



## Balancing Prevention and Treatment

This newsletter covers the programmes and efforts spent in the months of October to December 2006 and the forecast of activities to be held January to March 2007.

Preventive efforts was devoted to our major on-going projects working with selected target groups via various sponsors, including the ACA Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sing (funded by the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund) training volunteers to mentor and support children and families in difficulty circumstances. The project started in May 2005 has gone smoothly into the second year with a total number of almost 90 volunteers recruited to support over 60 families with 130 family members via family visits, family and individual activities to strengthen a safe and child friendly community.

In view of stresses and strains of parents with teenagers aged 12 to 18, this agency has started since 2005 via various parent support projects and in this quarter the Teens: Violence Prevention Project (funded by the Committee to the Promotion of Civic Education). Over 25 teenagers had completed training and assisted in a survey to all schools in Tuen Mun on Teenagers in Conflict with Family/Friends and Conflict Resolution and a Parent-teenagers Workshop facilitating communication and reinforcing non-violent means of conflict resolution.

To address specifically the problem of Corporal Punishment and Humiliating Means Against Children, the Zero Tolerance of Violence Project (funded by Save the Children Sweden) attempted to move the society forward beyond Corporal Punishment urging for legislation and education to be put in place and a child rights and a child perspective to be emphasized.

With the help and support of Mr Peter Newell, Coordinator of Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, and Mr Dominique Pierre Plateau, Regional Advisor on Prevention of Child Abuse and exploitation SEAP of Save the Children Sweden, we continued to raise community awareness and encourage professional sharing and debates on the issue. Mr Newell summarized and presented his thirty years of devoted efforts in the Against Child Abuse's 27th Annual General Meeting held on 20 November 2006, the World Children's Day, and on 21 November in the form of a well attended Sharing Forum. Mr Newell's speech will soon be published.

(For more information, please visit:

<http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org>)

To consolidate our efforts working with parents who abused, a child batterer's intervention therapeutic group of 14 sessions was organized to help parents to understand the trauma involved and acquire strength and new skills to move on.

Two Press Conferences were held one, jointly with the Dr Hon Fernando Cheung, Legislative Councilor and Dr Edward Chan of the Hong Kong University, on the day of the sentencing of the mother, who put her son in a suitcase which took his life. The aim of this conference was to promote a caring and non violent approach in the community. The second Press Conference was held on the day prior to the International Day for Prevention of Child Abuse 19 November, announcing our services and related statistics, all included in our Annual Report 2005/06. (<http://www.aca.org.hk>)

The agency director was honored to be invited as a speaker to two Conferences one in Taiwan from 26-27 November, on Eliminating Corporal Punishment of Children and the Launch of UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children. (For information on the global launch refer to: <http://www.violencestudy.org/r25>) We were proud to have the opportunity to share the experience of prohibiting corporal punishment in schools accumulated since the 90's and our efforts trying to move beyond corporal punishment in the family in the recent decade. The second conference was "Against Violence towards Children" Sharing Forum organized by the All-China Women's Federation, ISPCAN & UNICEF from 17-19 December in Guangzhou. We were honored to be invited to share our efforts spent assisting Macau to start off a child protection centre. Hopefully our experience and strategies will help to advance child protection in China.

We were happy to have our second successful Flag Day held on 28 October, 2006. Over 4,000 volunteers, adults and children alike, supported in action, our mission of child protection and respect of children's rights, by selling flags in the shape of a red heart in the New Territories.

The quarter ends with the 27th Annual General Meeting celebrated by over a hundred guests and service users. Our special vote of thanks to the Hon Ms Elsie Leung, Vice-Director of Hong Kong Basic Law Committee, former Secretary of Justice, who officiated at the AGM supporting the important endeavor of child protection and children's rights.





