

# WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE (WATMCEC)



## OFFICIAL LAUNCH

**OUR PARTNERS FOR WATMCEC**





### **DR. LINDUAN HAO**

ACUPUNCTURIST, 14TH BATCH OF CHINESE  
MEDICAL TEAM TO GHANA

### **DR ANASTASIA YI RENKYI**

DIRECTOR, TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE  
MEDICINE DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF HEALTH





**PROF. SAMUEL ATO DUNCAN**  
PRESIDENT, GHAFTRAM

**OKOGYE ABIBIDURO NANA KWADWO OBIRI**  
GENERAL SECRETARY, GHAFTRAM

**DAVID TAI**  
CHIEF DIRECTOR, HCOWA ASSOCIATION

# Event Introduction

**O**n Friday, June 27, 2025, a groundbreaking chapter was written in the history of West African healthcare with the official launch of the **West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Centre (WATMCEC)**. Hosted by the Health Community of West Africa Association (HCOWAA) and held at the prestigious West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement at the University of Ghana, Legon, the event stood under the powerful theme: **“Traditional Medicine, Modern Impact: A West African Collaboration.”**

The occasion marked more than a ceremonial milestone—it was a strong declaration of intent, a call for unity, and a bold step toward reimagining the future of healthcare on the continent through the lens of traditional medicine.

This commemorative publication has been specially curated to reflect the essence, energy, and inspiration that defined the inauguration of WATMCEC. It offers not only a recap of the proceedings but a deeper look into the vision, voices, and values that make this initiative a vital force for the future of medicine in the region.

The event brought together a powerful assembly of stakeholders: traditional healers, health policymakers, researchers, academics, innovators, and international collaborators, all unified by one common goal—to elevate and integrate traditional medicine into mainstream healthcare through research, certification, and collaboration.

The voice of HCOWAA’s Vice President, **Mr. Prince Opoku Dogbey**, resonated clearly when he said, “Africa is rising—and with it, so must our systems of healing.” He emphasized that **WATMCEC** will serve not just as a research think tank, but as a functional centre for action—providing academic training, clinical documentation of herbal remedies, practitioner certification, and the establishment of a scientific advisory board to guide its agenda.

Speakers from across sectors echoed the same urgency. **Dr. Anastasia Yirenkyi**, Director for Traditional and Alternative Medicine at Ghana’s Ministry of Health, challenged all stakeholders to move beyond rhetoric and pursue tangible outcomes: “We must build enduring networks, deliver measurable results, and move from ideas to implementation.”

This edition captures her passion and the call to transform potential into progress. International voices, such as **Dr. Linduan Hao**, from the Chinese Medical Team to Ghana, reminded attendees of the immense value in cross-cultural exchange.

His message reinforced the idea that Ghana’s traditional medicine has global significance, but that realizing its full potential requires rigorous research and global partnerships. Meanwhile, leading figures such as **Prof. Samuel Ato Duncan, Dr. Ohene Kwabena Safo, Dr. Yakubu Yusuf Tubor, Prof. Kofi Busia, and Prof. Dr. Raphael Nyarkotey Obu** each highlighted various elements critical to this transformation—unity, technology, innovation, and education.

This publication provides readers with detailed coverage of the event—from keynote speeches and expert interviews to visual highlights and signed Memoranda of Understanding that formalized the commitment of all parties involved. These pages serve as a source of information, but also of inspiration, showing what is possible when tradition meets science, and when knowledge is not just preserved, but shared and refined.



**WATMCEC** is more than a centre—it is a movement. It stands as a symbol of hope, healing, and heritage, ready to drive lasting change in how West Africa views, values, and utilizes its indigenous knowledge systems. By offering a formal platform for training, research, and exchange, WATMCEC aims to uplift traditional medicine beyond borders, bringing it into dialogue with modern innovation for the benefit of current and future generations.

As you turn each page, we invite you to not only reflect on the milestones achieved during this historic inauguration, but to join the journey ahead. The future of healthcare in West Africa lies in our ability to harmonize the wisdom of our ancestors with the tools of modern science. This is the mission of WATMCEC, and this edition is just the beginning.

Welcome to a new era of collaboration, credibility, and community in West African traditional medicine.







# SECTION



(SPEECHES)



## A SPEECH DELIVERED BY PRINCE OPOAKU DOGBO, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE (WATMCEC), AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE CENTRE IN GHANA, WACCI CONFERENCE

### PRINCE OPOKU DOGBO

today as the Vice President of the West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Centre (WATMCEC), to officially welcome you to this historic launch. It is a great honour and privilege to stand before you today as Vice President of the West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Centre (WATMCEC), on the occasion of this historic official launch.

Today marks not just the unveiling of a Centre — but the beginning of a movement. A movement that seeks to bridge centuries of ancestral wisdom with modern scientific innovation. A movement that sees traditional medicine not as an alternative, but as a complementary, credible, and indispensable component of Africa's healthcare future.

We are truly honoured by the presence of key leaders and experts — from government agencies, research institutions, herbal industries, and regional associations — whose commitment has made this day possible. I salute the visionary leadership of Prof. Samuel Ato Duncan, the President of GHAFTRAM, and our Executive Chairpersons — Dr. Anastasia Yirenkyi of Ghana and Dr. Linduan Hao of China — for their relentless work toward this shared dream.

#### Why WATMCEC, and Why Now?

Africa is rising — and with it, so must our systems of healing. WATMCEC is a response to the urgent need for collaboration, certification, scientific research, and international visibility for traditional medicine in West Africa. This Centre is positioned to be the hub for academic research, capacity building, policy dialogue, and cross-border partnerships in traditional and herbal medicine across the sub-region.

