

Regarding the Report on the Beijing Visit (September 2015) and the News Posted on the
WFCMS Website

February 2017

The Japan Society for Oriental Medicine (JSOM, 日本東洋医学会) did not have any exchanges with China for many years. On becoming the new President, Hiroshi Sato, along with the board members, took the opportunity to pay a courtesy visit to Beijing for 23-25 September 2015, with the aim of building communicative relationships with relevant organizations in China. A report on the visit was made in Japanese¹⁾. This document is its supplementary report.

1. Visit to the China Association of Chinese Medicine (CACM, 中华中医药学会)

We visited the CACM on in the morning of 24 September. The “*Shanghanlun* 伤寒论 Symposium” was held on 13 October 1981, at the Beijing College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (BCTCM, 北京中医学院, currently Beijing University of Chinese Medicine (BUCM, 北京中医药大学) and was jointly sponsored by CACM, Japanese Physician Oriental Medicine Society (日本医師東洋医学会) and the Institute of Kampo Medicine (日本漢方医学研究所). The Second National Symposium of Acupuncture and Moxibustion and Acupuncture Anesthesia (第二回針灸針麻酔學術検討会) was also held on 7-10 August 1984, in Beijing, with approximately 800 participants from 60 countries/areas, including Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific.

The attendants discussed the possibility of future academic exchanges between the societies.

2. Visit to the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS, 世界中医药学会联合会)

We visited the WFCMS in the afternoon of 24 September. The WFCMS was established in 2003 and is composed of 230 member organizations from 63 countries/areas. Its activities consist of academic exchange, human resource development, standardization, and the dispatch of Chinese medicine experts. The China Association for Science and Technology (CAST, 中国科学技术协会) provides a portion of the funding for the WFCMS.

During the meeting on the 24th, the JSOM was generally recommended for membership in the WFCMS. We explained that the JSOM is not ready to make a decision on the joining because we still do not have enough information on its policy, governance and financial status. The WFCMS introduced to us the current state of “the World Examination

(Assessment) of Chinese Medicine” (國際中医药考试), and we asked a few questions about it. We were surprised to know that Japan and the Republic of Korea are two major countries with the large number of the applicants. Needless to say, even if they pass this examination, they (except the medical practitioner's license holders in Japan) are not permitted to engage in medical practice in Japan. The JSOM also does not admit any qualification based on this examination.

3 People’s Medical Publishing House (人民卫生出版社)

We visited the People’s Medical Publishing House in the morning of 25 September. It is composed of three sections: the Editing and Publishing Department, a conference hall, and an international five-star hotel. Inaugurated in 1953 as the Chinese Medicine Publishing Department, directly under former Ministry of Public Health (MOPH,卫生部), it is currently under National Health and Family Planning Commission (国家卫生和计划生育委员会) and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (国家中医药管理局). They have produced over 3,700 types of documents related to Chinese medicine, as well as over 200 university textbooks on topics such as classics, traditional Chinese and Western medicine collaboration (中西医结合), and practical applications.

During the meeting on the 25th, the JSOM asked a question regarding the different schools of thought within Chinese medicine. The organization replied that, although there are many variants at the higher levels, ideas that have been approved at a certain level of consensus are being taught at undergraduate and postgraduate universities.

4 Regarding the contents of the WFCMS website

Photos and comments on our visit were posted on the WFCMS website on 25 September 2015²⁾. The comments include the following sentence.

“提出加入中联的要求，并就国际考试等业务进行了沟通”

This is translated into English as “There was a proposal (by the JSOM) to join the WFCMS, and (the attendants) exchanged views on the World Examination (Assessment) of Chinese Medicine etc.”, but it was incorrect.

In fact, the JSOM did not make any proposals. This sentence also fails to tell the important point that the JSOM remains uncommitted to the World Examination (Assessment) of Chinese Medicine and does not officially recognize or cooperate with it.

We hope that the WFCMS website will add a comment explaining that the JSOM would like to continue to have the friendship with the WFCMS, because Japan, like China, is one of the major countries which provide the Oriental medicine.

- 1) Sato H, Ito T, Tsutani K. Pekin deno Chuigaku Kanren Soshiki Hyokei Homon (2015.9.23-25) Hokoku (Report of courtesy visit to the relevant organizations in the field of Chinese medicine in Beijing 23-25 September 2015). *Nihon Toyo Igakkai Kaiho • Senmon'i Tsushin* (日本東洋医学会 会報・専門医通信, *The Society Report and Communication of Kampo Medical Specialists of the Japan Society for Oriental Medicine (JSOM)*). October 2015:18-25.
- 2) <http://www.wfcms.org/menuCon/contdetail.jsp?id=6610>