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*UNESCO and WFP, on behalf of the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Education,  
invite you to the Symposium entitled*

***Meeting the HIV prevention needs of young people in Asia:  
The need for an integrated approach***

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**Date and time**

Wednesday, 24 April 2008, 8:15-17:00

**Venue**

Holiday Inn Chiangmai  
318/1 Chiangmai-Lamphun Road  
Wat Kate, Muang  
Chiangmai 50000 - THAILAND

**Registration**

IATT members do not need to register for the symposium in advance.

For non-IATT members: please register before 19 April 2008 by submitting your name and e-mail address, telephone number and organizational affiliation to Ms Marisa Suankhwamdee at UNESCO Bangkok: [s.marisa@unesco.org](mailto:s.marisa@unesco.org) or you can telephone her at 02-3910577 ext: 117. Be in time – a maximum of 60 non-IATT members can attend!!

**Background**

In contrast to the situation in Africa, the Asia-Pacific region has so far seen mainly concentrated HIV epidemics, driven by three key behaviors: unsafe injecting drug use, unsafe male to male sex and unsafe sex in the context of sex work. Generalized epidemics, where large numbers of the 'general population' have been affected, have largely been prevented. Nevertheless, HIV prevalence among those engaging in the high risk behaviors listed above is on the rise in several countries, and there are indications that young people are more and more at risk. Efforts to educate youth about HIV have diminished in some countries, and in others prevention education was never a big priority, so that HIV is currently not seen as a serious health problem by adolescents. In some countries there are clear indications that HIV and STI prevalence among teenagers are on the rise.

Despite the fact that Thailand and Cambodia are often hailed as successes in the field of HIV prevention, the role of the education sector in this success has been surprisingly limited, focusing mainly on moralistic and abstinence messages ('Don't-education'). With internet dating on the rise, sexual norms and values among youth changing rapidly, and some evidence that the age of sexual debut has been dropping in recent years, there is an urgent need to find a way to openly discuss with young people about HIV prevention, sexual and reproductive health, as well as drug use, male to male sex and sex work. Because the curriculum is full, teachers and education resources are stretched, and cultural barriers are considerable, it is proposed HIV should be integrated into broader educational programs and activities, including life skills, school health and nutrition and reproductive health education.

This symposium aims to generate a discussion on how to do this in the context of Asian cultures and societies, and what role the education sector / schools can or should play.

**For further information, please contact:**

Mr Jan W de Lind van Wijngaarden at UNESCO Bangkok ([j.wijngaarden@unesco Bangkok.org](mailto:j.wijngaarden@unesco Bangkok.org))

Phone: +66-23910577 ext 113

**Program:**

**8:15-9:00 Registration**

**9:00-10.20 Session 1: Framing the Discussion – the Epidemic and the Need for an Integrated Approach**

- “The Importance of an Integrated Approach to Prevention Education in Asia”

Opening Remarks by Martin Bloem, WFP Global Coordinator for HIV and AIDS, Chief, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Policy.

- *The evidence:* “Meeting the HIV prevention needs of young people in Asia” Presentation by Ian Macleod, UNICEF regional HIV advisor for South Asia, and Jan W de Lind van Wijngaarden, UNESCO regional HIV/AIDS advisor for Asia and the Pacific.

Based on the current state of the HIV epidemic, what are the HIV prevention risks and vulnerabilities of young people in Asia, and how have policy makers responded to these so far? (Background document to be provided: Joint UNESCO/UNICEF/UNFPA policy paper on Meeting the HIV prevention needs of young people in Asia)

- Discussion, followed by a coffee/tea break

**10:50-11.50 Session 2: Keynote Speech: Teachers and sex education – uneasy bedfellows?**

By Pawana Wienrawee, Director, Programme for Appropriate Technologies in Health (PATH) –Are teachers the right persons to educate young people about HIV and risk behaviors in Asian countries?

**11.50-15:30 Session 3: Examples of integrated approaches to providing HIV/reproductive health education through the education sector**

- Good practices related to school health and HIV prevention in South-East Asia, a review of programmatic experience

By Lesley Drake, Coordinator, Partnership for Child Development (PCD) (TBC)

- Lunch

- Presentation of examples and panel discussion:

- a. How HIV and sexuality education are integrated into school-based life skills programs– Anna Maria Hoffmann, UNICEF/UNESCO
- b. How HIV and sexuality education are integrated into school-based health and nutrition programs– WFP Cambodia
- c. How HIV and sexuality education are integrated into school-based reproductive health programs – Speaker to be confirmed
- d. How HIV and sexuality education are integrated into out-of-school literacy and drug education programs – Speaker to be confirmed
- e. Ministry-led coordination and partnerships and strategic planning in Cambodia – Speaker: Dr Kunthearith of the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

- Question and answer and plenary discussion, followed by a coffee/tea break

**16:00-17:00 Session 4: Reflections on the Way Forward**

- Discussion

- Closing remarks by Sheldon Shaeffer, Director, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education