I am excited to see Your Excellencies, our respected Nananom, Distinguished Traditional Medicine Practitioners, and Respected Scholars and Researchers.

I acknowledge the presence of Prof. Samuel Ato Duncan, President of GHAFTRAM and Chairman of this initiative; Dr. Anastasia Yirenkyi, Director of the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Directorate, Ministry of Health, and Executive Chairperson, Ghana Chapter; Dr. Linduan Hao, Executive Chairman, China Chapter; Dr. (MH) Yakubu Tobor Yusuf, Vice Chairman in charge of Traditional and Alternative Medicine and Registrar, TMPC; Dr. (Med) Ohene Kwabena Safo, General Manager of Kantanka Pharmaceuticals and Herbal Research Centre and Academic Advisor; Mr. David Tai, Development Consultant; Dr. Zhong Zhi Guo, Director, Research & Development; Dr. Huang Zehui, Director, International Traditional Medicine Collaboration; Dr. Wu Yusi, Director, Cross-Border Training and Practitioner Certification; Dr. Huang Yijun, Director, Community Health & Traditional Wellness Advocacy; Prof. Dr. (Nat) Raphael Nyarkotey Obu, Esq, Director, Traditional and Alternative Medicine; Dr. (MH) Sandra Ashong, General Secretary; Okogye Abibiduro Nana Kwadwo Obiri and Dr. Albert Arthur, Board Executives.

Good morning, it is with deep humility and a strong sense of purpose that I stand before you



**PRINCE OPOKU DOGBEY, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE (WATMCEC), WILL SPEAK AT THE CENTRE ON 27TH JUNE 2025 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA HALL.**

**KEY**

We aim to create a centralised platform that will:

- Foster academic exchange and scientific research between Ghana, China, and West African nations
- Develop standardised education and training programs for traditional medicine practitioners
- Provide certification pathways and regulatory frameworks that protect both the healer and the healed
- Strengthen the commercial value and safety of herbal products through quality assurance
- And ensure that our rich cultural heritage is preserved, respected, and modernized for generations to come.

#### **Areas of Strategic Focus**

Let me highlight a few of our key focus areas as we move forward:

**Academic Collaboration & Innovation** – Joint research projects, publications, and innovation labs with Chinese and West African universities to document and validate indigenous healing knowledge.

**Capacity Building** – Launch of training and certification programmes for herbalists, midwives, and wellness practitioners — ensuring that traditional medicine meets global health standards.

**Policy Integration** – Working closely with Ministries of Health across the region to include traditional medicine in national health policies and insurance frameworks.

**Commercial Empowerment** – Supporting herbal entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and SMEs through market access, branding, and export facilitation.

**Cultural and Scientific Harmony** – Balancing ancestral practice with evidence-based approaches, ensuring the sustainability of our traditional systems in a modern

world.

**International Partnerships** – Collaborating with countries like China, Thailand, and others to learn, adapt, and exchange best practices in community-based healthcare.

#### **Our Promise**

WATMCEC is not just a think-tank. It is an action centre. We pledge to bring credibility, organisation, structure, and sustainability to the traditional medicine ecosystem in West Africa. This launch is only the beginning. In the coming months, we will open up our first practitioner certification workshops, begin clinical documentation of herbal remedies, and establish a scientific advisory board to guide our research and development efforts.

#### **Appreciation**

Let me use this opportunity to thank the Health Community of West Africa (HCOWA) for anchoring this initiative with such vision and strategy. I also thank our colleagues from China — including Dr. Zhong Zhi Guo, Dr. Huang Zehui, Dr. Wu Yusi, and Dr. Huang Yijun — for their strong technical and developmental support.

To our traditional healers, herbal researchers, and wellness practitioners across Ghana and West Africa — this Centre is your home. Your knowledge matters. Your voice matters. And your contribution to healing our people cannot be overstated. Let us walk this journey together — hand in hand — as we bring traditional medicine from the margins to the mainstream.

I would like to also use this opportunity to invite you all to the 2025 China West Africa Medical Summit and Expo in Accra at the Grand Arena of the AICC from 20th to 22nd August 2025. Come and participate fully in the various seminars so we can establish connections and create lasting solutions.

Thank you, and may this launch be the seed of something transformational for all of West Africa.



**MRS. ANASTASIA YIRENKYI**

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. MRS. ANASTASIA YIRENKYI, DIRECTOR OF THE TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, ON THE THEME: "ADVANCING EVIDENCE-BASED TRADITIONAL MEDICINE THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INNOVATION," AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE (WATMCEC), HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA.**

**D**istinguished Guests, Representatives of the Health Community of West Africa, Esteemed Traditional and Medical Practitioners, Members of the Academic and Research Community, Partners from Industry and Government, The Media, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning.

It is both a great honour and a deep privilege to address you this morning as we gather for the official launch of the West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Centre, a timely and strategic initiative that holds immense promise for the future of health and wellness in our sub-region.

On behalf of the Government of Ghana, the Ministry of Health, and in my capacity as Director for Traditional and Alternative Medicine, I extend a warm welcome to each of

you. Your presence here today is not only a symbol of your commitment to the cause of African Traditional Medicine, but a testament to the spirit of regional collaboration, innovation, and shared progress that binds us all.

We gather at a pivotal moment. Across the globe, there is growing recognition that indigenous knowledge systems particularly in healthcare are not relics of the past but vital, living traditions that offer complementary solutions to modern medical challenges. However, to fully realise this potential, we must move from rhetoric to rigor, from promise to practice, from words into action.

