



29 November 2013, Strasbourg, France

JOINT EDQM AND SATCM SYMPOSIUM ON TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINES

On 14-15 November 2013, the EDQM (Council of Europe) and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of the People's Republic of China (SATCM) jointly organised a symposium on 'Traditional Chinese Medicines' in Strasbourg, France. Recognising the growing importance of TCM worldwide, the aim of the symposium was to intensify the collaboration and exchanges between experts from Europe and China and to receive feedback from stakeholders on the use of Ph. Eur. TCM monographs.

After an overview of the current situation of Traditional Chinese Medicines in China and Europe, including a contribution from the Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (ChP) Commission, Dr WANG Ping, on the status and future perspectives for monograph elaboration in the ChP, presentations were made that focussed on technical aspects and the analytical techniques and methods that could be used in the quality control of Traditional Chinese Medicines.

Amongst all the positive outcomes of the symposium, the audience gained a deeper knowledge of:

- The regulatory situation of Traditional Chinese Medicines in China and in Europe, including a substantial contribution on the elaboration of the Traditional Chinese Medicines monographs in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia.
- The progress in research, especially in terms of identification using multiple methods such as DNA barcoding, HPLC and HPTLC fingerprinting.
- The current efforts to pursue evidence-based methods of quality control.
- The rigorous methods currently being elaborated to control toxic compounds.
- The on-going work for understanding the chemical and pharmacological effects of Traditional Chinese Medicines processing.

It was acknowledged that a key factor in this success has been the close co-operation and relationship between Chinese and European experts.

In terms of usage of Ph. Eur. Traditional Chinese Medicines herbal monographs, the viewpoints of different stakeholders (such as industry, pharmacists, Traditional Chinese Medicines practitioners, importers and those of a regulatory agency) provided a better understanding of their needs, which will be considered by the Ph. Eur. Commission in deciding the future orientation of its work in this field.

Mr WU Zhen-dou, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Co-operation of SATCM and Dr Susanne Keitel, Director of the EDQM, both reiterated the intent of SATCM and of the EDQM to continue their fruitful co-operation and to strengthen scientific exchanges between the two organisations.

The symposium was attended by 75 participants, including officials and experts from 18 countries, as well as representatives from European and national regulatory authorities, TCM importers, pharmacists and practitioners. The [presentations](#) will be published on the EDQM website.

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Note for the Editor: Further information is available on the internet site www.edqm.eu

The EDQM is a leading organisation that protects public health by enabling development, supporting implementation, and monitoring the application of quality standards for safe medicines and their safe use. Our standards are recognised as a scientific benchmark world-wide. The European Pharmacopoeia is legally-binding in European Member States. Similarly, the EDQM develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

The SATCM is the state organisation of the Chinese Ministry of Health responsible for the development of TCM and ethnic medicines.



¹There are now thirty-eight members of the [European Pharmacopoeia](#) Commission: *Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European Union.* There are twenty-five observers: *the World Health Organization (WHO); 5 member states of the Council of Europe - Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and the Russian Federation; and 19 other countries in the world - Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Israel, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Singapore, Senegal, South Africa, Syria, Tunisia, United States of America.*

A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.