

Headline	Obama Seeks to Bolster AIDS Fight		
MediaTitle	Asia Wall Street Journal		
Date	02 Dec 2011	Color	Full Color
Section	World News	Circulation	80,750
Page No	3	Readership	282,625
Language	English	ArticleSize	222 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 25,762
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 77,287



Obama Seeks to Bolster AIDS Fight

By JARED A. FAVOLE

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama on Thursday called for an additional \$50 million to be directed toward the fight against HIV/AIDS domestically and set a goal to increase global access to drugs that treat the disease to six million people from four million.

The initiative wouldn't require new funding from Congress. The additional \$50 million would come from using existing resources more efficiently. The plan also includes lowering the cost of treatment.

Mr. Obama, speaking at a World AIDS Day event at George Washington University, said the world has made great strides in fighting AIDS. He said the event was historic because in its infancy World AIDS Day was "about ringing the alarm" and calling for global ac-

tion.

"And that's part of what makes today so remarkable, because back in those early years, few could have imagined this day; that we would be looking ahead to 'The Beginning of the End,'" Mr. Obama said.

Still, Mr. Obama bemoaned the continued rates of infection in the U.S. "The rate of new infections may be going down elsewhere, but it's not going down here in America," Mr. Obama said. Rates have held steady in the U.S. for more than a decade, he said, and about 1.2 million Americans currently live with HIV.

Mr. Obama's remarks followed those of his predecessor, former President George W. Bush. Mr. Bush, speaking via satellite from Tanzania, urged the U.S. and other governments not to trim funding

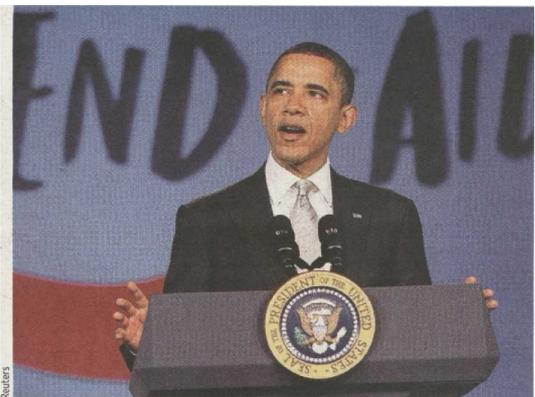
for the diseases. Mr. Bush said he understood that the U.S. was in "tough economic" times but that funding for AIDS treatment should be a priority.

"I believe we are required to support effective programs that save lives," Mr. Bush said, referring to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Mr. Bush launched that program while president, and it has been credited with helping bring down rates of infection.

Mr. Obama said the AIDS program would be one of Mr. Bush's "greatest legacies."

The World AIDS Day event also included remarks from former President Bill Clinton and participation from singer Alicia Keys and U2's Bono.

The news of the new treatment goals and funding was reported earlier by the Associated Press.



President Barack Obama at a World AIDS Day event in Washington Thursday.