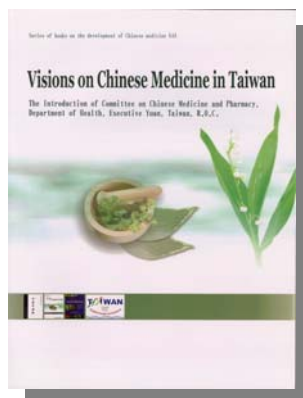


Visions on Chinese Medicine in Taiwan

The Introduction of Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy,
Department of Health, Executive Yuan, Taiwan, R.O.C.



Introduction

This brief introduction to the 2004 edition, referring to the background, structure and function of the CCMP and the status of Chinese medicine and pharmacy in Taiwan now and in the past, includes the achievements of the CCMP in 2003, an analysis of SARS research, prevention and cure using Chinese medicine and pharmacy, the background of the compilation of the Chinese Medicine Pharmacopoeia and the situation as regards Chinese medicine and pharmacy in Taiwan. It also promotes the development of Chinese medicine and pharmacy in the future, outlining the status quo and the prospects for creating a top Chinese medicine and pharmacy industry and integrating Chinese medicine and pharmacy with medical engineering research. It also provides a review and collection of publications by the CCMP and of seminars it has held.

The Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy, which acted initially as a consultant on Chinese medicine and pharmacy in the Department of Health, Ministry of the Interior, was still engaged in consultations when the Ministry of Health, Administrative Yuan was set up in 1971. With more and more importance attached to Chinese medicine and pharmacy, the Organizational Law of the Ministry of Health was revised on July 29, 1987, Article 17 of which stipulates that the Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy shall deal with all matters concerning Chinese medicine and pharmacy, On this basis a draft of the Organizational Articles of the Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy, Ministry of Health was submitted to the Legislative Yuan for discussion on November 21, 1987. With lobbying from the Chinese medicine community and the support of legislators concerned about herbalist doctors, the draft was ratified on December 15, 1994 and promulgated on December 30 of that year. The Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy was officially set

up on November 1, 1995 as an independent department under the Ministry of Health and in the nine years since it was created everything has proceeded smoothly.

In May, 2002, The World Health Organization published for the first time its 「WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2002—2005」 to encourage all countries to administer traditional medicine and pharmaceutical using consistent standards. With the globalization of the world, the CCMP has exerted itself to promote Taiwan medicine, the combining of Chinese and Western Medicine and the internationalization of Chinese medicine. In recent years, the CCMP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have received many foreign visitors who have come to learn about Chinese medicine and pharmacy. The frequent visits of foreign guests show the great achievements of diplomacy and internationalization of Chinese medicine and pharmacy.

On June 22, 2004, the WHO published 「New WHO guidelines to promote the proper use of alternative medicines」 which reported that eighty percent of the population in developing countries have taken traditional medicine as main treatment methods due to traditional culture or lack of other therapies. The said Guideline also warns of the risk of using traditional medicine and pharmacy and suggests that precautions be taken to ensure that certain medicines and pharmacy, such as acupuncture and verbalism, were efficacious and safe before using them as treatment methods. Taiwan, with its advanced system of careful examination, stipulates that Chinese medicine doctors shall be trained and granted a license before being allowed to practice; and the relevant therapies and Chinese pharmacy shall pass clinical tests before use; A Bulletin Center of Ill Reaction to Chinese Pharmacy has been established in the Ministry of Health to control pharmaceutical side-effects at any time.

Currently, the CCMP comprises four official divisions, namely, the Chinese Medicine Division, Chinese Pharmaceutical Division, Research and Development Division and Information and Publication Division, and a temporary Division of Technology Policy was added in 2002. With the coordination of the divisions, the CCMP operates a comprehensive administration of Chinese medicine and pharmacy with research undertaken, has established an investigation system for hospitals of Chinese medicine, and has drawn up a five-year plan (2004-2008) to ensure the safety of Chinese pharmacy, so as to improve the Chinese medicine and pharmacy industry and ensure the medical safety of the people, and allow Chinese medicine and pharmacy to play an important part in national health.

Chinese medicine and pharmacy, as the quintessence of Chinese national culture and one of the best traditional systems of medicine and pharmacy, has made great contributions to humanity for thousands of years. With the platform of WHO and WTO, the CCMP has a vision of the future and is making efforts to integrate resources at home and abroad to promote the value of Chinese medicine and pharmacy. The staff of the CCMP will strive to innovate and reform internally, enhance a sense of international competition externally, promote the modernization of Chinese medicine and the application of science to Chinese pharmacy, and intensify the administration of and research into, Chinese medicine and pharmacy. We hope that

we can establish Taiwan as biotech island of Chinese Herbal medicines with the coordination of the concerned departments of the Executive Yuan and develop Chinese medicine and pharmacy into a profitable mainstream industry, we also hope that you will continue your support to us as always.