## Summary of Major Activities for October to December 2006

Month	Project/Title	Activity
October	Financial World Expo 2006	A group of Elite Mentorship Program (EMP) students of Chinese University: BBA faculty organized a charity programme at the HKCEC by selling books from 6 to 8 October.
	Press Conference on "Ban Corporal Punishment!"	Jointly held on 18 October by ACA, Dr Edward Chan of The University of Hong Kong and Dr Hon Fernando Cheung, Legislative Councilor calling to ban corporal punishment of children to actualize zero tolerance of violence.
	Flag Day	ACA approved to sell flag in N.T. District on 28 October.
October to December	ACA Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volunteer Training</li> <li>- Mentor Review Meeting</li> <li>- Families Review Meeting</li> <li>- Publicity talk to schools</li> <li>- Mid-Autumn Festival hosted by K.F.C. Restaurant</li> <li>- Parent Education Training Programme</li> <li>- Family Trip to Lion's Natural Education Centre at Sai Kung</li> <li>- Christmas Party</li> <li>- Preparation Meeting for Workshop</li> </ul>
	Project Teens: Violence Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducted a Explorative Survey on 'Teens: conflicts and handling'</li> <li>- Organized three Parent-Teenager Interactive Workshops</li> </ul>
	Computer Recycling Scheme	ACA had joined the scheme as a follow-up agency. ACA has arranged training sessions for parents to understand the computer usage.
	Parental IT Programmes	The programmes were held for schools from 21 October to 16 December.
November	Children's Council 2006 Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appointment Ceremony of Child Councilors 2006 on 4 November</li> <li>- Children's Council Meeting cum Closing Ceremony on 25 November</li> </ul>
	"How to handle children with difficulties in learning"	Invited Professor Norma Leben to be our speaker, the talk was held on 5 November.
	Matilda Sedan Chair Race and Bazaar 2006	Publicity and fund raising counter and volunteers assist the game stall held on 12 November.
	Annual Press Conference	Annual Press Conference held at 4/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building on 18 November.
	Annual General Meeting	Annual General Meeting cum Annual Dinner held at YMCA in Tsim Sha Tsui on 20 November, Ms Elsie Leung officiated the AGM ceremony. After the meeting, Mr Peter Newell had a sharing session for his 30 years of experience on anti-corporal punishment.
	International Seminar on Eliminating Corporal Punishment of Children & Taiwan's Launch of UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children	Held in Taipei from 26-27 November.
November to December	Zero Tolerance of Violence against Children – Moving Beyond Physical and Humiliating Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sharing forum on Banning Corporal Punishment on 21 November</li> <li>- Parallel talk for parents and children in a primary school in Tseung Kwan O on 16 December</li> <li>- Talks for parents and children</li> </ul>
	Good Mother Sharing Time	The parent education training programme was conducted by the Family Corner Volunteer Group of Tuen Mun Centre between 9 November to 14 December.



Month	Project/Title	Activity
December	Children empowerment work: Kids' Dream	- Representatives of Kids' Dream attended the 3rd meeting of Children's Rights Forum on 15 December - Christmas Party on 21 December
	Parent-child Christmas Party	To promote harmonious family through games and activities on 17 December.
	"Against Violence towards Children" Guangzhou Sharing Forum	Held in Guangzhou between 17 to 19 December.
	Visiting Ocean Park	Service Users of Chuk Yuen Centre and Tuen Mun centre visited Ocean Park on 27 and 29 December respectively.

