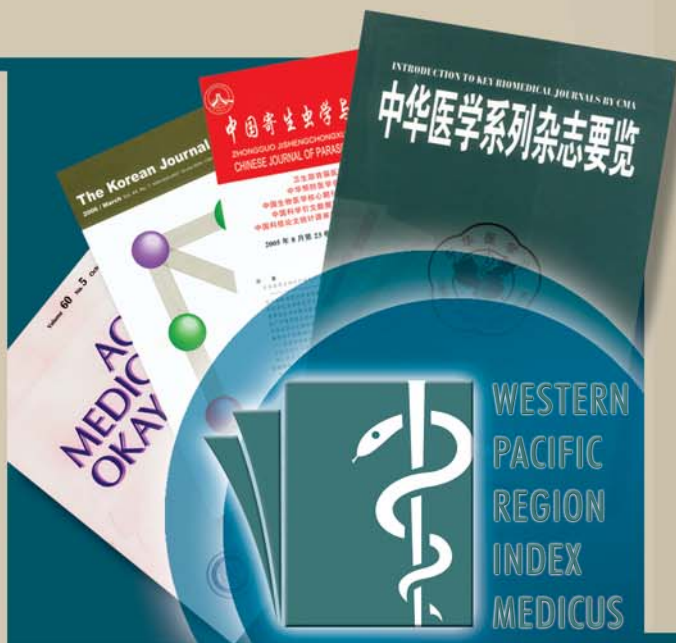


Meeting on the
Development of the
Western Pacific Region
Index Medicus and
the Global Health Library
with China Collaboration



Beijing, People's Republic of China

11-12 December 2006



World Health
Organization

Western Pacific Region

Meeting Report

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REPORT

MEETING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION INDEX
MEDICUS AND THE GLOBAL HEALTH LIBRARY WITH CHINA COLLABORATION

Convened by:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

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NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the temporary advisers, observers, and secretariat in the Meeting on the Development of the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus and the Global Health Library with China Collaboration and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the World Health Organization.

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific for governments of Member States in the Region and for the temporary advisers, observers, and secretariat in the Meeting on the Development of the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus and the Global Health Library with China Collaboration, which was held in Beijing, People's Republic of China, from 11 to 12 December 2006.

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Keywords

Indexes / Computerized indexes / Databases, Bibliographic / Libraries, Medical
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SUMMARY

The Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM) is being developed to be deployed side-by-side with the medical indices of other WHO regional offices in the Global Index Medicus (GIM) portal under the Global Health Library (GHL) initiative of WHO Headquarters Library. A test site for WPRIM has been provided on the Regional Office for the Western Pacific server and has initially been uploaded with bibliographic records of articles from selected medical journals published in the Philippines. Other Member States of the Western Pacific Region are expected to follow suit and send their journals for uploading into the WPRIM database. The journals to be included in WPRIM will have to undergo rigid screening, based on agreed criteria, to ensure the quality of content in the regional index medicus.

As a follow up to the Informal Consultation held on 30-31 March 2006, the Meeting on the Development of the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM) and the Global Health Library with China Collaboration was convened in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, on 11-12 December 2006. The objective of the meeting was further discussion and finalization of the criteria and standards for the selection of journals to be included in WPRIM. The framework, plan of action, and platform of the Global Health Library was also discussed, together with the status of WPRIM and the contribution of Member States to its development. In addition, the creation of a China Board and Content Working Group on the Global Health Library, as well as the current status of the Chinese Index Medicus and identification of Chinese journals for WPRIM inclusion, including the creation of a National Journal Screening Committee for China, was taken up. The meeting also discussed the WPRIM workplan for 2007 and beyond.

Activities for future action include, among others: holding of a WPRIM task force meeting in May 2007 to prepare for a bigger WPRIM meeting in Beijing in October 2007; hiring of a full-time staff member to coordinate the development and maintenance of WPRIM; attendance of a staff member from the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office at a training session in BIREME, Sao Paulo, Brazil; further discussions on the formulation of a regional editors association; development of the MeSH extension for traditional medicine; and formation of a team to develop a draft GHL plan for the Region.

1. INTRODUCTION

As a follow up to the Informal Consultation on the Development of the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus, held in Manila, the Philippines, on 30–31 March 2006, the Meeting on the Development of the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM) and the Global Health Library with China Collaboration was convened in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, on 11-12 December 2006. The objective of the meeting was further discussion and finalization of the criteria and standards for the selection of journals to be included in WPRIM. The framework, plan of action, and platform of the Global Health Library were also discussed, together with the status of WPRIM and the contribution of Member States to its development. In addition, the creation of a China Board and Content Working Group on the Global Health Library, as well as the current status of the Chinese Index Medicus and identification of Chinese journals for WPRIM, including the creation of a National Journal Screening Committee, were taken up. The meeting also discussed the work plan for WPRIM in 2007 and beyond.

