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**China HIV/AIDS Information Network, CHAIN  
2005 Annual Activities Report**

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## **1. OVERVIEW**

China HIV/AIDS epidemic is moving out of localized high risk groups and into the general population. The HIV epidemic requires a multi-sectoral and all-society response as well as an acceleration of information sharing and sustained distribution across all sectors.

The China HIV/AIDS Information Network (CHAIN) is working with all concerned organizations and individuals in an open and participatory mode for developing a comprehensive information network free accessible to all as well as by creating interactive information channels across sectors and organizations.

## **2. CHAIN MAJOR ACTIVITES – 2005**

### **2.1 Institutional development**

- CHAIN was successfully registered as an independent NGO at Beijing Chaoyang Civil Bureau in October 2005. As an independent entity, CHAIN can legally manage an independent bank account, operation and management system for a sustainable and independent development in the future.
- CHAIN set up its project and financial management system and its directorate for supervision and direction.

### **2.2 Partnership and Networking Activities**

CHAIN developed partnerships with governmental and non-governmental actors as well as with business sector and international organizations for different purposes: sharing of information and best practices, capacity building, multi-sectoral involvement, supporting of grass-roots NGOs development, involvement of PLWHAs and other vulnerable groups.

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- UNAIDS China Office maintained its partnership with CHAIN for integrating information resource collection and distribution. CHAIN also hosted the Expanded Theme Group meeting minutes, and the UNAIDS's news announcements.
- Health Link Worldwide: In 2005 HLWW and CHAIN formalized a four-year working relationship and set up a country officer / CHAIN coordinator role. This partnership aims to both strategically and operationally build and promote communication, information management and distribution and exchange of knowledge and best practices to further support HIV/AIDS prevention and control in China.
- National Youth League (NYL) collaborated with CHAIN for the collection, packaging and distribution of information on youth prevention activities via a dedicated page on CHAIN's website, electric newsletter and surface mail.
- Noah's Ark Organization: teamed up with CHAIN for developing PLWHAs forum and networking. The Noah's Ark Forum is now the largest online discussion forum for PLWHAs in China.
- China-UK HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project collaborated with CHAIN to edit the "Common Terms and Explanation on HIV/AIDS and produce the "Developing Materials on HIV/AIDS/STIs for Low-Literate Audiences".
- WHO Beijing Office supported CHAIN to develop the "HIV/AIDS Media Resource Guide", and to provide media report trainings for Chinese journalists.
- UNICEF China Office packaged and distributed through CHAIN UNICEF best practices materials.
- BAYER Pharmaceutical Company supported the publication and distribution of "HIV/AIDS Media Resource Guide".
- IFRC funded the writing and printing of a "Glossary of Monitoring and Evaluation Terms" in Chinese.
- Ford Foundation supported CHAIN and China CDC to develop an expert tool to evaluate IEC materials.
- The AIDS Relief Fund for China co-funded with Ford Foundation the production of a film-"The Living Positive" reflecting the lives of a group of people affected by AIDS, distributed through CHAIN.
- CHARTS Project supported holding the conference for multi-sectoral involvement and sharing best practices.
- China AIDS Survey collaborated with CHAIN to deliver daily HIV/AIDS news and materials in English.
- The Chaoyang CDC supported and guided the registering process of CHAIN as NGO.
- The Global Fund Initiative supported CHAIN for providing training on peer support and networking to local PLWHAs groups in Shandong Province.
- Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center (ADARC) and CHAIN designed and distributed Yao Ming's Poster, assisted in broadcasting educational MTV with Yao Ming as ambassador via Beijing Bus System.
- CHAIN website hosted the Expanded Youth Working Group meeting minutes and the presentations of UNFPA.

### **2.3 Physical Library and CHAIN Collections Development**

- Further expanded physical/electronic materials collection to over 70,000 individual books, reports, pamphlets, posters and CD-ROMS, with updated bibliography online.
- Provided service via on-site borrow/copying and free-delivery, postage, call-in service, etc.
- Edited and distributed CHAIN Newsletters to publicize new publications/online and recent CHAIN activities.

