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Director, Communicable Diseases  
Department of Communicable Diseases (CDS)  
World Health Organisation  
South and South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO), New Delhi

Dr John Ehrenberg  
Director  
Division, Combating Communicable Diseases  
Western Pacific Regional Office/WHO

Dear Dr. Narain and Dr. Ehrenberg,

On behalf of the regional and national organisations involved in campaigning for access to affordable treatment and care services for viral hepatitis, and in particular hepatitis C, we would like to thank you and your offices for supporting the Regional Community Meeting on Viral Hepatitis and HIV held in June 2010 in Bangkok.

During our last meeting, one of the key discussions focused on and prioritized action related to the availability and development of treatment guidelines and protocols for health care providers, medical professionals and patients for the diagnosis, management and treatment of hepatitis C in resource constrained Asian countries.

As you are aware, treatment guidelines are important tools for supporting and guiding patients towards appropriate and effective medical treatment. Many countries across Europe have developed guidelines for diagnosing, managing and treating hepatitis C, with special emphasis given to key affected populations such as people who use drugs.

Currently, in the Asian setting in which we operate, many patients and medical professionals do not have the necessary support or guidance to select treatment options for individual patients. This situation is further compounded by the high cost of the medicines and laboratory test required to achieve a successful treatment outcome. In spite of this, many medical professionals have been providing treatment and many patients have achieved a sustained viral response indicating that treatment can and does work.

In support of the recent Resolution on Viral Hepatitis that was adopted at the 63<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly, we would like to invite you to play a leading role in developing evidence-based guidelines for the diagnosis, management and treatment of hepatitis C. Ultimately, these must be informed by Asian experiences to develop safe, effective and affordable means to treat people living with hepatitis in this region.

On behalf of the community organisations listed below, we have pledged our support to this endeavor and to providing you with community insights should you accept to invest your time in making a contribution to this important project.

Should you have any questions and suggestions regarding this critical process, we would welcome your inputs. At your convenience, we look forward to hearing from you regarding this invitation.

Yours sincerely,

Asia Pacific Network of People living with HIV (APN+).

Asian Network of People who Use Drugs (ANPUD).

Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW).

International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC).

Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (7 Sisters).

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF Access to Essential Medicines Campaign)

Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group (TTAG).

World AIDS Campaign (WAC).