



IAS 2013

Kuala Lumpur

Adeeba Kamarulzaman

Closing Speech

Wednesday July 3, 2013

Embargoed until 16.00 MYT, Wednesday July 3.

Good afternoon

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I hope that you have had an enriching and wonderful four days at the Conference. I hope that this Conference has achieved what I hope for it to achieve which was to inspire more scientific pursuit in all fields of HIV research in Malaysia specifically and in Asia Pacific generally. With that I hope we have managed to especially attract young researchers into the field of HIV research.

So I am delighted to be able to announce before you this evening that the University of Malaya has agreed to match the IAS/NIDA grant of \$US 75 000 awarded this week to our local researcher Sin How Lim for his timely project on men who have sex with men.

We have heard of the successes and the challenges. We have witnessed the launch of the WHO Guidelines which should provide countries with guidance on the provision of ARVs that is in line with our new understanding of the disease and on the impact of ARVs on the individual and public health. I hope this Conference has also given renewed attention on Co-infections especially with regards to TB and viral hepatitis, especially hepatitis C.

I want to end by thanking everyone that has made this possible – beginning of course with my wonderful team at CERiA and the Infectious Diseases Unit at the University of Malaya. A very special mention goes to Iqa who has been quietly working behind the scenes, always with a smile on her face.

Thank you also to the MAC team and especially to the superb PR machine headed by Dr Zaki. And

lastly of course to the IAS Secretariat especially Anouk, Andrea, Megan, Marjorie and Sian.

Allow me to finish on this note:

We have heard many times this week that Malaysia was chosen to host this Conference partly for its leadership on implementing Harm Reduction programmes that have contributed to a major turnaround in the HIV epidemic in this country. Malaysia has in many respects, I believe, been a role model on this issue for the South East Asia region.

It is my hope that one of the more enduring legacies of this Conference will be Malaysia taking on a similar leadership role in promoting a more balanced and rational Drug Policy in the region, a process that in many ways, was initiated last Sunday at the IAS/Global Commission on Drug Policy affiliated pre conference event here in KL

with Malaysian government representatives and bureaucrats and member of the Commission.

On that optimistic note I'd like to thank all of you for being here these past few days and I wish everyone a safe trip home and an enjoyable time here in Malaysia for those staying on.

Thank you.

END

###