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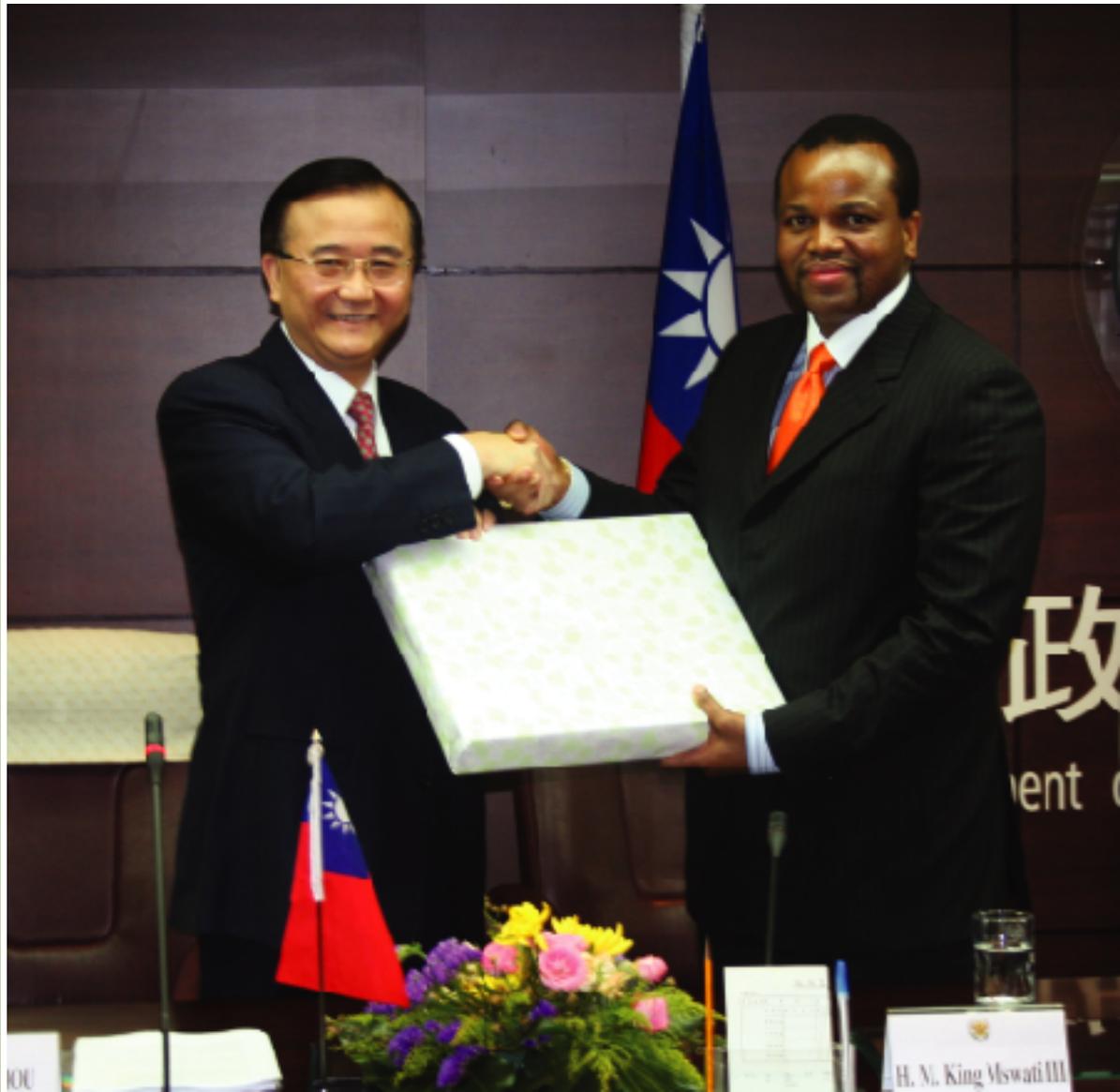
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His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland Heads Delegation to Visit the Department of Health

On June 16 2006, H. M. King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland led a delegation to visit the Department of Health (DOH). DOH Minister Hou Sheng-mou and Deputy Minister Wang Hsiu-hung welcomed and received the delegation. This is the first time in recent years that a leader from another country has called on the DOH during a visit to Taiwan, and its significance is substantial.

