

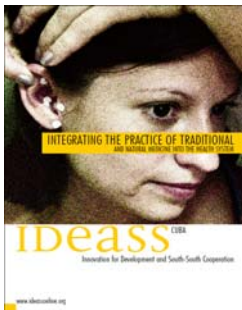
The World Health Organization is launching new cooperation activities in the field of traditional medicine



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Based on the conclusions and the final Declaration of the International workshop on *Innovation and Development in Health: Integration of Complementary and Traditional Medicine in Public Health Systems held in Florence* in October 2008, a meeting took place on 3rd March 2009, in the WHO head quarters in Geneva (Switzerland), to discuss cooperation activities in the field of traditional medicine (TRM) between the ART Scientific Committee UNDP-UNOPS and WHO TRM.

The meeting was attended on Behalf of WHO by Dr. Xiaorui Zhang, Coordinator, Traditional Medicine, Ms. Yukiko Mayurama, Dr. Zhang Qi, Dr. Molly Robinson and Ms. Jennifer Nash; on behalf of the IDEASS Programme by Luciano Carrino, Executive Representative, ART Scientific Committee for Human Development Cooperation.



Mr. Carrino provided a summary of International Seminar on *Innovation and Development in Health: Integration of Complementary and Traditional Medicine in Public Health Systems* took place in Florence, on 28-31 October, 2008 Italy. The workshop was organized jointly by the Tuscany Region and UNDP-UNOPS in the framework of the ART Initiative. The participants included representatives from the Ministries of Health of the countries where ART Programmes and cooperation programmes from Tuscany Region are active which included following countries have participated: Afghanistan, Albania, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Iran, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Serbia, Syria, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Venezuela.

In the final declaration of the Seminar, participants recommended to start up an International Network able to facilitate integration processes of complementary and traditional health within public health systems. In order to start up the International Network, UNOPS would like to cooperate with WHO and other interested United Nations Agencies, to elaborate a specific Programme of international cooperation.

Dr. Zhang provided an overview of the current WHO work in the traditional medicine (TRM) field, including the recent Executive Board resolution on the inclusion of TRM in national health systems and utilization of the benefits of TRM in addressing issues within primary health care (PHC). Priorities and working procedures were discussed, as were aspects of funds mobilization.

Based on the draft proposal by the IDEASS programme, TRM suggested that priorities of a cooperation programme may focus on following areas:

- National capacity building for the establishment of regulation for herbal medicines through expanded membership in the already existing International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH) network
- Promote access to primary health care (PHC) by use of traditional medicine in PHC for Specific primary health care projects, such as the expansion and adaptation of the "Your Medicine in Your Garden" initiative

- Country capacity building in research on the safety, quality, and efficacy of herbal medicine to develop pharmacopeia of commonly used herbal medicines through cooperation Brazil and its neighbor countries.

During the meeting, the following cooperation procedure was outlined:

- After the meeting, the WHO TRM program will draft several proposed projects and provide these draft projects to the UNOPS-UNDP for review and consideration.
- The draft project plan will be circulated to the regional offices for comments once UNOPS-UNDP and WHO TRM are in agreement on the draft. UNOPS-UNDP will again have a chance to review the draft after comments from the WHO Regional Offices have been considered and incorporated.
- Potential partners and donors will be identified and approached seeking funding for the work once these projects have been finalized.

