

Minutes of Meeting with Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Registrar, Ayurvedic and Unani Board,

Kusumpti, Shimla, (H.P.)

Date: 5th Feb. 2015

Time: 9.30 am – 4 pm

9.30 – 12-30 am

With the last visit and meeting of Mr. Tsering Tashi Phuri; Director of Men-Tsee-Khang, Dharamsala to the State Ayurvedic and Unani Board, Dr. Dinesh Kumar, has been invited to the Men-Tsee-Khang; Tibetan Medical & Astro. Institute (TMAI), Dharamsala on 5th Feb. 2015. In the morning, Dr. Dinesh Kumar and Dr. Arun Chandan, Ayurvedic Medical Officer, Dharamsala has visited to the Institute campus including Pharmaceutical Department, OPD or the clinic of institute and the therapy centre, up at Mcloed Ganj.

12.30:

Vegetarian meal served by the Central Council of Tibetan Medicine (CCTM), Dharamsala.

1.15 pm:

Director Mr. Tsering Tashi Phuri has organized a brief meeting with the executive member of Central Council of Tibetan Medicine, Dharamsala. Mr. Tsering Tashi has introduced the Council member followed by a welcome scarf from Vice Chairman Dr. Thokmay.

Mr. Tsering Tashi; Director of Men-Tsee-Khang, Dr. Tsewang Tamdin Chief Medical Doctor and who is also an Executive Member of CCTM, Vice Chairman of CCTM, Dr. Thokmay, Dr. (Mrs.) Tsering Tsamchoe, General Secretary of CCTM have joined the meeting.

Meeting started with the brief introduction by Dr. Dinesh Kumar, his aim to visit TMAI and his purpose of meeting with the Institute and CCTM. He told that the state government will soon repeal the Himachal Ayurvedic Practitioner Act which was formed in the year 1967. At the same time will add Sowa-Rigpa System of Medicine in the Act. So before putting the agenda in the State Assembly or to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Dr. Dinesh need to know What the Sowa-Rigpa System is? The Course curriculum of UG and PG, duration of Course and the degree issued. The total number of practitioner registered under CCTM and separate name and contact details of Sowa-Rigpa practitioner in Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Dinesh is very much confused with the name of Amchi / Sowa Rigpa / Kachupa / Menrampa. So we briefly introduced the followings:

1. **Sowa-Rigpa** - Sowa-Rigpa literary means the Science or the Knowledge of Healing. This system is originated from Tibet and the fundamental text of this system is rGyud-bZhi which means the Four Tantra authored by 2nd Yuthog Yonten Gonpa in the 12th Century. Sowa-Rigpa; widely known as Tibetan Medicine in

the world has big influenced with the Buddhist Philosophy, Indian Ayurveda, Chinese and Greek Medicine and Tibetan Astrology.

2. **Amchi** – The word Amchi is a Mongolian language which means Vaidya in Ayurveda and sMen-pa in Tibetan. Mongolia Tibet relation is centuries old and the word Dalai Lama is also a Mongolian word which Tibetan normally use as a Tibetan Word.
3. **sMenpa** – The healer or the practitioner of Sowa-Rigpa which is the original term use in all the Sowa-Rigpa Literary Texts.
4. **sMenpa Kachupa** – the Tibetan nomenclature for UG Degree and this has been discussed in the last CCIM expert meeting and has been used as BSRMS (Bachelor of Sowa-Rigpa Medicine and Surgery)
5. **sMenpa Rabjampa** – The Tibetan nomenclature for PG Degree. This is also said in short form as sMen-Ram-Pa or sMenrampa.

In the meeting we have discussed about the detail of registration under CCTM. Till date 453 Tibetan Medical Practitioner has been registered under CCTM.

