

## **BANGKOK DECLARATION ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN ASEAN**

The delegates of the Conference on Traditional Medicine in ASEAN Countries held in Bangkok on 31 August - 2 September 2009

**REAFFIRMING** the purposes of ASEAN among others to maintain and enhance peace, security and stability and further strengthen peace-oriented values in the region, as enunciated by the ASEAN Charter;

**ENDEAVOURING** to put into operation actions stipulated in the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) to facilitate research and cross-country exchange of experience in promoting the integration of safe, effective and quality Traditional Medicine, Complementary and Alternative Medicine into the national healthcare system, and across other sectors;

**REITERATING** the World Health Organization's specific objectives in Traditional Medicine Strategy for 2002 - 2005 to support countries to integrate Traditional Medicine with national healthcare systems, promote the safety, efficacy and quality of Traditional Medicine by expanding the knowledge-base on Traditional Medicine, increase the availability and affordability of Traditional Medicine, as appropriate, with an emphasis on access for poor populations, and promote therapeutically sound use of appropriate Traditional Medicine by providers and consumers;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that Traditional Medicine is often the most widely available and affordable source of health care in ASEAN.

**SEEKING** to build on the gains brought about by close collaboration between ASEAN and other partners by further exploring opportunities for cooperation, sharing of knowledge and information, technical and financial assistance in Traditional Medicine;

**MINDFUL** of the importance of safety, efficacy, and quality of Traditional Medicine in the promotion of health, and in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases in ASEAN;

**RECOGNISING** that ASEAN Member States possess an abundance of untapped and newly discovered herbal and medicinal plants and other natural resources, as well as indigenous traditional knowledge and practices which have evolved from different ethnological, cultural, geographical, philosophical backgrounds, and the need to ensure sustainable management of biological diversity;

**EMPHASIZING** the importance to protect Traditional Medicine knowledge and practices

**WELCOMING** the support of the Nippon Foundation through the Memorandum of Agreement with the ASEAN Secretariat to assist Member States in promoting Traditional Medicine, among others.

**HEREBY DECLARE:**

1. To generate and share evidence-based information on traditional medicine knowledge and practices in ASEAN Member States by promoting and communicating widely and appropriately throughout the region and other partners;
2. To harmonise national technical requirements and regulations as part of ASEAN commitment to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of Traditional Medicine;
3. To promote further integration of Traditional Medicine, Complementary and Alternative Medicine into the health care system services as a part of comprehensive national health systems, including the use of traditional medicine in the primary health care; and
4. To develop specific activities to enhance collaboration in Traditional Medicine by involving practitioners and providers, industries, non-profit and professional organizations, academia, communities as well as partner organizations as key partners.

**DONE in Bangkok, Thailand, on this First Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Nine.**

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