



To whom it may concern
The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Government of Japan
Japan

21 February 2010

Re: The Recognition and Regulation of Homeopathy Practitioners in Japan

Dear Sir or Madame

I am writing to you on behalf of ICH, the international council that represents 33 national associations of the homeopathy profession worldwide, to recommend that your Government makes the decision to recognise professional homeopathic practitioners who have undertaken a full and appropriate education in homeopathy as a discrete clinical discipline.

In 1993 the British Medical Association in a landmark report on Complementary Medicine defined homeopathy as a 'discrete clinical discipline' i.e. a healthcare discipline with its own clearly defined theoretical and methodological approach to the maintenance of health and the treatment of ill-health in patients. Over recent decades in response to patient need there has emerged around the world a new and distinct homeopathy profession that is now united under the International Council for Homeopathy. We are very pleased that the homeopathy profession has emerged and is growing in Japan, bringing the benefits of homeopathic treatment to increasing numbers of Japanese citizens.

In this regard we are particularly impressed that the Japanese member association of our international council, the Japanese Homeopathic Medical Association (JPHMA) has made great progress in establishing the basis for a fully competent, safe and effective profession of homeopaths in Japan. Such professions are already established in countries such as Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia as well as some 25 countries in Europe where associations are united under our sister organisation the European Central Council of Homeopaths.

As in nearly all these countries homeopathy is also practised by small numbers of medical doctors who do postgraduate training in homeopathy. Together, both homeopathic doctors and practitioners of homeopathy offer greater choice for patients, particularly for the treatment of chronic disease in which homeopathy has much to offer both as a complement and at times as an alternative to conventional treatment.

The key to patient safety and patient benefit is the effective and appropriate regulation of healthcare practitioners. In this respect we are very happy to offer our knowledge and experience of effective regulation of homeopaths in countries where the homeopathy profession is established and would be very happy to advise yourselves and the JPHMA on how to take this matter forward for the benefit of the Japanese people.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Gordon
ICH General Secretary

Address: School House, Market Place, Kenninghall, Norfolk, NR16 2AH United Kingdom
Tel/Fax: 0044 1953 888163 Email: ecch@gn.apc.org Web: www.homeopathy-ich.org