During the visit, the King Mswati III expressed gratitude for the extensive medical care and health services assistance Taiwan has provided to his country, which have greatly benefited its citizens. He also praised Taiwan's achievements in medical care and health ser-

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vices, particularly the dedication and successes involving the prevention and control of infectious diseases, such as setting up SARS prevention and control mechanisms. These are valuable experiences the Kingdom of Swaziland can learn from and model after. H. M. King Mswati III further stated hopes that greater parameters for sharing experiences and engaging in medical care and health services cooperative exchanges could continue expanding in the future.

Minister Hou Sheng-mou stated that the DOH and Ministry of Foreign Affairs have already jointly established Taiwan International Health Action (TaiwanIHA), and in the future will be able to more efficiently plan international medical care and health services cooperative efforts and humanitarian medical care assistance work. Taiwan has a long history of providing assistance programs on the African continent, and hopefully through greater interaction and communication more specific dialogue can be made on items and topics concerning bilateral medical care cooperation. In the future, Taiwan will be able to provide even more effective assistance to the Kingdom of Swaziland and also establish stronger bilateral cooperative initiatives. ☺

Views from Africa

Challenge to Deliver Medical Service in the Kingdom of Swaziland— *Department of Health, Taiwan, embarked on the mission to explore ways and means to help friends in Swaziland on HIV/AIDS Diagnosis and Treatment*

By Dr. Daniel Lu

The challenge to deliver medical services in the Kingdom of Swaziland, especially in the area of HIV/AIDS for anti-retroviral treatment (ARV), is tremendous. With one of the highest incident rate in the world, established public health expert from international organizations and well-intentioned countries all tried to help this resource challenged country to tackle this problem. Department of Health, Taiwan, embarked on the mission to explore ways and means to help friends in Swaziland, with expertise and experience already at hand, through Taiwan Medical Mission in Malawi. Dr. Joseph Yu and Dr. Daniel Lu conducted a 3-day visit to Mbabane, to the government hospital in the capital, where they witnessed the current system in place and listened to the doctors in practice. They also conducted a presentation to officials in the ministry and National AIDS Program (NAP) where high interest was generated. Proposal for possible implementation of key component(s) will be conducted in the near future. ☺



Dr. Joseph Yu (1st from right) and Dr. Daniel Lu (3rd from left) met with the officers of National AIDS Programs in Swaziland in July.



The HIV/AIDS Center in Mbabane-the Capital of Swaziland.

Taiwan's Contribution to the Globalization of Traditional Medicine

By Edward A. Goka

The Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy is working to implement the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy in efforts to keep astride with international trends. Since 2004, the committee has commissioned the Pharmaceutical Society of Taiwan to conduct a "Study on the Implementation of the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy—Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine Holistic Care Model." The goal of these efforts is to stimulate dialogue between the fields of traditional and modern medicine.

As regards to formulation and implementation of national policy and regulations on traditional medicine, Chinese medicine was incorporated into the Taiwan's National Health Insurance in March 1995. Overall practice of GMP in Chinese

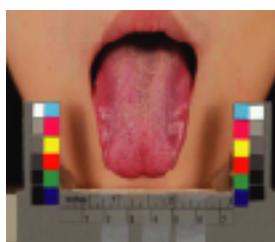
medicine was reached in September, 2005, and 103 pharmaceutical companies have passed the review of the GMP for the time being.

In order to pursue the safety, efficacy and quality, the Taiwan Government made an integrated midterm plan of drugs technology development scheme, for the modernization and internationalization of traditional medicine and these objectives included :

1. Establishing of quality traditional medicine research;
2. Perfect examination, regulation and clinical trial environment on traditional medicine;
3. Promotion of traditional medicine relevant researches; and
4. Improvement of traditional medical treatment quality researches.

