



KEMENTERIAN KESIHATAN MALAYSIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

Traditional and Complementary Medicine Division
Ministry of Health Malaysia
Block E Jalan Cenderasari
50590 Kuala Lumpur

Tel : 603-2698 5077
Faks : 603-26911259
Email : tcm@moh.gov.my

PRESS STATEMENT
MINISTER OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

**FIRST BILATERAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
TRADITIONAL MEDICINE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA AND THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The First Bilateral Technical Meeting on Cooperation in Traditional Medicine between the Government of Malaysia and the People's Republic of China was held on 14th August 2014 in Beijing and represents a significant milestone for both countries, following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on 7th November 2011. The MOU that was inked between Malaysia and P.R. China encourages, facilitates and promotes cooperation in the areas of (1) practice, (2) education and training, (3) regulation and (4) research and development.

The first bilateral technical meeting was hosted by His Excellency Mr. Wang Guoqiang, Vice Minister of Health China and attended by senior officials of the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SATCM). The Malaysian delegation was led by YB Datuk Seri Dr. S. Subramaniam, Minister of Health Malaysia.

Areas of Collaboration

Several forms of collaboration were explored to address common areas of concern such as universal health coverage, health administration and disease prevention as well as the management of autism in children. Thus, the meeting served as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experiences between both countries in understanding and recognising the role and potential of TCM in these areas.

In addition, the meeting explored research and scholarship opportunities in traditional Chinese medicine as well as discussed the potential deputation of experts to assist the establishment of herbal oncology and acupuncture-assisted anaesthesiology in Malaysia.

Malaysia is also keen to position itself as an international training hub for clinical practice and research in traditional Chinese medicine through the establishment of strategic partnerships, in line with China's efforts to globalise TCM.

Conclusion

Malaysia had previously signed MOUs with India, Thailand, Indonesia and Brunei on cooperation in traditional medicine and has worked to enhance professional development amongst local practitioners, educate future generations of practitioners & experts and improve pre-existing systems of governance.

Similarly, the MOU between Malaysia and China is hoped to benefit both countries immensely. Close collaboration between both countries in the areas of regulation, practice, education & training and research which is expected to enhance the development of traditional Chinese medicine in Malaysia.

THE HONORABLE DATUK DR. S. SUBRAMANIAM

Minister of Health, Malaysia

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