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Drive to increase HIV/AIDS awareness

BEIJING: More than 4,000 volunteers from over 200 colleges will go to factories, firms and communities to spread HIV/AIDS prevention information and offer "Red Ribbon health packages" to migrant workers across the nation.

According to the China Red Ribbon Foundation, one of the organisers of the programme, the packages, which include gloves, towels, condoms, playing cards with HIV/AIDS information, posters, cups and notebooks, would be distributed to migrant workers at the end of this month.

"Although the packages are small and cost just 30 yuan (RM14.50), they are important for raising migrant workers' awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention," said Xie Jingrong, vice-president of the All-China Federation of Industry & Commerce and the chairman of the foundation.

China has achieved much after 30 years of reform and opening-

up, and migrant workers have made great contributions to its development.

However, a lack of education and limited social knowledge has left them with little HIV/AIDS prevention knowledge, Xie Jingrong said.

Statistics from the Human Resources Ministry show the number of migrant workers has reached 240 billion.

In 2010, statistics from the Health Ministry showed 23.5% of the HIV/AIDS carriers belonged to this floating population, up from 19.5% in 2008.

Last year, 100,000 health packages were distributed to migrant workers in 16 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

This year, more than 4,000 college volunteers would distribute 200,000 packages to migrant workers, said foundation deputy secretary-general Ye Dawei. — Xinhua