

Table of Contents

■ Welcome Words	4	■ Useful Information for Your Stay	19
		Banks and Currency	19
■ Conference Overview	5	Business Hours	19
Conference Profile	5	Climate	19
Conference Information	5	Clothing	19
Conference Hubs	6	Drinking Water	19
CME Credits	6	Eating Out	19
Programme Activities	6	Electricity	19
The WALL	7	Language	19
International and Media Scholarship		Security and Safety in Mexico	19
Programmes	7	Time	20
Opening Session	8	Transportation	20
Volunteer Programme	8	Taxes and Tax Rebates	20
Faith-based Participation	8	Tipping	20
		Travel in Mexico	20
■ Transportation	9	■ Tours	21
How to Reach Centro Banamex		Accompanying Persons Mexico	
from your Hotel	9	Historical City Tour (half day tour)	21
Shuttle Bus Schedule	11	Sightseeing Tours	21
		Post-conference Tours	22
■ Conference Venue	13	Tour Terms and Conditions	22
Maps	13	Engagement Tours	22
Hours of Operation	16		
Banking Facilities	16	■ Conference Organizers and Partners	23
Certificates of Attendance	16	International AIDS Society	23
Delegate Bag	16	Conference Partners	24
Health and Medical Services	17		
Hotels and Tours Desk	17	■ Conference Programme Committees	27
Information Desks	17	Conference Coordinating Committee	27
Internet Café	17	Scientific Programme Committee	27
Interpretation	17	Scientific Programme Track Committees	27
Liability	17	Leadership Programme Committee	28
Meals and Snacks	17	Community Programme Committee	28
Media Centre: On-site and Online	17		
PLHIV Lounge	17	■ Special Thanks	29
Procedures for Speakers, Oral Abstract		Abstract Mentor Programme	29
Presenters, Skills Building Facilitators,		International Abstract Review Committee	29
Session Chairpersons and Moderators	17	Skills Building Reviewers	35
Registration	18	Programme Activities Reviewers	36
Smoking Policy	18		
Waste Management and Recycling	18	■ Affiliated Events	36
		■ Exhibition	36
		■ Satellites	36
		■ Next Meetings	37
		IAS Conferences	37
		Regional Conferences	37

Conference Organizers

Organizer



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Welcome Words

Dear AIDS 2008 delegates,

On behalf of the International AIDS Society (IAS) and our Mexican and international partners, *bienvenidos* (welcome) to the XVII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008)! With over 20,000 participants and 3,000 media in attendance, the eyes of the world are on Mexico City this week.

For almost two years, international committees have been at work developing the conference programme. We are particularly excited about the quality and breadth of the scientific, policy and programmatic sessions offered at AIDS 2008. We also hope that you will take advantage of the many opportunities for professional development and networking.

The conference theme, "Universal Action Now", underscores the continued urgency of the HIV pandemic. AIDS 2008 is taking place at a unique moment in the epidemic, when there is widespread commitment to the target of ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. Realizing this goal will require bold action on the part of all stakeholders, including continued investments in HIV research, a commitment to evidence-based interventions, and substantially greater attention to the underlying causes of HIV risk and vulnerability, including stigma, discrimination and gender inequality.

Excellent progress has been made since the last International AIDS Conference in Toronto in 2006. Throughout the world, access to HIV services, including antiretroviral treatment and prevention interventions, has dramatically increased. Now is the time to recognize the important contribution that has been made, and must continue to be made, to strengthen health systems in the poorest countries of the world through the AIDS response. The AIDS movement has been a strong catalyst for increased attention and resources to address the global health challenges the world faces in an era of globalization and rapidly-changing economies and societies. The challenge of AIDS, more than ever, is a challenge for health and human rights for all.

With these goals in mind, let us be sure to make the most of our time together in Mexico.

We are extremely grateful to our local partners, including the Federal Government of Mexico, the Government of Mexico City and local scientific and civil society leaders, who have helped make this conference possible. The Latin America and Caribbean region has shown leadership on HIV issues in many areas – from the production of low-cost HIV treatments to innovative prevention campaigns and high levels of access to care in some countries. As the first International AIDS Conference ever held in the region, our hope is that AIDS 2008 will have an important and lasting impact throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, and that each of us will leave Mexico City with a deeper appreciation for the considerable challenges faced by our colleagues here and for the unique contributions that have been made in the AIDS response.

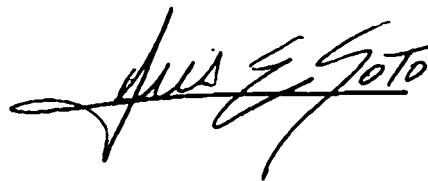
We would also like to thank our international institutional partners: the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsors, the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Food Programme (WFP); the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO); the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) and International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW); the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA); and the Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN).

In closing, while we have a very busy week ahead, we would also like to encourage you to make a point of leaving Centro Banamex to visit the Global Village and to experience the amazing Mexican culture and cuisine in the surrounding city.

Kind Regards,



Pedro Cahn, MD, PhD
AIDS 2008 Co-Chair
President, International AIDS Society (IAS)
President, Fundación Huésped
Buenos Aires, Argentina



Luis Soto-Ramírez, MD
AIDS 2008 Co-Chair
Head, Molecular Virology Unit,
Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y
Nutrición Salvador Zubirán
Coordinator, Clinical Care Committee,
CONASIDA

Conference Overview

Conference Profile

Vision for AIDS 2008

The organizers of AIDS 2008 envision a conference that promotes scientific excellence and inquiry, encourages individual and collective action and dialogue, and fosters accountability.

The specific objectives of the conference are to:

- Provide a forum in which key scientific and practice-based research, best practice, lessons learned and gaps in knowledge are addressed
- Present strong evidence to influence leaders, including key policy makers and donors, to increase their commitment to HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment, undertake responsible action and be more accountable
- Increase understanding of the contribution made by the HIV global response to broader social, economic and health issues
- Maximize opportunities for the participation in conference and programme planning of those engaged in evidence-based responses – scientists, PLHIV and members of marginalized communities, especially those most vulnerable to HIV, including women, girls and young people
- Promote strategies that will reduce stigmatization and discrimination of PLHIV and those working professionally across the response to HIV and AIDS
- Reach a wider audience through the webcasting of conference proceedings to regional hubs and through the availability of conference sessions online
- Improve public awareness of the continued impact of and global response to HIV and AIDS through enhanced media coverage

The conference will seek to engage with and link people in an ongoing way, rather than focus exclusively on five days of meetings. It will be the premier international forum on HIV/AIDS in which key research findings, lessons learned, gaps in knowledge, and best practice are acknowledged and shared, and successes and shortfalls in the global response to HIV are highlighted. At the conference, priorities for future action will be identified, productive and forthright dialogue will be nurtured, and new or changed leadership will be called upon to share priorities and plans. Importantly, AIDS 2008 also marks the midpoint of the 2010 global target on universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support.

Theme

The AIDS 2008 theme, “Universal Action *Now*”, emphasizes the need for continued urgency in the worldwide response to HIV/AIDS, and for action on the part of all stakeholders at the global, national and local levels. “Universal Action *Now*” serves as a rallying call, reminding us that it is only through individual and collective action that we will reach the dual goals of ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010, and eliminating HIV stigma and discrimination.

“Universal Action *Now*” also is an important reminder that the HIV/AIDS epidemic does not exist in a vacuum. Strengthening health care systems in developing countries and addressing underlying social injustices that contribute to HIV risk and vulnerability – such as poverty, gender inequality and homophobia – are essential strategies in the global response to HIV. For those not yet engaged in the struggle, “Universal Action *Now*” is an invitation to get involved and make a difference.

Logo

The AIDS 2008 logo depicts an AIDS ribbon using one of the most important symbols of ancient Mexican history, Quetzalcoatl, or the “Feathered Serpent”. In somewhat different ways, Quetzalcoatl was worshiped by most pre-Columbian groups in Mesoamerica, including the Aztecs, Olmecs and Mayans (as Kukulcan). The god itself represents totality, as well as duality: the physical world, earth, is represented by the serpent, and the spiritual world is represented by feathers, which suggest that Quetzalcoatl was able to fly. This ancient symbol of totality is echoed in the conference theme of “Universal Action *Now*”, which calls for action on the part of all stakeholders and a truly comprehensive global response to HIV.

Conference Information

Conference Publications

This General Information booklet and the Conference Programme are both included in the conference bag delegates receive upon registration. The Pocket Programme is inserted in the badge holder.

This publication contains overall information on AIDS 2008, including details on the structure and organization of the conference and practical information on the convention centre and Mexico City. The Conference Programme contains a complete list of oral sessions, poster discussions, exhibitions and satellite meetings taking place during the conference.

We use recycled paper for all our conference publications.

The Abstract CD-ROM contains all accepted abstracts including those presented in the abstract-driven, oral sessions, poster discussions and poster exhibitions. The AIDS 2008 Abstract Book can be purchased in hard copy format in the registration area.

Daily Conference Newspaper

Six issues of the bilingual (English-Spanish) daily conference newspaper will be available during the conference (Sunday, 3 August, to Friday, 8 August). The Sunday edition will be distributed at registration on Saturday and Sunday, and each weekday edition will be available at the morning plenary session and at various locations throughout Centro Banamex and the Global Village.

The conference newspaper is produced by Letra S, a Mexican non-governmental organization specializing in media communication on HIV/AIDS.

Online Conference Information

Conference Website

Extensive coverage of conference news and events will be available through the conference website at www.aids2008.org, including rapporteur session reports and daily summaries, the conference newspaper, and webcasts of all major sessions. The online Programme-at-a-Glance will include links to full abstracts, slide presentations, and written speeches, as well as links to webcasts, when available, and to English and Spanish podcasts. In addition, we invite you to visit our Virtual Media Centre for interviews, press releases, a photo library and other conference information.

Official online coverage of AIDS 2008 will be provided by kaisernetwork.org and Clinical Care Options.

Abstracts and Presentations Online

All abstracts are visible in the Programme-at-a-Glance on the conference website, www.aids2008.org. For the first time, all accepted abstract authors have been invited to submit additional information about their work including links, images, documents, expanded text and contact access, creating their own abstract webpage through a feature called Abstract Plus. Abstracts with this supplementary information are denoted with a + symbol in the Programme-at-a-Glance.

The online peer-reviewed, open-access journal of the International AIDS Society, *eJIAS*, also features the complete abstracts, in searchable format, of AIDS 2008 at www.ejias.org.

All presenters have been asked to allow their presentations to be accessible online. The PowerPoint presentations and transcripts of those who gave consent are available in the Programme-at-a-Glance.

The Programme-at-a-Glance also provides access to all rapporteur reports of each session, multi-lingual audio files and, when available, video files. It is possible to build a personalized itinerary based on your interests or on a pre-established, topic-driven roadmap.

Kaisernetwork.org

Visit www.kaisernetwork.org/aids2008 to view the official AIDS 2008 webcasts produced by kaisernetwork.org, a free online health policy news and information service provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

During the conference, and archived online after the conference, kaisernetwork.org provides:

- Live and tape-delayed webcasts of the opening and closing sessions, all plenary sessions and selected other sessions and press conferences
- Transcripts of all webcast sessions and English- and Spanish-language podcasts, along with the corresponding slide presentations
- Daily video and print highlights of conference developments
- Extended news coverage in the *Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report*, including summaries of coverage from international news sources as well as on-the-ground coverage of select conference sessions
- Interviews with newsmakers and journalists to summarize conference developments
- A free daily conference update email

Clinical Care Options

Clinical Care Options (CCO) is the official provider of online conference coverage (HIV science and medicine) of the XVII International AIDS Conference, delivered through comprehensive online continuing medical education (CME) activities.

Visit clinicaloptions.com/aids2008 for:

- Individual capsule summaries of the most clinically relevant studies, selected by CCO's expert faculty
- Audio and video podcasts – leading clinicians and researchers review highlights of each day
- CCO's own downloadable PowerPoint slides summarizing the key data
- CME-certified Expert Analyses organized by topic – panels of international leaders debate the conference data

Conference Hubs

AIDS 2008, for the first time in the history of the International AIDS Conference, provides hubs (centres) where selected sessions of the conference are screened, either live or delayed, around the world and often followed by a moderated local discussion to see how the content of the session can be used locally. There is an official hub at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa, organized by AIDS 2008 and the university.