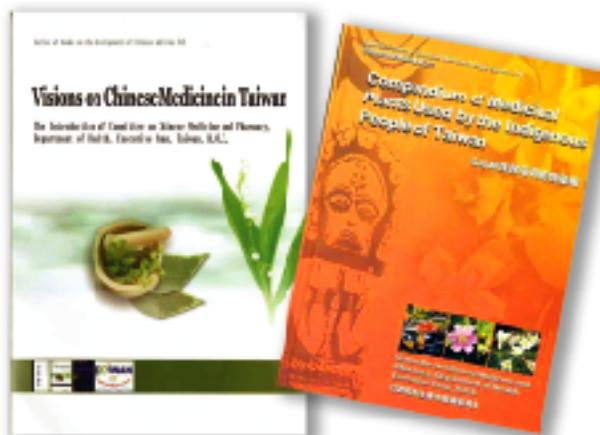
This plan has already initiated a forum series of seven conferences that provide a platform for dialogue on the differences between Chinese and Western medicine terminology, incorporating Western medicine diagnostic practices into Chinese medicine diagnostic interpretation, and the current status of integrated Chinese-Western medicine and education in Taiwan. Leading figures representing both Chinese and Western medicine agree that these types of dialogue are necessary and of vital significance, and that these forums should continue. Aside from clarifying the similarities and dissimilarities and complementary functions of traditional and modern medicine, these discussions can also lead to the formulation of clinically applicable integrated Chinese and Western medicine treatment practices, which can be used as reference by the government to draft related policies.

The Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy intends to publish collections of this forum series in the future to provide reference material for Chinese and Western medicine professionals and interested personnel. For 2006, the committee has scheduled several of forums to accelerate the integration of Chinese and Western medicine and the implementation of the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy.



Tongue Diagnosis Meter

Consequently, on June 29, 1998, the Department of Health announced its advice on Herbal medicine New Drug Application (NDA) and amended and promulgated it on October 20, 1999. Application guidelines on herbal medicine clinical trials (Investigation New Drug, IND) and guidelines on herbal medicine NDA are to be researched and drawn up. Taiwan also established herbal medicine clinical trials. So far, 13 clinical trial centers for Chinese medicine have been constructed; and there are 21 center-based clinical trial cases, of which 13 cases passed the examination and verification and 2 finished the anthropomorphic test and the report test and obtained the Department of Health's authorization as future references, 6 cases are submitting another



Series books on the development of Chinese medicine

application and examination. Unified formula of Chinese medicine were announced in 2005 and are currently being implemented; and a total of 203 items of Traditional Chinese medicine materials were compiled in a “TM Pharmacopoeia” and published on March 9, 2004, effective on May 1, 2004. They provide bases for the testing methods and specifications of raw materials. The Department of Health also issued a new medicine license allowing domestic biotechnology industry the capacity to research and develop new traditional medicines. Examples of technologies in Taiwan’s traditional medical engineering include the tongue and pulse diagnosis instruments. 🍌

From Taiwan to the World Health Arena — An Interview with Dr. Wu Yung-tung

by Vincent Rolle



On July 2006, The Globe Newsletter had the pleasure to meet in Taipei, Dr. Wu Yun-Tung, immediate past President of the Taiwan Medical Association (TMA) and since 2005, Council Member of the World Medical Association (WMA). During his interview, he shared his own experience of the international health arena and his point of view about the actual situation of Taiwan in terms of health.

The Globe : Can you briefly tell our readers about your medical background and your first international experiences as a doctor ?

Dr. Wu : I graduated from Kaoshiung Medical University. That was already about 44 years ago! After graduating, I took an internal medical training course at Taiwan Medical University for several years. During that time, I also went to Japan for one year where I made many friends. In 1974, I went to the US for two years of intensive courses. I spent my first year in Chicago and my second year in Denver. Then I came back to work in Taiwan for 5 years. But because of the political situation, I went again, but this time with all my family, to USA where I worked in a state-hospital in California for 9 years.

While most overseas Taiwanese people preferred to stay abroad in the early 90s, I came back to Taiwan to work in a hospital in Taoyuan. Then I became the president of the Taoyuan County Medical Association and three years later I was elected as the President of the Taiwan Medical Association (TMA) for a 6-year term. In terms of public health, it was a very interesting period for me, because Taiwan was starting to establish its own National Health Insurance (NHI) and I had the opportunity to work with the Bureau of Health Insurance on resolving related problems. During that time, I learned a lot about the Taiwan Health System, its achievements and its limits.

The Globe : And then you became more personally involved in the international health arena ?

Dr. Wu : Indeed. During that time, I started to attend the meetings of the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO). I became a good friend to the President of the Japanese Medical Association (JMA) who paid a lot of attention to international health affairs and especially to the health situation of Taiwan. I think it was a new step for the TMA, which was until then not so interested in joining international meetings, notably because of the language barrier. In 2001, I became the new elected-president of the CMAAO.