1.1 Objectives

At the end of the meeting, the participants will have:

- (1) identified relevant contributions from countries to be included in the Global Health Library;
- (2) established a China Board and Content Working Group on the Global Health Library;
- (3) finalized the criteria and standards for journal selection; and
- (4) identified relevant activities to be undertaken in 2007 and beyond for the full development of WPRIM.

1.2 Participants

Participants in the two-day meeting included librarians, information professionals and medical journal editors from five countries in the Western Pacific Region (China, Japan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Viet Nam) in their capacities as temporary advisers and observers. Six members of the secretariat came from the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, the Office of the WHO Representative in China, and WHO Headquarters, as well as from the Pan American Health Organization/WHO Regional Office for the Americas. See Annex 1 for the list of participants.



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mme Li Qiufang | 13. Professor Soo-Hun Cho | 25. Mr Nguyen Tuan Khoa |
| 2. Dr Wang De | 14. Professor Cui Meng | 26. Mr Zhu Dongsheng |
| 3. Professor Myeong Jong Lee | 15. Prof Dai Tao | 27. Prof Xiang Hongqin |
| 4. Mr Hayato Toyotama | 16. Mr Qian Qing | 28. Dr Fu Xijian |
| 5. Mr Liu Guozheng | 17. Mrs Li Yanchan | 29. Ms Zhang Yongmei |
| 6. Mr Masamichi Kitagawa | 18. Mr Julius Dizon | 30. Mr Abel Packer |
| 7. Professor Jeong-Wook Seo | 19. Ms Merlita Opena | 31. Mrs Yvonne Grandbois |
| 8. Mr Hyun-Do Jang | 20. Prof Fan Weiyu | 32. Professor Liang Jusheng |
| 9. Dr Fang An | 21. Mrs Yin Aining | 33. Mr Charles Raby |
| 10. Professor Kiichiro Tsutani | 22. Professor Zou Jianhua | 34. Mrs Wang Xiaopin |
| 11. Professor Sung-Tae Hong | 23. Professor Wu Lancheng | 35. Prof Xue Qinglu |
| 12. Dr Joselito Mario Co Avila | 24. Professor Liu Baoyan | 36. Dr Choi Seung-Hoon |
| | | 37. Ms Charity Tan |

1.3 Opening ceremony

Professor Liang Jusheng, Vice-President of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (CACMS), welcomed the participants. He expressed his great appreciation to WHO for its work on the Global Health Library (GHL) and he confirmed that China is keen to contribute to the GHL. Dr Wang Xiaopin, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, also welcomed the participants. She cited China's extensive collaboration with WHO in such areas as traditional medicine and public health, and foresaw Chinese collaboration on the GHL initiative.

Ms. Yvonne Grandbois, Coordinator, Library and Information Networks for Knowledge (LINK), WHO, informed the meeting participants that the GHL is based on a two-year old idea that is continually evolving. She advocated for China's active participation in the GHL as she believes that China is a major influence in global development, and that China "is the future".

The temporary advisers, observers and the secretariat introduced themselves to the body.

1.4 Appointment of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteurs

The following appointments were unanimously approved:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Chairperson: | Prof. Zou Jianhua, China |
| Vice-Chairperson: | Prof. Jeong-Wook Seo, the Republic of Korea |
| Rapporteurs: | Ms. Merlita Opena , the Philippines (for Day 1) |
| | Ms. Charity Tan, the Philippines (for Day 2) |

2. PROCEEDINGS

2.1 Global Health Library concept

Ms. Yvonne Grandbois gave a presentation on the Global Health Library (GHL). She explained that the GHL is a worldwide partnership that should be developed from below; it should not be top-down or Headquarters-driven. The GHL will provide a worldwide coordinated network of collections and organizations that will ensure dissemination of and universal access to reliable health information essential to health development.

Ms. Grandbois envisioned that the GHL could bring together health information knowledge that exists but is scattered worldwide. She stressed that this knowledge should be shared among developed and less developed countries and that the participation of all stakeholders is extremely important. She informed the participants that WHO is taking the strategic direction of improving access to health information through libraries, the Internet and WHO publications. As a starting point, the GHL portal will include the Global Index Medicus (GIM), the World Directory of Medical/Health Libraries, the multilingual WHO library database (WHOLIS), mobile libraries, and the WHO Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI). She discussed the landscape of health information, where opportunities for equity for different populations, individuals, communities, and geographical locations are available. Ms. Grandbois said she believed that access to health information is a human right that should be enjoyed by everyone.

2.2 Global Health Library framework and operational platform

Mr. Abel Laerte Packer, Director of BIREME, Pan American Health Organization / WHO Regional Office for the Americas, presented the framework and operational platform of the GHL. He discussed the 'know-do' gap in global health and how to bridge it. Mr Packer gave a brief introduction to the GHL and the various factors that must be considered to form its content, such as format, the needs of specific groups, different languages, active partnerships for health, technology, publishing, and information arenas. He asked if there is a need for the GHL since there is already GOOGLE Scholar. In his view, the GHL is important as it is not just a portal but also a strategy to develop the capacities of institutions in different countries. He cited as an example Latin America's SciELO, which is a network of collections of various scopes, user groups, geography, cultures, and languages.