Additionally, hubs arranged by the AIDS 2008 partners, as well as independent hubs, have been put together either by large international non-for-profit organizations or by local communities (such as schools, AIDS societies and faith-based organizations) or individuals. The conference organizers do not set up these hubs, but promote them through the official AIDS 2008 website, providing technical guidance and the feed (content).

At the time of printing, more than 74 hubs had been registered in 27 countries and many more were expected to register.

CME Credits



AIDS 2008 is accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) to provide the following CME activity for medical specialists. The EACCME is an institution of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), www.uems.net.

AIDS 2008 is designated for a maximum of 6 hours per day of European external CME credits. Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

EACCME credits are recognized by the American Medical Association towards the Physician's Recognition Award (PRA). To convert EACCME credit to AMA PRA category 1 credit, contact the AMA.

Programme Activities

AIDS 2008 features a set of programme activities to build bridges between the science, community and leadership programmes and to generate action and commitment from conference delegates and members of the public. The three major programme activities for AIDS 2008 include:

- The Global Village
- The Cultural Programme
- The Youth Programme

Global Village

The AIDS 2008 Global Village provides a space to share knowledge and skills, build coalitions, and promote interactive learning among communities living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, policymakers, researchers and other stakeholder groups. It is an interactive and participatory community-focused space that aims to strengthen the overall theme of the conference: "Universal Action Now". The Global Village is open to the general public and is situated close to the registration area for delegates entering the conference.

Global Village activities include: panel discussions and debates on cutting-edge issues in HIV/AIDS; networking zones focusing

on priority populations, issues and geographic regions; daily Meet the Plenary Speakers sessions; cultural activities and performances; NGO and marketplace booths; and small meeting rooms to enhance opportunities for collaboration and networking.

Additional information about Global Village activities is available in the Conference Programme, which is included in the delegate bags. Information can also be found on the conference website at www.aids2008.org.

Cultural Activities Programme

Cultura en Acción

The AIDS 2008 Cultural Activities Programme, *Cultura en Acción*, provides opportunities for educators, professional and amateur performers and community members from across the globe to share their methods and tools for communication, education and action for change.

A core goal of the cultural programme is to highlight the role that artists and cultural activists have played in social change related to the HIV epidemic. The programme also aims to emphasize the human, social and cultural aspects of the international responses to HIV/AIDS in all regions of the world, with a special emphasis on Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The programme includes visual arts, literature, film and video, performance art and other innovative mediums of expression. Activities take place in the Global Village and inside Centro Banamex. A more extensive programme of affiliated events is planned for offsite venues around Mexico City to link the community with the conference.

Additional information about cultural activities is available in the Conference Programme, which is included in the delegate bags. Information can also be found on the conference website at www.aids2008.org.

Youth Programme

The AIDS 2008 Youth Programme is an opportunity to empower young people, advocate for current and critical issues affecting youth worldwide, and further pinpoint current strategies for effective change. In addition, the programme is working to focus on HIV-positive young people through targeted outreach to HIV-positive youth-serving organizations. There is a new component for young scientists participating in the conference, which helps to engage not only activists, but also youth from many different fields.

Youth activities include a youth pre-conference, a youth website, a reception, a youth pavilion, outreach activities, cultural activities related to youth, sessions and workshops. The Youth Programme is a result of the partnership between the youth working group and the Mexico Youth Force, a coalition of youth organizations working on HIV-related issues.

Additional information about youth programme activities is available in the Conference Programme, which is included in the delegate bags. Information can also be found on the youth website at www.youthaids2008.org.

The WALL

The Way to Accessible Learning and Living ("the WALL") is your place to find and exchange practical skills and ideas most needed today in the fight against the AIDS pandemic. It is a service of the skills building programme for all delegates of AIDS 2008 to put learning into action.

If you have a skill or expertise in a specific area and want

to help others, or if you need help in a particular skill area, post a message on the WALL. The virtual WALL is accessible through the conference website a month before the conference. In addition to listing the skill you have or the skill you need, postings include an easy way to meet during the conference and some optional personal information about you. More information can be found at www.aids2008.org/thewall.

During the conference, you will find a physical WALL as well as terminals for access to the virtual WALL on the Ground Level.

International and Media Scholarship Programmes

The International and Media Scholarship Programmes are an integral part of the conference and provide full and partial scholarships to eligible, highly-evaluated applicants. The aim of the programme is to bring individuals to the conference who are most able to transfer the skills and knowledge acquired there to the work they undertake in their own organizations and communities. For AIDS 2008, a percentage of the budget was also reserved for those working, studying or volunteering in the host country, Mexico.

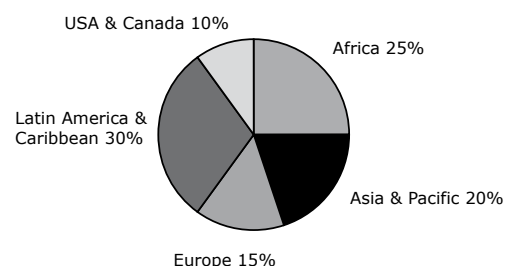
Almost 10,000 applications were received from 183 different countries, from all realms of the HIV/AIDS community. As part of the scholarship application, candidates were requested to answer questions regarding their work, motivation to attend the conference and benefits that they would bring back to their organization and community after attending the conference.

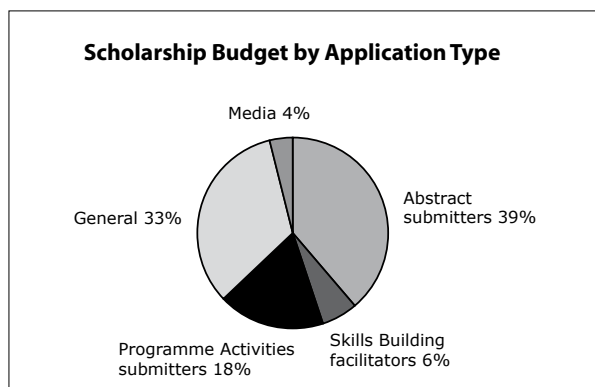
Eight hundred successful applicants were chosen from the pool of applicants, selected according to recommendations and criteria established by the Conference Coordinating Committee, the Scientific Programme Committee, the Skills Building and Programme Activities Working Groups and the IAS Communications Department. We would like to thank the members of these committees and working groups who helped shape the scholarship programmes this year.

The majority of scholarships were offered to delegates who would directly contribute to the conference programme through an abstract, a skills building session or a programme activity (Global Village, Youth Programme and Cultural Programme). A small number of media representatives were also funded to attend both the conference and pre-conference training. In addition to these groups, priority was given to women, PLHIV, vulnerable groups, youth, students and community representatives.

The following is a breakdown of how the scholarship budget was spent:

Scholarship Budget by Geographical Region





Statistics are correct at the time of printing.

Funding for the AIDS 2008 Scholarship Programmes has kindly been provided by: ANRS; AusAid; The Carso Health Institute; Irish Aid; The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation – Mexico Office; The OPEC Fund for International Development; Roche; Rostros y Voces FDS A.C.; Sociedad Mexicana Pro Derechos de la Mujer A.C. (Semillas); and the conference organizers would like to thank these organizations for their generous contribution to the scholarship programmes.

Opening Session

The conference opening session of the XVII International AIDS Conference is scheduled for Sunday, 3 August at Auditorio Nacional. Beginning at 19:00, it will feature a variety of local, national and international speakers, dignitaries and artists to welcome the delegates. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Russian and Arabic languages. Important points are:

- Only registered conference participants will be granted access to the opening session and they will need to show their conference badge to enter the Auditorio Nacional.
- Those who have **not** received their badge through the post, or arrived in Mexico too late to go to the registration area at Centro Banamex before the opening session, can queue at dedicated counters at Auditorio Nacional where conference staff will check personal photo ID and confirm registration. Those who are cleared will then receive an AIDS 2008 Opening wristband which will enable them to attend the opening session.
- The wristband will **not** replace the badge for access to Centro Banamex.
- As security will be tight, all participants are strongly encouraged to go to Centro Banamex to fully register prior to the opening session if they have not received their badge by post.
- As seating in Auditorio Nacional is limited, participants need to arrive very early for a guaranteed seat.

Volunteer Programme

More than 1,000 dedicated volunteers are working to contribute to the success of the conference. Identifiable by their brightly-coloured t-shirts, they are organized in teams to ensure the smooth flow of the conference. The volunteers are there to provide assistance to all the delegates and you will see them all over the venue and in the Global Village. Do not hesitate to approach them!

Faith-based Participation

Representatives of faith-based organizations and people of faith engaged in the response to HIV and AIDS are organizing and involved in a number of activities in conjunction with AIDS 2008. Details are available at www.e-alliance.ch/iac_2008.jsp.

Inter-faith Pre-discussion

The conference is, together with a variety of faith based organisations, arranging a discussion open to conference participants on Sunday, 3 August. More information is available at the registration.

Ecumenical Pre-Conference

More than 500 representatives and members of Christian churches and organizations involved in responding to HIV and AIDS will meet from 31 July to 2 August at the Hotel Gran Melia, Mexico City. Plenary sessions, skills building workshops and daily worship will be offered under the theme, *Faith in Action Now!* Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish will be provided for the plenary sessions and many of the workshops.

Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Room

An oasis for quiet prayer and meditation can be found on the Intermediate Level during the International AIDS Conference. The room is available for individual prayer and meditation, as well as organized prayers for Muslims, Buddhists, Roman Catholics and Protestants.

A full daily schedule will be posted at the entrance to the room, available at conference information desks, and printed in the daily bulletin of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. Other traditions are welcome to use the room for organized prayer. Check at the prayer room for possible times.

A multi-religious team is available throughout the conference to provide spiritual accompaniment. If you would like to talk with someone from your faith, it can be arranged at the prayer room.

Interfaith Exhibition

Many different faith-based organizations have joined together in an interfaith exhibit to share information and resource materials. The exhibition is located on Level Two. There is also a faith-based presence in the Global Village.

Transportation

Shuttle buses to and from Centro Banamex are available free of charge from designated pick-up points close to the official conference hotels or from AUDITORIO and PANTEONES metro stations.

We strongly urge delegates to plan transportation well in advance as traffic congestion in Mexico City tends to be constant and is not restricted to early mornings and late afternoons. Delegates should allocate extra time in case of delays.

Shuttle Buses to the Opening Session

Shuttle buses are also available from Centro Banamex to the Auditorio Nacional where the opening session is taking place at 19:00 on Sunday, 3 August. Shuttle buses will leave from the bus pick-up point in the infield from 17:45 to 18:15.

