



**Report of the Workshop to develop Traditional & Complementary Medicine  
Practice Guidelines in ASEAN  
3-4 April 2019, Bangkok, Thailand**

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**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Workshop to develop Traditional & Complementary Medicine Practice Guidelines in ASEAN was held on 3-4 April in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The list of delegates appears as Annex 1.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING CEREMONY**

2. Dr. Anchalee Chuthaputti, Director, Technical and Planning Division, Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine (DTAM), as the representative of ASEAN Delegation, gave a report on the background and objectives of the workshop to the Guest of Honor, Dr. Sunpong Ritthiruksa, Deputy Director-General, DTAM. She emphasized that the development of T&CM guidelines in ASEAN would be beneficial for the policy makers, the government offices and related T&CM Professional Councils in charge of the standard of T&CM practices and service, and T&CM practitioners to learn from or to adapt the guidelines to suit their local context as appropriate. The details of her remarks appear as Annex 2.
3. Dr. Sunpong Ritthiruksa, Deputy Director-General, DTAM, delivered the welcome remarks and extended the warm welcome to all delegates. In his remarks, he highlighted the importance of the quality of T&CM practice and products as well as the evidence-based T&CM treatment modalities and medicinal products which will ensure the efficacy and safety for ASEAN populations. He also stated that ASEAN Member States should initially establish the practice guidelines of T&CM to standardize T&CM practice and service based on the context of each country. The details of his remarks appear as Annex 3.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND CO-CHAIR**

4. The Meeting elected Dr. Anchalee Chuthaputti, head of Thailand delegations as the Chair and Dr. Fen Fang Gan, Senior Principal Assistant Director, Traditional & Complementary Medicine Division, a delegate of Malaysia, as the Co-Chair.
5. The Chair then proceeded with the introduction of delegates in the Meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

6. The Meeting reviewed the draft Provisional Agenda and its programme. The Meeting adopted the agenda that appears as Annex 4.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT**

7. The Emcee announced the business arrangement for the Meeting including the venue for meals, the reimbursement, trips, transportation, and restaurant, etc.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: BACKGROUND, RATIONALE, OBJECTIVE, AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS OF THE WORKSHOP**

8. Thailand presented the Meeting on the background, rationale, objectives and expected outputs of the workshop. The Meeting were also notified with the details of following timelines for advance preparation:
  - a. By June 2019, Thailand will circulate the report or conclusion of the workshop to the Health Cluster 3 Coordinators and Focal Points of Traditional Medicine for consideration and endorsement.
  - b. By August 2019, all AMS should submit their information in accordance with the content outline agreed in this workshop to Thailand.
  - c. By February 2020, Thailand will conduct the second workshop to finalize the practice guidelines.
  - d. By 2020, the T&CM practice guidelines in ASEAN will be published and disseminated to AMS.

The details of Thailand presentation appear as Annex 5.

9. Thailand informed the Meeting that this project is expected to get the Grant from ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund to support the above-mentioned activities. However, if the project proposal is not approved, Thailand will continue support the project by its fiscal-year budget.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: COUNTRY PRESENTATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF T&CM SERVICE AND THE PRACTICE GUIDELINES ON T&CM**

10. Delegate of each AMS made a 15-minute country presentation on the current situation of T&CM service and the practice guidelines on T&CM in their respective countries, in alphabetical order. The country presentation covers the following issues:
  - a. Policy on the integration of T&CM in health care service
  - b. Development and the current situation of T&CM in your country covering:
    - Service delivery
    - T&CM personnel (type & number)
    - Source of budget support for the development of T&CM service system and coverage for T&CM service by health security system (if any)
    - Traditional medicines and herbal medicines (types of manufacturing standard and number of licensed products)
  - c. Practice guidelines on T&CM (for member states that do not have practice guideline on T&CM, if any, please share information on the regulation of T&CM practice, practitioner, and product in your country)
  - d. Sharing of the best practice of T&CM in your country (if any)
  - e. Challenge and Way forward