Mr. Packer also discussed the basics of the GHL as a web-based, dynamic, interactive, online space for communities and updated science and technology collections, with use of communication channels. He discussed the purpose of the framework and defined the structure, governance system and principles of operation that could facilitate understanding on how the GHL operates, how to participate and how the GHL can be appreciated. Mr. Packer discussed the governance of the GHL, which has a WHO-based secretariat, a GHL Board, regional meetings, a technical unit (BIREME), and ad hoc working groups, such as the Content Management Working Group. He suggested that this governance structure could be replicated in other WHO regions. Mr. Packer ended his presentation by talking about the challenges and plans of action for the GHL until the end of 2007.

2.3 WPRIM coordination at the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office

Mr. Charles P. Raby, Chief of Translation, Publications, and Library Services and Knowledge Management Focal Point, and Mr. Julio Dizon, Jr., Administrative Officer (NPO) for Library Services, both from the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, jointly presented the activities relative to WPRIM development that are supported and/or coordinated by the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office. These include the meeting of national focal point librarians for the GHL, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in May 2005, and the informal consultation on the development of the WPRIM, held in Manila, the Philippines in March 2006. Also presented were

the assessment survey on the capability of medical/health libraries in the Western Pacific Region to join the WPRIM, and the volunteer work of Dr. Jeong-Wook Seo, Director of the Medical Library, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea, who came to Manila for one month in January 2006 to initiate the groundwork for WPRIM.

The negotiations with the Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors (KAMJE) on free sharing of the KoreaMed software to be used for WPRIM, and the creation of a test site for WPRIM in the Western Pacific Regional Office server were cited. A Western Pacific Regional Office library staff member and one IT staff member from the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) spent two weeks in Seoul, Republic of Korea, to learn, *inter alia*, the conversion of records into XML format and the maintenance of the server. Some achievements in 2006 were the publication of the WPRIM poster for the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference in August 2006, the creation of the WPRIM logo, improvement of the WPRIM website, and creation of a WPRIM community of practice. It is hoped that a full-time staff member will be recruited to coordinate the development and maintenance of the WPRIM project.

2.4 Contributions to WPRIM

2.4.1 China

Dr. Dai Tao, Director of the Institute of Medical Information, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS), gave general information about western medical literature in China, particularly the status of periodical publications and “grey literature”. He provided statistics on the number and types of journals published in China in 2005 and the number of Chinese journals indexed in Medline in 2006. Dr Dai mentioned three databases on “grey literature” in China and he opined that there are a lot of things to be done relative to grey literature, such as establishing comprehensive grey literature information systems, setting up a unified management system, strengthening cooperation with other participants, and integrating the use of “grey literature”.

The procedures and methods for evaluation of medical journals formulated by the Ministry of Health and the State Press and Publication Administration in 2005 were discussed, and Dr. Dai also provided information on various indexes of biomedical journals in China, such as the Chinese Scientific and Technological Materials – Medicine and Health, the Chinese Biomedical Literature database (CBM), the Traditional Chinese Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (TCMLARS), Chinese Medical Current Contents (CMCC), and the Chinese Pharmaceutical Literature Database (CPLDB).

Dr. Dai intimated that the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) and the Chinese Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CATCM) have had a long-term cooperative arrangement and they are willing to work together for WPRIM, which is to their mutual advantage.

Professor Cui Meng, Director of the Institute of Information on Traditional Chinese Medicine, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, presented the current status of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) journals. He said that there are 131 TCM journals, which he categorized into several subject groups. He also indicated how many of the journals are indexed in Medline, Embase and Biosis and how many have English titles, as well as those with English titles and abstracts. Professor Cui mentioned the number and sources of records comprising the TCMLARS database and the criteria observed for TCM journal selection.

2.4.2 Viet Nam

Dr. Nguyen Tuan Khoa, Director of the Central Institute for Medical Science Information (CIMSI), discussed how the Institute selected journals for uploading into the WPRIM database. He also mentioned the creation of the National Journal Selection Committee, whose members are general editors of prestigious medicopharmaceutical journals, and the content of the selected journals.

Dr. Khoa mentioned the Viet Nam Index Medicus (VIM) project of CIMSI in 2003-2004 that resulted in the creation of the VIM database containing biomedical journal articles from 1998 to 2002, with abstracts in Vietnamese and English. He said that editorial work is currently being undertaken for 2003-2004 journal articles and this may be finished in June 2007; the editorial work for 2005 journal articles is expected to be finished by the end of 2007.

Dr. Khoa said that he and his team are studying KoreaMed, sent by Dr Seo, and will integrate their VIM as a test. He expressed his hope that the VIM database will be converted into the format appropriate for WPRIM with the assistance of technical experts from the WHO Regional Office and Seoul, Republic of Korea.