The establishment of this Centre under the umbrella of the Health Community of West Africa Association (HCOWAA) is a bold step in that direction. It is envisioned as a dynamic platform to:



- Facilitate cooperation among traditional healers, researchers, academics, policymakers, and health professionals
- Advance ethical standards, research, and education in traditional medicine
- Promote policies that elevate the role of indigenous health systems
- And safeguard our cultural and medicinal heritage for generations to come.

Indeed, this Centre provides a rare opportunity to consolidate our efforts to create a shared ecosystem of knowledge and practice that connects diverse healing traditions, promotes evidence-based validation, and strengthens regional resilience.

We have already witnessed what collaboration can achieve. From the integration of AI in medical diagnostics to the streamlining of cross-border pharmaceutical supply chains, HCOWAA and its partners including the Ghana Health Service, Pharmacy Council, and Ghana Association of Medical Herbalists, among others have shown what is possible when diverse actors come together in pursuit of a common vision.

We must apply the same urgency and unity to traditional medicine. Our healers and herbalists have long carried

the wisdom of our communities. Now, we must surround them with rigorous scientific support, ethical frameworks, and institutional respect, enabling their work to thrive alongside conventional systems not in opposition, but in harmony.

Let us also acknowledge the critical role of research institutions and academic bodies. The validation of indigenous medicines requires robust clinical and pharmacological inquiry. It requires investment in data, laboratories, and fieldwork. And it requires mutual respect between scientists and traditional practitioners, recognizing that both offer valuable contributions to human health.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Today's launch must be more than ceremonial. It must signal our collective resolve to transform intent into impact. Let us use this Centre not only to convene—but to co-create. Let us build networks that endure beyond conferences, projects that deliver measurable results, and partnerships that are anchored in shared accountability.

As Chairperson of this event, I urge every institution represented here—whether public or private, national or regional—to seize this opportunity. Let us commit to deepening our collaborations, amplifying our innovations, and most importantly, moving from ideas to implementation.

In conclusion, I congratulate the Health Community of West Africa Association, the Centre's founding partners, and all contributors to this initiative. May this Centre grow into a beacon of knowledge, healing, and progress—not only for West Africa, but for the entire world.

I thank you for your kind attention, and I look forward to the fruitful deliberations and partnerships that this day will inspire.

Thank you, and may the work we begin today endure for generations.

God bless Traditional Medicine  
God bless our homeland Ghana.





## **DR. LINDUAN HAO**

**ACUPUNCTURIST WITH THE 14TH BATCH  
OF THE CHINESE MEDICAL TEAM TO GHANA**



## **SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. LINDUAN HAO, ACUPUNCTURIST WITH THE 14TH BATCH OF THE CHINESE MEDICAL TEAM TO GHANA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE (WATMCEC), HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA.**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning, everyone! I am Hao Lindan, the Executive Chairman of the West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and exchange Centre. Today, we gather here to witness this milestone moment.

Relevant data indicates that traditional medicine holds an important position in West Africa, with about 30% of the population relying on herbal treatments. According to WHO statistics in Ghana, traditional medicine covers more than 80% of the patient population, with 70% of these patients fully relying on traditional medicine, especially in impoverished and remote areas. Ghana's traditional medicine has a long history; it is the crystallization of the wisdom of the Ghanaian people and a precious treasure for meeting health challenges.

However, in modern society, traditional medicine faces many difficulties, such as a lack of systematic research and promotion and insufficient exchange with other medical systems. The establishment of our Centre is precisely to address these issues.

We are committed to building an open and inclusive platform to facilitate the exchange and cooperation of traditional medicine among various countries. Here, we aim to:

1. Promote the mutual learning and cross-fertilization between traditional Chinese medicine techniques, such as acupuncture and herbal medicine and African traditional medicine

2. Develop a catalog of Chinese herbal medicine and Ghanaian herbal medicine, promote the cultivation of these herbs in Ghana and potentially across West Africa, and boost the international trade of the herbal medicine market

3. Introduce artificial intelligence technology to enhance medical efficiency, strengthen disease control, and advance the practice of traditional medicine;

4. Actively promote the modernization of traditional medicine research, verify its efficacy through scientific methods, and elevate its status within the modern healthcare system.

At the same time, we will carry out training programs for practitioners of traditional medicine to improve their professional standards and service capabilities. We believe that traditional medicine has unique advantages in prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, and can provide people with more comprehensive and personalized health services.

As a member of the 14th China Medical Team to Ghana, I am very much looking forward to working with all of you in the coming days to jointly promote the development of traditional medicine, allowing it to shine with renewed brilliance in this new era, and to make a greater contribution to the health cause in West Africa.

Thank you all!





## PROFESSOR SAMUEL ATO DUNCAN

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR SAMUEL ATO DUNCAN, PRESIDENT OF GHAFTRAM AND FOUNDER & CEO OF COA RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURING CO. LTD, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE (WATMCEC), HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA**

**M**adam Chairperson, Dr. Mrs. Anastasia Yirenkyi, The President of Health Community of West Africa Association, representative of the Minister of Health, distinguished invited guests, esteemed colleagues, traditional medicine practitioners, distinguished members of the Media,

I am privileged to deliver this address as the President of Ghana Federation of Traditional Medicine Practitioners associations, GHAFTRAM.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the significance of traditional Medicine in every human society cannot be overemphasized. It is a vital part of our cultural heritage and plays a crucial role in our healthcare systems. Let us explore some of the key aspects:

1. Cultural Heritage: Traditional medicine embodies West Africa's rich cultural legacy, reflecting ancestral wisdom.

2. Holistic Approach: Traditional medicine's holistic approach to health considers physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being.

3. Accessibility: Traditional medicine provides accessible and affordable healthcare, especially in rural areas.

4. Diverse Plant-Based Remedies: Traditional medicine utilizes diverse plant-based remedies, many with proven therapeutic value.

