

TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON 18 MAY 2011 (WEDNESDAY)

TOPIC: THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL AND COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE
IN MALAYSIA

GUEST: DR SHAMSAINI BINTI SHAMSUDDIN

DESIGNATION: SENIOR PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
TRADITIONAL AND COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE DIVISION,
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

QUESTION 1.	Definition of Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM)?
ANSWER	<p>1. World health Organization (WHO) definition:</p> <p>“Traditional medicine (TM) is defined as diverse health practices, approaches, knowledge and beliefs incorporating plant, animal, and/or mineral based medicines, spiritual therapies, manual techniques and exercises applied singularly or in combination to maintain well-being, as well as to treat, diagnose or prevent illness.”</p> <p>2. Malaysian concept:</p> <p>Traditional and Complementary Medicine is a form of health-related practice designed to prevent, treat, and/or manage illnesses and/or preserve the mental and physical well-being of individuals and includes practices such as traditional Malay medicine, Islamic medical practice, traditional Chinese medicine, traditional Indian medicine, homeopathy, and complementary therapies, and excludes medical or dental practices utilized by registered medical or dental practitioners.</p>
QUESTION 2.	Acceptance of T&CM at international & national level?
ANSWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In WHO publication stated, In some Asian and African countries, 80% of the population depends on traditional medicine for primary health care.• In many developed countries, 70% to 80% of the population has used some

	<p>form of alternative or complementary medicine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey in 2004, 69.4% prevalence of using T&CM modality.
QUESTION 3.	What is T&CM modality commonly used by the public?
ANSWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An herbal treatment is the most popular form of TM; it practices by Malay Practitioners, Chinese Practitioners, Indian Practitioners and Naturopathic Practitioners. • Followed by manipulative-based therapy such as Malay Massage, Chiropractor, Thai massage etc.
QUESTION 4.	What is the perception of Ministry of Health (MOH) in T&CM?
ANSWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional medicine has made a significant contribution to the health care the Malaysian community. It continues to be patronized by our people in their bid to seek treatment for diseases and in maintaining health. • Realizing this, the Ministry of Health has taken a positive and proactive approach towards traditional and complementary medicine to ensure quality and safe practices and products by launching National Policy on T&CM in 2001. The vision is to integrating T&CM in Malaysian healthcare system.
QUESTION 5.	How is MOH approach to the integration?
ANSWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration through 4 pillars: practice; training & education; product and research. • Introduced T&CM Unit at selected hospital which already established at 9 hospitals nationwide. • Introduced evidenced-based practice such as Malay Massage & Acupuncture for post-stroke & chronic pain patients; herbal therapy as adjunct treatment for cancer patients & Malay postnatal care.
QUESTION 6.	How to ensure the quality of T&CM practitioners?
ANSWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T&CM Division collaborated with Ministry of higher education in the development of standards and criteria in T&CM, regulation and monitoring of accredited learning centres, setting the quality and standards of T&CM programmes, and to evaluate the effectiveness of T&CM. • 13 programme was developed and 7 Private Higher Learning Institution

	offered the programmes.
QUESTION 7.	Research in T&CM ?
ANSWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is scanty research regarding T&CM in Malaysia, especially in herbal medicine. • No herbal medicine undergoes clinical trial. So that , no herbal medicine can be claim as therapeutic effects.
QUESTION 8.	Advice to the public?
ANSWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public must aware about the T&CM Practitioner how claimed can treated all disease, as we know there are 20 diseases cannot be advertised. • If really want to seek treatment from T&CM Practitioners, please be sure that the practitioners registered with MOH or Practitioners Bodes that recognized by MOH. • The complaints can be address to Traditional and Complementary Medicine Division, Block E, Jalan Cenderasari, Kuala Lumpur. Phone no: 03- 26985077, website: http://tcm.moh.gov.my. • Awareness program will be conducted this year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seminar Nusantara on 25 June 2011 ○ International Conference of Homeopathy on 15-17 July 2011