

49th INTERNATIONAL

ICAA CONFERENCE ON DEPENDENCIES

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (UK)

(September 2006)

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The 49th International conference on Dependencies is one of the highlights of the International Council on Alcohol and Addiction (ICAA) activities in its 99th year of existence.

ICAA is one of the oldest non - governmental organisation active in the field of dependencies which was founded in Stockholm in 1907.

ICAA is dedicated to prevent and reduce the harmful use and effects of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and addictive behaviours on individuals, families, communities and society. It sensitises, empowers and educates organisations and individuals, and advocates for effective partnerships in prevention, treatment, research and policy development in the interest of public health, personal and social wellbeing.

ICAA's 49th International Conference on Dependencies was held on September 3-8, 2006. The conference venue was the magnificent Assembly Halls of the Church of Scotland.

* Senior Expert, National Center for Social and Criminological Research, Cairo, Egypt.

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More than three hundred speakers and participants from all five continents gathered to exchange practical experience, scientific research and reflect realities of their profession.

The major sponsors of the conference were:

- 1- ICAA (International Council of Alcohol and Addiction).
- 2- Castle Craig Hospital, established for 19 yearst, is located in the Scottish Borders. It is a residential hospital for the inpatient treatment of alcoholism and drug addiction.
- 3- Addiction Recovery Foundation, England which is a registered cherity and was founded in 1989 to address a lack of information and guidance for people seeking to recover from dependency/ addiction problems with both substances and behaviours.

An professional exhibition was held in association with the conference to advertise products and services to leading personalities from the whole spectrum of addiction field from around the world.

The overall theme of the confrence was "What Makes Good Practice".

The conference programme included number of high quality plenary sessions with invited speakers from around the world and representatives from WHO's Substance Dependence Managing, UN's International Narcotics Control Board, and ILO, as well as a range of meetings of ICAA Sections.

More than 80 contributed papers were presented in some 25 meetings of ICAA Sections and reflected the variety of different aspects of best practice and research in the field of dependencies.

The conference main topics:

- 1- Changes in Patterns of Substance Use.
- 2- Interface of Public Order/Disorder and Public Health.

- 3- Coverage, Accessibility and Affordability: Economic and Social Realities in our Societies are Core Criteria for Prevention and Treatment Activities. Do and Can Initiatives Cover the Growing Needs and Whether They are Accessible and Affordable for the Target Groups.
- 4- Effects of Policy Intervention in Prevention and Treatment.
- 5- Competences and Attitudes of Staff in Prevention and Treatment.
- 6- Harm Reduction Revisited.
- 7- Examining The Effectiveness and Cost Benefit of Education, Prevention and Treatment.
- 8- Alcohol and Drug Problems in Business and Industry.
- 9- Alcohol and Drug Treatment and its Organisation.
- 10-Alcohol Education and Alcohol Policy.
- 11-Epidemiological Research on Alcohol and Drug Related Issues.
- 12-Focus on Women and Gender.
- 13-Professional Management of Addiction Services.
- 14-Therapeutic Communities.
- 15-Attention Deficit Hypersensitivity Disorder (ADHD) and Substance Abuse in Adults.
- 16-A Strategic Approach to the Risk Management of Alcohol and other Drug Problems in the Workplace.
- 17-Managing Health in the Petroleum Industries. "Health and Workplace Safety in Gas and Oil Industries".

Experts from various fields of substance abuse, reputed scholars, practitioners and politicians from UK and abroad discussed and addressed these topics of prevention, treatment, research and policymaking in the field of addiction, sharing their knowledge and long experience in the field.

The problem of addiction is an international concern, and nearly 200 million people consume illicit drugs world-wide. The number is constantly rising in emerging markets such as Russia and so are the associated problems, diseases such as HIV/AIDS, destruction of lives and careers. Challenges lie ahead such as new designer drugs, lack of resources for prevention, treatment and ever changing societal values and attitudes towards illicit drugs.

Also smoking tobacco products is the leading cause of cancer development and is again on the rise in most countries of the world, particularly in the developed world. In the year 2000 alone it was estimated that nearly 4 million people died of tobacco use and the ever-increasing rise in figures of cigarette smoking among adolescents is alarming.

140 million estimated alcohol dependents world-wide, 400 million people drinking excessively, figures that stand for themselves. In Europe alone 57,000 young people died in 1999 relating to direct effects of alcohol. It is one of the societies most severe problems that destroy millions of families every year.

From conference now I got more expanded knowledge and information about the different fields of addiction practice and research.

In this conference I have the chance to meet experts and specialists from different professional and cultural backgrounds in the fields of substance abuse and addiction as well as exchange experiences and information.

The visit to Castle Craig Hospital was a beneficial one to have a chance to know the methods of treatment all off tobacco smoking, alcohol and drug addiction.

N.B.:

ICAA have a Regional Office in Cairo, working for ensuring services to members and the general public in the Arab and North African region.