



To  
Her Excellency Smt. Prathibhadevi Singh Patil  
President of India  
President House  
New Delhi

New Delhi, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**Sub: Submissions for Development of Homeopathy and International Co-Operation**

Her Excellency, the President of India,

Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis is extremely thankful to Her Excellency for making the time to meet us in person. It is indeed a privilege that we shall cherish for a long time. We take this opportunity to provide an overview to Hon'ble President about the current status of homeopathy in the world, with India as a key player, and also to bring to her kind notice the recommendations of the four-day Congress, which can help to further promote homeopathy for public health in India and abroad.

**What is the LMHI?**

Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (LMHI), established in Rotterdam in 1925 according to Swiss Law, represents homeopathic physicians in more than 70 countries around the world. The purposes of the LMHI are the following: The development and the securing of homeopathy worldwide; the creation of a link among licensed homeopaths with medical diplomas and among societies and persons who are interested in homeopathy. The association is exclusively devoted to non-profit activities serving philanthropic benefits.

**LMHI Congress**

In the past, the LMHI has had the pleasure of organizing three Congresses in India, in the years 1967, 1977 and 1995. LMHI organized its 66<sup>th</sup> Congress in Delhi from 1-4<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Over 2000 delegates attended the Congress, of which about 180 were foreign delegates from France, Germany, Mexico, UK, USA, Brazil, Greece, Italy, Malaysia, South Africa, Austria, Belgium, Russia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and many others. Over 300 research papers were presented concerning various conditions such as public health, education policies for homeopathy, stories of clinical success, fundamental research in homeopathy, research on conditions such as diabetes mellitus, tuberculosis etc. a new avenues for homeopathy such as veterinary homeopathy and dental homeopathy.

Had it not been for the united efforts of various homeopathic associations including the following: the 'Homoeopathic Medical Association of India', the 'Indian Institute of Homoeopathic Physicians' and the 'Asian Homeopathic Medical League' and various educational institutions of India, the Congress could not have reached the level of success it has achieved. It was delightful to see these associations collaborating with one another, resulting in an outstanding display of teamwork, and it conveyed a strong message to the world about unity in India when it comes to the execution of a great task. The theme of the congress was 'Homeopathy for Public Health' and the deliberations of the congress served to promote learning about and to create awareness of homeopathy, and threw light on the ways with which it can make a difference in the public health scenario in a changing world. The congress also helped the delegates to understand the paramount role of India in the increasing worldwide interest in homeopathy. Homeopathy is becoming more popular because of its attributes which include safety, cost effectiveness and freedom from side effects. Recent research findings in both basic science and randomised controlled trials have added to the growing evidence for homeopathic medicine.



### **Medical Pluralism**

India is a model for the world in medical pluralism. There is no other country where medical pluralism is institutionalised to the extent it is in India. This is due to its core element of 'unity in diversity' that is expressed in the delivery of medical health care with AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) systems having been integrated into the mainstream of primary healthcare services. The abundant support from both the central and state governments has encouraged development of these systems, and today, in India, patients have the freedom to choose from among a range of healing systems, a system which they think will suit them best. India has been exemplary in promoting this integration of various medical systems and bringing them to the public. Today, with the rising interest in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in the world, other countries look forward to replicating this Indian healthcare model for the benefit of people around the world.

### **Homeopathic Education**

Since 2008 the LIGA, in concert with the ECH (European Committee on Homeopathy), has promulgated a document entitled 'Medical Homeopathic Education Standards' which has been accepted internationally.

The Liga also acknowledges the fact that the homeopathic educational structure in India is regulated by the government of India through its statutory body, The Central Council of Homeopathy. The council designs the curriculum and issues licenses to the colleges and to the graduating doctors according to certain regulatory parameters. Indian students enjoy a university level of education in homeopathy and are recognized as doctors by the state and/or central boards of homeopathic medicine on completion of the 5 ½ years required to achieve a bachelor in homeopathic medicine and surgery (BHMS) and can proceed to further postgraduate study of 3 years duration.

We would like to encourage the adoption and the recognition of high standard educational programs, such as the two mentioned above, throughout the world.

### **Homeopathic Research**

The government of India has provided great support for homeopathic research. The Central Council for Research in Homeopathy at the central level and Delhi Homeopathy Anusandhan Parashid at the state level, are two distinct levels of active government interest in homeopathic research. The research about various clinical conditions such as subclinical thyroid problems in school children, the role of homeopathy in epidemics such as chikungunya, dengue, etc. and other research that aims to benefit the masses in the long run are being carried out with the support of the respective governments at central and state levels.

