



**The Project Proposal
for
The First Conference of
The Central Council of Tibetan Medicine and
Sorig Associations of the Himalayan Regions
Year 2005**

Project Initiated by:

The Central Council of Tibetan Medicine

Gangchen Kyishong, District: Kangra, Dharamsala-176215 (H.P.) India

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The First Conference of the Central Council of Tibetan Medicine and the Sorig Associations of the Himalayan Regions-Year 2005

Introduction

The origin of Traditional Tibetan medicine goes back to its prehistoric times. It has a history of unbroken medical heritage of more than two thousand and five hundred years. It has been also the main health care facilities of the people in all the Himalayan kingdoms for many centuries. Gyu-shi, the four medical texts, written by Yuthok Yonten Gonpo in the 8th Century A.D. is the most authentic Tibetan medical text in Tibet and to the neighbouring Himalayan Kingdom that share similar cultural heritage with the Tibetan people.

Tibetan kings in the past invited many physicians from its neighbouring countries for medical conferences. The first International conference on Tibetan medicine was held in Tibet in the 8th Century A.D., during the reign of King Trisong Dheutsen. Many students from all Himalayan regions also come to Tibet to study Tibetan medicine at Lhasa Men-Tsee-Khang.

The golden period of Tibetan medicine ended after the brutal occupation of Tibet by the Chinese in 1959. Medical schools were closed and demolished. Chinese destroyed many thousands of medical scriptures and imprisoned and persecuted many famous traditional Tibetan physicians during the Cultural Revolution. However, the Tibetan Government in Exile under the dynamic leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama successfully preserved and promoted the Tibetan medical tradition in India after the inception of Men-Tsee-Khang (Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute) at Dharamsala in 1961. Initially it opened a medical college, out patient clinics and a small pharmaceutical unit. It has now become the largest Institute of Tibetan medicine outside Tibet that has all infrastructures necessary for the promotion and preservation of Tibetan Medicine. The Chagpori medical college in Darjeeling, and the Sarnath Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies in Varanasi, which is affiliated to the Deemed University in India, are the two other colleges that provide formal training in Tibetan medicine. The Chagpori medical college was established by Dr. Troagawa Rinpoche in early 1990 in memory of Chagpori medical school in Tibet. Rakshi Tsultrim Sangye also established a school of Bon medical tradition in Nepal in 1990, known as Bum-shi school. More than 400 traditional Tibetan physicians have graduated from these reputed institutes to date. This number includes students from the Himalayan Kingdom, Russia and Mongolia.

Tibetan Medicine is a widely practiced health care system in Ladakh, Lahaul & Spiti, Kinnaur, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Bhutan, and Nepal. It is even very popular in Russia and Mongolia. Unfortunately, Tibetan Medical System is known with different names in different parts of the Himalayan Kingdom. It is known as Amchi System of Medicine in Ladakh, Bhutanese Traditional Medicine in Bhutan, Buddhist Medicine or Himalayan medicine in other parts of the Himalayan region. Recent

discussions among Tibetan physicians and physicians from the Himalayan Kingdom preferred to use Sowa Rigpa System of medicine in the Himalyan Kingdom in alternative to their different names for the same system. It is therefore essential to hold regular meetings among the physicians of this Medical System with the aims and objectives to preserve and promote this medical tradition and to contribute for the well being of all mankind.

The Central Council of Tibetan Medicine

The Central Council of Tibetan Medicine (Che-thoe-men-pai-lhen-tsok) came into existence in January 2004, for the first time in the history of Tibetan Medicine. It was established after the ‘Exile Tibetan Sorig Doctors’ Council Act’ was passed by the 13th Assembly of the Tibetan People’s Deputies, Government of Tibet in Exile during its 5th session in 2003, with the final approval by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It is now the apex body of all traditional Tibetan physicians in Exile.

All the members of this Council were elected during the first two-day Sorig Conference of Traditional Tibetan Doctors that was held in Dharamsala in January 2004. This Conference was organised by the Department of Health, Central Tibetan Administration and more than hundred Tibetan physicians from India, Nepal and Europe participated in this conference.

The Council consists of three physicians from Men-tsee-khang (Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute in Dharamsala) and four private physicians, including one reserved seat for the physicians of Bon medical tradition and one allopathic physician appointed by the Department of Health, Central Tibetan Administration, Tibetan Government in Exile.

The following Members were elected for the first three year term:

I-Representative of the Department of Health
Dr. Tsetan Dorji Sadhutsang (Member)

II- Representative of Men-Tsee-Khang Physicians
Dr. Pema Dorjee (President)
Dr. Dawa (Vice-President)
Dr. Penpa Tsering (Member)

III- Representative of Private Tibetan Physicians
Dr. Namgyal Qusar (Secretary)
Dr. Dorji Damdul (Member)
Dr. Tenzin Loden (Member)
Dr. Kunsang Gyaltsen (Member)

The Central Council of Tibetan Medicine has full responsibility to monitor, register and give recognition to all Tibetan Medical practitioners, Medical Colleges and the Production of Tibetan Medicine. During the past more than one year, the executive

members met three times to discuss various ways to achieve the purpose of constituting the Council and to implement other important projects for the long term development of Tibetan Medicine. The outcome of this Conference will directly benefit the physicians and the people of Himalayan region and will bring all physicians of Tibetan medicine to work closer and with greater efficiency.

Aims and Objectives of the Conference:

The Central Council of Tibetan medicine aims to achieve following goals during this Conference:

- a) To discuss about the ways to improve the qualification of physicians and the quality of medicine products and to control the standard of medical colleges in the Himalayan Kingdom.
- b) To find ways and means to get formal recognition to this system by the respective government.
- c) For an active collaboration between the Central Council of Tibetan Medicine and the Sorig Associations in the Himalayan Kingdom.
- d) To enlist all physicians with special skills and practical knowledge in the Himalayan Kingdom and to find means to pass down their knowledge to younger physicians in future.
- e) To research and collect rare and ancient medical scripts from the Himalayan Kingdom.

Participants to the Conference:

The Conference will be participated by eight executive members of the Central Council of Tibetan Medicine and representatives of Sorig Associations from Ladakh, Lahaul, Spiti, Kinnaur, Sikkim, Bhutan, Nepal with the total of about participants.

An Appeal

The Central Council of Tibetan Medicine is funded by the Central Tibetan Administration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the running cost of its office. It has no surplus resources and funds for this kind of projects. We request, therefore to all friends of Tibet and Tibetan Medicine to kindly help sponsor this important project.

Thank you

Dr. Pema Dorjee
(Chairman)

Funding required:

1.) Travelling expenses for experts and other participants	Rs.1,55,000.00
2.) Boarding and Lodging for the participants	Rs.30,000.00
3. Fees for Conference Hall	Rs.4,000.00
4.) Video Coverage	Rs. 3,000.00
5.) Fooding and farewell party	Rs.25,400.00
6.) Stationeries	Rs.20,000.00
7.) Miscellenous expenses	Rs.10,000.00

Total Expenses **Rs.2,47,400.00**

(Two hundred forty seven thousand and four hundred Indian Rupees only)

Please make donation by cheque/bank drafts, IMO, payable to Che-thoe Men-Pai Lhen-tsoq towards the above mentioned project.

Our Bank: UCO Bank (Ext: Counter)
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala-176215
(H.P.) India

Bank Account Number : 3139

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