Details are:

QMP (Qualified Medical Practitioner) – **304**

RMP (Registered Medical Practitioner or NIQ) – **139** (*this registration has been closed from year 2012)

CRP (Certified Registered Practitioner same as NIQ) – **10** (After closing the RMP, have started CRP i.e. a traditional practitioner who learned from their ancestor or teacher but haven't been to any Institution. For this the applicant have to fulfill the criteria led by CCTM and has to appear for written and viva exam. CCTM issues only registration certificate not any qualification degree)

Details of QMP

Tibetan Medical & Astro College (TMAC), Dharamsla	:	207 (Under Administration=147, Private: 69 = 207)
Central University of Tibetan Studies (CUTS), Varanasi	:	29
Chagpori Tibetan Medical Institute (CTMI), Darjeeling	:	42
Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Ladakh	:	14
Traditional Tibetan Medical University (TTMU), Tibet	:	3

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In the meeting, the following question has been raised and discussed with Dr. Dinesh Kumar and Dr. Chandan.

1. Nomination of Sowa-Rigpa (Tibetan Medicine) Expert

Q - What is the main role of Sowa-Rigpa Experts?

Dr. Dinesh: This list of expert is demand from Gol. The role is like the same we are doing today, discuss and meeting regards to the Sowa-Rigpa system, drafting regulation and others related to the System. In the future, this expert will represent Sowa-Rigpa and Gol will communicate this expert for meeting and has full authorization to make resolution on Sowa-Ripga.

Q - Is this the same as clause 3.9.D of IMCC Act. 1970 as said as Committee for Sowa-Rigpa?

Dr. Dinesh: This committee is different from the expert committee and this will form from the elected and nominated members of Sowa-Rigpa and it will be form after the election of members.

Q - CCIM, in the last year has called an Expert team for the drafting of Sowa-Rigpa Course and Regulation. Is this the different Committee?

Dr. Dinesh: This team is linked with the expert committee but it mainly works for the preparation of letter drafting, amendments, new additional, new alteration and division of Act and regulations.

Q - Have any idea of an appointment of Ven. Lama Choephel Soepa for the Sowa-Rigpa Advisory member?

Dr. Dinesh: No idea of that but Mr. Tsering Tashi; Director of Men-Tsee-Khang told that he met Ven. Lama Choephel Soepa and was told that he has been appointed as an Advisory to the Expert Committee of Sowa-Rigpa.

2. Registration of Sowa-Rigpa Practitioner and its process?

Q - What are the criteria/ qualification and documents needed for the registration?

Dr. Dinesh: For the registration of practitioners, first Sowa-Rigpa Medical College has to register under the Minimum Standard Requirement of Sowa-Ripga College and Attached Hospital. So, this is only for the QMP or Qualified Medical Practitioner. Regarding RMP or Non Institutional Qualified / Experience basis, for that, the State AYUSH will form a body including one member from the state department and two three member from the you, Sowa-Ripga. So, this body will process and recommend for the registration of RMP.

Q - Is Indian citizenship necessary for the registration?

Dr. Dinesh: Till date, yes. But since Sowa-Ripga has not been included in Act, we will included the list of registered practitioner of CCTM by giving reference of Dharamsala and till date it will be done. In the future, has to amend in the Act by passing or adding the qualification of Sowa-Rigpa.

For the registration of Ayurvedic and Unanai practitioner as QMP, the practitioner need citizen of India and for RMP, they needed citizen of Himachal Pradesh. The registration of RMP was done ones and this registration has been closed from year 1972. There are many other traditional healer after 1972 and for such we will think about and make a separate board for that.

Q - How about the process of registration? Has to amend or include Sowa-Rigpa System in the State Act through debate in the State Assembly? If so, any process or draft has been tabled in the state Assembly so far?

Dr. Dinesh: Yes, the act has to repeal and pass through the State Assembly. For that we have to make a draft and table it to the State assembly. Since the state board has no knowledge and idea of Sowa-Rigpa system and its curriculum, the board has not made any draft to put up in the state assembly. Your help is very necessary. The process of registration is that the first the State Act has to repeal and pass by state assembly. It will then notify as Gazette by the state and after the date of publication Gazette, then it comes to legal frame will then proceed for the registration.

