEC, between APEC and other partners, as well as help APEC members significantly in HIV/AIDS prevention and control's endeavors.

Finally, may I wish all of you good health and success in your most challenging but noble task. I hope that you will have an enjoyable stay in Ha Noi which is at its best in such a fantastic autumn weather. At this most beautiful time of the year, we are more convinced that life is worth living and fighting for, what we all here are striving to do, I believe.

Thank you.