

THE IORA RCSTT'S COORDINATION CENTRE ON MEDICINAL PLANTS

On February 24, 2018, the IORA RCSTT signed a MOU with the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow (CSIR-CIMAP) for establishment of a Coordinating Center focused on promoting scientific and technical cooperation and collaboration in specialized fields of Medicinal Plants.

The MOU was signed in the presence of IORA Secretary General H.E. Dr. Nokwe and the high rank delegations from Iran and India Ministry of External Affairs. The draft of signed MOU had been discussed and endorsed by the 19th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) held in Durban on 16-17 October 2017.

The idea for establishing this Coordination Centre had been gradually formed in the previous conferences and meetings around the subject; medicinal plants in the IORA region. To mention a few, the followings could be referred:

I. THE REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETING ON "HERBAL MEDICINE PROCESSING" JUNE 19-21, 2010 - TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Co-organized by :

- Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST)
- Iran Ministry of Industry , Mine and Trade

Participating Countries:

Iran, China, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and four other countries from non-IOR members; Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam, and Hungary

Summary of Declaration

-The programme helped the IOR-ARC Member States and other developing countries in formulating their plans to ensure continued cooperation for herbal medicine related technology development, transfer, productions and commercialization throughout the region.

-The participants in the Expert Meeting recommended that:

- ✓ The WHO Traditional Medicines Division may extensively support and participate in such programme activities in the region, including provide umbrella support for establishing regional "Trade Mark" for Traditional Medicines and common quality control system.
- ✓ A research study to be carried out at regional level to investigate the status of herbal medicine technology to find out the modality of regional cooperation;
- ✓ It is necessary to support the establishment of IOR-ARC RCSTT regional institution of Medicinal Plants;
- ✓ It is necessary to support the continued experts meeting programme;
- ✓ This event should be held annually, each time hosted by one country which is voluntarily selected in the previous meeting with Islamic Republic of Iran as the biannual host;
- ✓ It is necessary to support holding continued herbal medicine exhibitions;
- ✓ The participants recommended that the next activity of parts a. and b. in year 2011 could be hosted by India (CSIR and I-TECH programme) through joint effort with IOR-ARC.RCSTT.
- ✓ The participants resolved to support networking among IORA Member States and other developing countries on traditional medicine entitled "IORTMNET" (standing for Indian Ocean Rim Traditional Medicine Network).

II. “THE FIRST MEETING OF MEDICINAL PLANTS FOCAL POINTS OF IORA RCSTT CUM EXHIBITION”, SALALAH – SULTANATE OF OMAN, 23-25 JUNE, 2014

Co-organizers

- The Oman Animal and Plant Genetic Resources Center of the Sultanate of Oman (OAPGRC)
- Dhofar University
- Oman Research Council

Participating Countries

Egypt, India, Iran, Malaysia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Oman.

Summary of Declaration

- ✓ The participants expressed their support to improve and reinforce IORA Medicinal Plants Network (IORAMPNet) intensively;

- ✓ The participants proposed an Ad Hoc committee on Standards and Standardization for medicinal plants and herbal medicine to be established.
- ✓ The participant from Thailand proposed to invite the attendees of this meeting for participation in the similar program in Thailand, July, 2014.
- ✓ Dhofar University, Salalah, Oman proposed to start collaboration with CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow, India, for development of a research/academic program for characterization and conservation of the biodiversity of medicinal plants in Dhofar region of Oman.
- ✓ It was recommended to conduct cooperative and joint activities in applied research, technology transfer and commercialization such as holding technology exhibitions, conference/training programs, technology transfer activities and developing a regional vision for technology development and commercialization;
- ✓ The delegations requested the respective governments of the member states support their focal points of Medicinal Plants to attend all the activities of IORARCSTT annually and that the required permission to be provided to them to attend such programs.

