

Chinese Medicine Industry Council of Australia Ltd

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www.cmic-us.org.au

Press Release

Chinese medicine is a unique and scientific discipline in its own right. It had first been created by the Chinese people thousands of years ago and continuously developed and improved to fight and cure diseases. Today, it is not only considered as a heritage treasure of the Chinese culture, but is also regarded as a valuable asset of humankind which helps bring about the prevention and cure of illnesses as well as to keep people healthy.

Nowadays, Chinese medicinal herbs are applied in conjunction with other modalities of Chinese Medicine effectively. They can complement each other with their own unique qualities and characteristics. Chinese herbal medicine has been used as the key weapon to prevent and cure illness. It is critical that the Chinese herbs have to be applied hand in hand with other modalities of Chinese medicine in a synchronized manner to maximize a favorable clinical outcome.

Fortunately, after years of collaboration and hard work, the Chinese medicine industry in Australia has come a long way. With the national registration of Chinese medicine practitioners commencing soon - starting from 1 July 2012, the industry of Chinese herbal medicines, however, is still relatively backward. For example, there still exists differing standards of Chinese herbal medicine in China and Australia, there are such uncertainties as restrictions on the oral and topical administration of herbal medicine and consistencies in related policies, there are discrepancies in the recognition of toxic reactions of Chinese herbal medicine, as well as a lack of understanding of a number of effective substances which led to a restriction or not being recognized by Australian authorities. These have brought great confusion and disturbances to suppliers and practitioners in the industry. Moreover, some unreasonable escalation of costs has caused much burden and impact on the industry, thereby adversely affecting the interests of patients and consumers.

Therefore, the Chinese Medicine Industry Council (CMIC) has recently been set up with a view to helping as many people as possible who are affiliated with Chinese medicine. Over the last month, the Council has approved nearly 20 major importers, wholesalers and some retailers into its membership, comprising an estimated market share of Chinese medicine supply of around 80% in Australia. The establishment of the Council is to bridge the gap between the Chinese medicine industry and the government and to create a platform for professionals in the field to exchange ideas and support each other through dialogues and scientific research. It is hoped that the goals of reaching a common understanding of Chinese medicine as well as lifting the standards of managing the industry to a more orderly and effective level can be realized. By networking with the members and strengthening communications with practitioners, it is also hoped that the industrial self-discipline will be improved and a positive industry image can be set up, so that the legitimate rights and interests of the Council's members will be further safeguarded. Through this, the Chinese medicine industry will develop in a healthy manner and Chinese medicine will bestow maximum value on the community. The inaugural Board of Directors of CMIC include Honorary President Phouc Thang Tran, President Max Anyang Ma, Vice Presidents Yifan Yang, Karl Ye, Owen Tam, Treasurer Dong Mei Zhang, Internal auditor Jenny Tong, Medical Director Dr Danform Lim, Legal Director Lawyer

Alan Lee, and Directors Maurice Ryan and Tony Reid.

The Council is calling on all suppliers of traditional Chinese Materia Medica including Chinese herbal medicines, Chinese patent medicines, Chinese medicinal herbs, Chinese medicinal food and healthcare products, Chinese medicinal herbs extracts and Traditional Chinese medicine related tools and devices; Sponsors, importers, wholesalers, dealers, manufacturers, processors, retailers and researchers of Chinese herbal medicine to join them to carry out collaborative research and development , and promote the industry as a whole.

**For membership applications, please contact Mr. Yi on 0409 608 093 (Mandarin, Cantonese),
OR Stephen Phillips on 0414 339 300 (English).**

It is often said, a fire burns high when everybody adds wood to it. The future development and success of the Chinese Medicine Industry Council of Australia is entirely dependent on all stakeholders in the field and people with vision from all walks of life in the society to work together while selflessly supporting each other. Upholding its pragmatic principles, the Council's Board will strive to better the common interests of all members in an effort to bring together and unite all industry partners in the Chinese medicine.