How to Reach Centro Banamex from your Hotel

If you are staying in one of the hotels below, see BUS SCHEDULE «A»	
Camino Real Airport	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Fiesta Inn Aeropuerto	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Holiday Inn Plaza Dali	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel

If you are staying in one of the hotels below, see BUS SCHEDULE «B»	
Benidom Insurgentes	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Bristol	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta del Ángel (roundabout a few blocks away)
Camino Real Mexico	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Casa Blanca	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout)
Casa de la Condesa	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Casa Inn	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta del Ángel (roundabout a few blocks away)
Corinto Hotel Mexico City	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout)
Crown Plaza Hotel De Mexico - WTC	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Del Angel	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta del Ángel (roundabout a few blocks away)
Del Prado	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
El Diplomático Insurgentes	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Embassy Suites Hotel Reforma	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout)
Emporio Reforma	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout a few blocks away)
Fiesta Americana Grand Chapultepec	A shuttle bus service is organized from the hotel Camino Real Mexico
Fiesta Americana Reforma	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout)
Fiesta Inn Insurgentes Viaducto	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Four Seasons	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Galeria Plaza	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta del Ángel (roundabout a few blocks away)
Gran Meliá Mexico Reforma	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout)
Holiday Inn & Suites Ciudad de Mexico	A shuttle bus service is organized from the Holiday Inn Express Reforma (a few blocks away)
Holiday Inn Express Reforma	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Holiday Inn Express W.T.C	A shuttle bus service is organized from the hotel Crowne Plaza W.T.C.
Imperial Reforma	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout)
Marquis Reforma	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Misión Reforma	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout)
Plaza Florencia	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta del Ángel (roundabout a few blocks away)
Premier Reforma	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout)
Regente	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout)
Sevilla Palace Mexico City	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta de Colón (roundabout)
Sheraton María Isabel & Towers	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta del Ángel (roundabout a few blocks away)
Suites del Angel	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta del Ángel (roundabout a few blocks away)
Suites Marne	A shuttle bus service is organized from the Holiday Inn Express Reforma hotel
Suites Plaza Florencia	A shuttle bus service is organized from Glorieta del Ángel (roundabout a few blocks away)

If you are staying in one of the hotels below, see BUS SCHEDULE «C»	
Fiesta Inn Periferico Sur	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Pedregal Palace	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Radisson Paradiso Perisur	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Royal Pedregal	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel

If you are staying in one of the hotels below, see BUS SCHEDULE «D»	
Camino Real Perinorte	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Crowne Plaza Mexico City North	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Fiesta Inn Tlalnepantla	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Holiday Inn Ciudad de Mexico - Tlalnepantla	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Ramada Mexico Zona Norte (ex Mandarin Carlton)	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel

If you are staying in one of the hotels below, see BUS SCHEDULE «E»	
Holiday Inn Toreo Satellite	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Fiesta Inn Naucalpan	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel

If you are staying in one of the hotels below, see BUS SCHEDULE «F»	
Camino Real Santa Fe	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Fiesta Americana Santa Fe	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Fiesta Inn Santa Fe	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
NH Santa Fe	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Novotel Mexico Santa Fe	A shuttle bus service is organized directly from this hotel
Sheraton Suites Santa Fe	A shuttle bus service is organized from hotel Camino Real Santa Fe (next door)

If you are staying in one of the hotels below, take the metro to PANTEONES station and see BUS SCHEDULE «G»	
Ambassador	Take the metro from Juárez station to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Best Western Estoril	Take the metro from Balderas station to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Best Western Majestic	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Canada	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Diligencias	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Fiesta Inn Centro Historico	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Fontan	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Gran Hotel Ciudad de Mexico	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Holiday Inn Tlalpan-Churubusco	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Holiday Inn Zocalo	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Jena	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Lepanto	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Marlowe	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Metropol	Take the metro from Juarez station to Hidalgo station. Once there, change to line 2 and go to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
NH Centro Historico	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
San Francisco	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Sheraton Centro Historico	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Tulip Inn Ritz Mexico	Take the metro to Panteones station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex

If you are staying in one of the hotels below, walk or take the metro to AUDITORIO station and see BUS SCHEDULE «G»	
Ambos Mundos	Take the metro from Tacubaya station to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Best Western Royal Zona Rosa	Take the metro to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Century	Take the metro to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Geneve Ciudad de Mexico	Take the metro to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Holiday Inn Trade Center	Take the metro from San Antonio station to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Mision Express Zona Rosa	Take the metro to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Intercontinental Presidente	Walk to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
JW Marriott Mexico City	Walk to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
NH Mexico City	Take the metro to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Nikko Mexico	Walk to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Radisson Flamingo M.C.	Take the metro from San Antonio station to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
Segovia Regency	Take the metro to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex
W Mexico City	Walk to Auditorio station, where a shuttle bus will take you to Centro Banamex

Shuttle Bus Schedule

BUS SCHEDULE «A»			
From hotels to Centro Banamex		From Centro Banamex to hotels	
Sat 2 August	departure at 15:00	Sat 2 August	departure at 18:00
Sun 3 August	departure at 07:00, 11:00 and 14:00	Sun 3 August	departure at 18:00 and after the retransmitted Opening Session (≈ 21:30)
Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 05:45 and 07:00	Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 18:30 and 21:00
Fri 8 August	departure at 06:45	Fri 8 August	departure after the Closing Session (≈ 15:30), will also go to Mexico City International Airport Terminal 1

BUS SCHEDULE «B»			
From hotels (and Glorieta de Colon and Glorieta del Angel) to Centro Banamex		From Centro Banamex to hotels (and Glorieta de Colon and Glorieta del Angel)	
Sat 2 August	departure at 14:00 and 16:00	Sat 2 August	departure at 16:30 and 18:30
Sun 3 August	departure at 07:30, 11:00 and 14:00	Sun 3 August	departure at 18:00 and after the retransmitted Opening Session (≈ 21:30)
Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 05:30 and 07:15	Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 18:30 and 21:00
Fri 8 August	departure at 07:00	Fri 8 August	departure after the Closing Session (≈ 15:30)

BUS SCHEDULE «C»			
From hotels to Centro Banamex		From Centro Banamex to hotels	
Sat 2 August	departure at 15:00	Sat 2 August	departure at 16:30 and 18:30
Sun 3 August	departure at 07:00, 11:00 and 14:00	Sun 3 August	departure at 18:00 and after the retransmitted Opening Session (≈ 21:30)
Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 05:30 and 07:00	Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 18:30 and 21:00
Fri 8 August	departure at 06:30	Fri 8 August	departure after the Closing Session (≈ 15:30)

BUS SCHEDULE «D»			
From hotels to Centro Banamex		From Centro Banamex to hotels	
Sat 2 August	departure at 15:00	Sat 2 August	departure at 18:00
Sun 3 August	departure at 07:00, 11:00 and 14:00	Sun 3 August	departure at 18:00 and after the retransmitted Opening Session (≈ 21:30)
Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 05:00 and 06:45	Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 18:30 and 21:00
Fri 8 August	departure at 06:30	Fri 8 August	departure after the Closing Session (≈ 15:30)

BUS SCHEDULE «E»			
From hotels to Centro Banamex		From Centro Banamex to hotels	
Sat 2 August	departure at 16:00	Sat 2 August	departure at 18:30
Sun 3 August	departure at 07:30, 11:00 and 14:00	Sun 3 August	departure at 18:00 and after the retransmitted Opening Session (≈ 21:30)
Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 05:45 and 07:15	Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 18:30 and 21:00
Fri 8 August	departure at 07:00	Fri 8 August	departure after the Closing Session (≈ 15:30)

BUS SCHEDULE «F»			
From hotels to Centro Banamex		From Centro Banamex to hotels	
Sat 2 August	departure at 15:00	Sat 2 August	departure at 17:00
Sun 3 August	departure at 07:30, 11:00 and 14:00	Sun 3 August	departure at 18:00 and after the retransmitted Opening Session (≈ 21:30)
Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 05:45 and 07:00	Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	departure at 18:30 and 21:00
Fri 8 August	departure at 06:45	Fri 8 August	departure after the Closing Session (≈ 15:30)

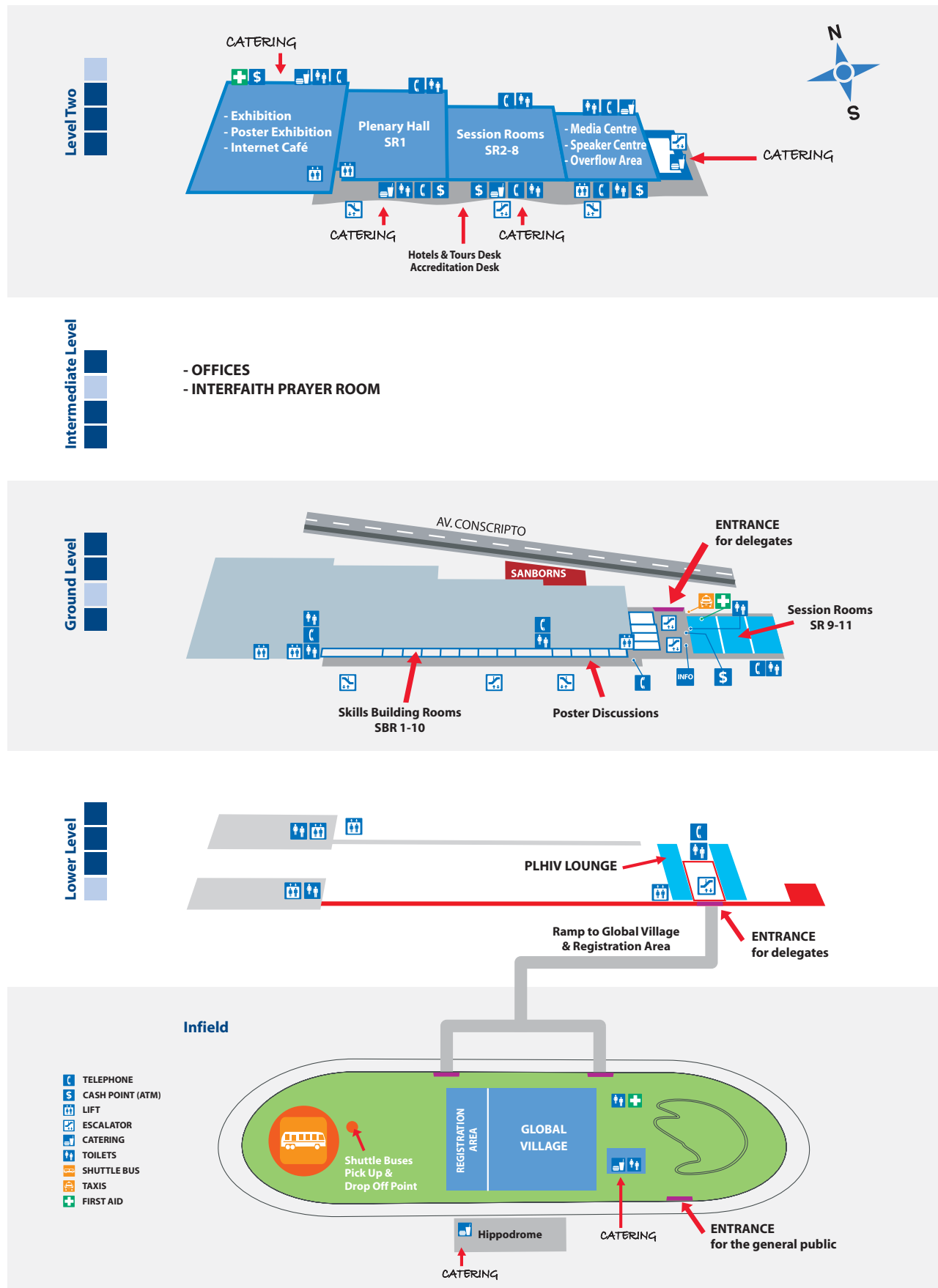
BUS SCHEDULE «G»			
<i>Approx. 40 to 50 minutes to reach Centro Banamex from Auditorio station</i> <i>Approx. 25 minutes to reach Centro Banamex from Panteones station</i>			
From Auditorio and Panteones metro stations to Centro Banamex		From Centro Banamex to Auditorio and Panteones metro stations	
Sat 2 August	every 30 minutes from 14:00 to 17:00 included	Sat 2 August	every 30 minutes from 15:00 to 19:00 included
Sun 3 August	every 30 minutes from 08:00 to 14:00 included	Sun 3 August	departure at 18:00 and after the retransmitted Opening Session (≈ 21:30)
Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	every 30 minutes from 06:00 to 12:00 included	Mon 4 - Thur 7 August	every 30 minutes from 17:00 to 21:00 included
Fri 8 August	every 30 minutes from 07:30 to 12:00 included	Fri 8 August	every 30 minutes from 14:00 to 15:30 included

OPENING SESSION (Sunday 3 August 19:00) - TO AND FROM AUDITORIO NACIONAL			
From Centro Banamex to Auditorio Nacional		From Auditorio Nacional to hotels <i>except to the hotels located in Polanco - walking distance</i>	
Sun 3 August	departure at 18:00	Sun 3 August	departure after the Opening Session (≈ 21:30)