## **Forthcoming Events** **for January to March 2007**

Month	Project/Title	Activity
January	Certificate Course on Child Sexual Abuse	3-session training course on Child Sexual Abuse for professionals between 11 and 25 January.
	21 <sup>st</sup> Annual San Diego International Conference	The Conference held in San Diego, California, USA between 22 and 26 January.
	Press Conference on announcing the finding and recommendation of the Survey on "Teens Conflict and Violence"	The Press Conference held in ACA Chuk Yuen Centre on 30 January.
January to March	ACA Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin	- Parent Education Training Program - Parent-child Workshop (3 sessions) - Magic and Handicraft Workshop - Visit Wong Tai Sin Police Station - Matching Day / Birthday Party
	Children's Council 2006 Project	- Evaluation meeting on 20 January - Publication of project report in March
	Children empowerment work: Kids' Dream	- Training Programme on 10 February - Retreat camp on 22-23 February
	Zero Tolerance of Violence against Children – Moving Beyond Physical and Humiliating Punishment	- Training Workshop on Positive and Non-violent Childrearing on 28 February - Production of Training Kit on Positive and Non-violent Childrearing - Production of promotion materials: A Bright World with No Violence - Talks for parents and children
	Computer Recycling Scheme	As one of the follow-up agencies, ACA will provide computer and internet knowledge for parents.
	Parental IT Programme	ACA will conduct workshops to schools to enhance parents' knowledge in child protection involved in using IT.
March	Family Corner Volunteer Group – Spring Gathering	To promote group cohesiveness through games and activities on 1 March.
March to May	Batterers Intervention Therapeutic Group	9-session of training programme for parents with emotional disturbances during 2 March to 25 May.



## PROJECT TEENS: VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Sponsored by The Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education

The increase in domestic violence including child abuse, spouse and elderly abuse frequently aroused great concerns in Hong Kong. The society is alarmed that people are using violence to settle their day to day affairs. In addition, the stormy period of adolescence, always brings great pressure to parents. In order to put into practice, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular the right to protection from influences that are harmful to their development and the right to participation in family, cultural and social life, this project aims to involve teenagers to promote healthy relationship between parents and adolescent children, as well as adolescents and their peers. Effective and non-violent stress management and conflict resolution methods are introduced.

More than 25 teenagers had completed six 2-hour training sessions in August 2006. They were equipped with the knowledge on teenagers' needs and development, the handling of their conflicts with parents, siblings, and peers, as well as effective and non-violent conflict resolutions methods. Skills in programme planning and ways of



conducting surveys were also presented. With the knowledge gained, they were involved in the Explorative Survey and the Parent-teenager Interactive Workshops.

### Explorative Survey

This survey aims to identify the prevalence of conflict between 12-18 years old and their parents, sibling and peers and also their ways of handling such conflict. 1,444 completed questionnaires were returned for analysis.

### Parent-teenager Interactive Workshops (three sessions)

The workshops were conducted on 27 December 2006. The themes of these sessions were i) reasons for teenagers' conflicts with parents and siblings, ii) non-violent conflict resolution approaches and effective communication. The participants made positive comments on the workshops. They actively involved in the discussion and shared their views and experiences with each other.



## Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin (3 Years Project)

Sponsored by the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF)

With funding support from the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF), we continued to launch this three-year project "Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin". This Project aims at developing a mutual help network and a safe and child friendly community in Wong Tai Sin District.

Volunteers were trained to be "Child Friendly Mentors". "Child Friendly Mentors" support children and families in need to build up confidence to reach out and utilize

community resources. Besides, the mentors encourage and help to empower participants to expand their social network and increase their sense of belonging in the district.

Representatives from the Government and non-government organizations, and the commercial sector form a core network in the building of a safe and child friendly community.



## Volunteer Training Programme

The 7-session volunteer training programme for 52 newly recruited volunteers was conducted from 30 September to 2 December. The training sessions included the following topics : understanding of child protection, developmental needs of children, children's right and participation, concept and safe and child friendly community, knowing community resources, non-violent conflict resolution tactics, mentoring programme and programme planning skills. A total number of 189 attendance had been registered for the training programme. Meanwhile, the volunteers were preparing for the parent-child workshops for the next quarter.

## Mentoring Programme

There were 60 families with total 129 family members joined the project. About 25 families had been matched with mentors. Mentors initiated individual contacts with families and organized family activities. This increased the mentors' ability in organizing programme and to understand the needs of the families. Mentors obtained support from team staff and between themselves through organizing family activities.

## Parent Education Training Programme

Eight sessions of parent education training programme had been conducted from 9 November 2006 to 18 January 2007. The course included the following contents : effective parenting skills, human relationship, the message of safe, non-violence and conflict resolution. 25 parents registered for the training course. Parents indicated positive attitude change for child management. A parent mutual help network group would be established after the programme. This network would continue to meet on Thursday mornings at our Chuk Yuen Centre for child management issues.