But one year before, as you know, a new government was elected in Taiwan and started to more aggressively promote the Taiwan bid to join World Health Organization (WHO) as a full member. In 2001, the JMA’s President was elected as the President of the World Medical Association (WMA). Having a good relationship

with him, I invited him to Taiwan during our annual TMA meeting to make the keynote speech. Furthermore, I also invited him to meet President Chen Shui-bian to discuss health-related issues.

From that time, even when I was not a member of the WMA, I attended its annual meeting in France every year and helped to pass a resolution to support Taiwan's bid for WHO in 2001 and 2003. These meetings were also great opportunities to discuss and share with other foreign colleagues and to act as an observer. I also invited the secretary general of the WMA, Dr. Delon Human from South Africa, to come to Taiwan in order to meet Taiwanese high-rank officials and get a better understanding our situation. At the end of his trip he made the comment that WMA really wanted to help Taiwan join WHO.

The Globe : How did you become Council Member of the World Medical Association (WMA) and what is the role of this association ?

Dr. Wu : First, I have to remind your readers that the World Medical Association (WMA), founded on 17 September 1947, is an international organization representing physicians. This organization was created to ensure the independence of physicians, and to work for the highest possible standards of ethical behavior and care by physicians, at all times. The WMA provides a forum for its member associations to communicate freely, to co-operate actively, to achieve consensus on high standards of medical ethics and professional competence, and to promote professional freedom of physicians worldwide. What is also important for Taiwan is that the WMA is in official relations with the WHO. Actually I was really lucky to become a Council member of the WMA and most of all, indebted to Dr. Tai Joon Moon, former Minister of Health in Korea, former President of WMA and today senior consultant of the Korean Medical Association. Indeed, in 2005, during the biennial election to renew the Council members of the WMA, Dr. Moon strongly supported my application and recommended me to Japan, Korea, and other member of the WMA General Assembly.

The Globe : What are the main contributions of Taiwan to WMA and to the global health ?

Dr. Wu : If you look at the past 20 years, Taiwan has greatly improved its citizens' health. As a result, national life expectancy is over 78 years for women and over 72 years for men in Taiwan. So internationally speaking, Taiwan's experience is very valuable. Obviously, in some larger countries like USA, UK, and France, some fields of medicine have achieved very high levels of progress that are still difficult for Taiwan to attain. For this reason, Taiwan needs to cooperate with these countries in order to get information and new technologies. In the other hand, in comparison with other countries, we have reached a high level of progress in many areas of medicine and public health. For example, after the SARS episode, many countries asked Taiwan to share its experience in fighting this virus. Furthermore, sometimes Taiwan even takes the lead in the global health arena, as illustrated by our fight against Hepatitis B. Indeed, Taiwan is the first



Dr. Wu (right 1) with (from left) Dr. Human, former secretary general of World Medical Association, Dr. Letlape, the president of WMA, and Dr. Kloiber, secretary general of WMA, in Geneva on Jan. 27, 2006.

Dr. Wu (right 2) with Dr. and Mrs. Masson (left 1&2), the deputy president of Belgium Medical Association, Dr. Costigliola (right 1), the president of Europe Medical Association in Brussel, Belgium in Jan 26, 2006.

country to have decided to immediately vaccinate new-born children when their mothers are infected with Hepatitis B. With these examples, I hope to highlight the need for Taiwan to “take and give” in order to effectively continue contributing to global health.

The Globe : What did you do during the SARS episode ?

Dr. Wu : I worked hard like many other doctors and health officials. I was in close contact with many Japanese physicians who have experience with other natural disasters, like earthquakes. My main role as a physician was not to take responsibility for the situation but to cooperate with our government, which is actually responsible for this kind of event, and make sure, as President of the TMA, that our doctors work hard and remain respectful of the rules of quarantine. I also had to prevent an exodus of doctors in some areas of Taiwan.

The Globe : According to you, in terms of Public Health, what are the main challenges for Taiwan today ?

Dr. Wu : I cannot be exhaustive on this question but I would like to underline two issues that, I think, are also really important in terms of Taiwan’s international status. First, we currently have 12,000 new physicians per year but few have the opportunity to get international experience. That’s why in cooperation with the Director of the Bureau of International Cooperation of the DOH, Peter Chang, I encourage all governmental hospital to send their young staff to work in small countries, like the Pacific Islands. I personally think that each Taiwanese hospital should have this kind of obligation.

