

Report of Group Discussion on “Future ASEAN-China Cooperation in Traditional Medicine”

Meeting Room 1, Business Center, 2nd Floor, IMPACT Challenger Building

18 July 2018, 15.00-17.00 hr.

Introduction

1. The Discussion on “Future ASEAN-China Cooperation in Traditional Medicine” was held at the Meeting Room 1, Business Center, IMPACT Challenger Building, Nonthaburi, Thailand on 18 July 2018 from 15.00 to 17.00 hr. The aims of this discussion were to update the latest information about the ASEAN Health Cluster 3 Meeting on traditional & complementary medicine (T&CM) issues, to give the meeting better understanding about the current situation of cooperation between ASEAN and China, and to discuss on possible future collaboration between ASEAN and China. This discussion was chaired by Dr. Kiattibhoom Vongrachit, Director-General, Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand and attended by officials from government offices responsible for traditional medicine from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and China. The List of Participants appears as ANNEX 1.

Agenda Item 1: Opening

2. Dr. Kiattibhoom Vongrachit, Director-General, Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine (DTAM), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand welcomed all participants to Thailand. He highlighted that it was very difficult for representatives from ASEAN and China to sit together and exchange their views toward the way forward or future plan; therefore, this group discussion was a great opportunity for representatives from ASEAN and China to updated the latest information and discuss on the above-mentioned matter. He hoped for an informative and lively discussion and fruitful outputs. His full remarks appear as ANNEX 2.

3. Following the opening remarks, the Chair requested for roll call and the introduction of participants in the Discussion.

Agenda Item 2: Review of ASEAN-China Cooperation in Traditional Medicine

4. Thailand briefed the Meeting on MOU between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the Government of PRC in Health Cooperation, ASEAN-China Plan of Action to Implement the MOU, and some previous & current collaborative activities. The relevant documents presented appear as ANNEX 3.

5. The Meeting noted about the MOU and ASEAN-China Plan of Action.

6. Dr. Yu Haiyang, Director-General, the Department of Policy, Regulation and Supervision, the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China thanked Thailand for reviewed the MOU, ASEAN-China Plan of Action, and some previous & current collaborative activities. He highlighted more key activities related to China-ASEAN cooperation and invited ASEAN Member States (AMS) to participate in the following activities:

- **China-ASEAN Forum on Health Cooperation.** This year, it is planned to be held in Nanning, China during 19-21 September 2018.
- **China-ASEAN Summit Forum on Traditional Medicine,** one of the most important forums, to be conducted every two years. The 5th China-ASEAN Summit Forum on Traditional Medicine will be held back to back with China-ASEAN Forum on Health Cooperation to be held in Nanning, China during 19-21 September 2018.
- **China-ASEAN Forum on Traditional Medicine & Health Tourism** (Bama Forum)
- **ASEAN Cooperation Center on Traditional Medicine** established in Guangxi, China.
- **TCM Oversea Centers** established in some ASEAN countries e.g. Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore, Philippines, etc.
- **Bilateral cooperation** between China and some ASEAN countries, e.g. Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, etc.

7. The Chair thanked China for sharing the activities related and the Meeting noted about the upcoming China-ASEAN Forum on Health Cooperation and China-ASEAN Summit Forum on Traditional Medicine that will be held in September 2018.

8. Regarding the China-ASEAN Forum and other related activities to be held in China, the Meeting suggested China to consider as follows:

- In case that China does not sponsor some expenses for participants, e.g. airfare, accommodation, meals, etc., the Meeting requested China to inform AMS the plan to conduct the forum/conference/training preferably 2 years in advance so that AMS can submit the budget request from their authorities.
- It is impossible for some countries like Myanmar and Thailand to attend the forum/conference/training in September or October because such month is the end and beginning of their fiscal year, respectively. As a result, there will be no fiscal budget available for government officials from Thailand and Myanmar to attend any meeting abroad.
- The Meeting suggested China to organize future China-ASEAN activities in spring season or during May-July.
- The Meeting agreed with Malaysia and Philippines that China should clearly state in the invitation letter requesting representatives from T&CM section/division/department, otherwise the invitation letter might not reach the concerned section.

