



IAS 2013

Kuala Lumpur

Françoise Barré-Sinoussi

Closing Speech

Wednesday July 3, 2013

Embargoed until 16.00 MYT, Wednesday July 3.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests and delegates,

Good evening.

Firstly, I would like to thank our rapporteurs for all their dedicated work. Your remarks confirm I believe two key themes that Adeeba and myself spoke about last Sunday evening – that this conference has reaffirmed a growing sense of optimism in HIV science BUT at the same time we need more than ever to get it right on the ground otherwise those scientific advances mean nothing.

As we also said last Sunday we have long had the evidence of what works in preventing and reducing HIV in all kinds of settings. I'm delighted that the extraordinary achievements of Cambodia in their HIV/AIDS response is now receiving the recognition it deserves. But more importantly, it is my hope that some of you have engaged with our colleagues in Cambodia and take away from KL some new strategies. It is also my hope that you continue those conversations long after you have left here.

It is my hope too that the much stronger emphasis on co-infection at this conference will be continued at both the AIDS 2014 conference in Melbourne next year and the IAS 2015 conference in Vancouver.

As we keep repeating over the years, there will be no end to the HIV epidemic without advancing Human rights in parallel. I think that was clearly demonstrated in the plenary talks we heard this week. It is thus with strong disappointment then that we are receiving the news announced yesterday that the Greek Ministry of Health is re-introducing compulsory HIV testing via detainment for female sex workers. As President of the IAS I strongly condemn this move and urge the Greek Government to re-think its position. HIV infections are already increasing in Greece due to the economic crisis and a mandatory policy of detainment and testing will only fuel the epidemic there.

Changing to a more positive note, it was extremely satisfying to see that the *Towards an HIV Cure* symposium has now become such an

established and well attended event and even more satisfying to see it gaining momentum. Here in KL we've been fortunate to be able to share some very exciting news on the so-called Boston Patients and as you may already be aware, it is already attracting global headlines as I speak.

The conference was certainly energetic! Nearly 5200 delegates from 127 countries attended the event and some 1000 abstracts were presented.

Fantastic!

But none of this could have happened without the important and hard work of a number of individuals and organisations.

First of all, a big "thank you" to my co-chair Adeeba Kamarulzaman, for all her inspiration, grace and commitment in agreeing to have

Malaysia host IAS 2013. And a big “thank you” to Adeeba’s institute, CERIA for its significant contribution. Thanks too to the Malaysian Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

To all the IAS staff – my heartfelt thanks for the long hours, efficiency and good natured assistance.

To our volunteers – as always, a huge thank you. You are a source of pride to this event.

To all the various conference committees and the individuals that made up those committees – thank you for putting together a brilliant programme.

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Thank you.

And lastly, thank you to all our official media supporters and registered media delegates, for your commitment to reporting the science.

Lastly, thank you, the delegates who make this event the success it is. A conference is a major undertaking and we at the IAS are always

striving to improve our events and we are keen for IAS 2015 to be an even more successful gathering.

I hope to see you in 2015, and indeed in Melbourne at the International AIDS Conference in 2014.

Terima kasih

Thank you.