

Symposium on Internationalization and Globalization of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 2008



Introduction

With the booming of the Taiwanese economy, an outstanding health care system has also been developed. The economist, an authoritative journal in England, has rated Taiwan's health care system as the second most efficient in the world. At present, traditional Chinese medicine, western medicine and dental care have all been included in our health system. Since 1995, the Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy, Department of Health has also been established for the enhancement of all kinds of TCM services. For more than a decade, results of related studies have been successively transformed into implemented policies, such as: the full implementation of pharmaceutical GMP, TCM herbs packaging and labeling, limit of heavy metal residue, set up of "TCM clinical trial centers", accreditation of TCM hospitals and standardization of TCM new drug trials, etc.

Taiwan has displayed an outstanding achievement in traditional Chinese medicine on world stage. However, with the trend of

globalization, exchanges among people from different countries are becoming more frequent than ever. Issues on public health and medical treatments have crossed borders, becoming common concerns of all nations. Taiwan, similar to the rest of the world, is also facing these major problems. International health organizations play vital roles of forming platforms and bridges for the communication and co-operation of different countries. After 38 years of separation, Taiwan has officially been granted an observer status at the 62nd World Health Assembly. With WHA as our platform, Taiwan finds it pleasurable to share our own experiences with other nations, and would also be willing to contribute to the health of people in the whole world.

According to statistics, over half of the world's population rely on traditional medicine as their primary treatment for diseases. WHO, American FDA and the European Union have successively announced their laws and regulations on traditional medicine and TCM medicinal herbs. "Harvard Business Review" has also forecasted herbal products as one of the four major industries in the next two decades. To reinforce international links, and also to share experiences in traditional medicine management and innovations, CCMP had commissioned China Medical University to hold the "Symposium on Internationalization and Globalization of Traditional Medicine (2008)" on September 20th and 21st, 2008. Not only were seven domestic TCM experts invited, five other internationally famous professors and researchers were also involved in this symposium. For the participants, nineteen health directors and experts from sixteen Southeast Asian countries participated and showed their experience in the field of CAM/TM. More than 200 domestic professionals in the TCM field participated. The symposium was fully conducted in English, providing our audience an understanding of the current situation of traditional medicine in many different countries, enabling them to exchange opinions and ideas interactively.

To actively promote the results and experiences in traditional Chinese medicine, and also to share fruits of wisdom internationally; the lectures were videotaped with the authorization of the speakers, and a

DVD on the “Symposium on Internationalization and Globalization of Traditional Medicine (2008)” was published for the reference of the career men in the TCM field. Hopefully through this activity, Taiwan’s preponderance in TCM would be strengthened and its role on international stage would be signified. Finally, it is anticipated that this informative DVD will be beneficial to people working in the TCM field, and together, we can achieve the goal of TCM internationalization.