# WHO Intro, Type of TK protected by WHO.

In developing countries, where more than one-third of the population lacks access to essential medicines, the provision of safe and effective TM/CAM therapies could become a critical tool to increase access to health care. But while traditional medicine has been fully integrated into the health systems of China, North and South Korea and Viet Nam, many countries have not collected and standardized evidence on this type of health care.

The global market for traditional therapies stands at US$ 60 billion a year and is steadily growing. In addition to the patient safety issue and the threat to knowledge and biodiversity, there is also the risk that further commercialization through unregulated use will make these therapies unaffordable to many who rely on them as their primary source of health care. For this reason, policies on the protection of indigenous or traditional knowledge are necessary.

About 25% of modern medicines are descended from plants first used traditionally. The efficacy of acupuncture in relieving pain and nausea has been well established. Randomized controlled trials also offer convincing evidence that therapies such as hypnosis and relaxation techniques can alleviate anxiety, panic disorders and insomnia. Other studies have shown that yoga can reduce asthma attacks while tai ji techniques can help the elderly reduce their fear of falls.

As well as addressing chronic conditions, TM can also impact on infectious diseases. In Africa, North America and Europe, three out of four people living with HIV/AIDS use some form of traditional or complementary treatment for various symptoms and conditions. In South Africa, the Medical Research Council is conducting studies on the plant Sutherlandia microphylla’s efficacy in treating AIDS patients. Traditionally used as a tonic, this plant may increase energy, appetite and body mass in people living with HIV.

The Chinese herbal remedy Artemisia annua, used for almost 2000 years, has recently been found to be effective against resistant malaria and could give hope of preventing many of the 800 000 deaths among children from severe malaria each year.

# Importance of TK by WHO, Need for preservation of TK.

## IMP

* TK includes mental inventories of local biological resources, animal breeds, and local plant, crop, and tree species.
* include such information as which trees and plants grow well together and which are indicator plants.
* includes practices and technologies, such as seed treatment and storage methods and tools used for planting and harvesting.
* It also encompasses belief systems that play a fundamental role in people’s livelihoods, maintain their health, and protect and replenish the environment.
* TK is collective in nature and is often considered the property of the entire community, not belonging to any single individual within the community.

## PRESERVATION

* The protection of TK is a framework that encourages the maintenance of traditional practices, culture and knowledge.
* In this sense, the concept of protection is quite different from the concept applied under IPRs.
* The preservation of TK is not only a key element of the right to self-identification and a pre-requisite for the continuous existence of traditional people and indigenous communities, but also a vital element of the cultural heritage of humanity.

# Which countries use TK

* The countries are:
* Asian Countries
* Western Hemisphere
* It’s a common knowledge that Asian countries have rich tradition medicine n we use traditional medicine from centuries.
* However as per WHO’s report we can observe the use of traditional medicine in western countries.
* In Chile 71% of the population, and in Colombia 40% of the population, have used traditional medicine.
* Nevertheless, in developed countries, traditional, complementary and alternative medicines are becoming more popular.
* For example, the percentage of the population that has used such medicines at least once is 48% in Australia, 31% in Belgium, 70% in Canada, 49% in France and 42% in the United States of America.

# Regulation of TK by WHO

## why

* WHO data from 2012 strongly suggest that state regulators across the globe are seeking additional guidance to assist with the implementation of
* T&CM professional regulations.
* Notably, 88% and 52% of nation states surveyed identified a lack of research data and
* a lack of expertise within national health authorities and control agencies, respectively, as a significant challenge in this regard.
* Similarly, the majority of nation states surveyed characterized information sharing on (T&CM professional) regulatory issues (81%)
* and national capacity building seminar/workshop on (T&CM professional) regulations (75%) as a priority.

Such challenges, as the authors will discuss, pertain to:

• historical circumstances (and resulting evidentiary tensions) that surround traditional medicine's political subjugation to Western biomedical knowledge systems;

• concurrent clinical and cultural characteristics of traditional medicine systems and practices;

• challenges (and/or incongruity) of accommodating internally diverse indigenous knowledges and practices into models of regulatory standardization;

• intellectual property considerations; and

• the increasing globalization and biomedicalization of traditional medicine.

