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2011 Tokyo Declaration on Japanese Acupuncture

— Toward Better Healthcare in Japan and the World in the 21st Century —

June 19, 2011

Preface

The Tokyo Declaration on Japanese Acupuncture was adopted after due deliberation of the 60th Annual Congress of the Japan Society of Acupuncture and Moxibustion and the 39th Congress of the Japan Traditional Acupuncture and Moxibustion Society, both held on June 19, 2011, under the theme, “Wisdom of Japanese Acupuncture and Moxibustion Concerning the Mind and Body.” The congresses were sponsored by the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare; the Japan Medical Association; the Foundation for Training and Licensure Examination in Anma-Massage-Acupressure, Acupuncture, and Moxibustion; the Japan Acupuncture and Moxibustion Association; Zen Nihon Shinkyu Massage-shi Kai; the Japan College Association of Oriental Medicine; the Japan Society for Oriental Medicine; the National Association of Presidents of Schools for the Visually Impaired; the Japan Association of Massage & Acupuncture Teachers; the All Nippon Hospital Physical Therapy Association; the Japanese Society of Oriental Physiotherapy; the Japanese Society of Ryodoraku Medicine, and the Japan Conference of Clinical Acupuncture Moxibustion.

The Declaration was prepared by the Drafting Committee of the Tokyo Declaration on Japanese Acupuncture composed of twenty Japanese scientists in related fields. The committee's deliberations began in early 2010, and in order to collect public comments, the first draft was published on the website of the Japan Society of Acupuncture and Moxibustion in May 2011. The second draft prepared by the Drafting Committee was presented at the above-mentioned congresses.

The Declaration was addressed to national governments of the world, related associations and academic societies, and the general public, and it presents the current distinctive characteristics of Japanese acupuncture and moxibustion based on their historical backgrounds. It aims to promote the further advancement of acupuncture and moxibustion as component of medicine (and healthcare) in the world.

Proposals

The historical background and current social status of Japanese acupuncture and moxibustion were analyzed prior to preparing this Declaration. The great significance of this Declaration will be recognized by promoting an understanding of the characteristics and future issues of Japanese acupuncture and moxibustion among professionals in acupuncture and moxibustion medicine, and in healthcare and healthcare administration. We hope that such an understanding would influence the development of acupuncture and moxibustion throughout the world in the future.

We hereby declare the following:

- 1. We shall extensively publish new findings in acupuncture and moxibustion to the medical community and the general public for further comprehension and appraisal of acupuncture and moxibustion.**
- 2. We shall design a study, design capable of demonstrating the clinical significance of acupuncture and moxibustion, in order to contribute to the advancement of worldwide research on the clinical efficacy and safety of acupuncture and moxibustion.**
- 3. We shall secure the appropriate position of acupuncture and moxibustion in the Japanese healthcare system.**

4. We shall promote understanding of acupuncture and moxibustion as part of Japan's precious cultural heritage and familiarize the public with the therapy.
5. We shall facilitate exchanges among the acupuncture and moxibustion communities of Japan and other countries, respect their characteristics, deepen each other's understandings of acupuncture and moxibustion, and endeavor to maintain the inherit diversity of acupuncture and moxibustion practices globally.
6. We shall take a holistic approach in offering acupuncture and moxibustion therapy, thereby further contributing to the maintenance and improvement of health as well as to the prevention and treatment of disease.

Contents of the Tokyo Declaration shall be subject to change over time because acupuncture and moxibustion shall continue to develop and evolve in the future.