Media Release

For Immediate Release

24th 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 24th 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.”

ENDS

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
**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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