



Participants at the Asia Regional Consultation on Youth, HIV/AIDS and Human Rights held in Pune, India, recently.

'Step up AIDS prevention campaign'

Experts at a consultation have called for strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention programmes in Asia region through dissemination of information for young people, says a press release.

The five-day Asia Regional Consultation on Youth, HIV/AIDS and Human Rights was held in Pune, India recently.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Asia Centre and the Ministry of Youth & Sports of India jointly organised the consultation

from February 13 to 18.

The meeting recommended addressing the special needs of the youths and ensuring their social security.

It also recommended ensuring the right to life, right to equality, right to freedom, right to property and right to access to remedies.

A total of 40 participants from Commonwealth Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia and India, took part in the programme.

Afroja Parvin, executive director of Nari Unnayan Shakti from Bangladesh, attended the meeting as the resource person and presented two papers on HIV/AIDS Programme-Country situation and NUS programme models.

Raka Rashid, regional director of Commonwealth Youth Programme Asia Centre, moderated the consultation.

SMS boom leads to digit damage

REUTERS, London

Mobile telephone text messaging has become so popular that millions of users now suffer injuries to their thumbs and fingers because of their love of keeping in touch, according to a survey yesterday.

Over 93.5 million text messages are sent every day but all this digit action has led to an explosion in people reporting cases of repetitive strain injury (RSI).

Thirty-eight percent more people suffer from sore wrists and thumbs due to texting than five years ago and 3.8 million people now complain of text-related injuries every year.

The survey for Virgin Mobile found the texting phenomenon shows no sign of slowing. Over 12 percent of the population admit to sending 20 texts per day and 10

percent confess to sending up to 100 texts every day.

While psychologists say it is important for people to communicate there is a danger that using arms-length tools like texting and email is making people uncomfortable with more intimate face-to-face conversations.

There has even been concern voiced that some people run the risk of becoming addicted to excessive texting.

Last March Scottish factory worker Craig Crosbie was crowned the world's fastest texter after he took just 48 seconds to type out the 160-character message: "The razor-toothed piranhas of the genera Serrasalmus and Pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality they seldom attack a human."