2.4.3 Republic of Korea

Professor Hong, Chairperson of the Committee for Planning and Evaluation, Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors (KAMJE), presented the aim, specific activities and organizational structure of KAMJE, and the activities of the various committees of the Association. He also mentioned KAMJE's contribution to WPRIM. Professor Hong described KoreaMed, particularly its contents and technical aspects. He discussed the promotion of the functions of KoreaMed and its uniqueness among the world's journal paper databases, as well as further plans for its development.

The evaluation of journals to be indexed in KoreaMed was discussed, and Professor Hong also talked about the Korean Medical Citation Index (KOMCI) as an objective evaluation tool for medical journals published in the Republic of Korea.

2.4.4 Japan

Dr. Kiichiro Tsutani, Professor of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Tokyo, informed the participants that Japan's National Committee for WPRIM was formed on 21 November 2006, with four members, an advisor and an observer. The basic principles for selection of Japanese journals for the first stage are: (1) published by member societies of the Japan Association of Medical Sciences (JAMS); (2) not indexed in Pubmed; and (3) full text available at the National Institute of Informatics (NII). He also pointed out that 154 Japanese journals on the environment are already indexed in Pubmed. Japanese journal publishers and health workers may recognize non-PubMed-indexed and WPRIM-indexed journals as "second-class journals", therefore, certain strong and appealing points are necessary in the selection process in Japan in order to keep WPRIM attractive for Japanese publishers and health workers. He said that, in Japan, clinical trials are being registered in compliance with the 2004 statement of the International Council for Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). The CONSORT statement is being used for reporting randomized controlled trials. He proposed that these two elements be added as criteria in Japan.

2.4.5 Philippines

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila, Editor-in-Chief of the Acta Medica Philippina of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, and Ms. Merlita Opena, Chief Science Research Specialist of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), discussed the factors which will enable the Philippines to join WPRIM. In spite of the relatively bad situation of journal publishing in the country, WPRIM is expected to stimulate a culture of research and publishing. Dr. Avila also agreed with Mr. Raby that the Philippines is experiencing the difficulties which all countries have

when they first start medical publishing.

Ms. Opena, in her presentation, announced that the Philippines is now ready to participate in the WPRIM initiative. She discussed the Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN) databases, including databases of full-text articles, and she also talked about journal publishing, particularly the problems and issues to be dealt with, as well as some proposals to improve it. Ms. Opena enumerated the activities done by the Philippine focal team for WPRIM and future actions to improve the quality of journals in the Philippines. There was some discussion regarding the possibility of having a “national health journal” for the Philippines.

2.5 Group discussions

2.5.1 Creation of a China Board and Content Working Group for the GHIL

The Chinese participants discussed, as a group, the creation of a China Board and a Content Working Group for the Global Health Library. The group agreed that the Board should be chaired by a senior staff member at the Institute of Medical Information, CAMS, and co-chaired by a senior staff member at the Institute of Information on Traditional Chinese Medicine, CACMS. Other members of the Board will come from the Chinese Medical Association, the Chinese Military Medical Library, Beijing University Medical Library, the China CDC Information Center, and other related units. The first China Board meeting is scheduled for January 2007.

For the Content Working Group, the secretariat and contact persons are Mr. Qian Qing, Chief of the Department of Digital Resource Development, CAMS Library, and one staff member from the Institute of Information on Traditional Chinese Medicine (IITCM), CACMS.

2.5.2 Finalization of the criteria and standards for the selection of journals to be included in WPRIM

All participants participated actively in the discussion and a consensus was reached to observe the minimum criteria for journal selection that were formulated during the Informal Consultation on the Development of the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus in March 2006. Among the notable decisions were the inclusion into WPRIM of journals already indexed in the Medline/PubMed, inclusion of only journals with English abstracts, and the adoption of a country-specific criterion. It was decided to defer the inclusion of grey literature, since the Index Medicus will only focus on journals.

A sub-group to recommend strategies to improve/upgrade journals, headed by Dr Avila, was assigned to report on a set of recommendations.

2.5.3 WPRIM activities in 2007 and beyond

All participants joined the discussion. Mr. Raby announced that another meeting will be held in October 2007 to assess the progress of the WPRIM initiative and to discuss further activities for its development. Malaysia and Mongolia will be invited to participate. A smaller meeting tackling focal points will be convened in May 2007 to prepare for the bigger meeting in October 2007. That meeting will also carry out a midterm review of the status of WPRIM.

Library staff from the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office will attend the training/workshop at BIREME in Sao Paulo, Brazil, during the third week of March 2007 to learn about the GHIL framework and platform. Someone from BIREME will come to the Regional Office to assist/discuss in implementing the GHIL framework.

A group will be formed to discuss the creation of the Association of Medical Journal Editors and another group will also be created to discuss medical subject heading (MeSH) and others. The needs of Viet Nam will be discussed with Dr. Khoa.