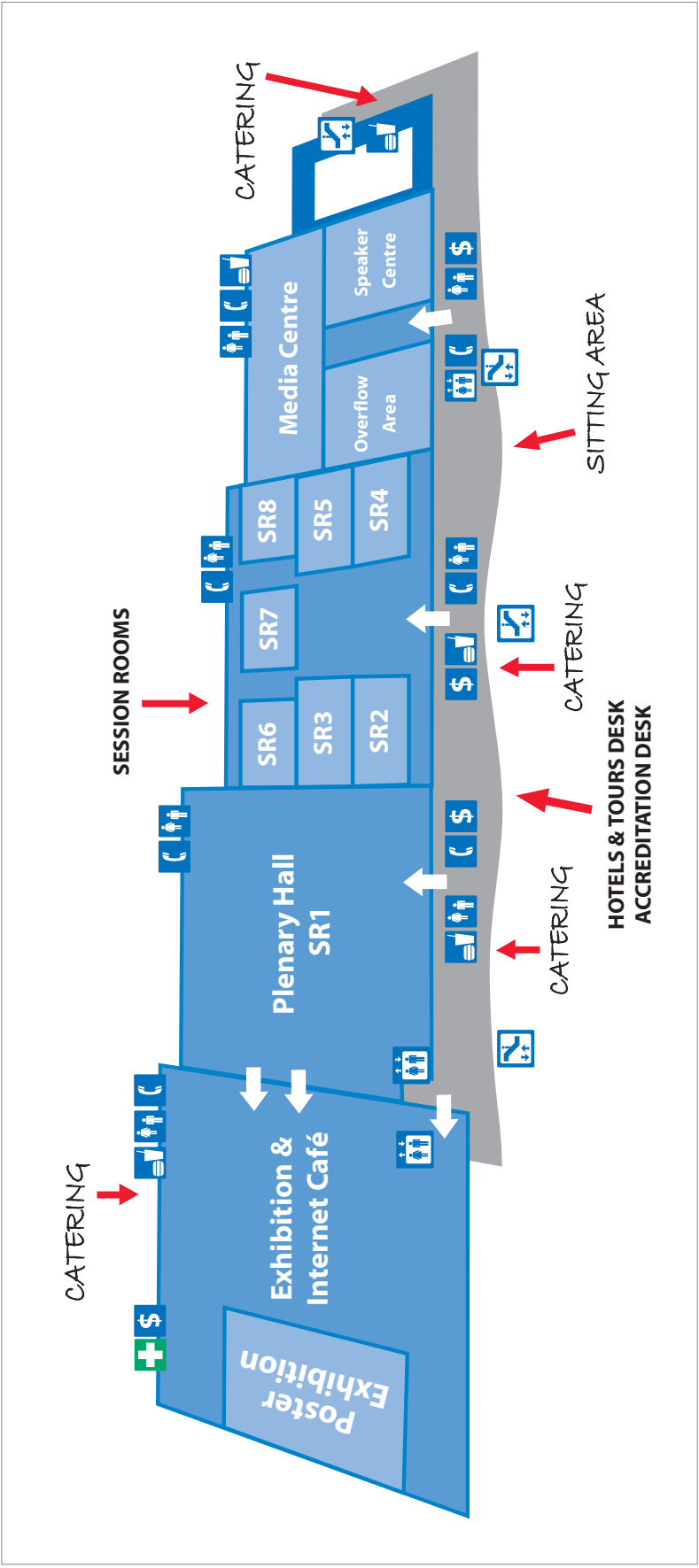
Notes:

1. Traffic congestion in Mexico City is not restricted to week-days early mornings and late afternoons. Some bus routes may encounter heavy traffic jams even on week-ends.
2. There is no bus service from the hotels directly to the opening session on Sunday 3 August. Buses going to the opening session leave from Centro Banamex only.
3. This schedule is correct at the time of printing, more information is available on www.aids2008.org and in your hotel lobby

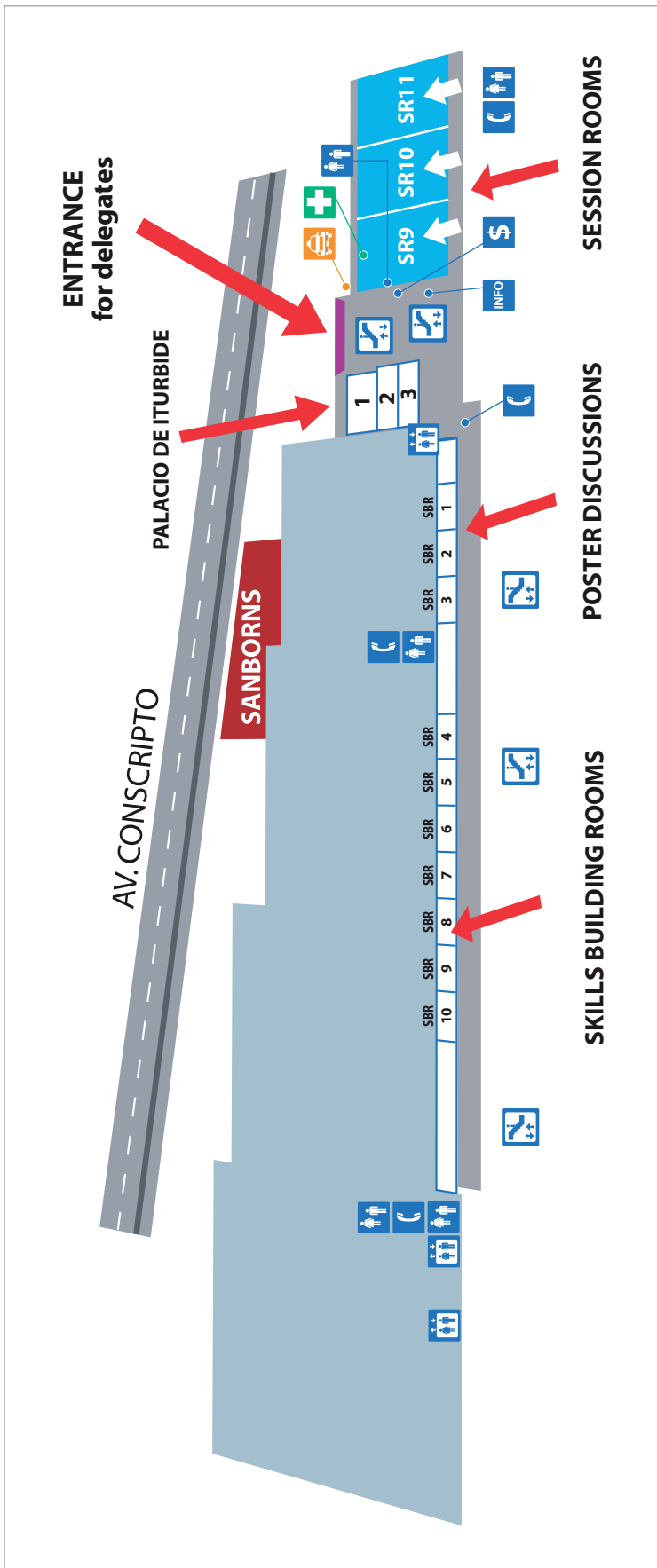
Conference Venue



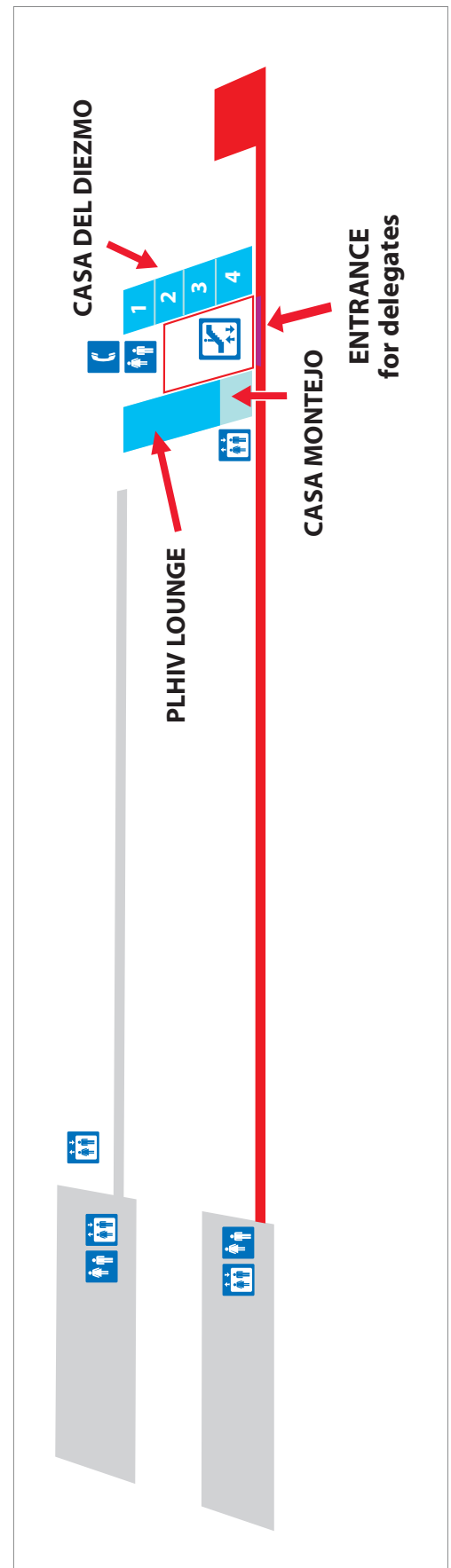
Level Two



Ground Level



Lower Level



Hours of Operation

Accreditation Desks – Concourse Area, Level Two

Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	14:00 – 18:30
Friday 8 August	12:00 – 15:00

Certificates of Attendance – Registration Area, Infield Tent

Wednesday 6 August	08:00 – 18:30
Thursday 7 August	08:00 – 18:30
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 15:00

Cloakroom – Ground Level, Concourse Area

Saturday 2 August	13:00 – 20:00
Sunday 3 August	08:00 – 19:30
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	06:30 – 18:30
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 15:30

Exhibition – Hall D, Level Two

Sunday 3 August	12:00 – 18:00
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	10:30 – 18:30

First Aid Stations - Hall D, Level Two - Ground Level - Infield Tent

Saturday 2 August	13:00 – 20:00
Sunday 3 August	08:00 – 19:30
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	06:30 – 20:30
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 15:00

Global Village – Infield Tent

Sunday 3 August	11:00 – 19:30
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	08:30 – 20:30

Hotels and Tours Desk – Concourse Area, Level Two

Saturday 2 August	13:00 – 20:00
Sunday 3 August	08:00 – 19:30
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	06:30 – 18:30
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 15:00

Information Desks

Saturday 2 August	13:00 – 20:00
Sunday 3 August	08:00 – 19:30
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	06:30 – 18:30
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 15:00

Interfaith Prayer Room – Intermediate Level

Sunday 3 August	12:00 – 18:00
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	08:00 – 18:00
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 12:00

Internet Café – Hall D, Level Two

Sunday 3 August	12:00 – 18:00
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	10:30 – 18:30

Media Centre – Hall A, Level Two

The media centre opens at 13:00 on Saturday 2 August and closes at 23:00 on Friday 8 August.

Access to the media centre is strictly limited to accredited journalists only.

PLHIV Lounge – Lower Level

Sunday 3 August	09:30 – 17:30
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	08:00 – 18:00
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 13:00

Posters – Hall D, Level Two

Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	10:30 – 18:30
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Rapporteur Centre - Hall A, Level Two

Sunday 3 August	09:00 – 17:30
Monday 4 Aug – Thursday 7 August	08:30 – 20:30
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 10:30

Registration – Infield Tent

Saturday 2 August	13:00 – 20:00
Sunday 3 August	08:00 – 19:30
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	06:30 – 18:30
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 15:00

Skills Building Facilitator Office – Ground Level

Sunday 3 August	13:00 – 17:30
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	09:30 – 18:30

Speaker Centre – Hall A, Level Two

Saturday 2 August	15:00 – 18:00
Sunday 3 August	08:30 – 18:30
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	08:00 – 18:30
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 12:00

Banking Facilities



There are cash machines/ATMs throughout the venue. Please refer to the map for the exact locations; they are indicated with this pictogram.

