

## **First Sino-Pak Acupuncture Training Course Inaugurated in Islamabad, Pakistan**

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the opening ceremony of the Acupuncture Training Course, jointly organized by Health Services Academy(HSA), Islamabad, Gansu University of Chinese Medicine(GUCM), and the China Acupuncture Center(CAC), was successfully held at the workshop hall of HSA, Islamabad. The event was attended by Prof.Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, vice chancellor of HSA, Prof. Dr.Ramesh Kumar, Head of Department Public Health, HSA, Mr. Nadeem Sajjad, Director of Quality and Enhancement Cell, HSA, key officials of GUCM, Dr. La Jielian, Head of CAC, management personnel, and teaching faculty. Representing GUCM, Prof.Dr. Liu Yongqi, Director of Postgraduate Department of TCM Education, Prof. Dr. Yao Ning, Director of International Cooperation and Exchange Department of GUCM, and Dr. Zhang joined the ceremony online. Some students from the training course also participated in the event.

Prof.Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan expressed his joy for the successful commencement of the first acupuncture training course after meticulous planning and preparation, marking a significant milestone in HSA's development. He emphasized the importance of comprehensive cooperation between HSA and GUCM in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

He also called for strengthening the exchange and cooperation between schools. In addition to the training program, the academy is willing to conduct in-depth research on Chinese patent medicine and other aspects, exploring the path of Traditional Chinese Medicine development together with our partners.

Prof. Dr. Liu Yongqi said that all the participants in this session of training course are local doctors and medical students, the enthusiasm has deeply moved us. He encouraged them to cherish this valuable learning opportunity, engage in profound study, and enhance their TCM skills, ultimately contributing to the well-being of the Pakistani population. He emphasized that Science knows no boundaries and can be shared with people from all countries. Dr. Liu also extended a warm invitation to the students to visit China, Gansu, and GUCM, to experience the charm of TCM and its health benefits.

Dr. La Jielian from CAC highlighted that the success of this acupuncture training course was the result of combined efforts from the leadership and teachers of

HSA and GUCM. He stressed that this course would play an essential role in promoting the development of TCM in Pakistan.

Following the inauguration, the first lecture of the training course commenced in the academy's classroom. The course curriculum was designed based on the World Health Organization's recommendations for acupuncture treatment of diseases. Expert guidance from GUCM was sought, and the studies of board of HSA approved the teaching content and methods. The instructors, experienced in teaching TCM abroad and working as TCM and Western medicine doctors, conducted classes in English, combining both TCM and Western medicine knowledge. Towards the end of the training, hands-on acupuncture treatment practice will be arranged for the students at CAC.

This training course mainly caters to healthcare professionals, traditional medicine doctors, and physiotherapists working in the Pakistani medical industry. It has laid a solid foundation for further development of TCM training and education in Pakistan and holds significant importance for comprehensive and deepened collaboration in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the future.

HSA, directly affiliated with the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination of Pakistan, is an institution providing in-service training for the health department and is a higher education institution in the field of public health in Pakistan. The academy maintains good relations and cooperation with numerous technical and academic institutions within Pakistan and internationally, training professionals and technical personnel for public health in Pakistan and neighboring regions. GUCM is a strong university with extensive experience in promoting the development of TCM overseas. CAC, with over 30 years of history in Pakistan, was previously affiliated with the Gansu Provincial Health and Family Planning Commission and Gansu Provincial Hospital of TCM, and was designated as the "Pakistan Qihuang TCM Center." It enjoys a good reputation in Pakistan and has conducted comparative studies on the efficacy of TCM and Western treatments. The trilateral cooperation will undoubtedly promote the development of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Pakistan.