2.6 Steps and hurdles facing WPRIM

Dr. Jeong-Wook Seo presented the steps and hurdles facing WPRIM. His presentation highlighted what had been done on WPRIM regarding the concept, coverage and computer system, including the website and logo.

He emphasized the need to strengthen the WPRIM network and stressed that, if Member States are united, WPRIM will be a force to reckon with; China, Japan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Viet Nam will be a powerhouse as far as journal production is concerned. He used the maxim "in unity there is strength". He also reiterated the need to strengthen the WPRIM governance structure by creating regional and country working groups or committees. There is a need to create working groups for content, customer needs and advocacy/funding, as well as for information technology. He reiterated the need for a steering and journal selection committee, as well as a Western Pacific Region peer-review advisory group.

Dr. Seo also expressed the need for a WPRIM strategy paper with a framework. The strategy paper should contain the following: objectives of WPRIM for different stakeholders, such as authors, customers and reviewers; basic requirements for health journals; good editing practices for health journals; the eventual inclusion of "grey material" into WPRIM; and the strategic and action plans for WPRIM.

Aside from the strategy paper, operational policies and guidelines should also be drafted, to include the following: selection of journals, the roles and responsibilities of national journal selection committees, prioritization of journals to be listed, and benchmarking with other WHO regions to see how WPRIM is progressing.

In closing, Dr. Seo emphasized that the two major hurdles to be overcome by WPRIM are: the establishment of the regional index and the provision of access to that index.

During the open forum, Dr. Avila raised the issue of commercial databases, such as Springer or Elsevier, which limit access to their journals. Taking Dr. Seo's explanation that some medical societies in the Republic of Korea are outsourcing the production of their journals to commercial publishers, Mr. Masamichi Kitagawa, Chief Librarian of the Jikei University School of Medicine, said that medical libraries in Japan have had to decrease their journal subscriptions due to continuous price increases. He expressed concern that outsourcing to commercial publishers will lead to price hikes and will limit the access to journals. He also added that, as one solution is to give researchers free access to more materials, some Japanese universities are starting to implement an institutional repository. Mr Packer stated that open-access should be the answer, since knowledge is a common good. WPRIM should adopt an open-access policy.

Ms. Grandbois suggested that all regions should have a common index medicus framework. Mr Packer said that the gold standard of journals is the Information Sciences Institute (ISI), followed by Medline, Web of Science, then the regional indexes, Elsevier and Google.

Mr. Kitagawa brought up an indexing issue which is not an immediate challenge but might be crucial when WPRIM is integrated into the Global Index Medicus. Searching several databases simultaneously requires interacting with each database's index system. He commented that this issue should be considered when constructing the WPRIM index system.

2.7 Current status of Chinese Index Medicus

Mr. Qian Qing presented the current status of the Index Medicus in China. He described the various health literature databases, such as the Chinese Scientific and Technological Materials – Medicine and Health, the Chinese Biomedical Literature Database (CBM), and the Traditional Chinese Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (TCMLARS), outlining their content, scope, percentages of records with Chinese abstracts and of English abstracts, numbers of records added annually, among others. He also mentioned the MeSH and Chinese traditional medicine materia medica subject headings as the thesauri used and that Medline policies and rules are observed in indexing the journals.

During the open forum, Prof. Sung-Tae Hong inquired as to the screening/selection process of journals for indexing and if abstracts are available in English. Mr. Qian said that there is no selection process; almost all journals are indexed and the journals have English abstracts. It was emphasized that the peculiarity of the Chinese system is that there is no free access; even abstracts can only be accessed by members for a fee. Only a few abstracts may be accessed for free in China. Ms. Grandbois suggested that a strategy to make available free full-text access to Chinese journals, as in HINARI, should be the subject of future discussion.

Dr. Tsutani remarked that developing a database should improve the quality of journals. He further inquired as to who are the users of the system and if it is available outside China. Mr. Qian informed the group that there are about 400 member institutions and about 15 universities and institutes abroad (Singapore, United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada) that are members of TCMLARS. The other databases are not available outside China. Mr. Toyotama and Dr. Tsutani said that there are many potential users of Chinese medical databases; some of them are interested in the development of western medicine in China in addition to traditional medicine. They stressed that it would be better to make, not only traditional medicine, but also western medicine databases available in countries outside China and to provide free abstracts and full-text articles, to be paid for, if necessary.

Dr. Tsutani later asked whether or not the different databases are linked or have a federated search mechanism. Unfortunately, the databases are not linked but stand alone.

2.8 Status of Chinese medical journals and recommended criteria for selection

Dr. Wang De presented the status of medical journals in China. He showed statistics on journal production in China and how many of these are on science and technology and on health and biomedical subjects. Dr. Wang presented percentages on the frequency of publication and subject fields of the health and biomedical journals. Approximately 95% are published in Chinese and half of the journals are subsidized by the Government, while less than 50% rely on advertisements.

Dr. Wang revealed that they are proposing a Chinese Medline since the current one is Western and has very limited capabilities as far as the Chinese language is concerned.

