

**WHO GUIDELINES FOR  
QUALITY ASSURANCE  
OF  
TRADITIONAL MEDICINE  
EDUCATION  
IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION**



**World Health  
Organization**

**Western Pacific Region**

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# FOREWORD

Traditional medicine is now increasing in the Region and many doctors apply techniques used by traditional medicine in their daily practices. Academic education in traditional medicine has been offered in universities in China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for many years. Recently, more universities in other countries such as Australia and Hong Kong have introduced full-time degree courses on traditional medicine.

It is a great challenge to bring education on traditional medicine into university education systems. Compared to modern medicine, formal education on traditional medicine in universities has a very short history. Following increasing interests and utilization of traditional medicine by the public, the need for qualified practitioners becomes one of the key issues for ensuring the quality of services and safety of consumers. The introduction of licensing of practice of traditional medicine by governments in the Region also requires good education system on traditional medicine. A review of the 50 years' experience on formal education on traditional medicine in China and the Republic of Korea, and the identification of challenges faced by newly-established education on traditional medicine in more Western style countries will be useful for improving quality of education on traditional medicine in universities. The basic principle and new concept used by modern medical education could be introduced to education on traditional medicine.

Consequently, the Regional Committee of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, during its fifty-second session held in Brunei Darussalam from 10 to 15 September 2001, endorsed the Regional Strategy for Traditional Medicine. The Regional Strategy indicates the need to establish appropriate standards for traditional medicine for practice and products and recommends that training and education on traditional medicine in university medical schools and related educational establishments be provided.

By application of principles and criteria of the WHO Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Traditional Medicine Education in the Western Pacific Region, we aim to encourage national governments to adopt a quality assurance process in traditional medicine education in the Region.

Shigeru Omi, MD, Ph.D.  
Regional Director

# INTRODUCTION

## Quality assurance in traditional medicine education

The World Health Organization (WHO) has been actively advocating reform and improved medical education to meet the changing needs of health care. For the past three to four decades, WHO has intensified its efforts and has collaborated with a number of organizations and institutions at both global and regional levels to carry out activities aimed at improving human resources for health through better quality education. Significant among these are the growth of the Network of Community-oriented Institutions for the Medical and Health Sciences, the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) conferences on medical education and their regional preparation and follow-ups, the global consensus consultation on quality in medical education, the establishment of centres for health personnel education, fellowships and numerous training

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