

Editorial

Notification of Suspension of Publication of KAIM

The global spread of Oriental medicine, which began after President Nixon's visit to China in 1972, gathered strength and led to movements in various countries throughout the 1990s and 2000s to institutionalize Oriental medicine, either within or separate from their existing medical care systems, against the backdrop of conditions under which the Western countries groped for policies that might break the impasse in increasingly serious health issues and Western medicine in advanced countries, particularly in the U.S. It was the People's Republic of China, however, that pushed the global diffusion of Oriental medicine as a national policy, and as a result, Oriental medicine spread to and institutionalized in many countries around the world, where it is now regarded as Traditional Chinese Medicine.

However, countries and regions other than China, including Japan, the Korean peninsula and Vietnam, also have over 1,000 years of history using Oriental medicine, and throughout their own histories each country has made unique developments that have contributed to the maintenance and promotion of the health of its people. In Japan, over 80% of western medical doctors now uses decoction, known as "Kampo", in clinical practice, and acupuncture and moxibustion is performed as a clinical treatment that takes advantage of both modern and classical medicine theories. In addition, there are researchers who study Kampo medicine and acupuncture-moxibustion professionally from the standpoints of classical and modern medicine, respectively, and extensive excellent research has been reported. The characteristics possessed by the decoction and acupuncture-moxibustion that have become so widely used in those countries was not known, however, including even in Japan, a situation that continues in no small way even today.

Concerned about this situation, we began publishing *The Journal of Kampo Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine (KAIM)* in 2005 with the goal of telling the world about Japanese Kampo and Japanese acupuncture-moxibustion, to inform the world of the existence of Oriental medicine used broadly in Japan, which differs from Traditional Chinese Medicine, and explain the nature of Kampo to the world.

KAIM has been edited and printed in Japan, and published in the U.S. by International Institute of Health and Human Services, Berkeley. Each year we have held several editorial meetings, and over the years published 52 issues in 13 volumes, along with special feature editions on acupuncture-moxibustion and Kampo medicine.

Because of various circumstances, however, we will cease publication with this issue.

Although the extent to which we achieved our intended objectives might remain unknown, we believe we have been able to enlighten the world about the existence and characteristics of Japanese Kampo and acupuncture-moxibustion. Although our magazine has always been a work in progress, we hope that after we have ceased publication a new magazine that will continue the purposes of this publication will arise. We also hope that parties concerned with oriental medicine will be even more active in contributing articles to magazines published in Europe and America, and Asia. There are many people in Japan devoted to Oriental medicine, and we believe – and hope – these individuals will pick up the baton and carry this work forward.

In closing, we wish to thank the many doctors and acupuncturists, pharmacists who have written for us, and all of the people who worked so closely with us for the publication of this magazine, over the past 13 years.

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