## Family Activities

In the review period, the family network developed steadily through the various activities. A total number of 155 attendance had been registered.

Date	Activity	Attendance
1 October 5	Mid-Autumn Festival Party at Kentucky Fried Chicken APM Restaurant	26
2 November 19	Family trip to Lion's Natural Education Centre at Sai Kung	29
3 December 23	Birthday/Christmas Party	44
4 December 27	Visit to Ocean Park	56

Through all these activities, children and families shared happy times together. For some families, they did not have the opportunity of joining outdoor activities before. They had a new exposure and obtained new experiences

through these family activities. Also, parents and children took a more active role in the family activities. They initiated to share responsibility such as preparing for food and to assist in these activities.



In addition, some of these families were empowered to help others in the community through involvement in the agency Flag Day.

## Publicity and recruitment

Besides distributing materials to schools and social service centres in the Wong Tai Sin for publicity and recruitment, publicity corners were set up at the following commercial centers : Lok Fu, Wong Tai Sin and Chuk Yuen (South) Estate. Banners were hung at 5 public estates as a reminder of the importance of a safe and child friendly community for publicity purpose.

We are now recruiting families in need and inviting corporates to join the project. For enquiry and recruitment, please contact the project officers, Ms Lee Yee Ming or Ms Anthea Lam at 2351 6060 or visit our website: <http://www.aca.org.hk>.





# Zero Tolerance of Violence against Children

## Moving Beyond Physical and Humiliating Punishment

Sponsored by Save the Children Sweden



The Project, launched from March 2006 to March 2007, campaigns proactively for a holistic growth and development of children in a caring and non-violent environment. It appealed to the community to stop violence against children and to move beyond the use of physical and humiliating punishment as an acceptable means of discipline.

### Talks

We have been conducting free talks for parents and parallel talks for children and their parents in primary schools and organizations. The objectives are to appeal for the stopping of corporal punishment towards children, to enhance the parents' understanding of positive child discipline and to teach children their rights and responsibilities. A number of invitations were received and talks were arranged between December 2006 and March 2007. Through the feedback forms filled out by the

participants, they reflected satisfaction in the areas of knowledge enhanced and skills learned. Interested individuals or schools/organizations who would like to invite us to conduct the talks, please feel free to contact us.

### Training Kit and Training Workshop

With the accumulation of experience in parent education and the understanding of the issue of corporal punishment, we are going to publish a training kit on positive and non-violent childrearing to provide a framework and useful information and materials for social workers, teachers and related professionals to conduct parent education training programmes. The kit covers various topics including children's rights, children's growth and development, corporal punishment, related researches, positive childrearing and discipline measures, as well as legislation on the banning of corporal punishment. The training kit will be distributed in the coming training workshop (see below) and at our training of trainers programmes.

### Training Workshop on Positive and Non-violent Childrearing

Date: 28 February 2007 (Wednesday)

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Venue: Room 202, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai

Target: Social workers, parent education workers, student guidance personnel, teachers and related professionals

Moderator: Mrs Priscilla Lui, Director of Against Child Abuse

Content:	Speakers:
Against corporal punishment: from children's rights perspectives Overview and concerns in corporal punishment	Dr Edward Chan, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration of The University of Hong Kong
Children's growth and development	Dr Gladys Lam, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Social Sciences The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
About corporal punishment Research and studies related to corporal punishment	Ms Kelly Leung, Social Worker, Against Child Abuse
Legislation of banning corporal punishment	Mr Chong Yiu Kwong, Solicitor, 1st Deputy Chair, Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor
Non-violent childrearing and discipline methods Group discussion	Ms Jessica Ho, Supervisor Other Social Workers, Against Child Abuse

**Fee: \$100** (including a training manual newly developed by Against Child Abuse)

### Promotion Materials : A Bright World with No Violence

A set of promotional materials including a memo pad and a message card with the important message of no violence will be produced at the beginning of 2007. The materials will be distributed to primary school students and their parents.