5. Preventive Focus: Traditional medicine often emphasizes prevention, promoting healthy lifestyles and disease prevention.

6. Community-Based: Traditional medicine is deeply rooted in community practices, fostering social connections and support.

7. Preservation of Traditional Knowledge: Traditional medicine preserves ancient knowledge, passed down through generations.



## MODERN IMPACT

As traditional medicine continues to evolve, its impact on modern healthcare systems is becoming increasingly evident. Some of the key areas where traditional medicine is making a difference include:

1. **Integration:** Traditional medicine complements conventional medicine, enhancing patient care.
2. **Innovative Research:** Scientific research validates traditional medicine's efficacy, paving the way for new treatments.
3. **Economic Opportunities:** Traditional medicine generates income and creates jobs.
4. **Global Recognition:** Growing global recognition of traditional medicine's value in healthcare systems.
5. **New Product Development:** Traditional medicine inspires new product development, such as herbal supplements and cosmetics.
6. **Tourism and Cultural Exchange:** Traditional medicine attracts tourism and cultural exchange, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
7. **Evidence-Based Practice:** Increasing emphasis on evidence-based practice, ensuring safety and efficacy

## WEST AFRICAN COOPERATION

Collaboration and cooperation are essential for the growth and development of traditional medicine in West Africa. By working together, we can achieve the following:

1. **Knowledge Sharing:** Collaboration facilitates knowledge sharing, best practices, and research findings.
2. **Standardization:** Cooperation ensures standardized practices, promoting safety and efficacy.
3. **Capacity Building:** Joint training programs enhance traditional medicine practitioners' expertise and skills.
4. **Resource Mobilization:** Collective efforts can mobilize resources, attracting funding and support.
5. **Policy Harmonization:** Cooperation can lead to harmonized policies, promoting a conducive environment.
6. **Regional Research Initiatives:** Joint research initiatives can drive innovation and discovery.

## CALL TO ACTION

As we move forward, it is essential that we work together to harness the full potential of traditional medicine. I call upon all stakeholders to join forces in:

1. **Advance Research and Innovation:** Support scientific research and innovation in traditional medicine.
2. **Promote Standardization and Quality Control:** Establish

standardized practices and quality control measures.

3. **Foster Global Partnerships:** Collaborates with international organizations and governments to promote traditional medicine.
4. **Empower Communities:** Support community-based initiatives and capacity-building programs.
5. **Protect Intellectual Property:** Safeguard traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights.
6. **Promote Public Awareness:** Raise public awareness about traditional medicine's benefits and potential. Together, we can unlock the full potential of traditional medicine to improve healthcare outcomes, promote economic growth, and preserve our rich cultural heritage.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, traditional medicine holds immense potential for improving healthcare outcomes, promoting economic growth, and preserving cultural heritage. As we move forward, let us work together to harness this potential, driven by our shared vision of a healthier, more prosperous world. May this gathering serve as a catalyst for meaningful action, and may we emerge stronger, more united, and more determined to unlock the full potential of traditional medicine for the benefit of humanity. Thank you and may God bless us all.







HCOWA  
ASSOCIATION

Health



**DR. YAKUBU YUSUF TOBOR**



## SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. YAKUBU YUSUF TOBOR, REGISTRAR OF THE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PRACTICE COUNCIL (TMPC), AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE (WATMCEC), ACCRA-GHANA.

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, colleagues, and friends, I am honored to stand before you today as the Registrar of the Traditional Medicine Practice Council and Vice President of the Ghana Chapter of the West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Centre.

First, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the organizers, Health Committee of the West African Project (HCOWA), for their tireless efforts in promoting traditional medicine and bringing us together today.

Today marks a significant milestone in our journey to promote traditional medicine and integrate it into mainstream healthcare. As we launch the Ghana Chapter of the West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Centre, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the safe, effective, and accessible practice of traditional medicine.

As the regulatory agency, the Traditional Medicine Practice Council assures you of our dedication to:

- Ensuring public safety through rigorous registration and licensure processes
- Fostering partnerships with stakeholders to promote collaboration and knowledge-sharing
- Engaging in constructive consultations to inform policy and decision-making
- Building capacity among practitioners through training and education
- Supporting ethical practice and promoting high standards of professionalism

Currently, we are working tirelessly to strengthen the TMPC, and I am pleased to report that we are making significant progress. We are establishing new regional and district offices to ease registration and monitoring, bringing our services closer to practitioners and the community.

I am also delighted to acknowledge the commitment of the current administration and the Honourable Minister of Health to supporting research in traditional medicine. This commitment is a testament to Ghana's leadership in integrating traditional medicine into mainstream healthcare, as recommended by the World Health Organization.

In fact, Ghana is a leading country in implementing the WHO's recommendations on traditional medicine, and we are proud to be at the forefront of this effort. Furthermore, we are pleased to note that the Honourable Minister of Education has also taken a keen interest in traditional medicine, recognizing its potential to contribute to Ghana's healthcare system and economic development. We look forward to our upcoming meeting

with the Minister to explore ways to integrate traditional medicine into the educational curriculum, promoting a new generation of practitioners and researchers.

As we move forward, we will continue to champion the interests of traditional and alternative medicine in Ghana. We will promote research, innovation, and collaboration, ensuring that traditional medicine contributes meaningfully to the country's healthcare system. We recognize the importance of embracing modern technologies to enhance our practice, research, and innovation. We will continue to explore opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing with the orthodox medical community.

I call upon all stakeholders to join us on this journey. Let us work together to promote the development of traditional medicine, ensure public safety, and contribute to the overall well-being of our communities.

Thank you once again to HCOWA for this initiative. Together, we can achieve great things.





