



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION *of* ORIENTAL MEDICINE

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June 5, 2006

To: World Health Organization - Regional Office for the Western Pacific Bureau
Regional Du Pacifique Occidental

Re: AAOM Position – Informal Consultation on Development of Classification of East Asian Traditional Medicine – Seoul, Republic of Korea – 6-8 June 2006

In-care-of:

East-West Medical Research Institute
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or

The WHO Office in the Republic of Korea
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Seoul, Republic of Korea
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Honorable Members of the WHO Informal Consultation of Development of Classification of East Asian Tradition Medicine:

I am writing on behalf of the American Association of Oriental Medicine (AAOM) in show of support and to acknowledge the activities of the WHO – Informal Consultation on Development of Classification of East Asian Traditional Medicine. The AAOM was formed in 1981 to be the unifying force for American acupuncturists who are dedicated to ethical, high educational standards, and the well regulated practice of Oriental Medicine. As the organization representing the acupuncture profession in the United States, the AAOM is committed to supporting the WHO's process to reach a consensus on developing a classification of East Asian Traditional Medicine. As it relates to this meeting that is transpiring 06-08 June in Seoul, Republic of Korea, AAOM was requested to provide a position on the following:

- (1) To reach consensus on developing a classification of East Asian traditional medicine and discuss its possible structure;
- (2) To review and confirm the WHO International Standard Terminologies (IST) as the main resources for Classification of East Asian Traditional Medicine (CEATM) and to discuss how to process the IST into CEATM; and

(3) To discuss future plans including possible application for WHO Family of International Classification (FIC).

In response to this request, we formally submit:

Just as this meeting was convened to reach a consensus on the aforementioned subject matter, the AAOM uses a consensus process to formalize our policy positions on matters of such importance. Therefore, our process for seeking national U. S. input and consensus was initiated by sending our representatives, Dr. Kang, and Ms. Allen to this meeting. At the same time, we have sent an **Action Alert** to seek national input from the leadership of our state associations as well as individual, college and business members; a copy of which is attached. The AAOM will evaluate and consolidate the input received, inclusive of the meeting minutes (outcome report) that are provided to us by Dr. Kang and Ms. Allen. The results will be used for the purpose of formulating an interim position paper that will be submitted to the WHO. We feel it could be necessary to present the meeting minutes (outcome report) provided to us by Dr. Kang and Ms. Allen prior to finalizing our position paper, as we need to first ascertain that the information provided to our constituencies is comprehensive in nature; such that their input to us is predicated upon the most in-depth information available, as well as the consensus that was reached by the delegates attending this meeting.

We extend a sincere thank you for giving the AAOM this most prestigious opportunity to serve our profession and the WHO, and we look forward to submitting our position paper in the near future and to a continued relationship as it relates to this most important endeavor.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,



William R Morris, OMD, MEd, LAc
President, American Association of Oriental Medicine

Encls: AAOM WHO News Alert – dated 6/5/06

Cc: Dr. Jeannie Un Sook Kang
Ms. Marilyn Allen