

International Training Courses conducted regularly by ITC

1. Intensive International Training Course on the Management of Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) Program for National and Local Program Managers

Without Antiretroviral Treatment (ART), far greater numbers of AIDS patients would die every year. Many countries have gradually scaled up ART services : achieving wider coverage of such services has been recognized to improve health outcomes, quality of life and enable affected individuals to lead productive life. The Thai MOPH has had more than a decade of experience in both clinical implementation and service management of ART. And it is very willing to share this with other countries.

A five-day training course in Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) programs, for national and local program managers, is designed to provide the participants with an understanding of the key managerial aspects related to ART services. These include : program initiation and development, ART regimens, procurement and distribution of drugs, voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) programs, adherence and surveillance, monitoring and evaluation. Participants will draw up their ideas in an 'ART work plan'.

2. International Training Course on Prevention of HIV and STIs through Sexual Transmission in Special Target Population Groups

After two decades, HIV and AIDS remains to be one of the global dynamic epidemics requiring careful, timely and target specific responses by countries around the world. Slacking in programs and neglecting of any high at risk population groups can equate to lose any gains previously accomplished through hard work of preventive and care interventions.

Therefore, it's important that national HIV prevention program is able to reach the people most at risk of the infection, particularly young people, men who have sex with men, sex workers and their clients to deter the upward and/or hard-to-decline trends in infection rates.

A curriculum for a five days training course has been developed to provide an knowledge update on effective interventions in prevention of sexually transmitted HIV and STIs among the selected target populations including sex workers, youth and MSM. Participants will learn from classroom lectures, discussion, sharing of experiences, participating in exercises and field visits. Resource persons are experts who have created successful interventions and extensive experiences in planning and implementing the HIV and STIs program in Thailand and Asia.

3. International Training Course on Management of Long - Term Adherence to ART

Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) is the most common therapy using an antiretroviral drug which can reduce viral load and mortality rate of AIDS cases. Medication adherence is the vitally necessary in the long-term treatment to reduce HIV and increase immunity in order to help patient improve quality life for long living. Many factors are necessary and efficient treatment and care with the antiretroviral drug, such as setting up access to service system, the referral treatment system, ARV of standard resistance, to have a local manufactured ARVs, to follow up on complications of drug and drug resistance. The most important factor is to follow up the good long-term

adherence to achieve of ARV therapy, reduce budget to solve the drug resistance problems in the future.

A five-day training course on Management of Long - Term Adherence to ART, is designed to give more knowledge and understanding about the principles and concepts of Long-Term Adherence and to set up strategies, methodology including monitoring and evaluation of Long – Term Adherence. The contents included country presentation, lecture, case study, discussion and field study.

4. International Training Course on Comprehensive Pediatric HIV/AIDS Care Management

Since HIV/AIDS epidemic, children around the world have been directly and indirectly affected by this disease. UNAIDS (2009) had reported that about hundreds of thousands of children across the world become infected with HIV every year. Once children are infected with HIV, they experience with tremendous life threatening and suffering conditions caused by the disease itself as well as their growth and development. HIV infected children are more likely to progress to full-blown AIDS quicker than adult. They are also highly vulnerable to opportunistic infections and often respond poorly to immunization and treatment for other common childhood illnesses. As a result, many of them have a greater chance of life-threatening illness and death, unless they can successfully be provided with comprehensive treatment and care.

For 5 days training course, participants are designed to provide knowledge on comprehensive pediatric HIV/AIDS care management. Also they will share experience of successful multidisciplinary Thailand pediatric

HIV/AIDS care team at regional and local levels in providing comprehensive pediatric HIV/AIDS care and management. Moreover, participants will develop action plan for comprehensive pediatric HIV/AIDS care services in their setting using lesson learned from the training. Then they will develop multidisciplinary pediatric HIV/AIDS care team in their setting. Teaching methods used in this course are based on lecture, discussion, case based discussion, experience sharing, brain storming, role play, group work, after action review (AAR), and site visit.

5. International Training Course on STIs Case Management Skills

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are a common and serious public health problem worldwide. Most widely known STIs are gonorrhoea, syphilis and HIV. In addition, there are more than 20 other known STIs which can cause acute illness, long-term disability and even death, with severe medical and psychological consequences. Many of the infections are curable with accurate, early diagnosis and effective treatment. Failure to diagnose and treat STIs at an early stage may result in serious complications and sequelae which include, pelvic inflammatory diseases, infertility, ectopic pregnancy, foetal wastage stillbirths, and neonatal and childhood infections and HIV/AIDS. Such constraints and barriers as lack of information, diagnosis and treatment skills and facilities, self-treatment by clients, asymptomatic infections, stigma, etc, in many countries also add to difficulties in managing and improving the STIs program.

A five-day training course on STIs Case Management Skills, participants will learn of the symptoms, manifestation, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of STIs and other related aspects including VCT and condom promotion. In addition to the classroom lectures and presentation,

observations of the STIs clinic service and practical sessions with models are also arranged for improving the skills in case management. A small number of participants provided excellent opportunity for discussion and Q&A to clarify issues.

6. International Training Course on STI/HIV Laboratory Diagnosis

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) remain a public health problem of major significance in most parts of the world. Thailand is one of the leading countries in this region which has implemented national STIs prevention and control effectively for more than 40 years. The STIs Cluster, formerly known as STD Division of the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, has therefore accumulated experience and expertise in the laboratory diagnosis of the STIs and HIV, in addition to those of innovative interventions and program implementation which has placed Thailand's effort in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and STIs in the forefront where achievements are concerned. Short and medium term international training courses were designed and have been conducted regularly by the experienced resource persons who are staff from within the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and teaching universities since 1977 to share knowledge and expertise as well as strengthen capacity of laboratory technicians and related medical staff from countries within the Asia region and other regions.

For Two-week long training course, participants are designed to achieve knowledge and updated skills of major STIs, appropriate laboratory testing techniques and correct diagnosis. In addition, they will increase capacity and skills of laboratory technicians and medical staff to correct understanding in STIs/HIV laboratory diagnosis for their future application at their workplace

and to set up HIV/STIs networks for similar standard of practice and exchange information in diagnosis.

7. Training Course on Programme Management of Prevention of Mother to Child HIV Transmission

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) was one of the priority areas for discussion at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS which took place in June 2001. The commitment of the meeting is the goal of reducing the number of children acquiring HIV through mother-to-child transmission by 20% in the year 2005 and by 50% in 2010. At this historic meeting, over 180 member states signed the declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS. These targets which have been labeled by some people as being rather ambitious are in fact achievable. For this to happen, however, countries do need to begin to scale up their activities aimed at preventing and stopping mother-to-child transmission of HIV. This is not only going to need money and strong political will, but will in each country among many other things, need a core group of various backgrounds who can then be able to shake things up at regional and country level so that effective and locally feasible scaling up of the PMTCT of HIV can happen.

For 8 days long training course, it aims to make available Thailand's experience in social development with emphasis on women and children's issues to countries in Asia and the Pacific. This experience is passed on through regular training courses, study visits and follow-up exchange visits conducted in cooperation with government agencies and NGOs. Not only has this experience created an opportunity for countries in the region to learn from Thailand and apply the knowledge and expertise gained in implementing

similar projects in their own countries, but also for Thailand to learn and benefit from this regional technical cooperation.

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