9. China noted AMS's suggestion.

Agenda Item 3: Report of ASEAN Health Cluster 3 Meeting on traditional & complementary medicine (T&CM) issues

10. Thailand reviewed goals for 2020, priority strategy, and key targets by 2020 of the ASEAN Health Cluster 3, related to T&CM and reported the Meeting about the on-going project activities as follows:

- i. Development of ASEAN Recommendation on Quality Healthcare (T&CM section) – Thailand
- ii. Sharing of Best Practices in T&CM – Philippines
- iii. Strengthening Quality of T&CM Health Care – Thailand
 - Development of T&CM Practice Guidelines (workshop and published guidelines)
 - Strengthening quality of T&CM products
 - Workshop to develop the knowledge on the principle of TCM and QC of herbal medicine to be organized in Thailand in 2019
 - Training on standardization and QC of TCM products to be organized in China in 2019.
 - Exhibition of ASEAN-China Innovation in TM and Herbal Products in July 2018 in Thailand

Her presentation appears as ANNEX 4.

11. The Meeting acknowledged the on-going activities related to T&CM under the work program of ASEAN Health Cluster 3.

12. Regarding the Baseline Information of TM in AMS which is an input for the Development of ASEAN Recommendation on Quality Healthcare (T&CM section), Malaysia informed the Meeting that WHO/WPRO region had developed baseline information on T&CM before; therefore, it would be useful for Thailand to develop the topics of Baseline Information. However, Malaysia needs to check with WPRO first whether this information could be shared or not before sending such information to Thailand.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion on possible future collaboration

4.1 Project Proposal on “Strengthening of T&CM Health Care” for ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund

13. Thailand informed the Meeting that Thailand has already submitted the project proposal “Strengthening Quality of T&CM Health Care” to the ASEAN Secretariat for ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund in January 2018. However, according to the comments of ASEAN-China SOMHD in April 2018, such proposal should be separated into two projects for more convenient management. Thailand, therefore, proposed to revise the project proposal and resubmit to ASEAN Secretariat by September 2018. Thailand’s unrevised proposals appear as ANNEX 5.

14. Thailand requested China to kindly coordinate with the Chinese TCM institutes to find the host institute that are ready to organize the 2-week training for AMS officials on the “standardization and QC of TCM products” in China. Thailand also requested China to kindly ask the potential host institutes to estimate the cost of organizing such training so that Thailand will adjust the budget request in the project proposal accordingly.

15. China noted Thailand’s request and agreed to seek the appropriate institutes for training and assist in the training budget estimation.

4.2 “ASEAN Traditional Medicine Dialogue”

16. Thailand updated the Meeting that according to the 3rd ASEAN Health Cluster 3 Meeting held in Singapore during 11-12 July 2018, T&CM activities under the work program of Health Cluster 3 from the year 2021 to 2025 will be under the program “ASEAN Traditional Medicine Dialogue”. This program includes activities such as conference on T&CM, training, information sharing, etc.

17. Thailand informed the Meeting that Cambodia agreed to organize the Conference on Traditional Medicine in 2021 with the assistance from Malaysia to develop the project proposal and ASEAN Secretariat to seek appropriate funding source.

18. The Meeting noted about the “ASEAN Traditional Medicine Dialogue”.

19. China expressed the interest in “ASEAN Traditional Medicine Dialogue” and proposed the future cooperation with AMS as follows:

- Continue conduct TM knowledge exchange
- Continue cooperation in TM
- AMS are invited to participate in the 5th China-ASEAN Summit Forum on Traditional Medicine in Nanning, China during 19-21 September 2018 and other previously mentioned forums.
- Work together under Belt and Road Initiative Cooperation
- Make better use of international organizations supporting traditional medicine development, e.g. WHO, ISO

Agenda Item 5: Closing

20. The Chair expressed his gratitude to everyone who made this event happen and to AMS and China for their active contributions during the group discussion. The Chair wished subsequent positive outcome of this Meeting, thanked the participants and closed the Meeting.