## **Batterer Intervention Therapeutic Group**

A 14-session Therapeutic Group for parents who physical abuse their children had been completed in October 2006. Nine members attended the group. The objectives of the group were to help the members to understand and heal from their past trauma and to improve their parenting skills through a supportive atmosphere. Group members felt satisfied with the 3-month therapeutic service. Members were less disturbed by their past problems which were identified in the pre-group period. They acquired a new

approach to face their problems. In the area of using corporal punishment, the post assessment result indicated obvious improvement of its reduction. Parents agreed that the supportive network derived from the group helped to reduce such practices. They had more self-reflection in child discipline throughout the therapeutic process. Another group will start from March to May 2007. For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.aca.org.hk>

## **Talk on “How to handle children with difficulties in learning”**



Children with difficulties in learning was a major concern for parents. In order to strengthen parenting skills and knowledge in this area, a talk on “How to handle children with difficulties in learning” was organized on 5 November 2006 by Professor Norma Leben, a famous parenting expert. The response was very encouraging over 140 participants including parents, teachers and social workers attended the talk. The presentation was most stimulating and lively, and the participants were able to gain more knowledge and skills through the talk.

## **Good Mother Sharing Time**

A six-session Good Mother Sharing Time was held from 16 November to 21 December 2006 to enhance parenting skills and knowledge in the Tuen Mun Centre. The course content included knowledge of children’s developmental needs, how to handle children’s misbehavior and emotional problems, listening skills and the importance of child protection. The response was encouraging with 22 parents participating in the programme. They treasured the relationship building in the course through group discussion and sharing. Fifteen out of 22 participants joined the Family Corner Volunteer Group in ACA Tuen Mun Centre after they completed the course.



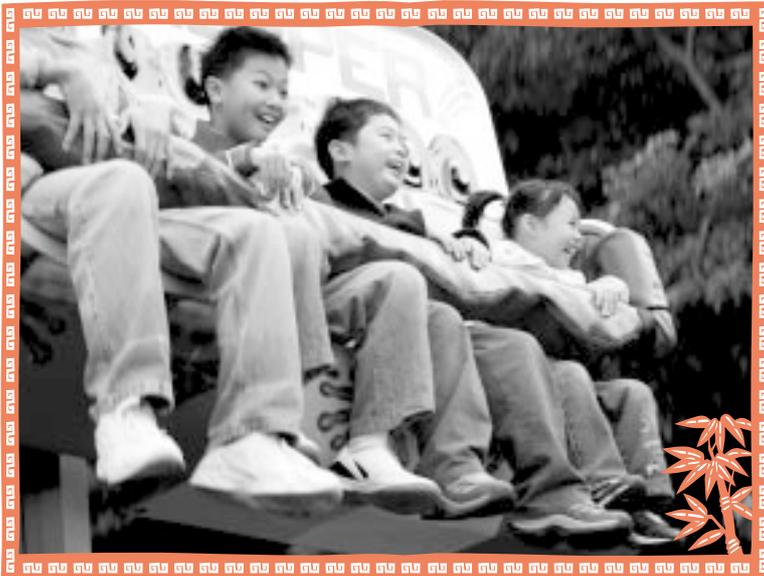


## Parent Education Training Programme at Baptist Rainbow Primary School

With invitation from Baptist Rainbow Primary School, we conducted a four-session training programme for the parents of this school from 23 November to 14 December 2006. Fifteen parents enrolled for the programme. This programme aimed to provide information and practical parenting skills to parents especially in the area of the

needs of children, and the relationship between their emotions and behavior. It also enabled parents to acquire caring and non-violent approaches, to share their difficulties on child management and enhance mutual support among group members.

## Visiting Ocean Park



It has become a good tradition of ACA to provide a heart warming activity during winter to bring the families of volunteers and service users together during a visit to the Ocean Park. Just in the past holiday, 144 participants from ACA's Chuk Yuen Centre and 140 participants from the Tuen Mun Centre, joined the activity on 27 and 29 December 2006 respectively. Thanks to the sponsorship from Angel Fund and Ocean Park, these families enjoyed this happy event and great out door fun in Ocean Park. It added sweet and memorable moments to them at the year-end. Some families had never had a chance to visit this theme park before and some had their dream come true by having the whole family at the function. ACA wishes all these families good health and prosperity when leaping into the new year of 2007.