Certificates of Attendance

All conference delegates may electronically print out their Certificates of Attendance by presenting their name badges at the designated counters located in the registration area, from Wednesday 6 August onwards.

Please note that the AIDS 2008 Registration Department will not send out Certificates of Attendance after the conference.

Delegate Bag

The delegate bags are designed with typical "raffia", a fabric that has been used for decades to make market bags for carrying exotic fruits on the streets of Mexico. This blue raffia is very popular in Mexico because of its resistance, durability, lightness and vibrant colours.

The local delegate bag supplier combines tradition with quality through the constant development of contemporary designs that recognize past achievements and offer solutions to the conference needs. All the bags are made by local handcraft staff.

Health and Medical Services



There are two first-aid stations in the Centro Banamex building (Hall D, Level Two and Ground Level) and one in the infield tent next to the Global Village. They are indicated with this pictogram on the maps.

Hotels and Tours Desk

A hotel desk is conveniently situated on the Concourse Area, Level Two.

Information Desks

Two information desks are available for general inquiries related to the conference. One is located in the main lobby, Ground Level; the other is at the registration area in the Infield Tent.

Internet Café

The Internet Café, located in the exhibition area, Hall D, Level Two is a free service provided to all delegates. It consists of two areas:

- A computer area where delegates can use a computer and printer. Access to this area is regulated by a ticketing system. Tickets are available free of charge at the entrance of the Internet Café
- A laptop area equipped with power and internet hookups (cabled and wireless) available for delegates to use their own laptop computers

Interpretation

English is the official language of the conference. However, simultaneous interpretation from English to Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish are available at the opening session.

Simultaneous interpretation into Spanish is available in Session Rooms 1 to 11 for plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, special sessions and the closing session.

Sessions providing simultaneous interpretation are marked with **(ES)** in the conference programme.

Interpretation devices are available in the conference venue. A photo ID is required as a deposit.

Liability

The liability of the conference organizers, for whatever legal reason, shall be limited to intent and gross negligence. The liability of commissioned service providers shall remain unaffected by this.

Delegates shall take part in AIDS 2008 at their own risk. Oral agreements shall not be binding if they have not been confirmed in writing by the IAS.

Meals and Snacks



Catering concessions offering light, nutritious snacks and beverages are available on a cash basis (pesos and USD) throughout Centro Banamex and in the infield next to the Global Village. Items on offer include sandwiches, wraps, salads, pizza, fruit and smoothies. The locations of all catering stands are marked with this pictogram on the maps.

Media Centre: On-site and Online

An international media centre for accredited journalists is located on-site, Level Two. The media centre is equipped with workspaces with telephones, computers with high-speed Internet access, laptop hookups, printers, faxes and photocopiers. Broadcast media facilities are also available. Access to the media centre is strictly limited to accredited journalists only.

A virtual media centre has been established on the AIDS 2008 website for all journalists, including those not attending the conference, and other interested parties to view press conferences, interviews, transcripts, presentations and other conference-related information.

Visit www.aids2008.org/mediacenter. For more information, email us at media@aids2008.org.

PLHIV Lounge

The PLHIV Lounge helps delegates living with HIV/AIDS to maximize their participation in the conference. The lounge is open during conference hours and offers PLHIV a place to rest and retreat from the hectic conference schedule. The lounge provides a calm and supportive environment with spaces for informal discussion and peer support, quiet relaxation, complimentary refreshments, and a safe place for taking prescription medication.

The PLHIV Lounge has been established with the support and leadership of the Red Mexicana de Personas con VIH/SIDA. It is located on the Lower Level of Centro Banamex.

Procedures for Speakers, Oral Abstract Presenters, Skills Building Facilitators, Session Chairpersons and Moderators

The Speaker Centre is intended to support all speakers, abstract presenters, chairpersons and facilitators, who must check in at the Speaker Centre at least **six hours** before the start of their sessions. **As it is not possible to run PowerPoint presentations directly from a laptop in the session room, all PowerPoint presentations must be uploaded at the Speaker Centre prior to the session.**

Chairpersons and moderators are required to collect their final session schedule and important security information and instructions at the speaker centre.

The Speaker Centre is located in Hall A, Level Two. Hours of operation are as follows:

Saturday 2 August	15:00 – 18:00
Sunday 3 August	08:30 – 18:30
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August	08:00 – 18:30
Friday 8 August	08:00 – 12:00

During sessions, presenters and speakers are asked to respect their time limits. A timer is available in all session rooms. Chairpersons are instructed to close any presentation that exceeds its allotted time.

Poster Discussion Presenters

There are moderated daily Poster Discussion sessions for a number of selected abstracts from each track. These are held in dedicated AV-equipped session rooms from Monday to Thursday between 13:00 and 14:00. The discussion posters are displayed in the foyer immediately in front of the sessions rooms on Ground Level for the duration of the conference. Presenters are asked to mount their poster on Monday, 4 August between 08:00 and 10:30, and remove them between 18:30 and 19:00 on Thursday, 7 August.

Poster Exhibitors

The poster exhibition is located in Hall D, Level Two. Abstract posters are displayed for one day, and authors are responsible for hanging their own posters. Posters must be mounted between 08:00 and 10:30 on the day of presentation, and removed between 18:30 and 19:00 on the same day. The poster service staff will remove posters that are not taken down in time but cannot assume any responsibility for the material left behind.

The poster exhibition area is open for poster viewing from 10:30 to 18:30 from Monday, 4 August to Thursday, 7 August. On the specified day of presentation, poster exhibitors are requested to stand by their posters between 12:30 and 14:30 to answer questions.

Registration

The registration fee for regular delegates, youth delegates, student/post-doc delegates and media representatives includes entry to all conference sessions, the exhibition and poster area, the opening session and the closing session.

The registration fee for accompanying adults and children includes entry to the conference venue, the opening session, the closing session, as well as a city tour. Entry to the commercial exhibition, the poster area and the conference session rooms is not included.

Principles and Values for Conference Participation

By attending the XVII International AIDS Conference, participants agree to comply with the Principles and Values for Conference Participation. AIDS 2008 endorses freedom of expression as an essential principle in the fight against HIV/AIDS and in promoting full participation in the conference. The combined efforts of all stakeholders in the public and private sectors and civil society are required to halt and reverse the AIDS pandemic.

Peaceful protest has always been and continues to be a key element of participation at the conference.

The conference opposes the destruction of property, the use or threat of physical force, and the disruption of conference sessions or satellite meetings that prevent dialogue and debate from taking place. Destructive or violent actions will be dealt with in accordance with the laws of Mexico.

Further, security personnel may escort participants from the venue or revoke their access to the remainder of the conference.

Security at the XVII International AIDS Conference

Providing a safe, secure environment for all delegates and the general public is one of the highest priorities for conference organizers.

The conference organizers are working with a professional security consulting firm, as well as local, state and national police and security services, to implement a security programme that will mitigate potential risk with the intention of keeping all participants safe throughout the conference.

Name Badges

Delegates and other participants at the conference will be issued with name badges. Badges must be worn at all times in the conference venue as they will verify that you are an authorized conference participant.

Entering the Conference Site

The Global Village is the only part of the conference open to the general public. All other parts of the conference venue will be restricted to conference participants only. Participants will be required to pass through a badge check whenever entering the conference venue.

As a condition of entry, it is understood that conference security personnel may carry out inspections of bags, briefcases or other carried packages at every entry point and at any time during the event. It is recommended that where possible, any unnecessary items (bags, luggage, etc.) not be brought to the venue to ensure quick entry. A list of permitted and prohibited items is posted at the conference entrances.

Smoking Policy

All inside areas of the convention centre are non-smoking. It is therefore prohibited to smoke in any indoor area of the convention centre or the Global Village.

Waste Management and Recycling

AIDS 2008 is dedicated to ensuring a clean conference, limiting the impact of the conference on the environment. Centro Banamex's waste and recycling system is in place to effectively collect, sort and dispose of specific waste types generated during the conference, maximizing the amount of waste diverted from landfill.

The system utilizes a number of coloured bins within the venue to help all participants sort their waste. We encourage everybody to use these bins to assist in the sorting and waste removal process.

Useful Information for Your Stay

Banks and Currency

Banking schedules vary depending on the bank and its location. They usually open from 09:00 to 16:00. Some major banks also open on Saturdays and/or operate for longer hours.

The monetary currency in Mexico is the Mexican peso (MX); the parity from the Mexican peso to the US dollar is approximately MX\$10.70 per US\$1.00.

International currency exchange services are available at Benito Juárez International Mexico City Airport and at banks and currency exchange outlets throughout the city.

Cash machines (ATMs) are available in every major bank, mall and hotel, as well as in the conference venue. These are located in Centro Banamex lobby and on Level Two. There is another ATM is the retail store next to the venue.

Traveller's cheques and credit cards are widely accepted, but make sure to ask before acquiring products or services.

Business Hours

Most stores and malls open from 10:00 to 20:00 all week long, including weekends.

Climate

Mexico City nestles in a valley, located at 2,250 metres above sea level, in the central area of the country.

The city has mild weather during summer; the temperature range is 20°C (68°F) to 25°C (77°F). The rainy season starts mid June and lasts until the first days of September. It rains mostly during the evening or early in the morning. During the day it is generally partially sunny with occasional rain.

Clothing

Shirts and shoes are required in every dining, club and retail establishment.

Drinking Water

You cannot drink tap water in Mexico; always drink bottled or boiled water.

Eating Out

The city offers great options to dine and chill out. Avoid eating in the street; there are food stands all over the city and many of them do not fulfill sanitary measures.

The areas of Polanco, Zona Rosa, Insurgentes Avenue, Colonia Condesa and the south part of the city (Insurgentes Sur, Coyoacán) offer a variety of restaurants in which you find food from almost any region in the world and, of course, traditional Mexican food. The best way to find the restaurants that locals and tourists enjoy most in Mexico is to ask at the front desk of your hotel – some hotels add this information in their rooms – or at the tourism module desks distributed all over the city.

Electricity

Voltage is of 127v and the frequency is of 60Hz, which means the plugs are mostly located close to the floor with two flat parallel prongs. Make sure you go to an electric supplies store and buy an adapter if needed.

Language

Mexico's official language is Spanish, although you may find English-speaking people in most hotels, businesses and shopping centres. In different areas of Mexico, a variety of regional indigenous languages – Mayan and Nahuatl, to mention a few – are spoken.

Security and Safety in Mexico

The city is divided into 16 districts called delegaciones; each of these is subdivided into neighbourhoods called *colonias*. Every *delegación* has its own attractions and interesting sites to visit (museums, restaurants, tours, etc.), and they are all interconnected through public transportation (metro and different bus lines).

In general, Mexico City is a safe place to visit, and there are no particular areas not to visit. The conference venue area is located in one of the most hip and trendy neighbourhoods in the city, and you will find plenty of nearby activities and places to visit.

Whether you are staying in the area close to the conference venue or travel around the city, it is necessary to consider the following safety measures:

- Place your money in a safe place and only take the amount of money you need per day. It is recommended not to carry more than two credit cards
- It is also recommended that you have a copy of your passport at all times
- Do not carry too much jewellery or too many luxury items as this could be a temptation for potential thieves
- It is preferable that you travel with another person. Whether alone or accompanied, always try to avoid places which seem insecure, especially at night

Due to the fact that Mexico City is located in a seismic zone, it is relatively more likely to face earthquakes from time to time. In the event of an earthquake during your visit, take into account that most modern buildings have anti-seismic structures. We also suggest you consider these security measures:

- Always stay calm and do not run
- If you are in your hotel, stay away from objects that might fall or break. It is preferable that you do not leave the hotel until the earthquake has ceased. Do not use the lift
- If you are in the street, stay away from posts, buildings, windows and cables, and look for an open space, such as a public square

We are also obliged to inform that The Mexican Constitution prohibits political activities by foreigners, and such actions may result in detention and/or deportation.

