

**Opening Speech on Conference on “Crossroads in Health Care”**  
**----Possibilities for Sino-Dutch Cooperation in Exchange, Research**  
**and Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine**

Prof./Dr. Zhang Xinmin  
12<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Distinguished speakers and representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good noon.

It's my great pleasure to join you all here for the opening of on conference on “Crossroads in Health Care”, which is jointly organized by Crossroad Culture and Den Haag city.

First of all, on behalf of Chinese Embassy, I'd like to take this opportunity to extend our congratulation to this event and greeting to all representatives and participants. Meanwhile I would like to express my personal gratitude to Drs. Mariska Stevens, Director of Crossroad Culture, she arranges this conference program, and Mr. Koster from city hall, he provide the place for this seminar.

This conference aims to build up our mutual understanding and mutual trust, create more consensus and partnership, deepen co-operations and share the knowledge in TCM practice in Netherlands, and try to provide a network and platform for all stakeholders and players in this field. It's very important and timing for the development of TCM in Netherlands, since now we are in a new stage and new crossroads, all of us, both government officials and TCM associations and societies, both university and clinics, both researchers and doctors, both doctors and patients, we all need to figure out what's exactly the future of TCM in Netherlands.

As everyone knows, Traditional Chinese Medicine is the jewelry of the Chinese nation, which had played a significant role in the health of the Chinese people for a long time. In recent years, with the changes on medical model, medical prevention, health concept, more and more people return to tradition, pay more attention to "disease prevention", TCM concept for "cure disease before it come" has also gained more recognition. The efficacy and role of TCM in the prevention and treatment of common diseases, frequently-occurring disease, chronic diseases and major diseases has been widely recognized and accepted in the international community.

Professor Tu Yo Yo won the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for her

founding of artemisinin, indicating that TCM has made outstanding contributions to human health. Chinese medicine acupuncture was included in the UNESCO "human intangible cultural heritage representative list", and "Compendium of Materia Medica" (本草纲目) and "Huangdi Neijing, 黄帝内经" were included in the "World Memory List". International Standard Organization established Chinese Medicine Technical Committee(ISO/TC249), and gradually enacted the promulgation of more than 10 international standards for TCM. For the first time traditional medicine, represented by TCM, was included into the WHO International Classification of Diseases Code (ICD-11). As an important part of the international medical system, TCM is playing an active role to promote health of human being.

At present, TCM has spread to 183 countries and regions, China has signed 86 TCM cooperation agreement with foreign governments, regional authorities and international organizations. Chinese medicine has been approved in Australia, Canada, Austria, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and South Africa in the form of national or local government legislation. China is promoting the construction of overseas Chinese medicine center, and vigorously promote the development of overseas Chinese medicine.

China has established 9 overseas Chinese medicine centers in nine countries, including the United States, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, France (Paris), Hungary, Russia (St. Petersburg), Luxembourg, Australia (Melbourne) and so on. The second batch of centers will include Switzerland, Spain, Montenegro, Nepal, Scandinavia, Portugal totally 8 overseas centers. This figure is expected to reach 17 by the end of 2017.

Although China developed TCM totally by our self, but it doesn't mean we don't need Western modern medicine. In my opinion, Chinese medicine and modern medicine have their own characteristics, they can learn from each other, complement each other, work together to make an important contribution for the human health. On the other hand, we also need international cooperation. China are willing to work with the rest of the world to develop TCM, improve the cooperation mechanism, deepen the cooperation content, expand the field of cooperation, so that TCM together with other traditional medicine will play a greater role to promoting human health.

Actually China is very open in this respect, and our cooperation with Netherlands is a good model. TCM development is very well in Netherlands. In Netherlands there are more than 4,000 TCM practitioners, and more than 1,500 TCM clinics. Costs of acupuncture treatment can be covered and reimbursed by medical insurance of most insurance companies. There are several professional education institute just like

Shenzhou Open Univeristy of TCM. There are a lot of related professional associations and societies, just like **Dutch Association of TCM (ZHONG)**, Chinese **Association of TCM in Netherlands** (荷兰华人中医药学会) and others. There are researchers specific to TCM Modernization and standardization, just like Professor WANG Mei, form Leiden University; There are some big TCM clinics emerging, just like Tong-Ren-Tang in Den Haag. TCM is widely recognized and accepted by Dutch people. Especially In January 2017, China's State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and the National Development and Reform Commission jointly issued the "Development Plan of the Belt and Road for Traditional Chinese Medicine (2016-2020)". Redoubtably it will bring promising prospect of overseas TCM, and huge potential opportunity for TCM cooperation. At the same time, we still face many problems for TCM development in the Netherlands, such as differences between Chinese and Western medicine in terms of theory and practice, qualification of TCM practitioners, education qualification and diploma certification, industry management and self-regulation, food safety, novel food regulation and so on.

Whether we can take this great opportunity or miss it really depends on our understanding and insight for current situation and our action and collaboration. Now we are at a crossroad, as I mentioned above, we really need a comprehensive SWOT analysis for TCM in Netherlands. At this crucial moment, this conference will undoubtedly strengthen our understanding and push forward TCM development in Netherlands, and finally this win-win situation will definitely benefit to both countries and its ordinary people.

Of course our Embassy is delighted to see that Netherlands and China have more and more cooperation and exchanges in this field. as a bridge to enhance friendship and promote cooperation, we are willing to continue to provide all necessary support and assistance to facilitate our cooperation and dialogue.

In conclusion, I wish this conference a very success and fruitful results, and wish all of you enjoy a wonderful and exciting time in Den Haag.

Thank you all !

Prof./Dr. Zhang Xinmin