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1st HIV/AIDS ASEAN Regional Workshop of Islamic Religious Leaders Jakarta, November 30, to December 3, 1998

We, the Participants of the Workshop of ASEAN Muslim Leaders in Jakarta

Mindful

That the magnitude of AIDS epidemic problem in the ASEAN region is creasing significantly. The increase has to be controlled in the time, otherwise religious, social and economic development in the region will be hindered and disparities within and between ASEAN Member Countries will increase accordingly,

That very individual has the right to have an appropriate and right information on HIV/AIDS. Without having the information nobody will be able to prevent HIV infection,

That the biggest population in the region is Muslim, but most Islamic community members in most ASEAN Members Countries are not yet fully involved in HIV/AIDS campaign in their respective communities. They are not yet reached by IEC activities of National AIDS Programme in their respective Countries. Most of their leaders are also still beyond the reach of the IEC activities,

That IEC instruments and methods have to be developed to effectively reach each adult member of the Islamic communities in all ASEAN Member Countries, so that all the adult members of the communities will have an appropriate and right information on HIV/AIDS. The information will give them an appropriate and right perception of the challenge of AIDS,

That all Muslim Leaders in all ASEAN Member Countries have to be properly trained to use the IEC instruments and methods. The well-trained Moslem, leaders will then play their important role in HIV/AIDS campaign in their respective community.

Mindful also

That all governments of all ASEAN Member Countries have responded to the challenge of AIDS by launching both national and regional HIV/AIDS Programmes,

That the programmes have to be strengthened and fully supported by community involvement including Muslim community which is the biggest religious population in the region, otherwise the programmes will not be successful.

Solemnly declare

Our obligation as Muslim leaders to support both the national and the regional HIV/AIDS Programmes as long as the programmes' activities are not against Islamic teachings,

Our obligation to involve in HIV/AIDS Campaign in collaboration with Government and Non Government officials/workers at all (grassroots, local, national, regional and global) levels,

Undertake in our involvement in HIV/AIDS Campaign the following activities:

Developing of IEC instruments and methods to effectively reach target population in our communities in an effort to give all of them appropriate and right information on HIV/AIDS,

Training IEC trainers and Muslim Community Leaders on HIV/AIDS Campaign, implementing the following Islamic guidelines on HIV/AIDS and PLWHA as follows:

Attitude toward HIV/AIDS: HIV infection with its terminal state AIDS is a dangerous communicable disease that threatens the existence of human beings. The virus can infect anybody irrespective of gender, age and profession. Therefore HIV/AIDS is regarded as a global danger.

Euthanasia, either passive or active is prohibited to be performed to AIDS patients

Knowingly transmitting HIV is against Islamic Law.

Marriage between PLWHAs is permitted.

Marriage between a HIV free individual and a HIV positive individual is not prohibited/against law but avoiding it is preferable.

Divorce due to HIV infection/AIDS is lawful. A HIV free wife can demands divorce from her HIV positive husband. But based on their consensus, their marriage may continue although the husband is already HIV positive.

A married couple must use method, which can prevent HIV transmission whenever one of them is already HIV positive. The wife is suggested not to be pregnant.

Abortion is not allowed even if pregnant women is infected by HIV.

Pregnant women living with HIV/AIDS due to injection of prohibited drug contaminated by HIV must be humanistic treated, but she has to be made fully aware of her sin and guided to ask forgiveness from Allah.

PLWHAs staying in their families.

Families having member/members living with HIV/AIDS to take care of the HIV infected member/members.

Care of pregnant woman during delivery.

The process of the delivery be preferably handled by a well-trained health personnel to prevent HIV transmission.

Circumcision for children living with HIV/AIDS.

Children living with HIV/AIDS must be circumcised as long as it is not dangerous for him and the process of the circumcision is preferably handled by a well trained health personnel to prevent HIV transmission.

To properly help PLWHA who gets accident:

PLWHA who gets accident, for example car accident on the road must be properly helped and all precautions and equipment must be used to prevent HIV transmission.

Handling deceased AIDS patients:

Deceased suffering from AIDS have to be given proper Islamic burial.

Delegate Chairman,

1. Indonesia;

Prof.Dr. M. Quraish Shihab

2. Brunei Darussalam,

Dr. Awang Haji Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar

3. Malaysia,

Dr. Ahmad Jusoh,

4. Singapore,

Mr. Jaffar Mohd Kassim,

5. Philippines,

Mr. Ali Mistul

6. Thailand

Dr.Smai Kaovijit

PLAN OF ACTION