## Financial World Expo 2006 – Charity Book Fair

A group of students from Elite Mentorship Program (EMP) of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with the support of the Hong Kong Institute of Financial Planners (IFPHK) and the Faculty of Business Administration, CUHK, organized a charity programme from 6 to 8 October 2006 at the Financial World Expo 2006 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre to promote and fund raise for ACA.

The EMP members organized a charity book fair in one of the many booths during the period.





## ACA Flag Day 2006



ACA was authorized to conduct a Flag Day in the NT region on 28 October 2006. Through the publicity surrounding the Flag Day and the recruitment of volunteers, the message of child protection concerns was conveyed to the public. The community response to ACA's Flag Day was very encouraging. Seventeen community leaders were invited to be our Flag Day advisors and around 4,500 volunteers, both adults and children were recruited on that day. Corporations such as HSBC, MTRC, KCRC, Road Show, Media Corporate and Time Squares supported our mission by various means. Our special appreciation to their generosity, without which our Flag Day would not be a success!

## Sharing Forum on Banning Corporal Punishment

The **Sharing Forum on Banning Corporal Punishment** was held on 21 November 2006 to share the global progress towards stopping violence against children and share views on banning all corporal punishment of children in the community including at home. Dr Patricia Ip, Chairperson of ACA, was the moderator in the Forum.

Two overseas child rights experts, Mr Peter Newell, Coordinator of Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, and Mr Dominique Pierre Plateau, Regional Advisor on Prevention of Child Abuse and Exploitation SEAP of Save the Children Sweden, shared the other countries' experience in banning corporal punishment, latest research findings, arguments on banning all corporal punishment and the UN Study on Violence against Children.

Dr Lin Siu Fung, Assistant Professor of City University of Hong Kong, introduced the findings of a research on Hong Kong children's experience and views towards corporal punishment. Another local speaker, Mr Chong Yiu Kwong,

a solicitor and First Deputy Chair of Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, shared the Hong Kong experience from a legal perspective and suggested an action plan in fighting for outlawing corporal punishment at home.

The Forum attracted multidisciplinary participants including the Chairman of the Committee on Home-School Cooperation, government officials, social workers and parents. Speakers and participants had constructive interactions in the question and answer session.



## United Nations Secretary General's Study Report on Violence Against Children

The United Nations Secretary General has appointed an Independent Expert, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, to lead a global study on Violence Against Children. The Study is a joint initiative, directly supported by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Study, rooted in children's human rights to protection from all forms of violence, aims to promote action to prevent and eliminate violence against children at international, regional, national and local levels. The Study is a UN-led collaboration, mandated by the General Assembly (UN GA Resolution 57/190), to draw together existing research and relevant information about the forms, causes



and impact of violence which affects children and young people (up to the age of 18 years). After an accumulation of three year's research and regional consultations, a major report has been published in October 2006 and recommendations presented to the UN General Assembly. Please refer to the below link for more information:

Information on the global launch, October 2006  
<http://www.violencestudy.org/r25>

Link to Violence Against Children in the Home, Issue 5  
[http://www.vaceastasiapacific.org/images/unvac\\_issue5homes.pdf](http://www.vaceastasiapacific.org/images/unvac_issue5homes.pdf)

## Responding to the National Launch of the UN Study on Violence Against Children, Taiwan Parliament Passes Law to Ban Corporal Punishment in Schools



of the Study's editorial group and Coordinator of Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, to disseminate the key message of the report, the violent nature of corporal punishment, and to appeal for equal rights for children.