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* Many developing countries lack access to medicines. More than 1/3rd of its population.
  + Hence, traditional medicine has been fully integrated into the health systems of China, North and South Korea and Viet Nam, many countries.
* About 25% of modern medicines are descended from plants first used as traditional medicines.
* TM is very useful in treating number of conditions and infectious diseases.
  + In Africa, North America and Europe, three out of four people living with HIV/AIDS use some form of traditional or complementary treatment for various symptoms and conditions.
  + The Chinese herbal remedy Artemisia annua, used for almost 2000 years, has recently been found to be effective against resistant malaria and could give hope of preventing many of the 800 000 deaths among children from severe malaria each year.
* Loss of traditional knowledge
  + We can observe that traditional knowledge is very helpful in humanity’s combat against various diseases. However, due to lack of documentation of traditional medicinal knowledge. It is very important to preserve this information.
* Which countries use TK
  + Asian Countries
  + Western Hemisphere
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    - However as per WHO’s report we can observe the use of traditional medicine in western countries.
    - In Chile 71% of the population, and in Colombia 40% of the population, have used traditional medicine.
    - Nevertheless, in developed countries, traditional, complementary and alternative medicines are becoming more popular.
    - For example, the percentage of the population that has used such medicines at least once is 48% in Australia, 31% in Belgium, 70% in Canada, 49% in France and 42% in the United States of America.
* Integration of TK in normal medicine.
  + Info provided by previous speakers we can observe that TMK is very important and helpful.
  + The obvious thing to do would be to combine modern science with TMK in order to excel beyond stars in medical field.
  + WHO facilitates by conducting conference every two decades to harmonize the two approaches of medicine.
  + Some of the points in last conference were:
    - WHO should continue to encourage governments to adopt policies to promote rational and safe use of traditional medicine.
    - WHO and its Member States should support the harmonization and appropriate integration of traditional medicine with modern medicine.
    - WHO should continue to co-ordinate critical data analysis on traditional remedies.
    - Relevant governments and professional agencies should ensure appropriate adverse event reporting and recording mechanisms are in place.
    - WHO should support training in research methodologies as well as in traditional medicine.
    - WHO and its Member States should advocate, support and encourage conducting of high quality research.
    - Research that establishes the value of traditional medicine in promoting health and wellness beyond treating diseases should be encouraged.
    - Clinical trials of widely used and established traditional remedies should be encouraged and undertaken prior to obtaining the results of extensive ‘pre–clinical’ basic research.
    - Findings of well–designed and well–performed research should be disseminated as widely as possible. This should include the preparation and dissemination in English and native languages of rigorous systematic reviews based on the research literature from various countries.

REGULATION

* Improper use of traditional medicine and therapies
* Thought of Dr Yasuhiro Suzuki, WHO Executive Director.
* Proper usage of traditional medication
* Regulation 4 traditional medicine by WHO
  + Traditional medicine is highly beneficial however, problem may arise out of incorrect use of traditional therapies.
  + For instance, the herb Ma Huang (ephedra) is traditionally used in China to treat short-term respiratory congestion. In the United States, the herb was marketed as a dietary aid, whose long-term use led to at least a dozen deaths, heart attacks and strokes. In Belgium, at least 70 people required renal transplant or dialysis for interstitial fibrosis of the kidney after taking the wrong herb from the Aristolochiaceae family, again as a dietary aid.
  + "Traditional or complementary medicine is victim of both uncritical enthusiasts and uninformed skeptics," explains Dr Yasuhiro Suzuki, WHO Executive Director for Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals.
  + Hence there is a need to regulate n manage traditional PRACRICES IN MEDICINE while taking into consideration the beliefs and traditions of communities.
  + These range from an absence of regulation to highly structured regulation like that applied to pharmaceuticals.
  + Common characteristics if these regulations include:
    - DATA EXCLUSIVITY
      * TMK holders are required to submit information to regulatory agencies for marketing approval, they should be aware that data will be kept confidential.
    - Region based regulation.
      * There are different regulations for North American, European, Indian, and Chinese Communities
  + One such regulation is TM/CAM strategy of WHO which will be discussed later in this presentation.