

# **XVI International AIDS Conference**

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

January 23, 2006



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Start Time: 12:00pm EST

End Time: 2:00pm EST

## **Participants:**

Mwansa Njelesani

Ben Houghton

Sarah Hendricks

Samia Omar

Joya Banerjee

Brandy Svendson

Alex McClelland

Regrets: Mila Gorokhovich, Olga Alexsandrova

## **Conference Overview**

Alex gave a brief overview of the Conference structure using the two organizational charts provided in the committee email as attachments.

AIDS 2006 will be the largest health event ever organized. The Metro Toronto Convention Center will be the site, the largest conference venue in Toronto.

Alex reviewed the various Conference organizing committees; the Youth Advisory Committee will have a close working relationship with the Community Programme Committee (CPC), and the Leadership Programme Committee (LPC). Ginelle is on the CPC, and Henry is on the LPC.

Alex described the various different responsibilities of the Local Host and the IAS Secretariats using the organizational chart that was provided as an email attachment to the committee.

Alex reviewed the Toronto Local Host Secretariat staff and departments. Currently there is 12 staff at the TLHS. The TLHS has a Board of Directors, and an Advisory Committee, both of these may be bodies that the Youth Advisory Committee could work with.

The Youth Programme fits within the Programme Activities department along with the Cultural Activities Programme (CAP), the Global Village, and the Outreach Programme. All of these other Programme Activities also have committees. The Youth Advisory Committee may also work closely with the Global Village and the Cultural Programme Committees.

Alex briefly went over the Youth Programme Concept Paper, which was in the committee package.

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## Age Limits

- The consultation in June 2005 suggested that the maximum age for a youth should be 26 years of age
- Working with Lawyer to have age limits lowered to 16 years old age, must be in between the of 16-26 if applying for scholarships
- Although Bangkok youth programs ranged from 12 up to 30 years of age. They had separate funds for youth scholarships, this year it is integrated.
- Youth and Students (any age) – as long as have the proper identification (student card)
- There are 1,500 Canadian and 1,500 International Scholarships for everyone, youth are included in this number. We do not know yet how many youth scholarships will be awarded.

There was discussion around the advocacy effort to expand the age range. 16-26 was seen as a success and that there would be opportunity for this to be opened up further for future Conferences.

Alex should know from the Local Host lawyer by February what needs to put in place to ensure the lower age definition is finalized.

## Update on Youth Activities Planning

(Refer to Concept Paper pg 6)

### **Toronto Youth Force**

The Toronto Youth Force (TYF) is a global coalition of youth NGO's, student groups, networks and individuals who will be a collective voice of young people at the Conference. The Youth Force started at the Barcelona Conference and was also seen as a successful addition to the Bangkok Conference.

Joya gave an overview of proposed Toronto Youth Force Activities

Goals of the Youth Force are to:

- Promote and facilitate meaningful youth involvement
- Be the collective voice for the youth at the conference
- Advocate at the Conference for youth issues internationally and locally
- Connect youth with each other around the world

The committee will be working with the Youth Force, but exactly how is yet to be determined. There is a meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Toronto to begin the planning of Youth Force activities and to engage youth run and or focused NGO's to get involved. Alex invited Toronto based Committee members to the meeting.

The Youth Force is organizing a Pre-Conference

- Aug 9-12 for 3 days just before the Conference
- Located at University of Toronto Campus which is close to main Conference site
- Option to stay at University of Toronto residences for a lower cost
- Rally kick off – local speakers, along with international speakers

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- Possibilities - have celebrity speakers who supports conference
  - Pre Conference will be an opportunity to network, and build capacity and skills in preparation to participate in the main conference and a place to showcase youth cultural events

Joya mentioned that the Youth Force has very similar goals to the Youth Programme, the Youth Force has planned taskforces to achieve some of it's work as has the AIDS Youth Programme, some of these may be integrated.

### Proposed Youth Website

Youth section for the main AIDS 2006 Toronto will be part of the new website Toronto Youth Force is also interested in developing a youth site for the Conference, Alex has had discussions with Taking IT Global in Toronto, to look at developing a joint site. The site will help ensure the conference is accessible for youth locally and internationally. Possibilities include:

- Discussion boards
- Interaction with youth around the world
- Debates
- Web base sessions which will carry on during the conference
- Youth focus space – which will carry on into the conference
- Conference delegates will be able to participate in the online discussions, post information and experiences in their personal blogs
- Help with abstracts will be available on website for those who are first time writers
- Link to virtual youth pavilion which will include showcasing, pictures and blogs

The IAS has stated they are interested in scaling up web based initiative for the Conference but do not have the resources or capacity. This however is seen as an essential part of making the Youth Programme successful and accessible.

### Youth Pavilion

The Pavilion will be a permanent youth space within the Global Village to highlight and showcase youth Ngo's, projects and achievements during the conference

The Pavilion will be in the Global Village and will be the access point for youth into AIDS 2006 Toronto

The Global Village is the only part of the Conference that is open to the general public and not just delegates.

