

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 7<sup>th</sup> IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2013) in Kuala Lumpur will mark another milestone in the course of the HIV epidemic – against a backdrop of renewed optimism that the epidemic could be controlled by 2050

**Friday, 22 March 2013 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)** – Organizers of the 7<sup>th</sup> IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2013) met this week in Kuala Lumpur to consolidate the conference programme. IAS 2013, held from 30 June to 3 July 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is organized by the <u>International AIDS Society</u> (IAS), in partnership with the Centre of Excellence for Research in AIDS (CERIA), University of Malaya, and with support from <u>MyCEB</u>, the Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau.

IAS 2013, the world's largest open scientific conference on HIV/AIDS, will attract leading scientists, clinicians, public health experts and community leaders from all over the world, and represents an ideal platform for the examination of the latest developments in HIV-related research. IAS 2013 will take place at an exciting time for HIV science, and recent new findings on very early anti-retroviral treatment including the 'Mississippi baby' in the US and and the VISCONTI cohort of adult post-treatment controllers in France will be closely analysed.

For the first time, the IAS Conference will be hosted in Asia, and will have a focus on the HIV epidemic in the host country and in the Asian region providing Malaysian stakeholders the opportunity to discuss progress made to date and challenges specific to Malaysia itself.

Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, International Chair of IAS 2013, IAS President and Nobel Laureate for her discovery of the HIV virus, during her lecture entitled "From the discovery of HIV to the end of AIDS" given at the Faculty of Medicine of University of Malaya this week, explained how recent scientific advances may eventually lead to the end of HIV/AIDS. "The mathematical models indicate that if we achieve 100% access to ART treatment and the elimination of mother to child transmission worldwide, together with ongoing prevention techniques, we could control the HIV epidemic by 2050. However many challenges stand between us and this goal which we need to overcome, including the adequate supply of affordable first line ART drugs worldwide", said Professor Barré-Sinoussi. "However I look forward to hearing the new science presented at IAS 2013 and I especially encourage young scientists to take part in this event by registering and submitting late breakers abstracts".

IAS 2013 Late Breaker Submissions open on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and will close on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The process for the selection of late breaker abstracts is extremely rigorous and often leads to the announcement of ground-breaking science at the conference. More information about key abstracts presented at previous IAS conferences is available here.

"Recent scientific breakthroughs have led to renewed momentum and resurging optimism. We still have to overcome many obstacles, including universal access to treatment and stigma towards key affected populations, however I am confident that IAS 2013 will represent an important step in our collective work to curb the HIV epidemic and to treat and care HIV-infected people. I also hope that having the conference in Malaysia will act as a catalyst in encouraging and promoting HIV related research in Malaysia and the region", said Professor Adeeba Kamarulzaman of CERiA and IAS 2013 Local Co-Chair.

The full IAS 2013 Programme will be available online at www.ias2013.org in May.

### Register Now for IAS 2013

Delegates are encouraged to register by 18 April 24:00 CET to avoid a last-minute fee surcharge. For further information and registration fees please click <a href="here">here</a>

#### **Further information**

The **International AIDS Society (IAS)** is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals, with over 16,000 members from more than 196 countries working at all levels of the global response to AIDS. The IAS members include researchers from all disciplines, clinicians, public health and community practitioners on the frontlines of the epidemic, as well as policy and programme planners.

The IAS is lead organizer of the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 30 June – 3 July 2013 and custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, 20-25 July 2014. www.iasociety.org | w

The **Centre of Excellence for Research in AIDS (CERIA)** was established in 2007 to respond to the need to better understand the Malaysian HIV epidemic and to build local capacity in conducting HIV related research. Since its establishment it has become the leading Centre in Malaysia conducting HIV related research in various fields including epidemiology, social behavioural, clinical and laboratory based research.

The Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) was established in 2009 by the Ministry of Tourism, Malaysia to further strengthen Malaysia's business tourism brand and position for the international business events market. A non-profit organisation, MyCEB serves as a central hub to assist meeting and event planners to bid for and stage international business events in Malaysia and act as a conduit for national product development. MyCEB's goal is to improve its rankings as an international meetings destination within International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) and to grow business tourism arrivals to Malaysia. Apart from business events, an important component of MyCEB is the International Events Unit (IEU) which focuses on identifying and supporting international event bids in the areas of sports, art and culture and lifestyle.

For more information, please visit www.myceb.com.my

# IAS 2013: Join the conversation

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