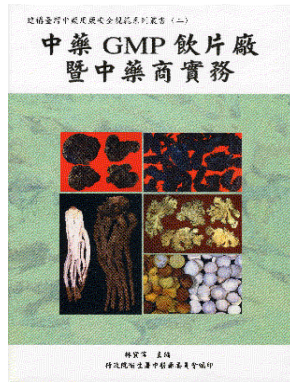


GMP Chinese Medicine Slices Factories and Chinese Medicine Seller Practice



Introduction

In November 11, 1994, U.S. Congress passed the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act and in April 1997, U.S. Food Drug Administration (FDA) announced Guidance for Industry-Botanical Drug Products--Draft Guidance, recognizing that botanic products may be regulated as medicines. Since, herbal medicines have won their way in their world. This was especially true after the World Health Organization announced seven strategic goals for 2001-2010 for the West Pacific region and the global strategy on traditional medicines and substitute medicines for 2002-2005, laying the foundation for the goals of world nations in herbal medicines development.

In domestic, Taiwan depends on importing from the mainland for herbal medicines. Although the mainland has implemented GMP for herbal medicines, management for herbal medicines production is still not perfect. Because the mechanism of action of herbal medicines are not clear, Their effective composition are not well defined. It is true the Chinese Pharmacopoeia has set standards for 200 herbal medicines, but false and inferior medicines still glut the market and there are even accidents of misuse of medicines, seriously endangering the health of users. Recent reports included Aristolochic acid, carcinogenic Alfa-toxin, insecticide residue on ginseng, and antiseptic additive. In order to protect people's health and ensure safety for using herbal medicines, the government enforced GMP for the production of all herbal medicines on February 28, 2005.

As this committee is the highest competent agency for herbal

medicines, we have launched GMP for all pharmaceutical plants, mapped out the norm for scientific evaluation and set up a technological platform. In addition, we drew up a Five-year Plan for Constructing an Environment for Safe Use of Herbal Medicines. Under this plan, we subsidized the Chinese Medical University to set up a training mechanism for cultivating herbal medicine talents. It is also under this plan that we held a symposium on the practice of GMP plant and businesses of herbal medicine. As herbal medicines circles were enthusiastic over the symposium and gave high praise to the activity, we specifically put the results of the symposium in book form to propagate the policy and to bridge people's opinions on the subject.