



PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. AMBASSADOR COMMEMORATES WORLD AIDS DAY WITH VISIT TO MALAYSIAN NGO

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 December 2011 - U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia Paul W. Jones visited the Women & Health Association of Kuala Lumpur (WAKE) to learn more about the work of this important organization combating HIV/AIDS in Malaysia. WAKE is a women's organisation that provides shelter and care for women and children with HIV/AIDS or reproductive health problems who are homeless or abandoned by their families. WAKE is funded in part by the Malaysian AIDS Council, which was awarded a US\$5.6 million grant by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in May 2011.

During the Ambassador's visit, he spoke with staff members and praised them for their efforts. Jones stated, "You serve on the front line in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and your work is absolutely crucial to all our collective efforts to overcome this disease. Overcoming this disease cannot be accomplished by one nation alone. But collectively, we can turn the tide of HIV. As Secretary Clinton said, an AIDS-free generation would be one of the greatest gifts that we can give to our collective future."

"We are deeply honoured that His Excellency Paul W. Jones for throwing his support to HIV and AIDS movement in Malaysia. We found comfort knowing that the United States of America stand firm in its commitment to fight AIDS, particularly through multilateral programmes such as Global Fund that has benefited millions of People Living With HIV", as elaborated by Hisham Hussein, the Vice President of the Malaysian AIDS Council.

Malaysia is an upper middle income country (UMIC) that has received Global Fund support from 01 July 2011. The funding is 100% focusing on the marginalized communities (injected drug users (IDUs) and sex workers and transsexuals) and is designed to complement funding by the Ministry of Health Malaysia for the same programs. Eligibility for the Global Fund funding however, rests on the commitment by the Government of Malaysia to increase contributions to the disease program and health in absolute terms each year to avoid displacement of government spending by external assistance.

Closely aligned with Malaysia's national strategic plan on HIV and AIDS, the grant has a strong commitment to participation, consultation and collaboration with the targeted populations. Activities under the grant include raising awareness of the disease and advocacy, as well as training programs for beneficiaries.



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The U.S. has been at the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS globally, both through bilateral and multilateral programs. Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the United States has directly supported more than three million individuals on antiretroviral treatment. To date, PEPFAR represents the largest commitment in history by any nation to combat a single disease.

Besides PEPFAR, the United States also supports many more individuals through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The United States government is the largest donor to the Global Fund and works with it and with recipient and other donor countries to ensure that all resources are targeted to save as many lives as possible. The United States also provides technical assistance through the U.S. Agency for International Development to help recipients of Global Fund resources, like Malaysia, make the most efficient and responsible use of those resources.

ABOUT MALAYSIAN AIDS COUNCIL

The Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) was established in 1992 to serve as an umbrella organisation to support and coordinate the efforts of organisations working on HIV/AIDS issues in Malaysia. MAC, in partnership with government agencies, private sector and international organisations, ensures a committed and effective response by NGOs working on HIV/AIDS issues in Malaysia. MAC, comprising the Secretariat and its Partner Organisations, work together as a team to provide nationwide coverage and serve as the common voice for the community. Besides coordinating and streamlining programmes with its Partner Organisations, the MAC Secretariat also provides these organisations with the necessary training, funds and other resources to implement effective HIV/AIDS programmes within various communities in Malaysia.

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