



CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN HOMOEOPATHY ORGANISES
'World Integrated Medicine Forum on the Regulation of Homeopathic Medicinal
Products: National and Global strategies'

New Delhi: 23-24 February 2017



In the presence of 50 delegates from 24 countries, the World Integrated Medicine Forum on regulations of homoeopathic medicinal products opened on 23rd February 2017. The two-day forum, organised by Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy in collaboration with Dr. Robbert van Haselen, Director, World Integrated Medicine Forum, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) Sh. Sripad Yesso Naik, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. Sh. Naik, while praising the efforts of Council for arranging such a forum, expressed that the regulation of homoeopathic medicinal products (HMPs) is an important requirement for the worldwide promotion of Homoeopathy. In today's era, when the demand for traditional and integrated medicine systems is on the rise, it is important that quality-assured HMPs are made legally accessible, which is only possible via a well developed regulatory framework.



The inaugural ceremony was also graced by Sh. Ajit M. Sharan, Joint secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Sh. A.K. Ganeriwala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH and Dr. S.S. Handa, Chairman, Scientific Body, Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy.

The highlight of the inaugural ceremony was signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of Homoeopathic Medicine between the Homoeopathic



Pharmacopoeia Convention of the United States (HPCUS) and Indian bodies – Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) and Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH). It is hoped that this agreement will be a benchmark for many more agreements to follow with the aim to develop and harmonise homoeopathic pharmacopoeias of various countries and to strengthen and/or enable regulatory provisions for homoeopathy worldwide.



Another highlight was the launch of new official website of CCRH – www.ccrhindia.nic.in – which has a wide range of research-based content and a more contemporary, user-friendly appeal.



Over a billion patients worldwide are demanding safe and effective medicines for their conditions. In this era of growing adverse drug reactions and auto-immune and lifestyle-related illnesses, Homeopathy has a crucial role to play in the well-being of mankind. Being gentle, safe as well as cost-effective, Homoeopathy is gaining popularity across the globe and is one of the most followed medical systems in India. The use of homoeopathy is steadily growing in India and as per an analysis by Ministry of AYUSH, this sector exhibited an annual growth rate of 26.3% in the past year, the highest among the other AYUSH modalities.

Homeopathic medicines have a different history, background and mode of utilization compared to conventional medicines. Also the integration of homeopathy in public healthcare system ranges from a fully accepted medicinal speciality – such as in India- to a complete absence. The regulation of homeopathic medicines reflects this variability. The homeopathic industry collaborates on regulatory issues in certain domains, but this collaboration is fragmented at best. It is with the aim of bringing the homoeopathic industry and regulatory sector on a common platform for strategic discussion that this 'World Integrated Medicine Forum on the Regulation of Homeopathic Medicinal Products: National and Global strategies', has been conceived jointly by Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India and by World Integrated Medicine Forum (WIMF), an international firm that organises, and provides consultation for arranging such fora. The event is supported by Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, as well as other government organisations, Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIMH) & Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).



Through this forum, regulators from more than 15 countries including France, Germany, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India etc. shared the current status, challenges and outlook with regard to the regulation of homeopathic products. At least 15 international industries manufacturing homoeopathic medicines and more than 30 Indian industries participated and interacted with the drug regulators and controllers. Among the delegates were also included the regulators and drug controllers of various states of India. Forum discussions explored the commonalities as well as differences in regulatory affairs among various countries. The common concern was how to promote regulatory practices that met the highest modern standards, whilst at the same time respected the unique tradition of homeopathy worldwide.



While appreciating the effort of CCRH and WIMF, Minister of AYUSH in his inaugural address remarked that there is clearly a need for a high-level strategic exchange platform, where stakeholders can meet outside their immediate work related

context, and this forum could address that need.

Sh. Ajit M. Sharan, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH also expressed his delight that the Ministry, through CCRH, could demonstrate global leadership by hosting this unique event at the Ashoka Hotel in Delhi. He said that in view of the efficacy of homoeopathy especially in non-communicable and lifestyle-based diseases, there is a need to address the challenges pertaining to regulations and/or distribution of homoeopathic medicinal products.





In his interaction with the delegation, Sh. A.K. Ganeriwala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, opined that it is important that such meets are organised more frequently as strategies for strengthening regulatory provisions for



homoeopathic medicines deliberated upon in such platforms, would ensure wider and easier access to quality homoeopathic medicines, which, in turn, would mean a healthier world through the gentle touch of Homoeopathy.

Dr. Raj K. Manchanda, Director General, CCRH, hoped that this forum could provide impetus to further dialogues for strengthening regulatory framework worldwide, to assure that the users of Homoeopathy could have wider access to quality-assured homoeopathic medicines.

Dr. Robbert van Haselen, Director of the WIMF and also the international consultant for the forum, thanked the Government of India for spearheading this challenging task of bringing together the regulators and homeopathic industrialists from so many countries on a common platform to exchange their concerns and issues.

Dr. Anil Khurana, Deputy Director General, CCRH, wrapped up the inaugural ceremony of the forum by expressing gratitude to the Ministry of AYUSH, dignitaries, resource persons and delegates on behalf of CCRH, for making this forum a global event by their participation and hoped that the two-day interactions will be the opening platform for more regulations-oriented interactions in future.



The Forum had eight interactive sessions, followed by panel discussion on second day. These sessions were:

1. Setting the scene: Practitioners' perspectives
2. Regulators' perspectives
3. Pharmaceutical Industry perspectives
4. Regulatory status and outlook in various countries
5. Homeopathic pharmacopoeias: Status in main countries
6. Monograph/regulatory requirements: Strategic aspects
7. Homeopathic Drug Development, Regulatory innovation
8. Enhancing synergies with traditional and conventional medicine systems

Various presentations on the above topics during the two days explored how the regulation of homeopathic medicines can be further modernized and advanced. This included exploring the possibilities of synergies with other traditional and integrated systems of medicine. The latter discussion also included the WHO traditional medicine strategy. Further forum discussions explored the possibilities and limitations with regard to harmonization and collaboration among countries and the



future strategic priorities with regard to the regulation of homeopathic medicines. The Indian industrialists hoped that the forum would deliver direct benefits for the regulation of homeopathic medicines in India, via increased co-operation and adoption of best practices developed elsewhere. Promotion of exchange between the private and public sector and fostering increased trade between India and the rest of the world is expected to be another lateral outcome of the forum.



A cultural dinner accompanied with folk instrumental was organised on the night of 23rd February 2017.

The unanimous recommendations that were made during the concluding forum session included:

- Harmonisation, or at least, collaboration, convergence and reliance on regulations of HMPs,
- Encouraging Good Pharmacopoeial Practices,
- Exchange of information for harmonisation and for collaborating for research on mapping the diversity in pharmacopoeial standards, and



- Finding out ways to evaluate and compare points of convergence and divergence across various countries, in terms of: HMPs regulations, pharmacopoeia and industry standards.
- Exchange of more MoUs among countries on the lines of the one signed among HPCUS and Indian bodies CCRH and PCIMH.
- All countries agreed to meet more often to discuss further on specific areas related to drug regulations and harmonisation of pharmacopoeias.



Much acclaim was won by the organisers of the forum for materialising this unique forum which proved to be an apt platform for rigorous discussions on lesser discussed but very vital points like: regulations of HMPs, harmonisation of pharmacopoeias and linking industry and regulators' sectors for unified efforts for global development of Homoeopathy.

We will soon be uploading a detailed report and more pics. Keep checking this space!