



กรมการแพทย์แผนไทยและการแพทย์ทางเลือก
Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine

DTAM

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Thailand and China Strengthen Ties in Traditional Medicine and Research

Bangkok, December 6, 2024 – The Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine (DTAM), under the Ministry of Public Health, has joined forces with the Guangxi Medical Products Administration of China to enhance collaboration in traditional medicine and elevate research standards for sustainable healthcare development.

The meeting, led by Mr. Somsak Kreechai, Deputy Director-General of DTAM, welcomed representatives from the Guangxi Medical Products Administration. Discussions centred on fostering collaboration in regulating traditional medicine and advancing research standards in healthcare systems, marking a significant step toward enhancing health security between the two nations.

Mr. Somsak stated that under the policy of Dr. Somlerk Jeungsmarn, Director-General of DTAM, there is a commitment to driving and elevating Thai traditional wisdom to enhance the economic value of the health sector through the “Three Strategies”: fostering collaboration, building trust, and establishing standards and upgrading practices.

The recent meeting marked a significant milestone in policy exchange and collaboration on the governance of traditional medicines and research standards. It served as a vital platform for driving policies, regulating traditional medicine, and developing research standards to ensure the security and sustainability of health systems. This initiative aims to foster continuous development and progress between the two nations.

This aligns with Policy Objective 1, which emphasizes fostering collaboration with domestic and international networks, advancing academic knowledge, and integrating traditional medical wisdom into research. By collaborating with academic institutions and stakeholders, the goal is to innovate services and products, raise standards, and build trust in their application within healthcare systems. Moreover, this collaboration promotes the comprehensive use and integration of Thai traditional and alternative medicine, enhancing its role in holistic healthcare delivery.

Furthermore, Mr. Somsak highlighted that Thailand and China have been collaborating on the development of Chinese medicine since 1998. Over this 26-year partnership, significant advancements have been made. To date, 2,202 medical doctors have complete acupuncture courses, and 2,220

traditional Chinese medicine practitioners have graduated from universities and obtained licenses, bringing the total to over 4,422 professionals. Additionally, around 100 commonly used Chinese herbal formulas have become viable alternatives for patient care.

The Institute of Alternative and Complementary Medicine, under DTAM, serves as the primary organization overseeing traditional Chinese medicine knowledge in Thailand. Treatments based on traditional Chinese medicine include methods such as Chinese herbal medicine, acupuncture, and cupping therapy. Notably, acupuncture for patients with paralysis or stroke is reimbursable under the benefits package of Thailand's National Health Security Office (NHSO).

DTAM is committed to promoting and advancing research, knowledge management, and the development of herbal raw material sources and herbal products from the initial stages to the final products. This effort aims to enhance the quality and standards of healthcare services, ensuring safety, efficacy, and accessibility as viable alternatives for public health care. For herbal products, the department plays a key role in conducting studies, research, and innovation in herbal product manufacturing, including the registration of herbal medicines. As consumer preferences increasingly lean toward natural and herbal products, over 17,300 herbal and medicinal products have been certified and registered with the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Furthermore, more than 2,000 Thai herbal products have been recognized with quality awards. Currently, herbal cultivation covers an area of 1,059,818 rai (approximately 1.7 million hectares). Efforts are underway to develop Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) standards to ensure the consistent quality of herbal raw materials.

Mr. Somsak described the meeting as a crucial platform for exchanging information and strengthening collaboration in research and development of traditional medicine. The partnership aims to enhance standards and promote the holistic utilization of herbal medicine, ensuring comprehensive healthcare for the public.









