Traditional & Complementary Medicine in Malaysia

[International Conclave on Traditional Medicine, New Delhi, INDIA. 16-17 Nov. 2006]

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Deputy Director General of Health
Ministry Of Health Malaysia
Introduction
Traditional and Complementary Medicine

**Definition**

Traditional and Complementary Medicine practice together, is other than practice of medicine or surgery, by registered medical practitioners as defined in Medical Act 1971.

Malaysian Medical Council,
Ministry of Health, Malaysia, 2001
Phases of development (1/2)

- 1992: Registration of Traditional Medicine
- 1996: Unit of T/CM was formed
- 1997: GMP for Traditional Medicine Manufacturer
- 1998: Formation of the T/CM Standing Committee
- 1999: Formation of the 5 T/CM Umbrella Bodies

Ministry of Health Malaysia
Phases of development (2/2)

2000

Formation of The Herbal Medicine Research Centre

2001

National Policy On Traditional And Complementary Medicine

2002

Global Information Hub & National Committee in R & D On Herbal Medicine

2003

National Institute Of Natural Products, Vaccine & Biological

2004

Traditional And Complementary Medicine Division

Ministry of Health Malaysia
National T/CM Policy in 2001

Vision
Integration of Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T/CM) into the Malaysian Healthcare system

Mission
Ensure Quality and Safe Use of T/CM practices and products to attain optimal potential in healthcare delivery..

Ministry of Health Malaysia
The Policy statements for T/CM (1/2)

- **Promotion of proper practice** of T/CM in accordance to standard ethics particularly in the Primary Health Care delivery system
- **Appropriate education and training** of T/CM practitioners
- **Adherence to acceptable standards of safety and quality** for products and practice
- **Facilitate the development of responsible advertisement** with relevant agencies
- **Establishment of strong research and development activities** in T/CM.
The Policy statements for T/CM (2/2)

- Promotion and advocacy of T/CM
- Facilitate the development and protection of intellectual property rights related to T/CM knowledge, culture and biological resources.
- Conservation of plants and animals for progress of T/CM development with participation of all relevant agencies
- Enhancing international technical co-operation and exchanges relevant to T/CM
Current Regulatory Situation
Control of T/CM

Products
Sales of Drugs Act
Drug Control Authority

Practices
Traditional and Complementary Medicine Act

Training

Research
National Committee On Research and Development of Medicinal Herbs

T/CM Council

Traditional and Complementary Medicine Division

Institute for Medical Research
The regulatory situation (1/4)

(For traditional medicine products):

- Control of Drug and Cosmetic Regulation, 1984
- Registration of Traditional Medicine Products – 1992
  Manufacturer - 1997
- Ensure safe and quality product
- More than 14000 products registered
The regulatory situation (2/4)

(For traditional medicine products)

Quality and Safety Criteria:

- Limits for heavy metals and microbial contamination
- Absence of steroids and other adulterants
- Prohibition of herbs with adverse effect
- Compliance to Good Manufacturing Practice
The regulatory situation (3/4)

(For traditional medicine products):
Other laws that regulate the T/CM product industry:

- Poison Act 1952,
- Sale of Drug Act 1952,
- Advertisement and Sale Act 1956
- Protection of Wild Life 1972
The regulatory situation (4/4)

(For traditional medicine products)

Enforcement Activity:

- Control at entry points
- Surveillance and Raids
- Inspections – distributors and retail outlet.
- Prosecutions, confiscation and penalties
RESEARCH

- National Committee for Research and Development in Herbal Medicines (NRDHM)

- Ministry of Health is lead agency
  - Set directions for research
  - Co-ordinate research, integrate clinical trials using T/CM in Malaysia
  - Already produced guidelines for research to improve standards of evidence
Guidelines (1/2)

- Guidelines for levels and kinds of evidence to support claims for therapeutic products
- Guidelines for the clinical evaluation of T/CM interventions
- Guide to intellectual property management
- Guidelines for standardization of herbal medicinal products

Ministry of Health Malaysia
• Published Malaysian Herbal Monograph and Compendium of Medicinal Plants Used in Malaysia.