In case of an emergency

The following phone numbers can be useful in urgent situations:

Mexico City Police	060
Red Cross	065 & 53951111
Rescue and Medical Urgencies Squad	55885100

Time

Mexico is under Greenwich Time Zone GMT-6

Transportation

Mexico City has a well-connected metro system. The price of this service is MX\$2, and its working hours are:

Monday to Friday	05:00 – 24:00
Saturday	06:00 – 24:00
Sunday and holidays	07:00 – 24:00

Regular public buses provide transport all over the city. It costs MX\$2.50 for a short distance trip (2km to 6km). The working hours are the same as those of the metro system.

Another public transport is the Metrobus, which runs through main avenues. You have to acquire an electronic rechargeable card (sold at every Metrobus station) in order to have access to it. The cost of the card is of MX\$11.50, and this tariff includes the price of the card (MX\$8) and a ride in the Metrobus (MX\$3.50).

Many people also travel around the city in taxis. If you choose to do so, it is recommended that you use the radio-taxi service, which you will find located in major business centres, hotels and malls. Every taxi has a "taxi-metre", which will count the final tariff to pay for the service. If you are going to established sites (hotels, conference venue, malls, etc.), this service usually has a fixed tariff. Before entering a taxi, always ask if there is a fixed tariff or not.

Taxes and Tax Rebates

Mexican law stipulates a 15% value added tax (VAT) rate in central states and a 10% VAT rate in frontier states. This tax is charged in the final price of most products and services; if it is not included, there will always be a notification stating that you need to add the VAT.

Tipping

Tips or service charges are not usually included in restaurants, bars and clubs bills. It is customary to leave a tip of between 10% and 15% of the bill. Some places will set a mandatory service charge on the bill; these places will let you know before hand.

Travel in Mexico

There are several cities which are relatively close to Mexico City, and you can get there by bus, car or plane.

There are four bus stations in Mexico City, which connect to different parts of the country:

- Central del Norte, for the northern states of Mexico
- Central de Tasqueña (Sur), for travellers going to the south of Mexico
- TAPO, for destinations in the east of Mexico
- Central de Observatorio, for destinations in the western states of Mexico

Make a quick stop at one of the information desks at the airport, bus stations or tourism modules, and pick up a city map, a metro guide and, if available, a booklet of discount tickets; some businesses offer discounts when presenting these coupons. These booklets and maps should also be available at your hotel front desk.

Tours

Please visit the Tours Desk located within the Concourse Area, Level Two for detailed schedules, reservations and further information about these tours.

Tours pick-up/drop-off points

City Centre locations:

1. Fiesta Americana Hotel Circle on Reforma Boulevard
2. Angel of Independence Circle on Reforma Boulevard (facing Sheraton Maria Isabel Hotel)
3. Hotel Presidente Intercontinental (in Polanco).

Conference Centre:

4. Banamex Conference Centre

Morning tours depart from city centre locations and return to Centro Banamex.

Afternoon tours depart from Centro Banamex and return to city centre locations.

Full day tours depart from and return to city centre locations.

Accompanying Persons Mexico Historical City Tour (half day tour)

Morning tour

Date: Monday 4, Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 August

Time: 09:00 – 13:00

Afternoon tour

Date: Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 August

Time: 14:00 – 18:00

Price per person for an additional ticket: EUR 25

Please note that this tour is included in the fee for registered accompanying persons who have requested this tour at time of registration. Registered accompanying persons will need to collect their tour ticket from the Tours Desk located within on the Concourse Area, Level Two. This tour can be taken as a morning or afternoon tour with availability offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

Drive past Reforma Boulevard towards Alameda Park. See the Palace of Fine Arts and continue through Madero street, ancient Paseo Plateros to the majestic Main Square, better known as Zocalo. Flanked by the Metropolitan Cathedral, the City Government Buildings, the Supreme Court of Justice, the National Palace and the ruins of the Ancient Gran Teocali, you will admire its grandeur and have the opportunity to visit the National Palace, where murals by famous painter, Diego Rivera, depicting the history of Mexico, will be explained in detail by your guide. The tour continues along the North side of the Alameda Park, where the National Post Office Palace and the Meyer Museum, housing a great collection of Decorative Arts, can be seen. Duration 4 hours.

Sightseeing Tours

Pyramids of Teotihuacan and Guadalupe Shrine (full day tour)

Date: Saturday 2 and Saturday 9 August

Time: 09:00 – 18:00

Price per person: EUR 55

The arrival of the Spanish Conquistadors not only brought war to the Aztecs and their subdued tribes, it also meant the merging of beliefs of these very opposite civilizations through evangelization. The Shrine of Guadalupe is a vivid example of this fact. Since 1539, people from all over the continent, including Spanish, Indians and Mestizo, have worshiped Our Lady of Guadalupe. As we continue north to the Pyramids of Teotihuacan, we will see how the City of Mexico has expanded beyond imagination. Finally, we reach San Juan Teotihuacan. You will gaze at the size of the mighty Pyramid of the Sun, bigger in volume than the largest pyramid in Egypt. Your guide will explain to you that the zone was already in ruins when the Aztecs founded Mexico City (1325) and how the Teotihuacan culture disappeared. Lunch is included in a typical, local restaurant where you can enjoy international and Mexican dishes alike (beverages not included). After lunch, you will visit the Citadelle and temple of Quetzalcoat. Time is allocated for local curio shopping in the quaint market, followed by our return to Mexico City. Duration: 9 hours.

Cuernavaca and Xochicalco (full day tour)

Date: Sunday 3 and Friday 8 August

Time: 08:00 – 18:00

Price per person: EUR 60

Drive South directly to Xochicalco, a small and interesting archaeological zone. Xochicalco is a pre-Columbian archaeological site in the western part of the Morelos, Mexico. The name, Xochicalco, means «in the house of flowers» in the Nahuatl language. The architecture and iconography show affinities with both Teotihuacan and the Mayan areas. Xochicalco was the site of a powerful kingdom. After a full visit, drive back towards Cuernavaca, where we make a lunch stop and then visit Cortez Palace and the Brady Museum. The Palace of Hernan Cortez was built on top of the Aztec Temples he destroyed, following the local custom established by the Aztecs. It is said that Cortez actually spent time within the Palace walls. It is now a museum housing interesting archaeological and artistic collections, including murals by Diego Rivera. The Brady Museum is a house in which this rich and eccentric playboy lived and entertained the jet set of bygone days. The house is part of a Colonial Monastery and is attached to the Cuernavaca Cathedral. It houses a rich collection of Mexican and international art, including an original by Frida Kahlo and other well known artists. Return to Mexico City. Duration: 10 hours.

Teotihuacan Pyramids (half day tour)

Morning tour

Date: Sunday 3, Monday 4, Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6, Thursday 7 and Friday 8 August

Time: 08:00 – 13:00

Afternoon tour

Date: Saturday 2, Tuesday 5 and Thursday 7 August

Time: 13:30-18:30

Price per person: EUR 31

Teotihuacan, meaning «where men become gods» is 25 miles north of Mexico City and is the home of the great Pyramids of

the Sun and the Moon, the Citadelle and Temple of Quetzalcoatl. It flourished during the years 200-450 AD and its influence may be seen as far as Veracruz and the Mayan World. Do not miss this opportunity to visit the ancient Pyramids of Teotihuacan. Tour includes a certificate of walking the sacred grounds. Duration: 5 hours

Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera Museum (half day tour)

Morning tour

Date: Saturday 2, Monday 4, Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6, Thursday 7 and Friday 8 August
Time: 09:00 – 13:00

Afternoon tour

Date: Sunday 3, Monday 4, Wednesday 6 and Friday 8 August
Time: 14:00 – 18:00

Price per person: EUR 31

Drive south in the company of your guide, past the University City where you have an opportunity for picture taking of the Rectory and Library. Continue to the Museum of Dolores Olmedo, who was a personal friend of Master Diego Rivera. The museum is housed in an old Hacienda and shows an excellent collection of his easel works. Continue to Coyoacan to the house of Frida Kahlo, where she spent her last years. Duration: 4 hours

Post-conference Tours

The Colonial Heritage

Date: 9 August 2008 (5 nights / 4 days)

Time: 08:30 Returning time 18:00

Departure point: Angle of Independence Circle on Reforma Boulevard (facing Sheraton Maria Isabel Hotel)

Cost:

Euro 790 per person (sharing double room)

Euro 1007 per person (in a single room)

See true Mexican country side and historical monuments while you drive through the heart of Mexico to see San Miguel Allende, Guanajuato Morelia, Patzcuaro and Santa Clara. Tour departs and returns to Mexico City.

For full itinerary details and availability, please visit the Tour Desk.

Please note that the tour includes:

Hotel accommodation at hotels of a good tourist and first class level, in air conditioned rooms with private bath, telephone and colour cable TV. Full breakfast daily. Private transportation with English speaking guides. All admission fees to places visited, according to the programme. Baggage handling at the airport and hotels and all taxes and service charges at time of printing.

The tour does not include:

Meals and beverages other than specified. Personal expenses such as room service, telephone calls, laundry etc., air fares or airport taxes. Tips for the drivers .

Tour Terms and Conditions

These tours are for participating delegates and accompanying persons attending AIDS 2008.

All sightseeing tours include a guide, entry fees, where applicable and meals where specified.

Language

All tours are in English.

Prices

All prices quoted are in EURO and include local taxes at the time of printing. If tax laws change, such changes will be reflected at the time of sale.

Tour Conditions and Cancellations

All information regarding the tours is correct at the time of printing. The AIDS 2008 Tours Department reserves the right to modify the programme, which is published as an indication only.

A minimum number of participants is required for each tour. The AIDS 2008 Tours Department reserves the right to modify itineraries or cancel tours due to insufficient numbers. In the event of a tour cancellation, payment will be refunded in full after the conference.

Disclaimer

In the event of force majeure, the conference organizers and/or its agents have the right to immediately alter or cancel, without prior notice, any of the tour arrangements, timetables, plans or other items, relating directly or indirectly to the AIDS 2008 tour programme, for any cause beyond its reasonable control. The participants shall not be entitled to any compensation for any loss, damage, or inconvenience that results in such alteration or cancellation. Travel insurance is not included and participants are therefore advised to take out their own travel insurance and to extend their policy to cover personal possessions as the conference does not cover individuals against cancellation of tour bookings or theft or damage to belongings. Tours may be subject to cancellation should minimum numbers not be reached.

Engagement Tours

Engagement tours provide delegates with unique learning experiences through interactive site visits to local organizations, research labs and grassroots community programmes that work on HIV/AIDS issues in the Mexico City area. The goal is to exchange knowledge, best practices, successes, challenges, and innovative solutions through dialogue and hands-on activities.

Tours are available to conference delegates at no additional cost and transportation is provided.

Additional information about the engagement tour programme, including registration, host organizations and transportation is available in the Programme Supplement which is included in the delegate bags. Information can also be found on the conference website at www.aids2008.org.

Conference Organizers and Partners

International AIDS Society



The International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals. Founded in 1988, the IAS serves as an independent

voice for global action to end the AIDS pandemic. The IAS has a membership of more than 10,000 individuals from 172 countries working at every level of the global response to HIV/AIDS. 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of the IAS.

The IAS is the custodian and lead organizer of the biennial International AIDS Conferences and the organizer of the IAS Conferences on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention. The IAS conference focuses on the biomedical aspects of HIV/AIDS. It brings together individuals and organizations from around the world to explore current issues in HIV basic, clinical and prevention science.

The on-site IAS office is located on the Intermediate Level. This is also the AIDS 2008 conference secretariat.

International AIDS Society HQ
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Fax: +41 22 710 08 99
Email: info@iasociety.org
Website: www.iasociety.org

IAS Education Programme

Prevention Research Advocacy Mentoring and Education Programme
Saturday, 2 August, 08:30 – 17:30
Fiesta Americana Reforma Hotel

In conjunction with GNP+, ICW, ICASO and the Mexican Network of People living with HIV, and in partnership with the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC), the International AIDS Society is delivering a mentoring and education programme on HIV prevention research advocacy.