(In this, we have discussed to appoint a special coordinator from Tibetan Medical Practitioner residing and Practicing Tibetan Medicine in Men-Tsee-Khang, Shimla branch clinic to coordinate between State AYUSH and CCTM)

Q - Where or which office shall we deal regarding the registration of Sowa-Rigpa Practitioners in future?

Dr. Dinesh: State Ayurveda and Unani Board, Ayurved Bhawan, Shimla is the main office deals with the registration of practitioner in Himachal Pradesh. This office directly deals with the drafting of amendment of Act in the State assembly.

Q – Is it possible in the future, to make it necessary to refer CCTM for the registration of Sowa-Rigpa Practitioner from State AYUSH?

Dr. Dinesh: Yes, this we can be done. This will make us easier to start the registration. But it's until the formation of board in which two Amchi – Sowa-Rigpa practitioner will appoint in the state as a permanent member.

3. Election of Sowa-Rigpa Member from the State, HP

Q - For the election of member from the state, will this process be done after the registration of practitioner from state board?

Dr. Dinesh: Yes, this will be done after the registration of practitioner and will do according the list of registration. The registered practitioner will vote for their member. The chief election officer will be from our office.

4. General queries:

Q - Is there any schemes in the State government that the current Sowa-Rigpa Practitioner/College or pharmacy can also avail like other systems?

Dr. Dinesh:

- There is a schemes related to the strengthening of Pharmacy as of GMP norms. This scheme has to adopt.
- CME and other schemes will get only after the registration of colleges and practitioner.

- There is one scheme related to cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants – schemes of one hector of nursery for such, there is a grant of Rs. 25 Lacs. Details of this scheme will get from the National Medicinal Plant Board and this scheme has to recommend from the State Medicinal Plant board.

Q - Have heard that there is a vacancy of post for the Sowa-Rigpa; Tibetan Medical practitioner under state AYUSH. Can any Tibetan having qualified degree can apply for the post? Any Idea?

Dr. Dinesh: Yes, there is four vacancy post for Sowa-Rigpa Practitioner in HP State and till date only one post has been filled up. There is three more post that any qualified Sowa-Rigpa practitioner can apply but can only after the registration and for that Citizen matters. For the Tibetan refugees, first CCTM has to discuss and pass this to your Government (CTA) and from your Government, will then talk it to Government of India. For this, your government has to request Gol that Tibetan refugee has been staying in India since 1959 and Tibetan has to have same opportunity like citizen of Nepal, citizen of Bhutan in India. So, this has to add in the Citizenship Column. This will get an opportunity for Tibetan to apply and sit in any types of job in India. Regarding Citizenship, Central Government or Gol can do. This will not done from the state. (Seems there is a mode to add this column for Sowa-Rigpa Practitioner in the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy, 2014 est by Ministry of Home, Gol through Dept of Home, CTA.)

5. Appeal to Dr. Dinesh Kumar:

Central Council of Tibetan Medicine (CCTM); statutory body constituted under the Dept. of Health, Central Tibetan Administration, is an apex of all Tibetan Medical Practitioner, Medical College/Institute and Pharmacy in exile.

Under the policy and guidelines of registration of practitioner, medical colleges and pharmacy, currently we have a record of total 453 medical practitioners, Four Medical Colleges/Institute and Five Pharmaceutical Company/Units.

Therefore, CCTM appeal the Central and State Government of India, specially the CCIM and all the State AYUSH to contact CCTM for any information regarding Sowa-Rigpa; Tibetan Medical System and would like to request State AYUSH to refer and make necessary of recommendation/attestation from the Central Council of Tibetan Medicine for any registration of Sowa-Rigpa from the State AYUSH in the future.

We would highly be grateful if you kindly send update information and any implementation carried on Sowa-Rigpa from the Central and State Government.

The meeting ends with these questions answers and general discussion.

Report by: Dr. Tsering Tsamchoe
Gen. Secretary, CCTM,
Dharamsala

***** Dated: 6th Feb. 2015*****