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#### **2.4 Online and Digital Resource Development**

- Maintained and updated the CHAIN's Daily news email to stakeholders and interest groups (media, PLWHAs, policy makers, project officers, etc.). CHAIN's Daily News has about 1200 registered users.
- Reorganized CHAIN website in response to multi-sectoral involvement in HIV/AIDS prevention and control. New versions include:
  - A version of Office online, with provision of up-to-date news and events as well as basic technical documents, new publications or other useful resource on policies/laws, care and treatment, and IEC materials for common needs of all people involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and control.
  - A version for multi-sectoral involvement with new components such as Youth Red Ribbon Action, PLWHA involvement, Business involvement, School Education, NGOs involvement, AIDS & Children, AIDS & Women targeted to different audiences and sectors.
  - A version of the general population and high-risk behavior groups, especially young people, with a provision of basic facts and knowledge and counseling services.
- Announced all new publications, electric books and technical documents online and to all registered users.
- Updated and maintained online CHAIN databases/technical document sections as well as HIV/AIDS-related organizational database.
- Reorganized CHAIN's English portal in partnership with China AIDS Survey.

#### **2.5 Alternative and Interactive Information Sharing Networking Platform**

- Maintained a comprehensive and interactive forum as a channel for NGO network building and information dissemination covering Policy, Education/Prevention, Care and Support, MSM/WSW and NGO development, with a provision of up-to-date information, consulting services and technical support to all relevant stakeholders.

#### **2.6 CHAIN Promotion/Information Exchange Activities**

- Produced CHAIN promotion posters for presentation at CHAIN and external meetings and conferences.
- Promoted CHAIN by participating and packing HIV/AIDS-related conference materials to be distributed at conferences and presentations.
- Promoted CHAIN by inviting about 50 media journalists from Beijing and provincial level to attend the National Conference on Information Sharing and Media Report and by giving CHAIN press releases to the media.
- In cooperation with the National Association for HIV/STDs Prevention and Control and with the National Institute of Health Education of China CDC (IHE), CHAIN successfully held the National Conference on Information Sharing for Comprehensive and multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS epidemic in China during Dec. 19-20. Key stakeholders and representatives from multi-sectoral agencies, NGOs, members of SCOWO attended this conference.
- Media Report Training supported by WHO was held during Dec. 20-21 (in collaboration with IHE) with 150 attendants coming from media and health education institutes nationwide.
- CHAIN held a seminar for strategy development and interior management in Oc. 21. The issues regarding to CHAIN mission, orientation, organizational characters, core partners, mechanism for cooperation and roles were reviewed and discussed.
- CHAIN-HLWW Partnership Meeting: Mr Ren Xuefeng visited Healthlink Worldwide during Oct. 28-Nov. 6 for finalizing details on the partnership and introduced CHAIN and its expanding role in providing cross-sector HIV/AIDS information and support in China on the

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- Information Exchange Roundtable attended by relevant organizations.
- The Program Coordinator went to the United States for holding round tables discussions on HIV/AIDS issue in China and giving presentation on CHAIN at several US universities and institutes during March 6-23.
  - The Program Coordinator gave promotion presentation on the 12<sup>th</sup> International Course on AIDS Prevention and Care in Asia during May 24-July 5.

#### **2.7 Researches and Findings**

- An assessment of information on needs and supply for multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS epidemic in China was conducted by CHAIN in 2005. The results showed that multi-sectors beyond health sector, especially grass-roots NGOs have limited access to information; inadequate information flow was detected from community “bottom-up” and across multi-sectors. Enhanced and sustained information exchange, especially for best practices and knowledge among all stakeholders at all levels is needed for a multi-sectoral response in curbing HIV/AIDS epidemic in China.

#### **2.8 Fundraising**

- Global Fund Grant Approved: The GF approved a grant for informational needs assessment and support group capacity building workshop for PLWHAs in Shandong province in June. The project has been implemented by CHAIN and the Noah’s Ark Organization.
- The CHARTS Project: CHARTS Resource Center Contract was awarded to Family Health International (FHI), along with the China HIV/AIDS Information Network and Options (UK) as sub-partners in March.

### **3. CHAIN PUBLICATIONS IN 2005**

- “Glossary of Common Terms and Explanation” on HIV/AIDS: provides a normative explanation of common terms and descriptions used in HIV/AIDS prevention and control.
- “Glossary of Monitoring and Evaluation Terms”: provides a glossary of terms related to monitoring and evaluation.
- “HIV/AIDS Media Resource Guide”: A guidebook for journalists to understand basic information and strategy for reporting properly on various topics.
- The CD-ROM of Be Safe Not Sorry: a multi-media educational resource for media, public and young people in schools.
- “Lifting the Burden of Secrecy”: A Manual for HIV-positive people who want to speak out in public.
- “Developing Materials on HIV/AIDS and STIs for Low-Literate Audiences” in Chinese: A handbook provides operational tools and guidelines for developing materials for a low-literates audience.