As a chest physician and former chief of the Department of Tuberculosis (TB) control in the DOH, I’m really concerned by what I think is also a main challenge for Taiwan today, namely the growing number of TB cases. As many other countries, Taiwan may have made the wrong bet in 90s that TB was slowly disappearing and didn’t pay enough attention - as it did in the 70s and 80s - to the fight against TB. Today the situation is really serious and could become worse if we don’t act effectively as soon as possible.

The Globe : What was your reaction after Taiwan’s latest attempt to enter WHO ?

Dr. Wu : I think that once again we tried all we could! Before Monday’s meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), I went to Geneva to attend the World Medical Professional Arena organized every two years by WMA. There, in discussing with many colleagues, I really felt that there was a deep consensus among physicians, nurses, doctors and other medical professionals that the 23 million people living in Taiwan cannot be further excluded from the WHO. Indeed it’s essential that Taiwan belongs to the WHO both for the health of its people and for the health of every citizen in the world at this time of intense globalization.

This year we were optimistic because many factors made the situation good for Taiwan. We came up with a practical campaign to strive for “meaningful participation.” Taiwan notified the WHO that it decided to implement and comply with the revised International Health Regulations (IHR) in advance and finally we were supported by our diplomatic allies and other countries.

The Globe : So how do you explain that the Taiwanese bid was defeated ?

Dr. Wu : One more time, as a former teacher of mine has often told me : “even if you don’t ask politics, politics will ask you” And on this issue, it seems that politics once again reigned over health. So, China blocked this 10th attempt. Of course, other factors can also explain the situation. Indeed, we have to recognize that the Taiwan bid is not a priority for big countries that are more concerned about political tensions in the Middle East and Central Asia and by the “fight against terrorism.”

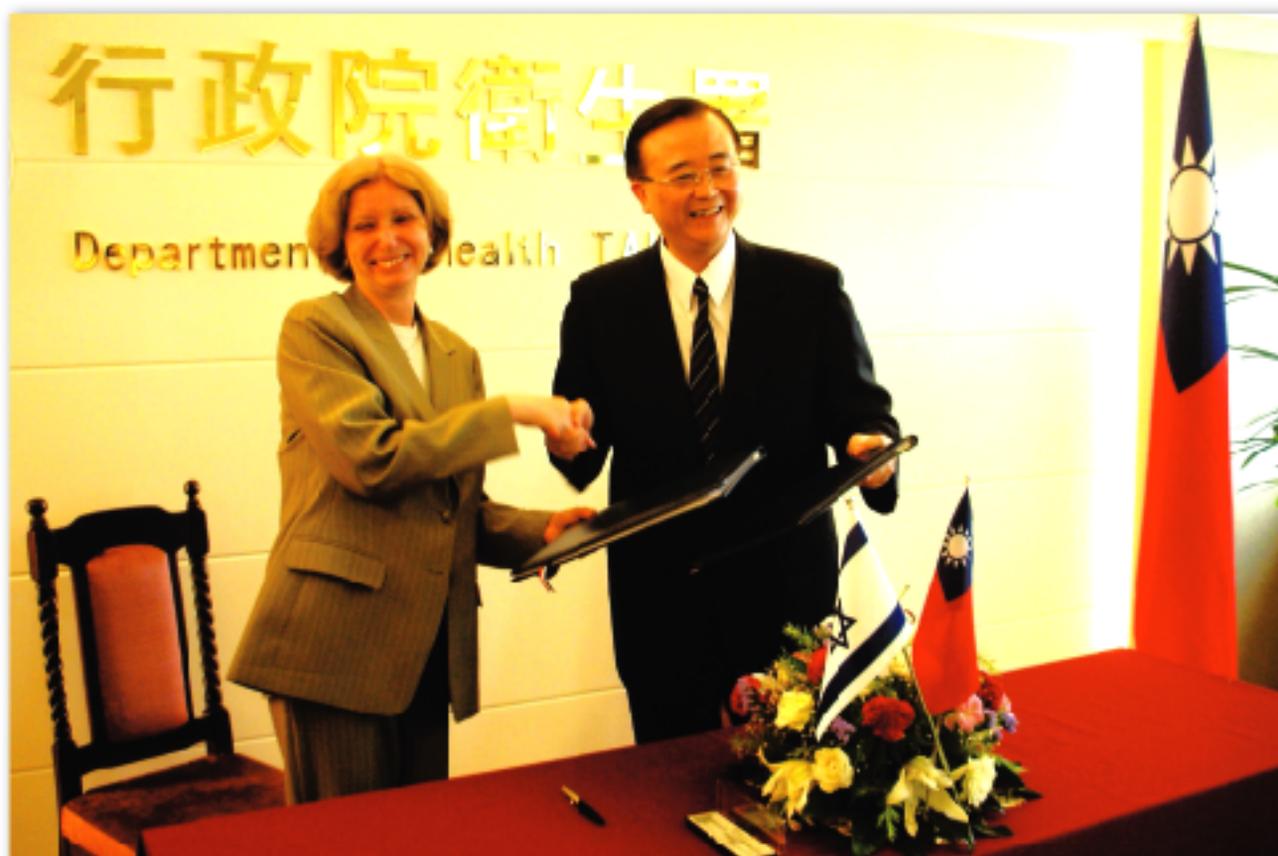
Despite this, in the last 5 years we made a lot of progress and many people abroad really understand our situation. Henceforth, we should continue to go abroad and see high-ranking officials. I really think our re-

