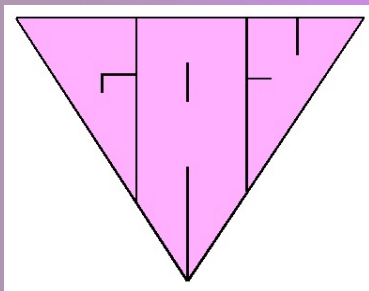


MSM & TG

Responding to HIV in Asia  
& the Pacific:

A Brief Historical Survey



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## **1992: 2<sup>nd</sup> ICAAP, New Delhi**

- ❖ **Only one session on “alternative sexualities” towards end, almost spontaneous**
- ❖ **Request for breakout room denied, MSM & TG delegates had parallel gathering at Nehru Park**



## **2006: Risks & Responsibilities, New Delhi**

- ❖ **special consultation on MSM & TG issues**
- ❖ **full range of issues**
- ❖ **attended by MSM & TG CBOs, NGOs, governments & donors**



## The struggle:

- ❖ **1995: 3<sup>rd</sup> ICAAP, Chiang Mai**
  - **again, only one session on “alternative sexualities” (had to be fought for)**
  - **MSM & TG caucus at APCASO office**



## The struggle:

- ❖ **1997: 4<sup>th</sup> ICAAP, Manila**
  - **more sessions on MSM, TG**
  - **LGBT satellite elsewhere**
  - **“unmentionable” words disappeared from final declaration**



## **The struggle:**

- ❖ **1999: Singapore Consultation (ASAP, hosted by AfA, funded by UNAIDS)**
- **follows similar event in Latin America**
- **recommendations, though follow-up not clear**



## **The struggle:**

- ❖ **1999: 5<sup>th</sup> ICAAP, Kuala Lumpur**
  - **various sessions, including lesbian issues**
  - **Asia-Pacific Rainbow (APR) formed as a network**
  - **final declaration read by a gay man from Fiji, and explicitly mentions gay men, MSM, TG and others**



## **The struggle:**

- ❖ **2001: 6<sup>th</sup> ICAAP, Melbourne**
  - **more diverse sessions, including lesbian issues**
  - **pleasure discussed openly**
  - **various satellites on MSM & TG issues**
  - **APR holds several activities**




## **Parallel developments:**

### **❖ ILGA-Asia**

- **small but persistent**
- **meetings in India, Philippines**

### **❖ Sydney Gay Games, 2002**

- **human rights conference**



## **Initial programs, late 1980s~early 1990s:**

- ❖ in some countries started by concerned gay men and friends (PT, AfA, TLF, GN, BD), initially self-funded**
- ❖ ad hoc assistance from donors (FF, AFAO, NZAF), biomedical institutions (CDC, NAMRU, ASHM)**



## **Mid-1990s to now:**

- ❖ **work by NFI in India & South Asia more generally, starting in some Southeast Asian countries**
- ❖ **Tongzhi movement in Chinese-speaking societies**
- ❖ **recognition of local indigenous constructions**



## **Reaction of governments, media, society:**

- ❖ in some countries a brief “honeymoon” (real? othering?)**
- ❖ in others denial, blaming foreigners, HIV work perceived as promotion of homosexuality**
- ❖ media supportive in some countries, in others voyeuristic & sensationalizing**
- ❖ most religious leaders come up with “divine curse” cliché**



## **Enabling factors:**

- ❖ **changes in political climate**
- ❖ **local, national, regional work**
- ❖ **empowered communities & allies**
- ❖ **working through minorities**



# Challenges:

- ❖ **scaling up**
- ❖ **reducing stigma & discrimination**
- ❖ **holistic approach**
- ❖ **health → well-being, pleasure**



**Are we up to it?**