**PROFESSOR KOFI BUSIA**

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KOFI BUSIA, PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR, PENTECOST UNIVERSITY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE (WATMCEC), HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA, ON THE THEME: "TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, MODERN IMPACT: A WEST AFRICAN COLLABORATION"**

**C**hairperson, Honourable Ministers of State, Representatives of the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service, Leaders of GHAFTRAM and GAMP, Esteemed Traditional Medicine Practitioners, Distinguished Academics, Colleagues Medical Herbalists, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am deeply honoured to stand before you this morning, representing Pentecost University and, more specifically, our flagship Doctor of Herbal Medicine Programme, at the official launch of the West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Centre—WATMCEC.

This is no ordinary gathering. It is a historic moment that brings together visionaries, scientists, academics, practitioners, policymakers, and educators from across this country and beyond—united by a common goal: to elevate traditional medicine to its rightful place in our health systems and in the hearts of our people.

Let me begin by acknowledging and commending the Health Community of West Africa (HCOWA) Association, the Ghana Federation of Traditional Medicine Practitioners Associations (GHAFTRAM), and the Ghana Alternative Medicine Practitioners Association (GAMP). Your leadership in initiating this noble endeavour is not only timely but also prophetic. You have understood what

many have ignored for far too long: that Africa's future in health lies not in imitation but in innovation grounded in our traditions.

The establishment of WATMCEC marks a bold and strategic step forward. It reflects an urgent regional imperative to consolidate and coordinate efforts in traditional medicine research, regulation, education, and application. But even more importantly, it is a statement of belief—belief in the value of our indigenous knowledge systems, belief in the power of collaboration, and belief that traditional medicine, when supported by science and protected by policy, can transform healthcare in West Africa.

At Pentecost University, this belief is foundational. When we launched the Doctor of Herbal Medicine programme—the first of its kind in the world—we did so with a clear mandate: to professionalise the practice of herbal medicine, to equip future leaders with rigorous scientific knowledge, and to build bridges between ancestral wisdom and contemporary medical science.

We were guided by a simple truth: that in health no knowledge system should be left behind. And that the leaves, roots, and barks that once healed our ancestors may yet hold the key to treating the diseases of today—and tomorrow.



Ladies and Gentlemen, WATMCEC as I understand it, is not just a centre. It is a vision manifested. It is:

- A hub for collaborative research between Ghana, China, and other West African nations.
- A platform for knowledge exchange—where practitioners and academics will meet, challenge, and inspire one another.
- A training ground—with certification programmes and academic courses to empower our traditional medicine practitioners with skills that are not only rooted in our culture but globally recognised.
- A policy engine—promoting dialogue between government, academia, and practitioners to integrate traditional medicine into mainstream health systems.
- And critically, it is a quality assurance centre—that will facilitate the commercialisation of our vast herbal resources.

This agenda resonates deeply with our mission at Pentecost University. We believe that science and tradition are not in conflict—they are complementary forces. Science asks: “Can this be measured?” Tradition answers: “It has worked for generations.” When brought together, they do not negate each other. They refine each other.

As Dr Margaret Chan, former Director General of WHO once aptly stated, “The two systems of traditional and western medicine need not clash. They can blend together in a beneficial harmony, using the best features of each.” This harmony is what we seek to cultivate, through collaboration, research, and mutual respect, so that we may offer our communities healthcare that is scientifically grounded, culturally meaningful, and universally accessible.

It is our hope that WATMCEC will enable us to move from anecdote to evidence, from informal practice to professional standards, from suspicion to legitimacy. It will help bridge the regulatory gap, and ensure that the healer in a rural village is not left behind in the global conversation on healthcare.

Let us not forget that many of today’s accepted pharmaceuticals owe their origins to traditional medicine. Quinine, once extracted from the bark of the cinchona tree to treat malaria. Digoxin, from the foxglove plant for heart conditions. And artemisinin, sourced from *Artemisia annua*—a herb used for centuries in Chinese traditional medicine—has become a frontline antimalarial. This groundbreaking discovery earned Prof Youyou Tu the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, making her the first Chinese scientist to win a Nobel in medicine and the first laureate honoured specifically for work rooted in traditional medicine. These are powerful examples of what becomes possible when traditional knowledge is respected, rigorously investigated, and scientifically refined.

Ladies and Gentlemen, here in West Africa, our pharmacopoeia is rich, diverse, and largely untapped. Our forests and savannahs are living laboratories. Our

communities—custodians of ancestral wisdom—are repositories of time-tested remedies passed down through generations. Encouragingly, some strides have been made in documenting and standardising this knowledge. Ghana has produced three editions of the Ghana Herbal Pharmacopoeia, offering a growing scientific basis for selected indigenous medicinal plants. At the regional level, two volumes of the West African Herbal Pharmacopoeia have been published under the auspices of WAHO, cataloguing priority species across the ECOWAS region. Similarly, countries like Nigeria and Côte d’Ivoire have developed national herbal pharmacopoeias to support the regulation and promotion of traditional medicine. These efforts underscore the immense potential we possess—but the work remains far from complete. We have allowed much of this heritage to languish in the shadows—under-researched, under-regulated, and underutilised. That must change. And WATMCEC is the mechanism to drive that change—to turn potential into progress, and heritage into health impact. Let me take a moment to speak to the opportunity before us:

- We have the chance to build a knowledge economy around traditional medicine—generating jobs, industries, and health solutions.
- We can reduce over-reliance on imported drugs and develop homegrown therapies for chronic conditions.
- We can support clinical validation of herbal products, guided by the same scientific rigour as allopathic medicine.
- And we can ensure safety, efficacy, and trust—so that our people feel confident using traditional medicine, not as a last resort, but as a first-line option.