quest is becoming more and more understood in the world. I just regret that some countries are not as engaged on this issue as they show they could be on other issues where human rights and rights to health were also jeopardized.

The Globe : Finally, what will you say to the young people of Taiwan who hope to follow your steps on the global stage in the future ?

Dr. Wu : They must go abroad to work within different cultural environments and get valuable experience. I really encourage new physicians to learn English and to be able to use it fluently in order to work efficiently abroad. My experience shows me that this is achievable step by step from a local to a world position. So, I deeply hope that other Taiwanese physicians will do the same, both for their own carrier but also in order to help Taiwan to remain a dynamic actor within the global arena of health. 🍀

Department of Health and Israel Signed the “Taiwan-Israel Health and Medical Care Cooperative Agreement”



DOH Minister Hou, Sheng-mou (right) and ISECO Representative Ruth Kahanoff at the signatory ceremony of the “Taiwan-Israel Health and Medical Care Cooperative Agreement” on 2006 July 5.

On 2006 July 5, the Department of Health (DOH) and Israel signed the “Taiwan-Israel Health and Medical Care Cooperative Agreement” to strengthen health and medical care cooperation between the two nations. Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei (ISECO) Representative Ruth Kahanoff represented the Israel Department of Health at the signatory ceremony and signed the “Taiwan-Israel Health and Medical Care Cooperative Agreement.” ISECO Director, Mr. Hovav Ref and DOH and Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives also took part in this grand occasion.

TaiwanIHA supports the African Medical Association (AfMA)

The African Medical Association was established during 2006 to act as the representative voice of the physicians of Africa. There are some 800 million people living on the African continent, and physicians play an extremely important role as medical and social leaders. In order to consolidate and better serve the physicians and patients of Africa, AfMA was the logical solution. AfMA plans to focus specifically on projects which can be of direct benefit to patients and will also act as the regional office of the World Medical Association.

The inaugural meeting of AfMA was held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 3 and 4 July this year. At the meeting, Dr. Kgosi Letlape was elected as the President until 2010, and Dr. Delon Human as the Secretary-General. Other Council members include Dr. Kofi Asare from Ghana, Dr. Maria Zulu from Zambia and Dr. Tadesse from Ethiopia. TaiwanIHA has already pledged support to AfMA during its planning phase, which was greatly appreciated by the member nations. During the gala dinner of the inaugural meeting, the Ambassador of Taiwan to South Africa, Ambassador Shih, brought greetings from the people of Taiwan and strongly encouraged AfMA to develop into a strong representative voice of the people of Africa.

Representatives of Taiwan will again be present at the first General Assembly of AfMA, due to take place in South Africa during October 2006. 🌐



The inaugural meeting of AfMA was held in Johannesburg, South Africa on July 3 2006.

Center for Disease Control New Technology Improves Tracking of Individuals Exposed to AIDS

Recently the Department of Health (DOH) Center for Disease Control (CDC) introduced new technology from the United States that can determine whether an infected person has been recently infected (within six months). It further provides the DOH with a tracking device to help identify how the infected individual was exposed to the virus. This will aid in the process of swiftly tracking the source of infection and arresting the spread of AIDS.

The DOH CDC laboratory introduced the HIV-1 anti-gp41 capture assay developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This device can determine whether the infected individual has been recently infected (within six months). It can then be used to determine the HIV-1 rate of infection for those high-risk populations (the ratio of individuals in these groups who have originally tested negative and subsequently tested positive within a specific period of time).