The programme is aimed at community HIV advocates, and is intended to build their capacity on prevention research technology and implementation issues.

The programme includes participation at a one-day seminar in Mexico City on 2 August 2008, focused mentoring around relevant conference sessions, and facilitated discussions at the end of each conference day. The seminar is designed as a learning cycle around the knowledge, skills and awareness required for enhanced prevention research advocacy. Beyond the conference, an advocates' network will be established to ensure continuous provision of information about ongoing research in the field, and the cross-fertilization of experiences and ideas related to prevention research advocacy.

The IAS Programmes and Initiatives Department would like to take this opportunity to thank the following Education Programme Advisory Group members for their support and advice:

Anuar Luna, The Mexican Network of People living with HIV
Beri Hull, ICW
Mary Ann Torres, ICASO
Mitchell Warren, AVAC
Philippa Lawson, GNP+
Shirin Heidari, IAS

IAS Special Events

The International AIDS Society at 20 Years - Reflecting Back and Looking Forward: Special Session and General Members Meeting

Tuesday, 5 August, Session Room 9, Ground Level, 18:30 – 21:00

2008 marks the 20th anniversary of the International AIDS Society (IAS). To commemorate this event, the IAS invites delegates to a special satellite session, reflecting back on the early years of the IAS and the epidemic, and looking to the future.

In the past 20 years, many of the world's scientific and public health leaders in HIV have served on the IAS Governing Council (GC). As part of this session, a number of past IAS Presidents will speak on their particular areas of expertise:

- **Prof. Lars Kallings**, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (founding IAS President, 1988-1990)
- **Dr Peter Piot**, Executive Director, UNAIDS (IAS President 1992-1994)
- **Dr Mark Wainberg**, Director, McGill University AIDS Centre (IAS President 1998-2000)
- **Dr Stefano Vella**, Research Director, Instituto Superiore di sanità (IAS President 2000-2002)
- **Dr Helene Gayle**, President and CEO, CARE (IAS President 2004-2006)
- **Dr Elly Katabira**, Associate Professor of Medicine and former Dean of Research, Faculty of Medicine, Makerere University (IAS President-Elect 2008-2010)

This meeting will also serve as the ordinary IAS General Members' Meeting. Meeting participants will be introduced to the newly-elected members of the Governing Council, as well as current and former council members.

IAS Prizes and Awards

The IAS sponsors a number of scientific prizes and awards aimed at rewarding promising young researchers who are doing outstanding research on HIV/AIDS.

ANRS/IAS Prize

The prize is funded by the Agence Nationale de Recherches sur le SIDA (ANRS) and supports young researchers who demonstrate excellence in research related to the scaling up of prevention and treatment interventions in resource-limited settings.

A prize of US\$3,000 is awarded to the best abstract, selected by a jury, in each of the five conference tracks.

To be eligible for nomination, the presenting author of the abstract must be no older than 35 years of age on 3 August 2008 and be a citizen of a low/middle-income country (according to the World Bank classification). The research must have been carried out in a low/middle-income country and must, directly or indirectly, be related to increasing access to prevention and/or treatment in resource-constrained settings.

IAS Young Investigator Awards

To encourage young researchers, the IAS offers Young Investigator Awards, of US\$1,000 each, to the highest scoring abstract in each of the five conference tracks.

To be eligible for nomination, the presenting author of the abstract must be no older than 35 years of age on 3 August 2008.

IAS/ICW/ICRW Young Investigator Prize: Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS

The Young Investigator Prize: Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS is offered jointly by the International AIDS Society, the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW) and the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). The US\$3,000 prize is awarded to a young woman investigator from a resource-limited setting whose abstract most demonstrates excellence in research and/or practice in addressing women, girls and gender issues related to HIV/AIDS.

To be eligible for nomination, the presenting author must be a woman, from a low/middle-income country, and no older than 35 years of age on 3 August 2008. The investigation must have taken place in a low/middle-income country.

The ICRW, ICW and IAS hope that this prize will serve both to highlight the challenges faced by women and girls in this epidemic and to encourage young women investigators from resource-limited settings to pursue research in this area.

All prize winners will be presented before a plenary session.

Conference Partners

Asian Harm Reduction Network



The Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN) provides technical support and delivers services across Asia to meet the needs of people who use drugs and to ensure the implementation of effective and supportive policies. AHRN works with all stakeholders towards health promotion in order to mainstream high-quality and cost-effective services. AHRN works through effective partnerships with government and civil society stakeholders to incorporate needs-based harm reduction project frameworks in comprehensive HIV and drugs policy responses. AHRN's dedicated Technical Assistance and Capacity Building unit provides a range of training and support options to enhance the capacity of stakeholders and to encourage the deployment of an enabling environment for drug users accessing treatment and comprehensive social care.

AHRN is committed to the inclusion of civil society and promotes meaningful consultation and participation of service users at every level of policy, planning and implementation.

The AHRN Secretariat is based in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The on-site AHRN office is located on the Intermediate Level.

Asian Harm Reduction Network
P.O. Box 18
Chiangmai University Post Office
Muang, Chiangmai,
Thailand 50202
Telephone: + 66 53 893175, 893144
Fax: + 66 53 893176
Email: info@ahrn.net
Website: www.ahrn.net

The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+)



GNP+ is a global network for and by people living with HIV/AIDS. Its overall aim is to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS. The work of GNP+ is guided by the Global Advocacy Agenda, which consists of three key areas:

- Promoting universal access to HIV/AIDS care, treatment and prevention
- Combating stigma and discrimination
- Promoting the greater and more meaningful involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in the decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their communities.

GNP+ has chosen to achieve this agenda by focusing on three platforms under the central theme, *Reclaiming Our Lives!*

The platforms for action are:

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights of people living with HIV
- Human rights of people living with HIV
- Empowerment of people living with HIV.

GNP+ is the only international network representing the diverse voices of all people living with HIV and AIDS. As a network based on emancipation and self-determination, GNP+ nurtured the development of six fully-independent regional networks of people living with HIV, covering Africa (NAP+), Asia (APN+), the Caribbean (CRN+), Europe (GNP+ Europe), Latin America (REDLa+) and North America (GNP+ NA). Elected representatives from these networks form the GNP+ Board.

The on-site GNP+ office is located on the Intermediate Level.
GNP+ Central Secretariat
P.O.Box 11726
Amsterdam, Netherlands
Telephone: +31 20 423 4114
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Website: www.gnpplus.net

The International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)



ICASO
International
Council of
AIDS
Service
Organizations

Founded in 1991, the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations' (ICASO's) mission is to mobilize and support diverse community organizations to build an effective global response to HIV and AIDS. This is done within a vision of a world where people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS can enjoy life free from stigma, discrimination and persecution, and have access to prevention, treatment and care.

Framed by our vision, mission and guiding principles, ICASO's work is shaped by a set of Strategic Directions (2007-11) that include:

- Building community sector capacity to advocate
- Advocating for the effective implementation of universal access to comprehensive HIV and AIDS services
- Mobilizing and strengthening community sector partnerships and networks
- Developing a stronger, more effective organization and network.

Specific programme activities include advocacy and networking on Prevention & Treatment, Universal Access, Human Rights, Gender & Sexuality, NGO Code of Practice, Community Involvement in Policy (including conferences, UNAIDS Board, and the review of UNGASS DoC), and Financing of AIDS (including the Global Fund Board and support to civil society to access Global Fund grants).

In partnership with GNP+, ICASO recently developed the Guide to Community Involvement in AIDS 2008 (www.icaso.org/aids2008community), which was created to increase community understanding of and participation in AIDS 2008.

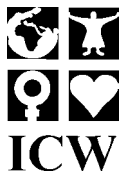
The ICASO network of networks operates locally, regionally and globally, reaching more than 100 countries. ICASO operates from its International Secretariat in Canada and through Regional Secretariats based in five continents:

- African Council of AIDS Service Organizations
- AIDS Action Europe
- Asia-Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations
- Latin America and the Caribbean Council of AIDS Service Organizations
- North American Council of AIDS Service Organizations.

The on-site ICASO office is located on the Intermediate Level.

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The International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW)



ICW is the only global network run by and for HIV-positive women and young women. It was founded in 1992 due to a desperate lack of support, information and services available to women living with HIV, and in response to the need that HIV-positive women felt to influence policy development. The founding members were a group of 56 HIV-positive women from around the world, who attended the VII International Conference on AIDS held in Amsterdam in July 1992.

ICW's Vision is a world where all HIV-positive women:

- Have a respected and meaningful involvement at all political levels (local, national, regional and international) where decisions that affect their lives are being made
- Have full access to care and treatment
- Enjoy full rights, particularly sexual, reproductive, legal, financial and general health rights, irrespective of culture, age, religion, sexuality, social or economic status/class and race.

ICW has adopted a human rights framework for all its work. ICW campaigns to promote gender equity, universal access to care, treatment and support, and solidarity with and involvement of HIV-positive women at all levels of decision making that affect their lives.

ICW works internationally, regionally and nationally, ensuring worldwide links of mutual support, learning and advocacy among HIV-positive women and their organizations, and between HIV-positive women and their allies and partners. We have a growing membership of over 5,000 HIV-positive women and girls from

about 130 countries. ICW members engage in activism and advocacy at local, national and international levels.

As an international network working to support all HIV-positive women, ICW is able to share experiences, strategies and advocacy messages, strengthen globally as a united movement for the rights of women living with HIV, and empower and build the capacity of positive women in advocacy.

The on-site ICW office is located on the Intermediate Level.

International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS
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Email: info@icw.org
Website: www.icw.org

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and its co-sponsors, the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Food Programme (WFP)

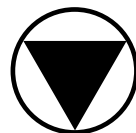


UNAIDS is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and 10 UN system organizations in the AIDS response. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland, with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through UN theme groups, and joint programmes on AIDS. UNAIDS' co-sponsors include the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the WFP, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the WHO and the World Bank.

The on-site UNAIDS office is located on the Intermediate Level.

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Website: www.unaids.org

World YWCA: Women Leading Change



World YWCA

25 million women
125 countries
One vision

The World YWCA is a global network of women leading social and economic change in 125 countries and has been at the forefront of raising the status of women for more than a

century by advocating for peace, justice, human rights and care for the environment. The World YWCA equips women, including young women, to provide leadership to find local solutions to the global inequalities women face. Each year, it reaches more than 25 million women and girls through work in over 22,000 communities. This grassroots development experience shapes the organisation's global advocacy agenda. The YWCA is inspired by Christian principles and a commitment to women's full and equal participation in society. It is a volunteer membership movement, inclusive of women from many faiths, backgrounds and cultures.

HIV and AIDS has been the World YWCA's priority issue for nearly a decade. The YWCA has developed a solid base of programmes that respond to the pandemic at multiple levels, particularly in the most affected regions. YWCAs around the world are delivering reproductive health and HIV education to women and girls in 70 countries. A number of education tools have been developed by women in the YWCA to mobilise women's leadership at the community level and to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

On the global platform, the World YWCA advocates for laws, policies and practices that protect and promote the human rights of women and girls, including the elimination of violence against women and girls.

Change begins at a personal level. Sign the World YWCA's latest campaign to bring change to the HIV pandemic. Based on existing knowledge and evidence about the life experience of women and girls around the world, the Nairobi 2007 Call to Action on HIV and AIDS identifies 10 key areas that, if addressed, will drastically reduce the prevalence of HIV among women and girls. HIV and AIDS disproportionately affect women, but, by addressing issues that leave women vulnerable to violence and inequality, the feminisation of HIV can be reversed.

The on-site YCWA office is located on the Intermediate Level.

