Korea Symposium Examines World Perspective on Alternative Medicine

The symposium on "Traditional and Alternative Medicine in the 21st Century" was held at the Pundang Cha General Hospital*, Seoul, on 24 October 1999. The main objective of this symposium (organized by Cha Kwang-yul**) is to collate alternative medicine research findings and opinions from around the world, namely the US, China, Japan, France, UK and India, and analyze the current standing of alternative medicine in the international medical arena. This event consists of a gathering of speakers presenting issues dealing with his or her respective country, rather than focusing on lecturing or presenting researches done abroad.

The symposium consists of two main sessions: Session 1 — "Factors that Affect Practice and Research of Traditional Medicine" (moderated by Daniel Eskinazi from the Rosenthal Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at Columbia University) and Session 2 — "Traditional and Alternative Medicine in Korea" (moderated by Kim Chong-yul, ex-president of Kyunghee Medical College). Session 2 papers were read by Korean speakers on the trend of practice of traditional and alternative medicine. The presentations were followed up by a panel discussion with Chun Sae-il of Yonsei University as moderator and Lim Joon-kyu from Cha Oriental Medicine Hospital, university hospital of Pochon Cha University. The symposium concluded with a closing remark from Eskinazi.

* The Pundang Cha General Hospital is one of the first hospitals in Korea to conduct collaborated treatment of modern and traditional medicine, which accounts for its hosting the event. Pochon Cha University was the first in Korea to open alternative medicine as an official subject in its curriculum.
** Cha Kwang-yul was the first president of the Pochon Cha University and is presently an active scholar in the field of alternative medicine at Columbia University in the US.

Session 1 Presentations

- "Overview of Factors that Shape Practice and Research of Alternative and Traditional Medicine" by Daniel Eskinazi from the Rosenthal Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at Columbia University.
- "Academic/Funding Perspectives in Developing Alternative Medicine: The Experience of the Rosenthal Center" by Fredi Kronenberg from the same institution as above.

Other papers were read by Gail Mahady from the University of Illinois, Cui Meng from China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Kazuhiko Horiguchi from Kawado Clinic for Kampo and Acupuncture in Japan, U G Geeta from the Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions in India, Bruce Madge from the British Library and Chang Il-moo from the Seoul National University.

Session 2 Presentations

An overview was given by Chun Sae-il of Yonsei University. The session dealt with the bio-energy of Korean traditional foods, Korean acupuncture techniques, Korean QuiKong, Korean medicine and the effects in integrating traditional and modern medicine.