

2005 ICASA, Abuja, Nigeria

The 14th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) will hold in Abuja, Nigeria, from 4 – 9, December, 2005. www.icasa2005.org.ng. This regional conference, which is quickly becoming a venue for the highest level of government, scientists, public health experts, community leaders, activists, international partners and donors, serves as a forum to discuss ways of managing and reversing the impact of HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections on the African continent.

This year's theme, "HIV/AIDS and the Family" will focus on and explore traditional African family values with the aim of involving families in a comprehensive response to the AIDS epidemic in Africa. Special attention will be given to the youth, women and children, with an emphasis on the difficult circumstances faced by this segment of the population while at home, work, school and play.

The Conference's theme has been sub sectioned into seven (7) main areas which will help drive the discussions during the week, bringing in experts and field researchers and program implementers to share their lessons learned and findings. These areas of concentration are: Accountability, Politics and Policies in HIV/AIDS; Prevention and Control; Treatment, Care and Support; Science and the Community – Bridging the Gap; Human Rights, Gender and Ethics; HIV/AIDS, the Youth and the Family; and Impact and Impact Mitigation.

The role of the Media – television, radio, print, internet – at the conference is also being highlighted as this will be one medium to get the message of the conference to people around the world who are unable to travel to Abuja to attend the conference. Attendance at the conference is free for the media as long as they register in advance on the conference's website at www.icasa2005.org.ng.

Other highlights at the conference will include a pre-conference Youth Forum spotlighting their role as peer educators, advocates and counselors; and a Leadership Forum, where leaders and stakeholders from all sectors will discuss the opportunities and challenges of scaling up an effective AIDS response in Africa, and develop strategies for real progress.

For more information on the conference, visit www.icasa2005.org.ng.

Also view the Press Releases announcing various activities scheduled to take place at the conference.