

# What is the IAS?



- **IAS is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals**
- **IAS has 10,800 members in 171 countries**
- **IAS conducts information exchange, education and advocacy with and on behalf of its members**
- **IAS organizes the biennial Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention Conference, focused on basic, clinical and biomedical prevention science**
- **IAS is the custodian and lead organizer of the biennial International AIDS Conference**

# The International AIDS Conference

- World's largest, most comprehensive conference on HIV/AIDS issues
- Brings together science, community and leadership
- 20,000 participants from 130 countries, including 2,500 journalists
- Expanded online programming to reach even larger audiences



# History

- 1985 – First conference, Atlanta, USA
- 1992 – Conference moved from Boston to Amsterdam due to US legislation restricting entry of PLWHA
- 1994 – Conference moves from annual to biannual
- 1998 – Community Programme added
- 2004 – Leadership Programme, Global Village, Youth Programme added
- 2006 – Integrated Science, Community and Leadership Programme



# Impact on Host Country: The Context

- **25 years of AIDS**
- **25 million dead**
- **40 million living with HIV/AIDS**
- **14,000 new infections daily**
- **10 years of HAART**
- **Condoms, education, harm reduction work**
- **Sexism, racism, homophobia, and other social fault lines continue to fuel transmission**
- **Stigma and discrimination continue to be rampant**
- **UN Member States have committed to universal access to HIV prevention and treatment by 2010**



# Economic Impact: Statistics for Toronto

- **Initial Expenditure:**
- **CAD\$ 20 million**
  
- **New Economic Activity:**
- **CAD\$ 21 million**
  
- **Tax revenues:**
- **CAD\$ 9 million**
  
- **New Jobs:**
- **397**



# Impact on HIV Policy in Host Country



- **Canada: Toronto – AIDS 2006**
- **Thailand: Bangkok – AIDS 2004**
- **South Africa: Durban – AIDS 2000**

# Canada: Toronto – AIDS 2006

- **Permanent change to visa application form. HIV disclosure no longer required for short-term visitors**
- **Safe injection site given an extension to remain open and exempt from police surveillance for an additional 16 months following evidence presented, and activism at AIDS 2006**
- **Absence of Prime Minister Harper and activism and media coverage thereof re-energized HIV community**



# Thailand: Bangkok AIDS 2004



- **Pilot HIV treatment centres in border areas (Myanmar, Hill Tribes) created through conference pre-programme and sustained post-conference**
- **IDU prevention and treatment programmes intensified, harm reduction implemented**
- **Criminal justice activities curtailed, including murders of drug dealers assumed sanctioned by authorities**

# South Africa: Durban – AIDS 2000



- **Durban Declaration: hundreds of scientists throughout the world sign-on to denouncement of AIDS denialism in South Africa and throughout the world**
- **South African treatment activist movement, led by TAC, dramatically increases in scope and visibility**
- **Conference theme “break the silence” successful in generating open dialogue in South African society and media that is sustained**
- **Brand name pharmaceuticals begin dramatic reduction in prices for ARV in developing countries, generic competition intensifies**

# The Future: Mexico AIDS 2008



- **Political leadership and dedicated resources**
- **Human rights issues highlighted**
- **Denialism challenged**

# The United States and Inadmissibility of People Living with HIV/AIDS



- **US legislation prohibits entry of people living with HIV/AIDS to the US**
  - ▶▶ **PLWHA required to declare HIV status and apply for “waiver” to enter the US.**
  - ▶▶ **President Bush announced Dec. 1, 2006 that a “categorical waiver” would be put in place to allow PLWHA to enter US for short term stays**
  - ▶▶ **“Categorical waiver”, if implemented, likely to require HIV disclosure**