

Medicine beyond frontiers

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Acupuncture, Can It be an Alternative ?

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Acupuncture, an ancient Chinese medicine with a history of over five thousand years, has now been recognized as an alternative to the western medicine in 123 regions and countries all over the world. Over three decades, World Health Organization has raised up the interest of the modern medical scientists to acupuncture. The first world scientific meeting on acupuncture in 1979 in Beijing was the most important step organized by WHO, 43 indications of acupuncture were agreed among medical expert group. The second world meeting in 1991 formulated the guideline for safe acupuncture treatment and the training curriculum for basic acupuncture. WHO then recruited World Federation of Acupuncture and Moxibustion (WFAM) as it's non – governmental affiliation.

In Thailand, over two hundred medical specialists have engaged in the Ministry of Public Health's basic acupuncture training course. By the end of 2001 another group of Chinese medicine practitioner after passing the standard traditional Chinese medicine examination will receive license for practicing Chinese medicine including acupuncture. Alternative medicine has been included in the National Economic and Social Development Plan since 1987 and stated in the ongoing health care reform program. Acupuncture has fulfilled the safe, effective and economic criteria of being a medical alternative in Thailand.