During the group discussion and open forum, it was made known that China will be establishing a China Board on GHL/WPRIM, to be chaired by Dr. Dai Tao, Director of the Institute of Medical Information, CAMS, and that Mr. Qian Qing will be the WPRIM focal person for China.

2.9 Closing session

Professor Zou Jianhua, the Chairperson, thanked all the participants for contributing their ideas and sharing their knowledge and experiences to make the meeting successful. She exhorted the participants to actively support the WPRIM initiative by carrying out the activities required of them to sustain the development and viability of WPRIM. Finally, Professor Zou said she hoped that the international participants had enjoyed a fruitful two-day stay in Beijing.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the presentations and subsequent discussions, agreement was reached on the following:

- (1) China will strengthen its WPRIM governance structure by creating a National Journal Screening Committee that will identify the journals to be included in WPRIM.
- (2) China will create a Board for the GHL/WPRIM, to be chaired by Dr Dai Tao, Director of the Institute of Medical Information, CAMS.
- (3) China will negotiate with the publishing agents and full-text database agents of Chinese journals to allow free global access to abstracts and full-text articles, to be paid for if necessary.
- (4) A WPRIM framework, to be translated into Chinese and posted on the WPRIM website, will be prepared by Dr. Avila.
- (5) Countries that have not yet established national journal screening committees are enjoined to create them.
- (6) Associations of medical journal editors must be established in countries that do not have them yet, and they should work actively on improving the quality of journal publishing.
- (7) A WPRIM capacity-building plan will be drafted by Dr. Seo.

The following activities should be carried out in the future:

- (8) A WPRIM task force meeting should be held in May 2007 to prepare for a bigger WPRIM meeting in Beijing in October 2007.
- (9) A full-time staff member should be hired in the early part of 2007 to coordinate the development and maintenance of WPRIM.
- (10) A staff member from the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office should attend a training session on the GHL framework and platform in March 2007 at BIREME, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Later, a staff member from BIREME will visit the Western Pacific Regional Office to assist in implementing the GHL.
- (11) Interested participants should have further discussions on the formulation of a regional editors association.
- (12) A team will develop the MeSH extension for traditional medicine since oriental traditional medicine is a very valuable resource that WPRIM can offer.
- (13) A team will also be formed with the task of developing a draft GHL plan for the Region.

All participants are encouraged to join the WPRIM Community of Practice by responding positively to the invitation received through e-mail and to be active in sharing their ideas and relevant news or events related to the development of WPRIM.

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**WPR/000/KMI/4.3/001/LIB
7 December 2007**

**Beijing, People's Republic of China
11 – 12 December 2006**

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INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 2

**LIST OF TEMPORARY ADVISERS, OBSERVERS,
AND SECRETARIAT**

1. TEMPORARY ADVISERS

Dr Joselito Mario Co Avila
Editor-in-Chief, Acta Medica Philippina
Department of Pathology
College of Medicine
University of the Philippines
547 P. Gil St., Ermita
Manila, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 400 6452 / 524 6143
Fax: (632) 404 2579
E-mail: joeycavila@yahoo.com.ph

Dr Cao Hongxin
President, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
(CACMS)
No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei
Beijing 100700 People's Republic of China
Tel: (86-10) 6403 2659
Fax: (86-10) 6400 7743
E-mail: caohx@mail.cintcm.ac.cn

Madame Chi Hui
Deputy Director
Institute of Medical Information
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & PUMC
No 3, Yabao Road, Chaoyang District
Beijing 100020, China
Tel.: (86-10) 8563 7896
Fax: (86-10) 8562 5733
E-mail: chihuidx@gmail.com

Professor Cui Meng
Director, Institute of Information on TCM,
China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei,
Beijing 100700 China
Tel./Fax: (86-10) 6404 8242
E-mail: cm@mail.cintcm.ac.cn

Professor Dai Tao
Director, Institute of Medical Information
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & PUMC
No.3. Yabao Road, Chaoyang District
Beijing 100020 China
Tel: (86-10) 8563 7898
Fax: (86-10) 8562 5733
E-mail: daitao@library.imicams.ac.cn / pumcdaitao@sina.com

Professor Fan Weiyu
Institute of Information on TCM,
China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei,
Beijing 100700 China
Tel: (86-10) 6401 4411 ext 3285
Fax: (86-10) 6403 2167
E-mail: fanwy@mail.cintcm.ac.cn

Dr Gao Jun
Vice Director-General, Center for Health Statistics Information
Ministry of Health, People's Republic of China
No. 1 Xi Zhi Men Wai Nan Lu
Beijing 100044, China
Tel.: (86-10) 6879 2487
Fax: (86-10) 6879 2478
E-mail: gaojun@moh.gov.cn

Professor Sung-Tae Hong
Professor, Department of Parasitology
Seoul National University College of Medicine
28 Yeongeon-dong Jongno-gu
Seoul 110-799
Republic of Korea
Tel.: (82-2) 740 8343
Fax: (82-2) 765 6142
E-mail: hst@snu.ac.kr