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Conference Programme Committees

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Jorge Saavedra Lopez, Local partner, Centro Nacional para la Prevención y el Control del VIH/SIDA, Mexico (until November 2007)

Craig McClure, IAS Executive Director, Switzerland

Julio Montaner, IAS President-Elect, Canada

Patricia Oznaya, Local partner, City of Mexico, Mexico

Pascal Tanguay, Asian Harm Reduction Network, Thailand

Angelica Maria Valenzuela Gracia, Local partner, Programmes for the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation, United States/Mexico

Beatrice Were, PC Co-Chair, National Community of Women with HIV/AIDS, Uganda

Ex-Officio

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Zonnibel Woods, Canada

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Anandi Yuvaraj (CPC), India

Members

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Monruedee ("Pat") Laphimon, Thailand
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Mirka Negroni (SPC), Mexico
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Muwoli Mvula (CPC), Zambia

Members

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Lorena Di Giano, Argentina
Elba Garcia, Mexico
Anna Koshikova, Ukraine
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Special Thanks

Abstract Mentor Programme

The Abstract Mentor Programme aims to provide an opportunity for young and less experienced abstract submitters to have their draft abstract reviewed and ask questions of more experienced abstract submitters. The programme links participants to mentors within the same discipline to maximize the use of the mentors' expertise.

For AIDS 2008, additional resources were provided in the form of a multi-lingual online toolkit on preparing quality conference abstracts, presentations and posters, which was available to all abstract submitters. The International AIDS Society is indebted to John Miller Consulting and the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS for permission to use the toolkit.

Other resources included a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, a list of the top five reasons for abstracts not being accepted for conferences, and some examples of prize-winning abstracts from previous conferences.

Eighty-two draft abstracts were submitted to the AIDS 2008 Abstract Mentor Programme, with 17 active mentors providing feedback.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the abstract mentors, listed below, who volunteered to be part of this programme and responded to questions:

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International Abstract Review Committee

The XVII International AIDS Conference received over 10,500 abstract submissions by the 19 February deadline. Given the volume and quality of abstracts, the peer reviewing process has been a critical part of designing a strong scientific programme.

More than 1,300 specialists from around the world volunteered to serve as peer reviewers, helping to ensure that the abstracts presented were selected on the basis of rigorous review and are of the highest scientific quality.

We extend our special thanks to these individuals for the time they dedicated to the success of the conference:

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 Joseph KL Yu, Malawi
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 John Zaunders, Australia
 John Ziegler, Australia
 Eduard Zijlstra, Malawi
 Maria Zolfo, Belgium
 Maria Luisa Zuniga, United States

Skills Building Reviewers

The Skills Building Programme is a unique component of the conference, spanning the community, leadership and scientific programme. Eighty-six workshops will be presented covering themes such as scaling up, Latin America, affected communities' involvement, science and medicine, and leadership and policy. Skills building workshops will be presented in different languages by facilitators coming from all the different regions in the world.

Over 30 HIV specialists from around the world in one or several fields of expertise volunteered to serve as peer reviewers, helping to ensure the best quality workshop proposals become part of the conference programme. Skills Building Workshops aim to provide a stage for teaching specific skills or strategies to specific audiences that can then be applied within their own work or life settings once they return home.

We extend our special thanks to these individuals for the tremendous effort and valuable input to the review process of the AIDS 2008 skills building workshops:

Olayide Akani, Nigeria
 Maria Antonieta Alcalde, Mexico
 Milton Amayun-Ramon, Philippines
 Francisco Javier Arellano, Mexico
 Sasha Bodiroza, Serbia
 Enrique Chavez, Peru
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 Chris Collins, Canada
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 Pam Decho, Germany
 Steven Diaz, Mexico
 Sophie Dilmitis, South Africa
 Laura Ferguson, United Kingdom
 Kate Harrison, United Kingdom
 Javier Hourcade, Argentina
 Brian Huskins, Canada
 Victor Inigo, Mexico
 Joseph Mahase, Canada
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 Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga, Bolivia
 Gary Rubin, Canada
 Susana Sam-Vargas, France
 Inon Schenker, Israel
 Lorraine Sherr, United Kingdom
 Mark W. Tyndall, Canada
 Alex Peter Vega, Belize
 Ricardo Walters, South Africa

Programme Activities Reviewers

We would like to extend our special thanks to the individuals, listed below, for the time they dedicated to reviewing programme activity applications and in helping to build the Programme Activities component for AIDS 2008:

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 Esther Sheehama, Mexico
 Arushi Singh, India
 Aleza Summit, United States
 Daniel Townsend, Jamaica
 Katie West, United States
 Anandi Yuvaraj, India
 Kyla Zanardi, Canada

Affiliated Events

The XVII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008) desires to maintain the focus and integrity of the conference and therefore has approved a limited amount of affiliated events being held in conjunction with the conference.

Official affiliated events are held outside the main conference site and include a broader range of venues, time lengths and formats. They include symposia, company meetings, dinners and receptions, investigator group meetings, workshops and pre-conferences. Events may be population or issue specific (e.g. women, gay men/MSM, harm reduction and faith based), and organized by corporations, scientists, communities, health-care workers, etc.

The XVII International AIDS Conference is not responsible for final content or the organization of any such event, which are the responsibilities of the event organizers. Affiliated Events are not the same as satellite meetings. For a list of the satellite meetings, please see the Conference Programme.

The sponsoring company or organization is responsible for the actions of its employees and/or agents, and AIDS 2008 expects them to follow the guidelines for affiliated events. The AIDS 2008 organizers expects that individuals will respect and support the meeting's philosophy, atmosphere and policies. Failure of any company, non-profit organization or working group and its agents or employees to follow these guidelines should be brought to the attention of conference organizers.

Exhibition

AIDS 2008 offers opportunities to both commercial and non-commercial organizations to showcase their products and services to the largest gathering of HIV/AIDS professionals in the world. With over 7,500 square metres of prime exhibition space and more than 20,000 delegates expected, organizations can effectively reach a broad cross-section of players in the global response to HIV/AIDS. The exhibition is located in Hall D, Level Two.

Satellites

Commercial and non-commercial satellite meetings on specific HIV/AIDS-related issues are taking place on-site in the mornings and evenings during the conference, and all day on Sunday before the opening session. Satellite meetings are fully organized and coordinated by the party proposing the satellites (company, government, institution or NGO). Slots have been allocated by the conference organizers based on the overall conference programme.

Next Meetings

IAS Conferences

5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention
19-22 July 2009
Cape Town, South Africa



Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment & Prevention
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The South African city of Cape Town will host the 5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2009) in 2009. The event will be organized by the IAS in partnership with the South African-based NGO, Dira Sengwe, organizer of the series of South African AIDS Conferences.

Held every two years, the conference attracts approximately 5,000 delegates from all over the world. It is a unique opportunity for the world's leading scientists, clinicians, public health experts and community leaders to examine the latest developments in HIV-related research, and to explore how scientific advances can – in very practical ways – inform the global response to HIV/AIDS.

For more information, visit www.ias2009.org.

Regional Conferences

2008 United States Conference on AIDS (USCA)
Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach
Florida, United States
18-21 September 2008

This is the largest AIDS-related gathering in the United States. Over 3,000 workers representing all fronts of the HIV/AIDS epidemic – including case managers and physicians, public health workers and advocates, PLHIV and policymakers – will come together to build national support networks, exchange the latest information, and learn cutting-edge tools to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS.

For further information, please contact:
 2008 USCA Conference Planning Committee
 National Minority AIDS Council
 1931 13th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20009-4432
 Website: www.2008usca.org

Ninth International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection
Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre
Glasgow, United Kingdom
9-13 November 2008

Bringing together HIV-treating physicians, involved healthcare professionals and community workers, the congress will address further developments, drug treatment and research impacting on the management of HIV infection.

For further information, please contact:
 HIV9 Congress Secretariat
 Tel: +44 1625 664390
 Email: hiv9@kp360group.com
 Website: www.hiv9.com

15th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA 2008)
Africa's Response: Face the Facts
Dakar, Senegal
3-7 December 2008

The African continent has participated in the response to HIV/AIDS for close to three decades. It is time to take stock of political commitments, unfulfilled promises, and actions and practices employed in the response.

At ICASA 2008, international and African experts will evaluate

the current state of the HIV and STI epidemics, and the scientific, community, and leadership responses, under the central theme, *Africa's Response: Face the Facts*. The conference expects to welcome 5,000 participants from around the world working in the fields of HIV/AIDS and STIs in Africa.

The conference will also broach topics concerning infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and hepatitis.

For further information, please contact:

Bintou Thiam Ndiaye or Shanthi Manian

ICASA 2008 Secretariat

Hopital Aristide le Dantec

BP 7318

Dakar, Senegal

Tel/Fax: +221 33 842 95 10

Email: icasa2008@orange.sn; secretariat@icasadakar2008.org

Website: www.icasadakar2008.org

The First Pan Caribbean HIV Forum
Bridgetown, Barbados (TBC)
5-8 May 2009

The vision of the First Pan Caribbean HIV forum is to remove challenges and barriers to achieve a sustainable and expanded response to HIV in the Caribbean. The event aims at accelerating the achievement of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support services in the Caribbean by 2010. The forum will bring together a wide range of stakeholders, including but not limited to, implementers, researchers, policy makers, PLHIV, populations at risk, civil society and the private sector to develop shared responsibility for achieving the vision. Efforts will be made to raise the profile of civil society as leaders in the HIV response and promote their greater involvement in the decision-making process. An estimated 1,500 delegates from more than 30 English, Spanish, French and Dutch-speaking Caribbean states and overseas departments/territories are expected to participate.

For further information, please contact:

c/o UNAIDS RST

3 Chancery Lane

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Tel. +1 868 623 7056

Fax +1 868 623 8516

Email: TheCaribbeanHIVForum@unaids.org

The 9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia-Pacific (ICAAP)
"Empowering People, Strengthening Networks"
Bali International Convention Center
Denpasar, Bali
9-13 August 2009

For more than 15 years, The AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific has been the custodian of the biennial International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific and has played a key role in building commitment and networks in the struggle against HIV and AIDS across the region. The 9th ICAAP, to be held in Bali, Indonesia in August 2009 will again strengthen this approach. It will be the first congress in which synergy is created from previous ICAAPs, and will adopt new approaches to conferencing.

The theme of the 9th ICAAP, *Empowering People; Strengthening Networks*, underscores this intent for change and highlights the importance of inclusiveness and participative engagement in the region's response to HIV and AIDS. Indeed, even in the manner of its selection, the local organising committee set the mood for the 9th ICAAP by adopting broad consultative processes among networks across Indonesia.

For further information, please contact:

Priskila Noviane

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Tel: +62 21 3901758

General email: icaap9@idsindonesia.or.id

Website: <http://icaap9.idsindonesia.or.id>

FORO 2009
Lima, Peru
May 2009

FORO is the most important space to bring together governmental authorities, civil society leaders, people living with HIV, representatives of the most-at-risk populations, and researchers of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as international agencies.

This event aims to strengthen the national and regional response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic through an intense exchange of experiences and discussion of the challenges and opportunities regarding community and public health approaches.

For further information please contact:

Email: grosell@minsa.gob.pe

VI Central American Congress on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (CONCASIDA)
San José, Costa Rica
9-14 November 2009

The Central American Congress on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections takes place every two years in a Central American country. CONCASIDA is a multi-sector event which aims at sharing experiences, state-of-the-art scientific information and research. During the congress, stakeholders present the result of their work and search alternatives for more effective ways to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The theme for CONCASIDA 2009 is *Youth and HIV: my right to know and to decide*.

For further information, please contact:

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MSc. Rosa Iris Chaverri

Email: rchaverri@netsalud.sa.cr

Website: www.concasida2009.org

12th European AIDS Conference (EACS)
Cologne, Germany
11-14 November 2009

The 12th European AIDS Conference will offer an exciting scientific programme, composed of a well-balanced mix of timely plenary lectures and symposia, as well as abstract-driven sessions presenting recent original research in the field of HIV medicine.

An important goal of the conference is to promote an interest in clinical HIV research among young researchers and clinicians, including those from central and eastern Europe, at an early stage in their career. Junior researchers are therefore particularly encouraged to submit results from their scientific work and also use it as a venue for networking.

For further information please contact:

European AIDS Clinical Society

Phone: +33-1-44241796

Email: info@eacs-conference2009.com

Website: www.eacs-conference2009.com

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19 - 22 July 2009

5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention

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**XVIII INTERNATIONAL
AIDS CONFERENCE**

18-23 JULY 2010, VIENNA

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