CDC statistics reveal that from January-June of 2006 there were 1,593 cases reported, which is slightly lower than the 1,634 cases reported during the same period in 2005. Based on these numbers, it would appear that the AIDS epidemic is improving. However, since the CDC has been using this new examination method, 56.4% of the 807 infected individuals inspected in 2005 and 2006 have been recently infected (infected during the recent six months). Of these recently infected individuals, 80.2% of these cases are injection drug users, making it clear that the overall epidemic is still proliferating. Prevention and control efforts must go beyond merely looking for the base of the "iceberg" (those who have already been infected); instead, the reasons for growth of the "iceberg" must be prevented. The capacity to determine new HIV-1 infection cases within the last six months will enable these individuals to have clearer recollections of any dangerous behavior or activities that may have potentiated exposure, such as identifying sexual partners and other people

whom had used the same needle. The CDC regularly provides the results of these examinations to local health departments around the nation to strengthen the tracking efficiency of those exposed. ☺

TaiwanIHA Donated Handicapped Lift to Rezekne Health Care Center

On June 12, 2006, Head of Taipei Mission Ambassador Matthew S. Lee donated, on behalf of the Taiwan International Health Action (TaiwanIHA), 41,000 USD to Rezekne City, Latvia for the construction of a lift for use by the handicapped in the city's health care center. A donation ceremony was held in Rezekne City Council by Mayor Juris VJAKSE, who in his welcoming speech extended great appreciation to Taiwan and stressed that the donation will bring long-expected convenience to the aged and handicapped patients in the whole Rezekne region. The Mayor promised to complete the project before the end of this year. Hon. Elita Sņepste, Chairperson of Latvia-Taiwan Interparliamentary Co-operation Group of the Saeima and Dr. Beatrise ORINSKA, Director of the health care center were present in the ceremony, together with other city council officials and the media. ☺

Taiwan's Experts Joined SPC (The Secretariat of the Pacific Community) in TB Control



Taiwan's health expert joined the health experts from Pacific Island Countries in SPC for the 3rd Stop TB meeting.



Two delegates from the Department of Health, Taiwan, attended the Third Stop TB regional meeting for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) which was held in Noumea, New Caledonia between July 31 and August 3 in 2006.

Taiwan's delegates participated fully in the meeting as observers, and joined the discussion on challenges faced by Pacific Island Countries. Not only shared some Taiwan's experience for TB/HIV control and equipment support but also proposed some pragmatic cooperation plans in the near future. ☺



Nursing Leaders from 12 Countries Participated in the 2006 Nursing Leaders' Training Program in Taiwan

The success of "2005 Nursing Leaders' Training Program" brought further the 2nd advanced training program from August 1-22, 2006 through the Taiwan International Health Action (TaiwanIHA). 24 participants from 12 countries in the Asia Pacific region participated and received practical training in this program.

During a three-week training period, they were offered with both theoretical and practical experiences in nursing management and other expertise. All the trainees were arranged for practical training in 8 hospitals and 5 medical universities, based on their selection, such as emergency, respiratory, hospice, maternity, pediatric, community and intensive nursing care; as well as oncology and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) nursing. This program also trained participants in nursing administration and management, academic program administration and government administration.

On the last day of the training program, all participants had an open-discussion about the whole training program. Most of the participants expressed that they were satisfied with this program. They were very impressed by the hospital settings and the efficient nursing management of Taiwan's hospitals. They believed that they can implement what they have learned to their home town and looking forward to have more clinical training program and opportunities in the near future. The assistance from Taiwan to help on their hospital setting and offering local training program are most expected from the participants for further cooperation in the future. 🍀



Tanimakin Nooti from Kiribati (right) listened to an instructor in pediatric ICU in Chang Gung Memorial Hospital.



Counie Veldah Panis, a senior nurse from Palau, examined the ICU care in Kaohsiung Medical Center.

Taiwan Established the First National Influenza Center

The first national influenza research center was established in Taipei, on July 6 2006, a date chosen because it was the day three years ago when Taiwan was removed from the WHO's list of areas that had been affected by SARS.

During the post-SARS period, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Taiwan saw the need to speed up domestic research on influenza and expand the exchange of information internally and overseas because the nation would face a great threat if another SARS epidemic and flu outbreak overlapped. The new center will coordinate the reporting, supervision and analysis of flu data and will become a resource for medical groups at home and abroad to exchange information.