At Pentecost University, we are ready. We have the academic framework. We have partnerships with health institutions, policy bodies, and regulatory authorities. Most importantly, we have the conviction that Africa must invest in its own intellectual and cultural capital.

In light of this, we wholeheartedly accept HCOWAA’s invitation to join WATMCEC, hence our participation in this official launch and commit to active engagement in its programmes and committees. We are ready to offer our faculty expertise, our students’ passion, and our institutional resources in support of this bold endeavour.

Let us build something that will outlast us. Let WATMCEC be a regional lighthouse—illuminating the path for other African regions to follow. Let us ensure that when future generations look back at this moment, they will say: Here was where the tide turned. Here was where tradition and science embraced. Here was where Africa rose.

In conclusion, I return to a simple conviction: when traditional wisdom meets modern science, humanity wins. Let this Centre stand as a testament to that principle. May it flourish as a beacon of hope, healing, and holistic health for all our peoples.

Thank you, and may this Centre be blessed in all its endeavours.



## **SPEECH DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE GHANA ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION (GAMPA) BY PROF. RAPHAEL NYARKOTÉY OBU, ESQ, PHD-GENERAL SECRETARY, GAMPA, PROFESSOR OF NATUROPATHIC HEALTHCARE, CHARTERED HEALTH ECONOMIST, CHARTERED MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT, LAWYER (THE GAMBIA BAR)**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Honorable Colleagues, Practitioners, Traditional Healers, Students, and Friends of African Medicine, It is with deep pride and humility that I stand before you today, representing the Ghana Alternative Medical Practitioners Association (GAMPA), at this momentous occasion marking the launch of the West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Center — WATMCEC.

Today, we affirm our collective heritage. We affirm that the healing knowledge of our ancestors, passed down through generations, deserves a rightful seat at the table of modern healthcare. The theme of this gathering — “Traditional Medicine, Modern Impact: A West African Collaboration” is not only timely, it is transformative.

### **1. The Struggles of Perception**

Let me begin with a personal reflection. As a trained naturopath and lawyer called to the Bar in The Gambia, I have experienced firsthand how traditional and alternative medicine is undermined in African academic and legal spaces. While at the Gambia Law School, colleagues would mock me. They called me “mallam”, teased me for supposedly “selling koko aduro” — all because they associated our profession with superstition or informality. But I never gave up. What they didn’t understand — and what many still

don’t — is that traditional and complementary medicine is not mere folklore. It is a scientifically grounded, philosophically rich, and socially indispensable system of care. What they mocked was what they failed to understand. And this misunderstanding underscores why gatherings like today’s are crucial.

### **2. Mapping the Landscape in Ghana**

Two Federations, One Vision In Ghana, our legal and institutional architecture acknowledges two distinct professional groupings within the Traditional and Complementary Medicine (TCAM) ecosystem:

1. GHAFTRAM – The Ghana Federation of Traditional Medicine Practitioners Associations, established under Act 575 of 2000, represents indigenous practitioners — herbalists, bone setters, and spiritualists — whose practices are deeply rooted in Ghanaian customs and cultural frameworks.
2. GAMPA – The Ghana Alternative Medical Practitioners Association, representing alternative and complementary medicine (CAM) practitioners such as naturopaths, homeopaths, chiropractors, acupuncturists, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) specialists, Ayurvedic doctors, yoga therapists, food supplement and nutritional medicine practitioners, and radionics experts.



These CAM modalities, though termed “alternative” in Ghana due to their foreign origins, are traditional medical systems in their own jurisdictions — legally recognized in countries such as India, China, and Germany.

**3. Regulatory Vacuum:** Legal Misinterpretation and Historical Context Under the current framework, Ghana lacks dedicated legislation for CAM practices. While Act 575 provides legal grounds for the regulation of traditional medicine, it does not extend to CAM practitioners.

Yet, several attempts were made by the previous TMPC regime to use Act 575 to regulate alternative medicine. This move was met with strong resistance from GAMP members, who saw it as a misapplication of the law. The TMPC interpreted the phrase “naturally occurring substances” in Act 575 to include CAM practitioners.

However, as a practitioner and a lawyer at the Gambia Bar — and as every law student worldwide learns — statutory interpretation must respect the spirit and letter of the law. While both traditional and alternative practitioners may use naturally occurring substances, Act 575 clearly refers to traditional medicine systems. If the drafter’s intention had been to include CAM, it would have been explicitly stated.

In fact, Ghana’s history confirms this. Two separate draft bills were prepared at the same time in 1994 for alternative medicine and traditional medicine. However, only the traditional medicine bill was passed into law in 2000 — influenced, as history tells us, by Former President Jerry John Rawlings’ personal experience at the Aponkyi Clinic, which brought traditional medicine into the spotlight.

#### 4. The Constitutional and Legal Basis for Recognition

Despite the legislative gap, our Constitution provides strong recognition for both traditional and alternative medicine:

- Article 11(2) incorporates customary law and common law as sources of law in Ghana:  
“The common law of Ghana shall comprise the rules of law generally known as the common law, the doctrines of equity and the rules of customary law including those determined by the Superior Court of Judicature.”
- Article 26(1)– (2) affirms the right to practice indigenous systems:  
(1) Every person is entitled to enjoy, practice, profess, maintain and promote any culture, language, tradition or religion subject to the Constitution.  
(2) All customary practices which dehumanize or are injurious to the physical and mental well-being of a person is prohibited.  
This means that both indigenous traditional medicine and imported CAM systems, where not injurious, are constitutionally protected and socially relevant.

#### 5. Comparative Insights from Africa

Across the continent, other countries offer lessons:

- Uganda’s Traditional and Complementary Medicine

Act (2019) allows biomedical doctors to practice TCAM, but also restricts the use of titles like “doctor” unless practitioners have undergone formal education and clinical training.

