Appropriate integration of traditional medicine (TRM) into national health care systems  
South East Asia Regional Workshop, Pyongyang, DPR Korea

Action Plan

Traditional Medicine Action Plan

By the close of the workshop in Pyongyang, DPR Korea, participants agreed the following actions to implement the current *WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy*[1] in the South East Asia region over the next 2 to 5 years. The actions are consistent with the strategic objectives of the strategy which are:

- to build the knowledge base for active management of T&CM through appropriate national policies;
- to strengthen quality assurance, safety, proper use and effectiveness of T&CM by regulating products, practices and practitioners;
- to promote universal health coverage by integrating T&CM appropriately into health service delivery and self-health care.

Traditional Medicine Action Plan for the South-East Asia Region

1. **Monitoring traditional medicine (TRM) systems**

   *WHO Member States to:*
   - Improve TRM system performance monitoring at all levels.

   *WHO to:*
   - Convene a task group to develop a minimum set of indicators and associated definition.

2. **Traditional medicine research**

   *WHO Member States to:*
   - Encourage research on new developments in traditional medicine, with a special focus on:
     - non-communicable disease management and the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of combined modern and traditional therapy;
     - the impact of the modernization of TRM product processing, formulation and use; and
     - combining modern diagnostics with TRM.
   - Improve communication between policy makers and researchers on the evidence base needed and available for TRM policy development.

   *WHO to:*
   - Support documentation of new developments in traditional medicine, with a special focus on non-communicable disease management, and on the impact of the modernization of TRM.
   - Facilitate identification and dissemination of emerging research issues.
   - Advocate for better communication between policy makers and researchers.
   - Develop policy briefs on emerging TRM issues.
3. **TRM practitioners / TRM workforce**

*WHO Member States to:*
- Foster greater understanding and mutual respect between traditional and modern practitioners through actions including: teaching on TRM during the basic training of modern medicine practitioners, and vice versa; joint training facilities; and creating opportunities for joint policy discussion.
- Support the professional development of TRM practitioners by introducing mechanisms for career development and continuing professional development.
- Develop approaches to better identify the scale and practices of informal TRM practitioners, and use this information to develop policy.

*WHO to:*
- Encourage the documentation and exchange of country experience with addressing TRM practitioner / health workforce issues, through country case studies, inter-country exchanges and meetings.

4. **Adverse events reporting**

*WHO Member States to:*
- Share their experience in developing adverse event reporting systems, and share best practice within the region.

*WHO to:*
- Support case studies that document how Member States developed their adverse events reporting systems.
- Prepare a briefing note on the WHO global adverse event reporting system based in the Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Sweden and share with Member States.

5. **Communication**

*WHO Member States to:*
- Develop ways to better communicate the strengths and limitations of TRM to the general population, including to the younger generation.
- Develop ways to improve communication between allopathic and traditional practitioners through joint activities.

*WHO to:*
- Facilitate the development of a regional TRM network, in order to exchange information and experience.