Madame Li Qiufang
Head, General Office, Institute of Medical Information
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & PUMC
No 3, Yabao Road, Chaoyang District
Beijing 100020, China
Tel: (86-10) 8563 7888
Fax: (86-10) 8562 5733
E-mail: liqf@imicams.ac.cn

Professor Liang Jusheng
Vice-President, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei,
Beijing 100700 China
Tel./Fax: (86-10) 6407 8093
E-mail: liangjsh@mail.catcm.ac.cn

Professor Liu Baoyan
Vice-President, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei,
Beijing 100700 China
Tel: (86-10) 6400 1074
Fax: (86-10) 6400 7743
E-mail: liuby@mail.cintcm.ac.cn

Professor Liu Guozheng
Director
Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine Publishing House
No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei,
Beijing 100700 China
Tel.: (86-10) 8403 2289
Fax: (86-10) 6405 0201
E-mail: liugz@mail.cintcm.ac.cn

Dr Nguyen Tuan Khoa
Director
Central Institute for Medical Science Information (CIMSIS)
Ministry of Health
13-15 Le Thanh Tong Str
Hanoi, Viet Nam
Tel.: (84-4) 826 4040 / 824 2668
Fax: (84-4) 824 2668
E-mail: halinhcimsivn@yahoo.com
Tuankhoa2411@yahoo.com

Ms Merlita Opeña
Chief Science Research Specialist
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development
Department of Science and Technology
DOST Compound
Gen. Santos Avenue, Bicutan,
Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines 1631
Tel.: (63-2) 837 7537 / 4
Fax: (63-2) 837 2924
E-mail: mmo@pchr.dost.gov.ph / mmo@ehealth.ph /
merlmo9999@hotmail.com / homenab@gmail.com

Mr Qian Qing
Chief, Department of Digital Resource Development
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences Library/
Information Institute
No 3, Yabao Road, Chaoyang District
Beijing 100020, China
Tel: (86-10) 8562 2307
Fax: (86-10) 8562 6057
E-mail: qianq@imicams.ac.cn

Professor Jeong-Wook Seo
Professor, Department of Pathology
Director, Medical Library
Seoul National University College of Medicine
28 Yongon-Dong, Chongno-gu,
Seoul 110-799
Republic of Korea
Tel.: (82-2) 740 8041 office
(82-19) 240 8268 mobile
Fax: (82-2) 740 8080
E-mail: jwseo@snu.ac.kr

Ms Charity Tan
Division Chief, Knowledge Management
Information Management Service
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz
Manila, Philippines
Tel.: (63-2) 743 8301 local 1910
Fax: (63-2) 711 6744
E-mail: cltan@co.doh.gov.ph / chat@co.doh.gov.ph

Mr Hayato Toyotama
Chief, Section of System Development and Management
NPO Japan Medical Abstracts Society
2-5-18, Takaido-higashi, Suginami-ku
Tokyo, Japan 168-0072
Tel.: (81-3) 3334 7625
Fax. (81-3) 3334 0497
E-mail: toyotama@jamas.or.jp

Professor Kiichiro Tsutani
Professor, Department of Drug Policy and Management
Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
The University of Tokyo
7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku
Tokyo, 113-0033
Japan
Tel.: (81-3) 5841 4828
Fax. (81-3) 5841 4829
E-mail: tsutani-ky@umin.ac.jp

Dr Wang De
President
Chinese Medical Association Publishing House
42 Dongsi Xidajie
Beijing, 100710, China
Tel.: (86-10) 8515 8177
Fax: (86-10) 8515 8180
Mobile: 1370 123 8513
Email: wangdecma@vip.163.com

Professor Wu Lancheng
Institute of Information on TCM
China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei,
Beijing 100700 China
Tel.: (86-10) 6420 6351
Fax. (86-10) 6401 6387
E-mail: wulc@mail.cintcm.ac.cn

Professor Xiang Hongqin
Institute of Medical Information
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
No.3. Yabao Road, Chaoyang District
Beijing 100020 China
Tel.: (86-10) 6529 6984
Fax: (86-10) 8562 5733
E-mail: xianghq@micams.ac.cn

Professor Xue Qinglu
Former librarian
Library of China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei,
Beijing, China
Tel.: (86-10) 8390 3543
Fax: (86-10) 6405 0201
Email: annazhangjq@asina.com

Professor Yin Aining
Institute of Information on TCM,
China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences

No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei
Beijing, China
Tel/Fax: (86-10) 8403 1770
E-mail: yinan@mail.cintcm.ac.cn

Professor Zhu Dongsheng
Deputy Director, Institute of Information on TCM,
China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei,
Beijing, China
Tel./Fax: (86-10) 6407 1269
E-mail: zhuds@mail.cintcm.ac.cn

