

## **Beijing Declaration 2004**

**3rd Regulators' Forum  
In association with the World Self-Medication Industry  
6<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Conference  
29 October 2004,  
Beijing, China**

On October 29, 2004 representatives of therapeutics good regulators from across 11 countries in the Asia Pacific region gathered in the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, Beijing, China for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regulators' Forum. The Beijing Regulators' Forum follows highly successful Forums held in Tokyo in 2002 and Sydney in 2000 that have lead to greater cooperation, collaboration and unity amongst regional regulators.

The Beijing Regulators' Forum was chaired by the State Food and Drug Administration of China and co-chaired by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration. The Beijing Forum brought together regulators from the following countries in the Asia Pacific region (Australia, China, Canada, India Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Thailand. Also present were representatives of the European Commission, WHO, WSMI and regional associations as observers. Many representatives from the Chinese Self-Medication Industry attended the Forum as observers.

The Regulators' Forum provided an invaluable opportunity for reflection on the outcomes of the Tokyo (2002) and Sydney (2000) Declarations as well as the chance to strengthen information exchange and collaboration among drug regulatory agencies in the region and to build on common interests to further progress important ongoing issues facing the regulation of non-prescription medicines.

The Regulators' Forum heard from the SFDA's brief report on issues surrounding drug classification policies as well as the presentations given by participants regarding the latest development of individual drug regulations. In doing so, the Regulators' Forum recognised the need for continued progression of responsible self-medication given the important role self-medication plays both to the contribution of patient and consumer self-care and to the development of national health-care systems.

To allow for continued growth and development of the self-medication industry the Regulators' Forum recognised the need to:

- Continue the development of the regulatory framework for OTC and complimentary and alternative medicines, including traditional Chinese medicines, so that they are incorporated within national medicine control policies;
- Affirm individual commitments to the on-going cooperative regional

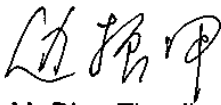
collaboration amongst regulators and the importance of building new cooperation fields and maintaining existing partnerships;

- Continue to foster regional and global partnerships with other non-therapeutic goods regulatory organisations to address issues surrounding the supply of appropriate, accurate and non-misleading information regarding the use of medicines through means such as the Internet;

Following from discussions held in Tokyo and Sydney, participants discussed a key area of interest regarding the rapidly expanding use of Internet technologies and the benefits and problems associated with its use. The Forum participants discussed initiatives including the development of partnerships with organisations such as the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) which is an informal network of consumer protection law enforcement authorities from over 30 countries, most of whom are OECD countries.

- Recognise the need to develop consistent approaches to standard setting and controls for internet advertising;
- Continue to strengthen the role of traditional medicines (herbal medicines) in self-medication, promoting standards and skill instructions for traditional medicines (herbal medicines) as well as improving the quality, safety and effectiveness of traditional medicines (herbal medicines);
- Recognise that where sufficient evidence of public health gain is available, and the risk-benefit is appropriate, products intended for prevention of chronic diseases may be considered for OTC availability;
- Recognize the need for regulated information to be made available to consumers for preventive therapies where substantive evidence exists to support such claims.
- Identify the benefits to be gained by exchange of safety related information including adverse drug reactions;
- Explore options for sharing and developing regulatory skill experience through mentoring and short term exchange programs between regulatory agencies.

The participants of the Regulators' Forum reasserted their commitment to progress regulatory initiatives to ensure the continued progression of sound government policies aimed at adequately responding to the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders.



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