

Meeting Report

Experts' Consultation Meeting on Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific Region



Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (China)
18–19 November 2010

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REPORT

**EXPERTS' CONSULTATION MEETING ON REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR
TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION**

Convened by:

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC**

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (China)

18-19 November 2010

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NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants in the meeting and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the World Health Organization.

Keywords: Medicine, Traditional/Western Pacific

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office in the Western Pacific for those who participated in the Experts' Consultation Meeting on Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific Region, 2011-2020 which was held in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China from 18 to 19 November 2010.

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SUMMARY

The Experts' Consultation Meeting on Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific Region was held in Hong Kong SAR, China from 18 to 19 November 2010. This meeting was organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific and hosted by the Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR. Participants included temporary advisers and observers from 12 Member States in the Region and Macao SAR, short-term consultants, and WHO secretariat from WPRO (Manila) and HQ (Geneva).

The objectives of the meeting were:

- (1) To discuss developments, challenges, needs, gaps, and findings in traditional medicine.
- (2) To review the preliminary draft of the *Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific 2011-2020*
- (3) To provide advice and recommendations on the preliminary draft document

During the course of the meeting, WHO secretariat, the short term consultants and temporary advisers presented information on various aspects of the current situation of traditional medicine in the Western Pacific Region, including information from the on-going WHO Global Survey of Traditional Medicine, and country assessments. Following presentation of the preliminary draft document of the *Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific 2011-2020*, each of the five objectives, the strategic tools, the indicators and the way forward, were presented by the short-term consultants, and suggestions for revision were made by the participants following detailed discussion. The overall recommendation was to revise and circulate the document among the participants before presentation to the Inter-country Consultation meeting on the *Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific 2011-2020* to be held in March 2011. The outcome of the meeting will be a first draft strategy of the *Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific 2011-2020*. The goal remains for the new strategy to be tabled for the 2011 Regional Committee Meeting.

1. INTRODUCTION

In September 2001, the fifty-second Session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific endorsed the *Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific 2001-2010*, which sought to promote safe and appropriate use of traditional medicines in the Region. Significant developments and new challenges for traditional medicine have occurred in Member States since this strategy was developed, resulting in the need to consider future strategic guidance for traditional medicines in the Region.

On 4-5 May 2010, an Informal Meeting on Strategic Directions for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific Region was held in Manila. This meeting recommended that the existing Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific be updated, building on the existing strategy. The meeting also recommended the utilization of the results of the WHO Global Survey on Traditional Medicine and a consultative process using regional experts in traditional medicine in order to develop a new strategy for the period 2011-2020. As a result of these recommendations, a preliminary draft strategy was developed. The Experts' Consultation Meeting on Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific 2011-2020 was held on 18-19 November 2010, in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain guidance and advice from experts on the preliminary draft of the *Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific 2011-2020* (Annex 1).

1.1 Objectives

- (1) To discuss developments, challenges, needs, gaps and findings in traditional medicine.
- (2) To review the preliminary draft of the Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific, 2011-2020.
- (3) To provide advice and recommendations on the preliminary draft document.

2.1 Opening remarks

Dr Budiono Santoso, Team leader, Essential Medicines and Technologies (EMT), on behalf of the Director of the Department of Health Systems (DHS) for the Western Pacific

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