- In Southern Africa, countries like South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Eswatini has separate laws — distinguishing between traditional medicine and complementary/alternative systems, the latter regulated as associated health professions.

This separation brings clarity, ensures tailored regulation, and reflects the complexity and diversity of African healing systems.

#### 6. The Chinese Exchange and Global Partnerships

We must also acknowledge the Chinese Government’s support for TCAM development in Ghana and West Africa. Through academic and clinical exchange programs, Ghanaian practitioners will now receive TCM training in China — where traditional medicine is fully integrated into hospitals and medical schools.

These exchanges help us:

- Understand international best practices in traditional medicine regulation.
- Modernize indigenous practices without losing their identity.
- Develop research culture and product standardization.

But in embracing Chinese support, we must not lose our African medical identity. Instead, let us borrow their institutional discipline, not replace our heritage.

#### 7. The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Artificial Intelligence

As we embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution, traditional and complementary medicine cannot be left behind.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already transforming:

- Disease pattern prediction using herbal pharmacology data
- Clinical decision support systems in integrative medicine
- Digital diagnostic tools for pulse, tongue, and iris reading

If AI is the future of healthcare, then we — traditional healers, naturopaths, homeopaths — must be part of that future.

That is why I call upon all indigenous healers, across Ghana and West Africa, to:

- Upgrade their skills through short courses, diplomas, and degrees
- Participate in exchange programs, with the Chinese support
- Engage in research, contribute to documentation, and publish their results

This is not a call to abandon traditional ways. It is a call to preserve them with precision, with pride, and with proof

## 8. Recommendations

On behalf of GAMPA, we recommend the following:

1. Enact two separate laws in Ghana and across West Africa: one for traditional medicine and another for alternative and complementary medicine — as practiced in Southern African nations.

2. Establish a National CAM Council to regulate and accredit alternative medicine practitioners in Ghana with academic training.

3. Harmonize national occupational standards and training frameworks across ECOWAS to facilitate cross-border recognition and professional mobility.

4. Constitutional education and awareness for policymakers, to ensure misinterpretation of statutes such as Act 575 does not continue.

8. Conclusion: Honoring Our Torchbearers and Strengthening Regulatory Integrity Herbal medicine holds immense economic potential for Ghana's development. For instance, the COA Green Gold Project alone demonstrates the capacity to generate an estimated GHC 1,152.00 trillion annually. Just as the Ghana Gold Board has significantly shaped the nation's economic landscape, strategic government investment in the herbal medicine industry could surpass the revenue generated from both gold and cocoa.

This initiative is particularly timely, aligning with the government's manifesto commitment to advancing traditional and alternative medicine. Establishing a dedicated Herbal Medicine Board, alongside elevating the Traditional Medicine Practice Council to an authoritative regulatory body, could transform the sector—enhancing its credibility, professional recognition, and contribution to national development.

Mr. Chairman, as we stand at the crossroads of tradition and innovation, let us take a moment to honour those who have paved the way:

- Okogyé Abibiduro Nana Obiri, General Secretary of GHAFTRAM, who defended traditional medicine even under duress, in 2024 National Security detention, and who led the charge to rename the Herbal Medicine programme under the Commission for TVET from Phytomedicine to Herbal Medicine — a deliberate act to protect and uphold our indigenous medical identity.
- Dr. Albert Arthur, President of GAMPA, Ghana's first chiropractor and a father figure for alternative medicine in Ghana, whose decades of advocacy have elevated the status of complementary and alternative medicine in the country and beyond.

In my engagements across Africa — The Gambia, Senegal, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Togo — and internationally through my leadership roles in

naturopathy and law, I have come to a clear realization: institutions do not build a movement — people do.

That is why we must also speak candidly about the role of regulatory bodies. A regulator must work with stakeholders, not fight them. They must help healers and practitioners succeed, not use administrative power to undermine or destroy their livelihoods out of personal bias or political influence.

Our own Constitution speaks clearly on this. Article 23 of the 1992 Constitution states:

“Administrative bodies and administrative officials shall act fairly and reasonably and comply with the requirements imposed on them by law and by the Constitution.”

This is a constitutional obligation — not a suggestion. Regulatory councils and public officers must remember that they exist because of practitioners, not the other way around.

We must not view the current generation of well-trained, research-driven TCAM practitioners through the outdated 1960s lens of informal village healing alone. Today's practitioners are clinically trained, internationally exposed, and academically credentialed — and must be treated with the respect and support they deserve.

## Final Words

Traditional and alternative medicine are pillars of our African identity and contributors to the global health dialogue. They must be:

- Recognized legally,
- Standardized professionally,
- Scientifically validated,
- Protected constitutionally, and
- Advanced technologically.

Let WATMCEC become the seedbed of a new generation of African health thinkers, educators, innovators, and practitioners.

Let our regulators be partners, not predators.

Let our healers be protectors, not prisoners of policy.

Let the continent rise — not divided by systems, but united by strategy.

And finally, let us raise little David — strong enough to challenge Goliath.

Let us raise healers, scholars, and reformers who will stand boldly, ethically, and brilliantly — to reclaim Africa's rightful place in global health.

*Thank you.*



# SECTION



(LAUNCH OF COMMITTEE)



Prof. Samuel Ato-Duncan  
(Founder and CEO of COA  
Research and Manufacturing  
Co. Ltd.)