Besides, it was heartening to learn that the government of India also provides funds to the private and governmental research bodies under its Extra Mural Research (EMR), which is a unique means of encouraging researchers to continue working in this field. However, to make this research available at a universal level and more accepted by the international community, India needs to collaborate with international research bodies of homeopathy such as the International Scientific Committee for Homeopathic Investigations (ISCHI), the European Committee of Homeopathy (ECH), the Robert Bosch Foundation, Germany; the Samueli Institute, USA and LMHI working groups. In addition, LMHI would like to collaborate with reputable Indian research bodies such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), etc. for diverse, fundamental homeopathic research.

LMHI has also designed a clinical verification programme for revalidating the efficacy of old homeopathic medicines. The programme has been designed, after vigorous discussions, by experts and is internationally acclaimed for the verification purpose. LMHI requests her highness to consider adopting such programmes in this country where there are so many homeopaths who can meaningfully



contribute to this work. A high-standard programme for homeopathic drug proving has been designed and this could also be useful to adopt in India, paying attention also to the special Indian materia medica.

### **Public Health Initiatives**

#### **a) Tele-Homeopathy**

Another unique method of promoting homeopathy in the areas where it is non-existent is through tele-homeopathy. Parts of the world where it is not possible to teach homeopathy or offer the services of trained homeopaths should not remain deprived of this gentle method of treatment due to the lack of availability. In these cases homeopathy can be taught to homeopathic enthusiasts electronically. Homeopathic doctors can also offer online consultations and prescribe medicines to patients with illnesses which are not life threatening. Since India has a prospering IT-industry and has a huge number of qualified homeopathic doctors they can be engaged to provide these services to the underserved parts of the world. This noble venture can be made a reality with the kind support of the government of India.

#### **b) Public – Private Partnership**

Homeopathy is an ideal situation for the implementation of the public-private partnership (PPP) model. With about 85% of Indian homeopathic doctors being in private practice, these can be engaged by the government in various NGOs and charitable organizations to utilise their potential for a faster and more effective outreach to the masses. Even global NGOs will be happy to support these efforts for reaching out to the underprivileged.

#### **c) National Campaigns**

We have learned that the government of India launched a national campaign on homeopathy for 'Healthy Mother and Happy Child' a three-tier programme that is spread across the country. This campaign, we are delighted to know, has been a tremendous success in reaching the most remote villages of India and making mothers of all sections of society healthier, and the children happier. Similar campaigns should be instituted for other health problems e.g. infectious and chronic diseases, where homeopathy has been shown clinically to be effective and helpful.

The world has recently faced a large number of epidemics and it is a constant challenge to check the spread of epidemics. Initial scientific research clearly suggests the efficacy of homeopathy in treating and controlling epidemics and homeopaths in India and around the world, with the support of the government, are keen to collaborate in work on this important topic.

### **Drug Safety and Control**

We have also come to understand that the government of India has been giving due consideration to the quality control of homeopathic drugs being prepared in India, and has released nine volumes of the *Homeopathic Pharmacopeia of India* (HPI), with 1024 drugs. HPI prescribes the methods of various stages involved in drug preparation, standardization and quality control. Similarly other places like Europe and USA have a long tradition in publishing officially recognized pharmacopeias. Efforts should be made on an international level to standardise the preparation methods of homeopathic drugs irrespective of country. To achieve this a joint working committee needs to be founded, which through meaningful dialogue and discussion, can help prepare a standard homeopathic pharmacopeia for the entire homeopathic drug industry.

On 17 February 2010, WHO published a document on safety issues in the preparation of homeopathic medicines which is part of the implementation of both the WHO Traditional Medicines Strategy and WHO Medicines Strategy. The document strives to provide guidance to member states on technical aspects of the production and manufacture of homeopathic medicines that potentially have implications on their safety. This is of relevance for establishing national quality standards and the



specifications for homeopathic medicines, as well as for controlling their quality. WHO has published Drug Safety Regulations for homeopathic drugs. It is understood that the important document “Homeopathy: overview and analysis of clinical research” is pending with WHO for approval and publication. It is important for homeopathy to be fully recognized by WHO. This requires political support from the democratic governments where homeopathy is being used by the masses. We call upon her highness to support such efforts of LMHI at all fora, including WHO. LMHI will be more than willing to assist the government in this regard.

### **Future Outlook**

LMHI strives to promote homeopathy in all parts of the world. Since India is a country that has been able to establish this system well and is reaping its benefits by incorporating the system into national healthcare design, the government of India is requested to help LMHI promote homeopathy in other countries, by utilizing its friendly ties with other countries to convince their governments to make use of this model in their healthcare systems.

Lastly, all the homeopathic associations in India, who are now working together to come even closer by coming under one broad umbrella of the Indian Chapter of LMHI, wish to thank you again for blessing us with this opportunity for being heard. India is at present a homeopathic hub with the highest number of homeopathic colleges, doctors, hospitals and followers in the world. With the continued support of the government of India it will soon be a much sought after leader in the homeopathic world.

Yours sincerely

Dr. José Matuk  
President  
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