Professor Zou Jianhua
Director, Department of International Cooperation
China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences
No.16. Nanxiaojie, Dongzhimen Nei,
Beijing, China
Tel./Fax: (86-10) 6401 6387
E-mail: zoujh2001@sohu.com
zoujh@mail.catcm.ac.cn

2. OBSERVERS

Professor Soo-Hun Cho
Director of Publication,
Korean Academy of Medical Sciences
Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine
Seoul National University College of Medicine
28 Yongon-Dong Chongno-Gu
Seoul, Korea
Tel: (82-2) 740 8323
Fax: (82-2) 747 4830
E-mail: chosuh@snu.ac.kr

Mr Hyun-Do Jang
Manager of Academic Affairs
Korean Academy of Medical Sciences
302-75, Ichon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu
Seoul 140-721, Korea
Tel: (82-2) 798 3807
Fax: (82-2) 794 3148
E-Mail: hbear@kams.or.kr

Mr Masamichi Kitagawa
Chief, Library Services
Academic Information Center
The Jikei University School of Medicine
3-25-8 Nishi-Shimbashi, Minato-ku
Tokyo 105-8461 Japan
Tel.: (81-3) 3433 1111 ext 2121
Fax: (81-3) 3435 1922
E-mail: kitagawa@jikei.ac.jp

Professor Myeong Jong Lee
Vice-President, Korean Oriental Medical Society (KOMS)
OMD PhD, Dongguk University professor
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine,
Dongguk University Oriental Hospital
814 Siksa-dong, Ilsandong-gu, Goyang-si
Gyeonggi-do, Korea 411-773
Tel.: (82-31) 961 9099
Fax: (82-31) 961 9009
E-mail: chirodoc@unitel.co.kr

Dr Wang Yuling
Associate Professor, Peking University
Room 1019, Zhong Guan Cun Chuang Ye Da Sha
No.26, Shang Di Xin Xi Lu, Haidian District
Beijing 100085 China
Mobile: : (86) 133 8108 6821
Fax No. : (86-10) 8279 1828

3. SECRETARIAT

Dr Choi Seung-Hoon
Regional Adviser in Traditional Medicine
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
United Nations Avenue
1000 Manila, Philippines
Tel.: (63-2) 528 9844
Fax: (63-2) 521 1036
E-mail: chois@wpro.who.int

Mr Julio Dizon, Jr.
Administrative Officer, Library
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
United Nations Avenue
1000 Manila, Philippines
Tel.: (63-2) 528 9840
Fax: (63-2) 521 1036
E-mail: dizonj@wpro.who.int

Dr Fu Xijuan
Administrative Assistant
WHO Representative Office
401, Dongwai Diplomatic Office Building
23, Dongzhimenwai da jie
Chaoyang District
Beijing 1000600, People's People's Republic of China
Tel.: (8610) 6532-7189 ext 647
Fax: (8610) 6532-2359
E-mail: flux@chn.wpro.who.int

Ms Yvonne Grandbois
Coordinator
Library and Information Networks for Knowledge (LNK)
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: (41-22) 791 2081 / 2077
Fax: (41-22) 791 4150
E-mail: grandboisy@who.int

Mr Abel Laerte Packer
Director
BIREME, Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization
Rua (street) Botucatu, 862 - Vila Celmentino
São Paulo, SP - Brazil - zip code 04023-901
Tel.: (55-11) 5576 9801
Fax: (55-11) 5549 2590
Email: abelpacker@hotmail.com
packerab@bireme.ops-oms.org

Mr Charles P. Raby (Responsible Officer)
Chief, Translation, Publications &
Library Services
Knowledge Management Focal Point
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
United Nations Avenue
1000 Manila, Philippines
Tel.: (63-2) 528 9983
Fax: (63-2) 521 1036
E-mail: raby@wpro.who.int

**Meeting on the Development of the Western
Pacific Region Index Medicus and the Global
Health Library with China Collaboration**

**WPR/000/KMI/4.3/001/LIB
7 December 2007**

**Beijing, People's Republic of China
11 – 12 December 2006**

English only.

AGENDA

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Global Health Library Concept
3. Global Health Library Framework and Operational Platform
4. WPRIM Coordination at WPRO
5. Contribution to WPRIM (China, Viet Nam, Republic of Korea, Japan, Philippines)
6. Group Discussions
 - Creation of a China Board and Content Working Group on the Global Health Library
 - Finalization of the Criteria and Standards for Selection of Journals to be included in WPRIM
 - WPRIM Activities for 2007 and Beyond
6. Steps and Hurdles of the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus
7. Current status of Chinese Index Medicus
8. Identification of the Chinese journals to be included in WPRIM and the National Journal Screening Committee for WPRIM
9. Reports of Group Discussions and Open Discussions
 - Creation of a China Board and Content Working Group for the GHIL
 - Finalization of the Criteria and Standards for Selection of Journals to be included in WPRIM
 - WPRIM Activities for 2007 and Beyond
10. Closing Session