



**HARM REDUCTION**  
INTERNATIONAL



## Media Release

For Immediate Release

### **24<sup>th</sup> International Harm Reduction Conference announced to take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-21 October 2015**

**Thursday, 6 November, 2014 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)** -- Harm Reduction International and the Malaysian AIDS Council today announced that the 24<sup>th</sup> International Harm Reduction Conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 21 October 2015. The announcement was made today in Kuala Lumpur at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations. Established in 1990, the conference is the global focal point for knowledge sharing, networking and promoting evidence-based best practice in the field of harm reduction.

Held every two years, the International Harm Reduction Conference attracts 1,000 international delegates from over 70 countries, including front line service providers, scientists and researchers, policy makers and politicians, doctors and health professionals, people from international and UN organisations, people who use drugs and people working in criminal justice. This will be the first time the event will be staged in a Muslim majority country in Southeast Asia, and it is set to highlight issues and challenges in the drug response sector that are specific to the region.

“Leadership will be a key theme of the conference, appropriately so in recognition of the Malaysian Government’s leadership on harm reduction programming, which has contributed to the more than 50 per cent drop in new HIV infections in people who inject drugs since its implementation in 2006,” said Dr. Rick Lines, Executive Director of Harm Reduction International. “It is also to emphasise that we will not meet the global challenges presented by issues such as HIV and overdose without brave and committed leadership on every level, from the community to the United Nations.”

“The International Harm Reduction conference is relevant, especially now, for we are at an extremely critical juncture in our collective responses to both the HIV and drug epidemics,” said Datuk Dr. Raj Karim, President of the Malaysian AIDS Council. “The conference is both an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to evidence-based harm reduction programming, and a reminder of the pressing need to accelerate our efforts towards the Millennium Development Goals expiring in 2015.”

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### **About the Organisers**

#### ***Harm Reduction International***

Harm Reduction International is a leading global non-governmental organisation working to reduce drug related harms by promoting evidence-based public health policy and practices and human rights-based approaches to drug policy.

[www.ihra.net](http://www.ihra.net)

## ***Malaysian AIDS Council***

The Malaysian AIDS Council was established in 1992 to serve as an umbrella organisation to support and coordinate the efforts of non-governmental and other organisations working on HIV & AIDS issues in Malaysia.

[www.mac.org.my](http://www.mac.org.my)

### **Further information**

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Harm Reduction International

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