• Established an Information Hub on Integrated Medicine for the World through Malaysia utilising strategic partnership with other agencies.
Organization Chart T/CM Division

Director General Of Health

Deputy Director General
[Research & Tech. Support]

Director
T/CM Division

Policy & Development
Practice
Training
Administration & Finance

Ministry of Health Malaysia
Objectives of T/CM Division

• To coordinate and implement various activities on T/CM especially in areas related to the practitioners, training and policy
  ● Product: by the National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau
  ● Research: NRDHM (IMR/NIH for MOH)

• Integration of T/CM into the National Healthcare Delivery
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Membership</th>
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<tr>
<td>FCPMDAM [Federation of Chinese Physicians and Medicine-Dealers Association of Malaysia]</td>
<td>3035</td>
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<tr>
<td>FCPAAM [Federation of Chinese Physicians &amp; Acupuncturist of Malaysia]</td>
<td>1048</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCPA [Chinese Physicians Association of Malaysia]</td>
<td>1945</td>
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<td>MSCT [The Malaysian Society for Complementary Therapies]</td>
<td>213</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEPTIM [Pertubuhan Perubatan Tradisional India Malaysia]</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>MPHM [Majlis Perubatan Homeopathy Malaysia]</td>
<td>691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUTRAMAS [Persekutuan Perubatan Tradisional Melayu Malaysia]</td>
<td>300</td>
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Foreign Practitioners

- Thai Massage: 70
- TCM Physician: 67
- Reflexology: 34
- Acupuncture: 15
- Ayurveda: 23
- Chiropractic: 11
- Others: 5
T/CM Training Centres

- Federation of Chinese and Acupuncturist Association of Malaysia – 8
- Federation of Chinese Physicians and Medicine-Dealers Associations of Malaysia – 8
- Chinese Physician’s Association of Malaysia – 2
- Homeopathic Medical Council of Malaysia - 8
Current initiatives of the T/CM Division
1. Practice

- Registration (On-line)
  - Standards/Codes of Practice
  - Practitioner (APC)

- Regulation in phases
  - Self-regulation
  - Statutory regulations via T/CM Act 2007

T/CM Registry

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2. Education and Training

- Practitioners
  - Formalised system of education e.g.: M.D™, Bachelor Acup, Naturopathy, Dip Massage, etc

- Western-trained Doctors’/Pharmacists
  - CPD, PG/Special Courses on T/CM
  - Annual T/CM Conferences/seminar

- General Public
  - Access to appropriate knowledge
    - Monographs, Compendium
    - Websites: Global Hub/PIL
    - Exhibition
3. Raw Materials and Products

- Plan for sustainability and standardisation of raw materials
- Effective conservation of medicinal plants
- Encourage industrial participation
- Control production, distribution, import and export of TM products
- Compliance to GAP, GSP, GMP
- Intellectual Property Rights
4. Research

- Encourage Scientific Research
- Quality Control Methods
  - Finger printing
  - Safety, efficacy
- Increase capacity in research of T/CM
- Herbal Medicine Formulary (priority!!)
- T/CM as alternative therapy
Moving towards Integrated Medicine

Evidence based approach essential towards efforts for integration
Steps for Integration

- **Cabinet Approval**
  - Pilot project (3 hospitals)
  - Improving infrastructures
  - Training/ Accreditation/ Career scheme

- **Awareness/ Dialogues**
  - Medical & allied health
  - T/CM practitioners
  - Educators/ Public
Activities for Integration (1/2)

- **Acupuncture**
  - pain relief
  - palliative care
  - + herbal products

- **Rehabilitation medicine**
  - nutrition
  - massage + malay post-natal care
  - reflexology
Activities for Integration (1/2)

- Chiropractice
- T/CM Pharmacy
- Others….

Phases of implementation

- 9-MP (2006-2010) inclusive of main hospitals/ NCI
- 10-MP (2011-2015) inclusive of health centres
CONCLUSION

Malaysia is committed to see Traditional and Complementary Medicine integrated into the Health System and looks forward to enhanced cooperation among member countries to learn and to share.

THANK YOU