The Launch was held with the two-day International Seminar on Eliminating Corporal Punishment. Priscilla Lui from Against Child Abuse, Hong Kong, used HK's experience as an example that banning in schools corporal punishment does not mean schools would be in chaos. Presentations by Dominique Pierre Plateau from Save the Children Sweden and by Ms Jargal Chuluuntulga from Save the Children UK in Mongolia further demonstrated the international co-effort in ending corporal punishment.

The long-expected amendment to the Fundamental Law of Education to ban corporal punishment in school was passed on 12 December 2006 in Taiwan, merely two weeks after Taiwan's Launch of the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children on 26 November 2006.

This new law is applicable to all educational institutes, including all public and private schools and kindergartens, universities, and all kinds of special schools, protecting 5.3 million students. Upon knowing this news, some students were very excited, but there were others who expressed concerns on the implementation. To ensure the effectiveness of the law, after the persuasion of strong supporters, the Ministry of Education will join with the National Teachers' Association to draft "Notes for School Discipline and Counseling" within six months after this amendment bill is passed, and urge the local Educational Bureaux to make relevant regulations for schools.

International efforts to eliminate corporal punishment were introduced to Taiwan in 2005 by the Humanistic Education Foundation (HEF). The amendment bill was first proposed to the Parliament in October 2005 after the President's declaration of his commitment to prohibit corporal punishment by law in response to the UN Study's appeal in 2005 summer. HEF organized the Taiwan's launch of the UN Study's report and invited Peter Newell, member

## "Against Violence towards Children" Guangzhou Sharing Forum

All-China Women's Federation, ISPCAN & UNICEF held the 2nd "Against Violence towards Children" Sharing Forum during 17 to 19 December in Guangzhou. There were around 80 representatives coming from different regions including provinces, municipalities, districts and communities. ACA's Chairperson Dr Patricia Ip and Director Mrs Priscilla Lui were invited as speakers of the conference. They introduced the 2006 UN Secretary General's global report on the research on Violence Against Children with the background and main points. They also shared the

child protection policy and the management of child abuse and neglect in Hong Kong including the advocacy of child participation and children's rights. They explained the multidisciplinary collaborative approach and emphasized the importance of professional training. The experience shared also included ACA's efforts in helping neighbouring Macau establish a child protection centre. It was our hope that the sharing of experience globally and from Hong Kong would bring inspiration to the development of a structure in child protection in China.



## Annual Press Conference

ACA held the annual press conference on 18 November 2006 a day prior to the International Prevention of Child Abuse Day, to release the service trends and profiles, annual programmes and concerns in the year under review 2005/06. The Director urged the government to put in place effective measures on child protection, proactively honor the belief of zero tolerance against violence. Mr Peter Newell, Coordinator of the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, was also invited to the press conference and shared his 30 years' experience of campaigning against corporal punishment of children.



## Annual General Meeting and Speech from Mr Peter Newell



We held our 27th Annual General Meeting on 20 November 2006, the World Children's Day, at the YMCA of Hong Kong. We were very honoured to have Ms Elsie Leung Oi Sie, Vice-Director of Hong Kong Basic Law Committee (Former Secretary of Justice, HKSAR) to be our officiating guest. In her opening speech, she shared her concerns and stressed the importance of promoting a safe and friendly community for children. She also appreciated our effort in the past 27 years and affirmed ACA's contribution to the community. The chairperson and the director of the agency appealed for more effort being devoted to preventive services as remedial action often come too late.

During the occasion, Mr Peter Newell, Coordinator for the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, was invited to share his over 30 years' experience of campaigning against corporal punishment of children. His sharing broadened our views on the banning of corporal punishment and reflected community concerns.

### Up coming International Event

## 21st annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment

Held in San Diego, California, USA during 22-26 January 2007

## ISPCAN 17th International Congress 2008 To be co-hosted by ISPCAN and ACA

The ISPCAN 17th Congress with the theme "Towards a Caring and Non-violent Community: A Child's Perspective" will be co-organized by ACA and ISPCAN from 7-10 September 2008 in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Please contact us by e-mail: [aca@aca.org.hk](mailto:aca@aca.org.hk). For details, please refer to the first announcement in our website: <http://www.aca.org.hk>.