



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

Sino-HK Collaboration for Research on Toxic Chinese Medicinal Materials

The Chinese Medicinal Material Research Centre of the Chinese University of Hong Kong has signed a collaboration agreement with the College of Chinese Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical University of China, Nanjing, China last week to carry out an intensive research on fifty types of toxic Chinese medicinal materials available in Hong Kong.

The research project has already started and is expected to be finished by March next year. The results of the research will be compiled into a publication "A Reference Directory of Potent Chinese Herbs as Poisons in Hong Kong" in which records in Pentsao, a collection of illustrated medicinal materials, as well as modern physicochemical and toxicological data will be included. The Directory will be the first reference material for Hong Kong's toxic/harmful Chinese medicinal materials.

The toxic medicinal materials selected for research can be classified into plants, animals and minerals. Examples are Semen Strychni, Radix Aconite, Radix Sophorae Tonkinensis, Scolopendra, Mylabris, Calomelas, Cinnabaris, etc.

Some of the toxic Chinese medicinal materials used in Hong Kong have been sent to the Pharmaceutical University of China in Nanjing. Both the Chinese and Hong Kong teams have started working on documents and experiments in accordance with the agreement. Documents to be compiled and organized include records in Pentsao, names, quality, places of origin, processing, curing methods, toxic components and clinical toxicity of those medicinal materials. For experiments, modern pharmacognosy and physical and chemical analysis will be applied to authenticate the selected Chinese medicinal materials. Animal toxicity studies will also be conducted.

The research project has an important social and scientific implication in the sense that it is practically the first collaboration of The Chinese University and The Pharmaceutical University of China since the signing of the agreement on academic exchange between the two universities in January, 1991 in Hong Kong. The Chinese Medicinal Material Research Centre of The Chinese University has had an active involvement in research on medicinal materials for long, while the College of Chinese Pharmacy of The Pharmaceutical University of China is the only college of the kind in China and has a remarkable ability to develop the research programmes. It is believed that with the joint resources and specialities of the two universities, the project will contribute a great deal to promoting research on toxicity and quality of the Chinese medicinal materials.

Professor Xu Guo-jun, leader of the Chinese team, is a well-known pharmacognosist with his expertise in authentication of traditional Chinese medicinal materials. His significant publications include "Pharmacognosy", "Chinese Herbal Medicine" and "A Coloured Illustrations of Chinese Traditional and Herbal Drugs". Following the joint effort made by the elites of the two universities on this project, the result of the research will doubtlessly be of great concern to the public in future.