11. The Country Presentations of AMS are annexed as follows:

- a. Brunei Darussalam     Annex 6
- b. Cambodia               Annex 7
- c. Indonesia               Annex 8
- d. Lao PDR                 Annex 9
- e. Malaysia                Annex 10
- f. Myanmar                 Annex 11
- g. Philippines             Annex 12
- h. Thailand                 Annex 13
- i. Vietnam                 Annex 14

**AGENDA ITEM 7: DISCUSSION ON THE TARGET AND THE FORMAT OF THE GUIDELINES**

12. The Meeting had extensive discussion regarding the target and format of the guidelines based on the details of country presentations. In order to understand the overall situation of T&CM in AMS, Thailand suggested the Meeting to identify the Health System Structures in Relation to T&CM of each country, following WHO Health Systems.

13. The following grouping was made:

- a. Tolerant Health System: Health care based entirely on conventional medicine; T&CM not officially recognized  
Country: Brunei Darussalam
- b. Inclusive Health System: Recognized T&CM but has not incorporated into all aspects of health care  
Country: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines
- c. Integrative Health System: T&CM is officially recognized and incorporated into all area of health care provision  
Country: Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam
- d. Parallel Health System: T&CM are widely used, more than 50% of the population access these services and regulation are totally separate for allopathic medicine and T&CM modalities  
Country: None

The Matrix of Health System Structures in Relation to T&CM in ASEAN with details of existing measure to guarantee quality service appears as Annex 15.

14. Thailand highlighted that the T&CM practice guidelines are very important for T&CM personnel as it is a tool for the effective communication among the healthcare team. Therefore, the target of the guidelines is to ensure the quality and standard of T&CM practice and service provided in each country. The Meeting agreed with Thailand and determined the content of T&CM practice guidelines in ASEAN as follows:

- a. Chapter 1: Current situation of T&CM in each country (health care system and private)
- b. Chapter 2: T&CM practice in ASEAN

- c. Chapter 3: T&CM service guideline
- d. Chapter 4: T&CM Practice Guidelines (based on country)
- e. Chapter 5: Challenges and Way Forward (summarized as big picture)
- f. Annex

The Details of each chapter and annex appears as Annex 16.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: FURTHER DISCUSSION (IF ANY), WHAT TO DO NEXT FOR EACH AMS AND TIMELINE OF THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

- 15. The Meeting agreed to write up and submit the country information as agreed in agenda 7 to Thailand in August 2019. In order to finalize the guidelines, Thailand plans to conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop by January 2020.
- 16. Thailand further informed the Meeting that the report or conclusion of the workshop will be submitted by May 2019 to ASEAN Secretariat for circulation to ASEAN Health Cluster 3 and Focal Points of Traditional Medicine.
- 17. Thailand will give a report to the Cluster 3 Coordinators regarding this activity at the Health Cluster 3 Meeting to be held in Singapore in July 2019.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER MATTERS**

- 18. Malaysia informed the Meeting that Malaysia will conduct the 9<sup>th</sup> INTRACOM on 3-5 August 2019 in Selangor, Malaysia. The Details of the conference appear as Annex 17.
- 19. Thailand also informed the Meeting that Thailand will organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Health Wisdom Conference 2019 on 1-3 August 2019 in Prachinburi Province, Thailand. The Details of the conference appear as Annex 18.
- 20. However, considering the fact that these two conferences are overlapped, Thailand plans to reschedule the conference and will inform the Meeting after receiving the concurrence from authorities concerned.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP**

- 21. Chair on behalf of the Host Country congratulated the Meeting for the hard work and the end result of the successful Workshop to develop Traditional & Complementary Medicine Practice Guidelines in ASEAN. She also expressed her sincere appreciation to the organizing committee for making this workshop successfully concluded.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: FIELD VISIT**

- 22. ASEAN Delegates visited Thai Traditional and Integrative Medicine Hospital which is affiliated with Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine to learn more about the services provided in the hospital and experience Nuad Thai or Thai massage.

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