



HIV IN THE WORKPLACE WORKSHOPS

Collaboration between the Department of Occupational Safety and Health and the Malaysian AIDS Council

Bangi, Selangor, 29 May 2012. Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), under the Ministry of Human Resource and the Malaysian AIDS Council has successfully conducted a one-day workshop entitled HIV at Workplace & The Management of the HIV Code of Practice by The Ministry of Human Resources at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health near here. The workshop was dedicated to connecting the corporate sector in the management of HIV and AIDS in workplace. More than 30 companies including major players in the market such as Maybank Berhad, Air Asia, Sime Darby, and Proton took part in the workshop. It was officially opened by YBhg. Ir Mohtar Bin Musri, Deputy Head Director (Operations) Department Occupational Safety and Health Malaysia

Issues related to the management of employees living with HIV and the protection of their rights was discussed at length during the one-day workshop. Malaysian AIDS Council was optimistic that the workshop would be able to influence more companies in Malaysia to adopt the HIV & Workplace Code of Practice and to work closely with the Ministry of Human Resource in the development of an HIV & Workplace Policy to address issues faced by PLHIV at the workplace.

The national HIV/AIDS workplace policy is currently being developed to ensure a uniform and fair approach to the effective prevention of HIV and AIDS among employees and their families, and provide social protection within the workplace to

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employees directly impacted by HIV. The principles of the policy include the recognition of HIV as a workplace issue, non-discrimination in employment, screening and confidentiality, social dialogue, gender equality, prevention and care, treatment and support as critical components for addressing the epidemic in the workplace.

“ This is an opportune time given that we have made so much progress in our response to HIV and AIDS. Workshop participants got to learn that people living with HIV are now able to lead healthier and more meaningful lives, including conducting tasks at the workplace, thanks to the advent of the anti retroviral (ARV)”. Remarked Datuk Dr Raj Karim, the newly minted President of the Malaysian AIDS Council.

About the 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 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on HIV/AIDS issues in Malaysia. MAC works in close partnership with government agencies, the private sector and international organisations, to ensure a committed and effective NGO-led response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In addition to providing nationwide coverage of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services, MAC and its Partner Organisations serve as the common voice for communities most affected by HIV/AIDS in the country.

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