### **4. CAPABILITY/ CAPACITY BUILDING AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT**

- Resource Center Training: CHAIN/Healthlink Worldwide Partnership co-held a follow-up resource center training for CHAIN and NCAIDS staff during April 11-18.
- Project Management Training: Two staff of CHAIN attended a Project Management Training in Hong Kong AIDS Foundation during Nov 12-20. Interview the staffs of Hong Kong Red Riband Center during that period.

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- AIDS Hotline Training: Ren Xuefeng, the co-manager of CHAIN attended a series of workshops in USA during June 6-14 on the management and technical requirement for running public health and AIDS hotlines sponsored by the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center.
- Mongolia Media Training: Edmund Settle, Program Coordinator, co-developed and jointly led a media training workshop in Ulan Bator during June 18-25 for Mongolia journalists and media leaders.
- Media Roundtable: Representatives from CHAIN participated in the Media and AIDS roundtable sponsored by CHARTS and Qinghua University's Center for Communication Studies.
- Training Workshop on information use and reporting: CHAIN assisted the planning and training of project officers from project counties of Global Fund 3rd Round Project during Sep.27.
- Attended the "International Dialogue on Gender, Sexuality, HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: Focus on Asia" in Seoul, Korea during Nov 24-27.

**5. SERVICE REPORT**

- **CHAIN Materials Collection Report of 2005**

<b>Format</b>	<b>New Titles</b>	<b>Copies</b>
Chinese books	116	11 929
English books	63	112
Chinese Journals /Newsletters	88	1 152
English Journals/Newsletters	13	21
Audio/video materials	9	71
CD-Rom publication	11	12
Leaflets	6	13
Posters	7	880
Other	10	7 511
<b>Total Collected Items</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>21 704</b>

- **CHAIN Service Output Report of 2005**

<b>Information Service</b>	<b>Service Output</b>
Users visited	140 individuals
On-site delivery of materials	Educational materials: 3 801 copies Books (Chinese /English): 24 670 copies Others:: 963 copies
Post delivery (books, education materials)	4540 copies: - Books: 1 417copies - Brochures: 4 189 copies - VCD: 22 copies - Video: 3copies - Journals: 1,2710copies - Posters: 120 copies
VCD/Video Burning and disk copies	77 copies
Photocopy	5 share/46 copies
Telephone service	226 calls
Material borrowed	6/44 users/copies

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Notice board borrowed	16 copies
Brochures printed	20 000 copies

- **CHAIN Website Service**

Chinese Daily News: 1 200 users per day

English Daily New (AIDS Survey): 200 users per day

CHAIN Forum: Registered Users: 558 registered organizations and over one million annual visitors.

Web Usage: Total 244 985 Unique Users in 2005 as illustrated in following table:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Unique Visitors</b>	<b>Total Hits</b>
May 2003-Dec 2003	186 713	241 221
Jan.- Dec. 2004	223 513	282 764
Jan.-Dec. 2005	244 785	321 771
Total: 2003-2005	655 011	845 756

## 6. APPENDIX-Abbreviations

<b>ADARC</b>	<b>Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center</b>
<b>AIDS</b>	<b>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</b>
<b>CDC</b>	<b>Center of Disease Control</b>
<b>CHAIN</b>	<b>China HIV/AIDS Information Network</b>
<b>GF</b>	<b>Global Fund</b>
<b>HIV</b>	<b>Human Immune-deficiency Virus</b>
<b>HLWW</b>	<b>Health Link WorldWide</b>
<b>IEC</b>	<b>Information, Education and Communication</b>
<b>IFRC</b>	<b>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</b>
<b>IHE</b>	<b>Institute of Health Education</b>
<b>NCAIDS</b>	<b>National Center for AIDS Prevention and Control</b>
<b>NGO</b>	<b>Non-Governmental Organization</b>
<b>NYL</b>	<b>National Youth League</b>
<b>PLWHA</b>	<b>People Living With HIV/AIDS</b>
<b>SCOWO</b>	<b>Office for State Council AIDS Working Committee</b>
<b>STI</b>	<b>Sexually Transmitted Disease</b>
<b>UNAIDS</b>	<b>The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund</b>
<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>United Nations Fund for Population Activities</b>
<b>WHO</b>	<b>World Health Organization</b>