The director of the new center, Wu Ho-sheng said it would be able to verify suspected flu cases within 24 hours and handle up to 5,000 samples everyday.

The center will use ferrets in its efforts to develop immunizations because the animal's flu symptoms are similar to humans. Taiwan has regularly volunteered influenza virus strains developed in the CDC's laboratory to the WHO since 1979, making the nation part of the international flu virus supervision circle. Taiwan currently owns two antibodies for both type A and type B flu viruses and has worked intensively to be officially recognized as a member of the WHO's network of influenza centers. 🐼



Dr. Tzay-Jinn Chen, Deputy minister at the establishment of National Influenza Center.

Leading the World—Academia Sinica Identifies SARS-CoV Primary Targets

Following over a year of continuous research, the Genomics Research Center, Academia Sinica, comes out ahead of the world's top research teams, leading the way in the identification of "pulmonary Oct-4+ stem/progenitor cells" and demonstration of their susceptibility to the SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV) infection in vitro. These results unravel the mystery of why the conditions of those who become infected with the virus so rapidly deteriorate. Results also provide valuable information supporting the possibility of the virus making a resurgence and substantiates the need to continue efforts in preventing this from happening.

This was the first time the "pulmonary stem/progenitor cells" have been iden-

Calendar

CAM/TM Professional Training Program

Taichung, Taiwan
18 Sept. ~3 Oct. 2006
Deadline for application :
10 July 2006
<http://www2.cmu.edu.tw/%7Ecncucos/index-9-5.htm>

International Symposium on Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine

Taipei, Taiwan
21 Oct. 2006
<http://www.nhri.org.tw/nhri11/2006ISSCRM.htm>

Advanced Clinical Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine (ACCTM) Training Program

Taipei, Taiwan
7-12 Nov. 2006
Deadline for application :
30 Sept. 2006
<http://www.icim2006-taipei.org.tw>

18th Taipei Int'l Show on Medical Equipment, Pharmaceuticals & Bio-technology

Taipei, Taiwan
9-12 Nov. 2006
<http://www.taipeitradeshows.com.tw/mediphar>

28th World Congress of International Medicine/Taiwan Society of Internal Medicine

Taipei, Taiwan
10-14 Nov. 2006
<http://www.icim2006-taipei.org.tw/>

Asia-Pacific Congress on Lung Cancer in Conjunction with the 10th Annual Meeting of Taiwan Cooperative Oncology Group

Taipei, Taiwan
2-3 Dec. 2006
<http://www.nhri.org.tw/nhri11/95TCOGADV.pdf>

2nd Global Forum for Health Leaders

Taipei, Taiwan
3-6 Dec. 2006
<http://www.doh.gov.tw/2006GFHL>

The 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Tobacco or Health

Taipei, Taiwan
17-20 Oct. 2007

tified and it was also the first time an Academia Sinica research team has successfully cultivated links between organ progenitor stem cells and embryonic stem cells. These results provide a concrete explanation of the interrelationship of the SARS-CoV and the infected individual's lung tissue. This study is recognized as a monumental achievement, and the research paper has already been published in the latest edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS).

Academia Sinica Vice President and internationally renowned SARS research specialist, Mr. Lai, Michael M.C., points out that within the fields of virus and stem cell research this is a substantial research result. The leader of this research team, Genomics Research Center Stem Cell Program Director, Dr. John Yu, emphasizes that the results of this research clearly identify the primary targets and functional mechanism of the SARS-CoV virus in the lung, and provides us with the know-how to take the necessary precautions and preventive measures to successfully combat this potential threat right now and in the future. 🍀

1st Taiwan-USA Health Meeting in Washington DC

In July, Department of Health Deputy Minister Dr. Tzay-jinn Chen led colleagues from the Bureau of National Health Insurance (NHI), Center for Disease Control, and Bureau of International Cooperation to visit the U.S. counterpart. Both Taiwan and U.S. officials shared mutual concerns on health policies and international cooperation affairs. The two sides engaged in a systematic, detailed discussion of a broad range of topics and made further advancements towards establishing a solid foundation for productive cooperative exchanges in the future.

For many years the U.S. has supported Taiwan's participation in WHO, and the U.S. further strongly supported Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHO. The U.S. expressed acknowledgement and gratitude for Taiwan's early compliance to the International Health Regulations (IHR). 🍀



Deputy minister Chen led delegation experts to visit the U.S. counterpart in July 2006.