

Technical Report on OIC Workshop and 1st International Congress on Integration of Traditional and Complementary Medicine into Health Systems and Health Services, Istanbul- Turkey. (18-22 April 2018)

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Background

The workshop was organised by SESRIC and the Ministry of Health of Turkey, and took place on the sidelines Congress under the auspices of the Presidency of Turkey in partnership with WHO. It aimed at improving the access of OIC Countries to integrated quality health care services through the integration of traditional and complementary medicine into the modern healthcare system of OIC Countries, in accordance with the OIC SHPA and the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014–2023.

The aim of integrated health care systems is to provide services which are not disconnected from each other. In other words, to provide the right care, at the right time and place, so the people can get the care they need, and achieve the desired results. This is widely considered to provide superior performance in terms of quality and safety as a result of standardized protocols and efficient communication.

The congress was officiated by Honorary Chairman of the Congress, Dear Emine ERDOGAN, First Lady of Republic of Turkey. The workshop optimised intra-OIC cooperation, sharing and exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices through scientific and related activities. The workshop concluded with agreed upon draft recommendations for SESRIC member states to enrich, a copy of which is annexed, (Annex A).

The congress vision was to establish international, sustainable and common collaborations in light of modern scientific developments in Traditional and Complementary Medicine taking root in cultural heritages of traditional medicine. The congress hosted 5,362 participants, including scientists and professionals from 39 countries of which 199 were international participants and it added major value to modern medicine practice through oral and poster presentations, workshops and public fair.

The congress purpose was to; (1) field Traditional and Complementary Medicine on international scale, evaluate public policies, provide visibility for the development of social infrastructure and legislative activities, introduce healthcare, cultural background and extensive potential of medicinal herbs inherited by our civilization to the present day. (2) Change the perception of contradiction existent in scientific, cultural and sociological domains by keeping the academicians and the public informed of complementarity and support to

modern healthcare service. (3) Provide for integration of Modern, Traditional and Complementary Medicine within WHO framework and strategy 2012-2023, introduce legislation, training programs and related scientific studies implemented by some countries, prepare for common infrastructure for academic/scientific studies, cooperation opportunities trade, law and education, and provide practical background for healthcare professionals.

Workshop and Conference program, highlights and people

The congress program topics included complementary medicines such as; Acupuncture, Phytotherapy, Hypnosis, Homeopathy, Reflexology, Mesotherapy, Prolotherapy, Osteopathy and Chiropractic. Other therapies of interest included using Maggots, Leeches, Bees, Music, Cupping and Ozone.

Many Traditional and Complementary Medicine (TCM) documents were considered which included; WHO TCM Strategy, TCM Medical Systems and other practices, Access to TCM, Level of Evidence in TCM, Training for TCM, R&D for TCM, Code and Ethics of TCM, Diversity and Trade of Medicinal and Aromatic Herbs, Clinical Research in Traditional Medicine, Prescription of Traditional Medical Products and Aromatic Medicines, Innovation in Traditional Medicine, New Trends and Prospective Vision in Traditional Medicine, Traditional and Complementary Medicine for Chronic diseases, Cancer, Addiction and a Holistic Approach in Integrative Healthcare, and Medical Tourism.

The highlighted issues regarding the integration of traditional and complementary medicine into the modern health care system included; prevention of its current abuses, assurance of its effective application in preventive measures, reducing health expenses, its increasing demand by populations, and the need for legal frameworks to regulate its practices.



Dr Yahaya Sekagya Back row 3rd Right with conference delegates

I met many significant people who included: Dr. Qi Zhang, Head of Traditional and Complementary Medicine Unit at World Health Organisation, H.E. Ms. Sümeyye Erdoğan Bayraktar, Vice President of the Women and Democracy Association, H.E. Prof. Eyüp Gümüş, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey, Assoc. Prof. Elif Güler Kazancı, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Prof. Dr. Alper Cihan, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Mehmet Zafer Kalaycı, Director of Traditional and Complementary Medicine Department at the Ministry of Health of Turkey, and Mr. Mehmet

Fatih Serenli, Director of Training and Technical Cooperation department at SESRIC, as well as 22 representatives from the OIC Member States.

General observation

The integration of traditional and complementary medicine into the national health care systems is no longer simply an option for countries to consider. It is a recognized strategy for countries to adopt and adapt in order to improve health care. Many countries, especially in Europe have integrated and institutionalised it and have established legal frameworks to regulate its practices. Traditional medicine practice was appreciated for embodying a historical depth of know-how, belief and social experiences, and being of basic importance for various segments of society to have access to health care.

Other Health Ministries have dedicated departments responsible for the implementation of Traditional and Complementary Medicine. The Republic of Turkey Ministry of Health has a General Directorate for Health Services with a Traditional and Complementary Medicine Department. Some of the practices regulated include; Acupuncture, Phytotherapy, Hypnosis, Homeopathy, Reflexology, Mesotherapy, Apitherapy, Prolotherapy, Music therapy, Osteopathy and Chiropractic, Maggots therapy, Leeches therapy, Cupping, Ozone therapy and Reflexology

Lessons learnt

Integration of traditional and complementary medicine into the Uganda national health care system is long overdue. There is need to expedite the Indigenous and Complementary Bill in Parliament to have a legal framework for its safe, quality and efficacious practice and products for the Ugandan population.

