A proposal for a new field of technical activity shall be submitted to the Central Secretariat, which will assign it a reference number and process the proposal in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives (part 1, subclause 1.5). The proposer may be a member body of ISO, a technical committee or subcommittee, the Technical Management Board or a General Assembly committee, the Secretary-General, a body responsible for managing a certification system operating under the auspices of ISO, or another international organization with national body membership. Guidelines for proposing and justifying a new field of technical activity are given in the ISO/IEC Directives (part 1, annex Q).

**The proposal** (to be completed by the proposer)

**Subject** (the subject shall be described unambiguously and as concisely as possible)

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)

**Scope** (the scope shall define precisely the limits of the proposed new field of activity and shall begin with "Standardization of ..." or "Standardization in the field of ...")

Standardization in the field of TCM, in terms of basis, application, administration and the related technical fields, such as terminology, diagnosis and treatment methods, manipulation standards, training standards, quality standards of appliance and equipment, and production and usage standards of Chinese herbal medicines and their test methods, etc..

**Purpose and justification** (the justification shall endeavour to assess the economic and social advantages which would result from the adoption of International Standards in the proposed new field)

The purpose of the proposed standardization is to set up the international standard system of TCM, including basic standards like terminology, standards of quality control and test methods of Chinese herbal medicines, manipulation standards, diagnosis and treatment methods, education and training standards, safety standards of service, service procedure and quality control standards, quality standards of appliance and equipment.

TCM is a medical science created by Chinese people in the duration of thousands of years. It is an excellent representative of world traditional medicines with unique theory and systematic diagnosis and treatment methods. Its concept of diseases causes and treatment is in tune with the changes of health idea and medical mode in modern times. The effect of its medication with Chinese herbs and non-medication with acupuncture and Tuina-massage is especially good. The development of TCM has far-reaching influence on traditional medicine of many countries in the world.

Firstly, it provides the reference for setting up and developing the traditional medicine system of many countries.

Secondly, it brings attention and development to traditional medicine worldwide.

Thirdly, it becomes an important medical resource for people’s health, for it is the most influential traditional medicine with largest number of population benefited.

Fourthly, it becomes an important exploring means to treat very difficult diseases as well as drug-induced or iatrogenic diseases.

Fifthly, as a low cost medicine, it can help solve the problem of quick growth of medicine expense faced by all countries, safeguarding the health right of people, especially poor people.

Sixthly, it becomes a promising field for the research of life sciences, and helps promote scientific progress and technological innovation.

Along with understanding getting deeper and deeper, the demand for TCM by the world people increases unceasingly. It has disseminated to more than 160 countries and areas. More than 130 countries and areas have established the organizations of TCM. Nearly 1/3 of the world population have accepted the TCM service.
TCM grows rapidly in the world, but without the international standard it will be very difficult to safeguard the safety and service quality of the customers. Many countries demand for the legislation on TCM, but they are lacking in essential techniques. Trades relating to TCM have developed globally, but without international standard it will be impossible to guarantee trade fairness and efficiency. The absence of international standard becomes a bottle-neck for the development of TCM. At the same time, it is the cause of unreasonable and inaccurate application and usage of TCM, weakening its unique effect and bringing about potential medical risks. As an international standard organization, ISO should establish Technical Committee of TCM to meet the needs of internationalization of TCM.

The advantages of establishment of TCM Technical Committee include:
(1). To safeguard TCM service to be safer and more effective;
(2). To promote TCM wide spreading, exchange and practice;
(3). To be helpful for speeding up the realization of legal management of TCM in many countries;
(4). To contribute to a fair competition and sound development of international TCM market;
(5). To share the progress of TCM in the skill, management and service.

The opportunity to establish TCM Technical Committee has been already mature:
(1). The TCM science is highly mature. With thousands of years of clinical practice, it has made great contributions to the health of human;
(2). China has already developed more than 10 national standards of TCM covering terminology of basic theory, clinical diagnosis and treatment, as well as classification of diseases, etc.;
(3). There are already many TCM organizations throughout the world, and more and more people are working with TCM; and
(4). The demand for international standard is increasing, and the internationalization of TCM calls for international standardization of TCM.

The international standardization of TCM needs to have a long-term development project, a scientific standard system and a considerable amount of high grade international standards, but also high efficient working organization of international standardization. The present situation is that there is no ISO Technical Committee dealing with Chinese medicine. The shortage of international standards and the formidable work of standardization are calling urgently ISO for establishing the special Technical Committee of TCM to work on it.

Programme of work (list of principal questions which the proposer wishes to be included within the limits given in the proposed scope, indicating what aspects of the subject should be dealt with, e.g. terminology, test methods, dimensions and tolerances, performance requirements, technical specifications, etc.)

TCM Technical Committee is mainly responsible for making TCM development plan of international standardization, building up the international standard system, developing and revising the international standard. To work on:

Basic standards like terminology of TCM;
Standards of quality control and test methods of Chinese herbal medicines;
Manipulation standards, diagnosis and treatment methods of TCM;
Education and training standards of TCM;
Safety standards of service of TCM;
Service procedure and quality control standards of TCM; and
Quality standards of appliance and equipment.

After establishment, the TCM Technical Committee will complete the following standards in two years:
Terminology of TCM;
Terminology of Chinese herbal medicines;
Nomenclature and locations of acupuncture points;
Nomenclature and locations of auricular points;
Standardized manipulations of moxibustion;
Standardized manipulations of scalp acupuncture;
Standard of acupuncture needles.

Note: The above plan will be modified in the implementation according to the actual need.
Survey of similar work undertaken in other bodies (relevant documents to be considered: national standards or other normative documents)


China national standard:
Clinic terminology of traditional Chinese medical diagnosis and treatment,
Nomenclature and locations of Acupuncture points,
Acupuncture needles,
Nomenclature and location of auricular points,
Standardized manipulations of acupuncture and moxibustion part 1 moxibustion,
Standardized manipulations of acupuncture and moxibustion part 2 scalp acupuncture,
Standardized manipulations of acupuncture and moxibustion part 3 ear acupuncture,
Standardized manipulations of acupuncture and moxibustion part 4 three-edged needle,
Standardized manipulations of acupuncture and moxibustion Part 5 Cupping therapy,
Standardized manipulations of acupuncture and moxibustion part 6 point injection,
Standardized manipulations of acupuncture and moxibustion part 7 skin needle,
Standardized manipulations of acupuncture and moxibustion part 8 intradermal needle,
Standardized manipulations of acupuncture and moxibustion part 9 acupoint paste,
Standardized manipulations of acupuncture and moxibustion part10 thread-embedding therapy, and so on.

Japan standard: JIS T 9301: 2005
Note: WHO has made some international standards of traditional Chinese medicine, but very few, far from satisfying the development of internationalization of traditional Chinese medicine.

Liaison organizations (list of organizations or external or internal bodies with which cooperation and liaison should be established)

Liaison should be established with ISO/TC210 dealing with medical devices used in TCM and ISO/TC215 dealing with health informatics used in TCM.

International organizations:
WHO (World Health Organization)
IHTSDO (International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation)
WFCMS (World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies)
WFAS (World Federation of Acupuncture and Moxibustion Societies)

Other comments (if any)
China is willing to and has ability to undertake the secretariat work of TCM Technical Committee.

Signature of the proposer ZHANG Lin

Comments of the Secretary-General (to be completed by the Central Secretariat)

Signature