

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

ICTAM

International Conference on Traditional Asian Medicine — its history, traditions, and integration into modern medical systems, at The Australian National University, Canberra.

The Conference will be held in 1979, probably during the first week in September. It will last for a minimum of three and a maximum of six days.

The organizing committee of the Conference envisages the discussion of papers in the following and kindred fields:

- The prehistory and history of traditional Asian medical systems;
- Asian medical texts;
- Traditional medical terminology and philology;
- Concepts of health and disease in Asian cultures, ancient and modern;
- Asian systems of physiology;
- The training of traditional medical practitioners;
- Relations of medicine, religion and magic in Asian traditions;
- Aetiology of diseases in traditional Asian medicine;
- Treatment and pharmacopoea — their effectiveness or otherwise;
- Anthropological and sociological studies of traditional medicine in practice;
- Contemporary organization of traditional Asian medical systems;
- The use and value of traditional medicine in contemporary Asian public health services.

The Committee does NOT envisage the discussion of papers in fields such as:

- The history and present state of Western-type medicine in Asia;
- The study of the incidence in Asia of specific diseases and their treatment by "Western" methods;
- Problems with medical ramifications such as malnutrition and population control (but traditional methods of contraception would be acceptable);
- The therapeutic value of certain proprietary brands of Asian medicine (e.g. Hamdard, Kaviraj, Tiger Balm);
- Homeopathy.

For the purposes of the Conference Asia means the whole continent, ancient and modern, including the Soviet Union east of the Urals, and the Caucasus. Ancient Egypt and Islamic North Africa are also, by convention, included. It does not include New Guinea, Australia, or the Pacific Islands east of the Philippines. Papers on Asian medicine in other parts of the world (e.g. the influence of Avicenna on medieval European medicine; the practice of acupuncture in contemporary U.S.A.; medical traditions of the Indian settlers in Fiji), however, might be accepted.

If the Conference is a success it may result in the foundation of an International Society for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine (ISSTAM), which may organize further conferences at regular intervals and possibly also publish a periodical.

If you wish to receive further announcements, or have any enquiries write to:

ICTAM
Department of Asian Civilizations
The Australian National University
Post Office Box 4
Canberra, A.C.T., 2600
Australia.

A. L. Basham
President, Committee

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