Recommendations

I recommend benchmarking activities for integration of traditional and complementary medicine into the Uganda national health care system, to countries such as Turkey which have made significant progress on this issue. The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health should advise the technical staff within the Ministry of Health, members responsible for drafting of the Traditional and Complimentary Bill, Board Members and technical staff of National Drug Authority, and the relevant Parliamentary Committee on Health to make use of experiences from countries such as Turkey in designing the most appropriate strategies on this issue for Uganda.

Acknowledgments

I thank Minister of Health Hon. Dr. Aceng Jane Ruth, the Permanent Secretary Dr. Diana Atwine, Dr. Henry Mwebesa, Dr. Grace Nambatya, Professor Magid Kagimu, the National Drug Authority leadership and Ministry technical staff, PROMETRA Uganda, PHARMBIOTRAC (MUST), and SESRIC secretariat for supporting my participation.

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**WORKSHOP ON
“INTEGRATION OF THE TRADITIONAL AND COMPLEMENTARY
MEDICINE PRACTICES INTO THE HEALTH SYSTEMS AND
HEALTH SERVICES OF OIC MEMBER STATES”**

18 April 2018, Istanbul, Turkey

Draft Recommendations •

The participants in the Workshop on “Integration of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices into the Health Systems and Health Services of OIC Member States” held on 18 April 2018, in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey;

Having listened the OIC Strategic Health Program of Action, which was adopted by the Fourth Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia; in October 2013, and the outcomes of the OIC Health Report 2017, considering different aspects of the health status in the OIC countries, including recent health developments and situations, concerns and challenges, requirements, and priorities;

Having been informed by the detailed presentations made by the participants from the Member States as well as representatives of WHO and SESRIC, highlighting the presence of a wide range of expertise in areas crucial to contribute to the implementation of the OIC-SHPA 2014-2023, including expertise in supporting capacity building, strategy development, project and programme planning/designing, resource mobilisation, mentoring capability in the area of traditional and complementary medicine;

Recognizing that health systems strengthening is a fundamental factor in the maintenance of and a prerequisite for development, and thus, health improvement is dependent, to a large extent, upon sound and comprehensive policies and strategies of the governments, and cooperation among states, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations;

Noting that, according to the findings of the OIC Health Report 2017, over the last few decades many OIC Member States have attained significant improvement in different health indicators consequently recording declining trends in mortality rates both for adults and children and the average life expectancy rate at birth has also been improved; however, as a group, they are still lagging behind the world average in many health indicators;

Desiring to achieve the objective of joint action and a new vision for the people in the OIC Member States to face the health challenges in the 21st century, solidarity in action in dealing with public health issues particularly prevention, control, elimination and eradication of diseases, disorders and epidemics;

Taking note of the on-going efforts at the international and OIC level to support the building of institutional health infrastructure and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and knowhow, best practices and models, experience and expertise among the OIC member countries;

Inspired by the shared common views towards addressing the health challenges in the OIC Member States, hereby agreed on the following recommendations

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1. **Expressed** strong satisfaction with the implementation of the workshop and **urged** Member States to actively support strengthening the traditional and complementary medicine practices and their integration into the health systems and health services of the OIC Member States, and participate in the enactment process for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of traditional and complementary medicine, taking into consideration individual countries' priorities.
2. **Acknowledged** the need for the provision of international integrated efforts in OIC community to facilitate, implement and monitor programs to contextualise and mitigate collective challenges in traditional and complementary medicine faced by the OIC member States;
3. **Exposed** strong aspiration in the establishment of a network among relevant institutions in OIC Member States to ensure exchange of experiences and best practices of traditional and complementary medicine through various modalities of cooperation, including training programs, observational field studies, advanced clinical and laboratory researches, experts exchange, development of application standards' guidelines, and effective, safe and qualified products in this area;
4. **Called upon** relevant authorities to designate the representative institutions in this current Workshop as National Focal Points (NFPs) of this specific network, which shall be a national public or governmental body with the responsibility of managing in this area;
5. **Requested** SESRIC to publicize and raise awareness in both OIC and international level, and establish an e-mail and social media groups which will facilitate and ease the communication among the members of the Network;
6. **Requested** SESRIC to form a panel of expertise to prepare analytical reports that provides detailed account of traditional and complementary conditions in OIC countries in order to be able to identify and assess the opportunities, fundamental problems and challenges in the area, highlighting practical approaches that are regarded to be crucial in the integration of the traditional and complementary medicine practices into the health systems and health services;
7. **Expressed** their thanks and strong appreciation to the Ministry of Health of Republic of Turkey and SESRIC for their efforts in the organisation of the Workshop.