III. THE SECOND MEETING OF MEDICINAL PLANTS FOCAL POINTS OF IORA RCSTT CUM EXHIBITION, 18 – 19 MARCH 2015 , LUCKNOW – INDIA

Co-Organizers

- Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR – CIMAP)
- The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

Participating Countries

Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sultanate of Oman, Tanzania, and Thailand; and IORA private sector from India and Iran;

Major Outcomes

- ✓ Harmonization of regulations for quality control and trade among the member countries, for the purpose of international consumption of products.

- ✓ Sharing knowledge, know-how, services, facilities through regular interactions, visits, technology transfer, etc.
- ✓ It has also agreed upon by the participants that each Member State may identify at least 10 medicinal plants of economic and medicinal importance of human / veterinary usage and work out the above parameters for them for exchange of information and benefit for the whole region.

IV. THE THIRD MEETING OF MEDICINAL PLANTS FOCAL POINTS OF IORA RCSTT, May 10 – 12, 2017, Jakarta, Indonesia

Organizers

The National Agency of Drug and Food Control (BPOM), Indonesia
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia
And supported by IORA Secretariat

Participating Countries:

Member States: India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand,

Dialogue Partner: China

Summary of Declaration

The participants recommended to:

- Promote capacity building on medicinal plants products development in IORA MemberStates, including the establishment of a Center of Excellence in Traditional Medicine;
- encourage exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices between IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners;
- promote exchange of researchers in the field of medicinal plants research in IORA Members States;
- encourage Member States in developing policy frameworks and regulation on traditional medicine in IORA Member States;
- promote synergism between academician, business and government;

- encourage the establishment of a consortium to assist and monitor the implementation of collaboration between academicians, business and government;
- promote research and development, as well as innovation on medicinal plants in IORA Member States;
- explore the establishment of experts groups on medicinal plants in IORA Member States to be recommended to IORA relevant meeting;
- explore the development of minimum standards on quality, safety and efficacy of medicinal plants and its related products for the Indian Ocean Region;
- explore collaboration with relevant international organizations including World Health Organization (WHO);

V. Training Programme on “Diversity, documentation, Gene banking and Database for Medicinal Plants” for IORA Member Countries, November 25 to December 01, 2018 , Lucknow - India

Organizers

RCSTT Coordination Centre on Medicinal Plants,
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research- Central Institute
of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP)
Ministry of External Affairs, India

Participating Countries

Bangladesh, India, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique,
Oman, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Thailand

Major Outcomes

- Sensitizing each Member State to build a database on medicinal plant diversity of their own country,
- It is expected that minimum quality and safety standards for plant materials and their products would be evolved to facilitate uninterrupted trade across IORA member states.
- It is also envisaged that this initial effort would promote the uninhibited exchange of herbal material and products between all member countries of the IORA region.
- It is expected that the knowledge and skills acquired from this workshop are adequate and will enable the representative of different IORA member states to initiate the activities successfully as per objective of this network group.

- The vision of “IORA coordination centre on medicinal plants” and weeklong interaction and discussion will be first step in disseminating knowledge of the myriad use and benefits of medicinal plants among the IORA member states, but also be mutually beneficial in commercializing our available resources optimally and collectively exchange herbal products with “IORA” tags in the near future.

Some important observations and future plan of action was also laid down to define the activities of “IORA-RCSTT Coordination Centre on Medicinal Plants” functioning at CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow.

- In global perspective, the activities of this coordination centre has a vital role to play in realizing our common vision for the smooth business and trade of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge based medicines within the IORA region. This will be a win-win situation for all the member states.
- This IORA Coordination Centre is expected to develop a database on Medicinal Plant, Experts, Institutes, Business houses, Products and regulatory regimes.
- All member states and dialogue partners will contribute for the development of the comprehensive database to be maintained at the centre.
- Digital knowledge on medicinal plant resources, expertise collectively by and for the member States will be a future reference for trade and business in the IORA region.
- The Centre may facilitate the training of personnel from member countries as per specific requests.
- The Centre may also coordinate training programme in Member countries and depute experts as per need.
- The Centre is also expected to coordinate flow of knowledge and technology from one member to other.