

From: yjsadovy

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To whom it may concern

Regarding the development of TCM - this is clearly a very important initiative but there is an important element in the meeting papers (for Monday 24th meeting) regarding TCM development that is entirely missing from the agenda. It is this element that I wish to raise, one that relates to the sustainable use of wildlife for TCM.

TCM includes many species, some of which now involve species of endangered plants and animals. Some of these have a long history in TCM and others are newly added and not, in this sense, a tradition at all. Manta rays and pangolin scales (according to available literature on this topic), are just a few examples of threatened species being marketed heavily for TCM but which do not have a long-recognized role.

If TCM is to be developed with a genuine interest in the long-term then serious attention needs to be paid to the issue of endangered species. This is also in line with international development, concerns, thinking and obligations which address the erosion of biodiversity for a range of reasons. TCM development needs to embrace these issues by specifically addressing the use of threatened species.

This can be done in several ways.

1. 'New' species should not be allowed or considered since they are not 'traditional'.
2. Species long used in the past should only be used if they come from sources that are demonstrated to be sustainable (this could mean a very limited supply since even many 'farm-produced animals' are highly suspect and include animals from the wild.
3. Support and encourage ongoing efforts to identify and isolate active ingredients from traditional sources so that these can be manufactured/synthesized and made more widely available. This would also allow for better human safety control for dosage, etc.

Addressing these key issues will be very important for the long term. It will also be important for the reputation of TCM in a world becoming increasingly aware of an interested in sustainability, especially among young people. It will help to safeguard human safety as well

and help to ensure a more harmonious development, in line with tradition and culture, in balancing human use with nature's limits.

In a truly globalized world we are all connected and, as such, need to honour commitments as well as tradition and do both responsibly. There are plenty of opportunities and a strong need to do so in developing TCM. Biological sustainability needs to be core to these discussions.

Yours sincerely,

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