Will be more than 100 meters square, have computer terminals, A/V equipments, seating for discussion forums

Would be a place for prep sessions for what's going to happen for youths daily, along with pre conference, will carry on momentum from the pre-conference.

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Youth Advisory Committee will develop criteria for work and projects to be selected for Pavilion. Criteria will also be based on priorities from CPC and LPC which are:

- Central Asia
- Eastern Europe
- Young Women and Girls
- Orphans
- Harm Reduction

**To apply to show in the Youth Pavilion use the Global Village Application Form, available on [www.aids2006.org](http://www.aids2006.org) deadline for submissions March 15<sup>th</sup> 2006.**

Samia addressed that the form may be a barrier to youth as it asks for organizational information such as funding.

Alex will develop a poster to distribute as there is only 6 weeks left to get submissions. This could also help explain the process and make it more accessible.

### **Side point:**

IAS is looking into translators because applications are only in English/French, translation is an issue addressed by the Committee Alex will look into what resources are available. Alex highlighted that translation has been a great concern for the CPC, who are advocating for the Conference to devote more resources to it overall for Conference materials and on-site.

### Youth Cultural Activities

Cultural Programme for AIDS 2006 is looking to take over the city with arts, music, dance, theater. Criteria for cultural activities also need to be developed. Youth Advisory Committee will make selections on any youth related activities including Cultural events and will work with other programme areas to integrate them.

So far for the main Cultural Activities programme the Harborfront Center is booked for performances which is Downtown Toronto on the water front, approx 5 minute walk from Convention Center. A big venue for arts and culture events in Toronto.

### Proposals to the Youth Programme

Alex reviewed some of the proposals so far in order to give the Committee an idea of types of projects we will be reviewing and working with.

MTV international wants to do a 48 hours Film Fest

10 teams of youth trained in production for making a movie, followed by MTV crew while filming movie. Have 48 hours and will be helped by the MTV with the editing process. Last of conference videos would be seen with celebrities as judges

- Concerns that Alex and Joya brought up it might take young people away from participating in the main Conference

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Some type of idea as MTV international but have HIV-positive youth take home video equipment that they keep and then make videos about their lives. Again Health Canada will help out with the editing of the video

Alliance Rights Nigeria – Theater along with live music performances

Mwansa discussed a project called Picture Change ([www.picturechange.ca](http://www.picturechange.ca))

- Photos of different kinds of images all over the world. The purpose was to increase AIDS/HIV awareness across Canada
- They also give talks within the community and schools
- Proposal to showcase photos within Youth Pavilion

### Side Points:

Opening/Closing ceremonies

Overview of what's going to happen

- Opening Ceremonies going to be held at the Rogers Center formally known as Skydome. Seats approximately 37,000 people
- 4 hours long – would like speakers from positive youth as guest speakers
- Celebrity speakers such as Elton John and Bono
- Prime Minister (pending on who gets voted into office)

Possibility of Youth Day at Dundas Square (which is like Times Square) – Located Yonge and Dundas, during the conference Toronto Host will have access to TV monitors so will be able to show case what's going on at the conference and the different events. YAC will work on this with TYF

### Budget

Youth Programme proposed budget is approximately 213,000, Alex will distribute finalized version to Committee in next month.

Breakdown of funding expenses:

- Meetings
- Youth booklet
- Website
- Youth pavilion

There is a sponsorship opportunities document and the Local Host has a fundraiser. Have been in talks with some possible funders but still need more support. If the target funding isn't available by May then might have to look into cutting certain activities.

### Taskforces

Taskforces will be formed to move ahead with the work of the Committee. Alex will work with the Toronto Youth Force to ensure that we are not duplicating work.

Taskforces could include others who are not on the main Youth Advisory Committee. They could be:

#### Main Conference

- Ensuring youth involvement in as many sessions as possible
- Youth presenter support
- Youth Road map

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- Assisting with youth sessions

## **Website/Communications**

- Content development
- Working with TYF
- Youth Bulletin

## **Youth Pavilion**

- Criteria
- Selection
- Programming

## **Advocacy/Mentorship**

- Preparing youth delegates
- Orientation
- Advocacy and prep sessions

Email is going to be generated soon around who would be interested in what task forces. Each taskforce will have a workplan and timeline for activities. Taskforce work will be done by teleconference and mainly via email.

## **Committee Membership**

Currently have 22 members, see attached committee list. Members are to forward bio to Alex if not done already, or if the one included in the list is inaccurate.

Gaps are:

- HIV-positive youth, especially women
- indigenous youth
- Latin America

Many Committee members committed to forwarding names they could nominate to be a member to Alex who will follow-up.

Committee members addressed that we don't have representation from the Middle Eastern Countries. Also would like more representation from Asia, but again the barriers of translation have been brought up

Due to the Committee having international membership there will be 2 teleconference meetings to deal with the time change, one in the afternoon, and one in the evening Toronto time.

## **Next teleconference meetings**

**Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**12:00PM North American Eastern Standard Time**

**Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup>**

**12:00PM North American Eastern Standard Time**

**Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**12:00PM North American Eastern Standard Time**