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European Medical Association and EPMA open doors for TCAM in Europe through Medizin Park Ruhr

and

Potentials for academics research and training for AYUSH professional at Medizin Park Ruhr in collaboration with European Medical Association

Along Traditional medicine plays an important and integral role in healthcare delivery as they work closely with clinical teams to deliver the best possible outcomes for patients. Present healthcare system needs to constantly seek new and cost-effective solutions to overcome operational challenges, such as optimal allocation and utilization of resources, development of procurement processes to contain rising costs and keep healthcare affordable, as well as integration of technology to enhance efficiency and quality of care, all for the benefit of the patients.

Traditional therapies have survived the scrutiny of consumers for several thousand years in India and China. These heritage ancient therapeutic modalities should be incorporated in main stream health care to combat the shortage of preventive medicine and community based approach.

On the lines of US-NIH, basic research has to be started, so that what works well in these traditional therapies, could be validated by modern analytical ways and made available for the worldwide use. These countries also should develop collaborative platforms at centers of excellence in CAM around the world to strengthen the health care delivery using the best of integrative medicine.

In India, the Department of AYUSH established in 1995 by the Government of India, oversees the education, research and therapy, in the areas of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy and Naturopathy. An estimated 700,000 Vaidyas (Ayurveda Practitioner), 42,000 Hakims (Unani Practitioner) and similar number of homeopathic doctors are practicing in India. This is just about the same number as the allopathic physicians.

Even before the modern medicine was introduced to India, the traditional therapies existed for centuries. Debate should be focused more or less on lack of clinical evidence-base for the traditional medicine, questionable efficacy, patient safety and possible drug interactions and toxicity. The year 2008 marked WHO's 60th anniversary and also the 30th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration, adopted by WHO and UNICEF in 1978. The Alma-Ata Declaration was significant for traditional medicine (TM). Although TM has been used for thousands of years and has made great contributions to human health, the Alma-Ata Declaration was the first recognition of the role of TM and its practitioners in primary health care by WHO and its Member States.

The use of TM has changed dramatically over the past thirty years. Due to its affordability, availability and accessibility, TM has played an important role in meeting the demands of primary health care in many developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia. Since the 1990s, the use of TM has surged. It not only maintains its function in primary health care in developing countries (70-80% of the population in India and Ethiopia