

**Comparative Studies on Pharmacopoeial Definitions,
Requirements and Information for Crude Drugs
among FHH Member Countries in 2007**

(Reorganized edition with explanatory notes of tables)

The Sub-Committee I of the Western Pacific Regional Forum for
the Harmonization of Herbal Medicines (FHH)

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Preface

The Sub-Committee I meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Forum for the Harmonization of Herbal Medicines (FHH) on nomenclature and standardization was held at National Institute of Health Sciences, Tokyo, Japan, on 21-23 May. Representatives attended it from China, Hong Kong (China), Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Vietnam.

In the meeting the all participants recognized the importance of comparison on descriptions for herbal medicines in member party's pharmacopoeias or monograph standards as first step for the harmonization of nomenclature and standardization, and agreed to set up five expert working groups (EWG) for specific tasks as follows:

1. Nomenclature (Head: Eiji Sakai): The task was to prepare a comparison table on names of medicinal plant materials in CP, JP, KP and VP.
2. Testing Method in Monographs (Head: Nobuo Kawahara): The task was to list out the testing methods in monographs. The priority should be given to those medicinal plant materials appeared in all related four pharmacopoeias.
3. List of Chemical Reference Standards (CRS) and Reference of Medicinal Plant Materials (RMPM). (Head: Hiroyuki Fuchino): The task was to prepare a list of CRS and RMPM available in member parties.
4. List of Analytically Validated Method (Head: Yukihiro Goda): The task was to prepare a list of analytically validated methods in CP, JP, KP and VP.
5. Information on General Test (Head: Keum-ryon Ze, Jim-Sook Kim): The task was to collect information on general testing methodology on contamination such as pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, toxic metals and de-colouring agent in all member parties and to draft a report on testing methodology on contamination of different types of contaminants.

Until August of 2007, the EWG members made a lot of efforts to fulfill the task described above. Almost all of the comparative tables or lists were available.

At the Standing Committee meetings in Tokyo (2005 and 2006), the Sub-Committee I reported the data collected and prepared by the EWGs. This publication was compiled one of the reported data with additional information.

The purpose of the publication entitled as "Comparative Studies on Pharmacopoeial Definitions, Requirements and Information for Crude Drugs among FHH Member Countries in

2007” is primary to promote harmonization in the use of herbal medicines. The first step of the harmonization is the mutual understanding of regulating system among member parties and Pharmacopoeia is the basis of the drug regulation. Therefore, we strongly expect that the publication will help the FHH members to achieve common consensus on herbal medicines.

The convenor of the Sub-Committee I

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