Dr. Yakubu Tober Yusuf  
(Registrar, Traditional  
Medicine Practice Council)

Dr. Linduan Hao  
(Deputy Chief Physician  
of Affiliated Hospital of  
Guangdong Medical University)

Dr. (Med) O.  
Kwame  
(General M  
Pharmac  
Research)

HCOWA  
ASSOCIATION

Health  
Pulse



WEST AFRICAN  
TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION  
AND EXCHANGE CENTRE (WATMCEC)





## WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE (WATMCEC)

**H** COWAA has launched a high impact initiative dubbed West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Center designed to advance the preservation, validation, and integration of African Traditional Medicine and Indigenous Healing Systems within regional and global health frameworks.

This project which was inaugurated on the 27th June 2025 at the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement, University of Ghana, under the theme; “Traditional Medicine, Modern Impact: A West African Collaboration,” signals a major step toward integrating traditional medical practices with modern healthcare systems across the region.

As a strategic arm of HCOWAA, the Committee offers a collaborative platform for traditional healers, researchers, academics, policymakers, and health professionals to share knowledge, conduct research, and influence policies aimed at strengthening indigenous healthcare systems in West Africa.

The Mission is to promote the scientific recognition, ethical practice, and institutional collaboration necessary for the sustainable development and integration of traditional medicine into national health systems across West Africa, while safeguarding cultural heritage and community health wisdom.

The Vision and Goal of WATMCEC is to emerge as West Africa’s leading authority in traditional medicine and indigenous health by fostering partnerships, enhancing clinical and academic credibility, and supporting evidence-based applications of African traditional medicine for future generations.

The West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Center is poised to play a transformative role in harmonizing ancient healing wisdom with modern medical science. Through inclusive leadership, impactful programming, and strategic partnerships, the Committee seeks to reposition traditional medicine as a recognized, respected, and regulated component of healthcare delivery in West Africa.

# LEADERSHIP OF WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE.



**PROF. SAMUEL ATO DUNCAN**  
**CHAIRMAN**



**DR ANASTASIA YIRENKYI**  
**EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON GHANA**  
**CHAPTER**



**DR. LINDUAN HAO**  
**EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN CHINA**  
**CHAPTER**



**DR. MH YAKUBU TOBOR YUSUF**  
**VICE CHAIRMAN IN CHARGE OF**  
**TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE**  
**MEDICINE**



**PRINCE OPOKU DOGBEY**  
**CHIEF DIRECTOR**



**DR(MED) OHENE KWABENA SAFO**  
**ACADEMIC ADVISOR**



# LEADERSHIP OF WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE.



**DAVID TAI**  
**DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT**



**DR. ZHONG ZHI GUO**  
**DIRECTOR, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**



**DR. HUANG ZEHUI**  
**DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE COLLABORATION**



**DR. WU YUSI**  
**DIRECTOR, CROSS-BORDER TRAINING AND PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATION**



**DR HUANG YIJUN**  
**DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY HEALTH & TRADITIONAL WELLNESS ADVOCACY**



**PROF. DR. (NAT) RAPHAEL NYARKOTEY OBU, ESQ**  
**DIRECTOR, TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE**



**DR. (MH) SANDRA ASHONG**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**



**OKOGYE ABIBIDURO NANA KWADWO OBIRI**  
**BOARD EXECUTIVE**



**DR. ALBERT ARTHUR**  
**BOARD EXECUTIVE**

# SECTION



(MOU)



# HCOWA STRENGTHENS REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS THROUGH HERBAL MEDICINE PARTNERSHIPS

In a groundbreaking push to elevate herbal and traditional medicine across West Africa, the Health Community of West Africa Association (HCOWAA) has signed a series of strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with key players in Ghana's alternative medicine landscape.

These partnerships—sealed with the Ghana Federation of Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Associations (**GHAFTRAM**), Nyarkotey University College of Holistic Medicine and Technology, and the Ghana Alternative Medical Practitioners Association (GAMPA)—aim to promote innovation, evidence-based research, and the integration of traditional medicine into mainstream healthcare systems.

At the heart of this effort is the creation of the West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Centre (WATMCEC), envisioned as a regional hub for collaboration, research, training, and cross-border knowledge exchange.

Each MoU outlines a shared commitment to blend indigenous African healing practices with modern science and technology, including the use of artificial intelligence for diagnostics and partnerships with Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) experts. HCOWA will facilitate academic exchanges, provide infrastructure support, and promote research through its media platforms like Health Pulse Magazine.



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# PROFILE

## NYARKOTEY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF HOLISTIC MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY (NUCHMT)



NYARKOTEY UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF HOLISTIC  
MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY



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MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY

Nyarkotey University College of Holistic Medicine and Technology (NUCHMT) is Ghana's premier institution dedicated to Competency-Based Training (CBT) in Naturopathy and Holistic Medicine was founded in 2016 by Dr. Raphael Nyarkotey Obu.

NUCHMT integrates African traditional healing, modern naturopathic science and biblical principles to train skilled, ethical, and innovative holistic health practitioners.

Accredited under the National TVET Qualifications Framework (NTVETQF) by the Commission for TVET, the University offers a full academic pathway from National Proficiency to Doctor of Technology (D.Tech) in Naturopathy and Holistic Health Sciences.

It is the first institution in Africa to develop National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Naturopathy, positioning Ghana as a leader in holistic health education.

As a member of the World Naturopathic Federation (WNF), Nyarkotey University College promotes research, clinical excellence and affordable education. Its vision is to transform healthcare in Ghana and Africa by producing competent, compassionate naturopaths committed to healing body, mind, and spirit.





## HCOWA AND NYARKOTEY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SIGN MOU TO ADVANCE HERBAL MEDICINE IN WEST AFRICA

The Health Community of West Africa (HCOWA) Association and the Nyarkotey University College of Holistic Medicine and Technology have officially entered into a strategic partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This agreement aims to foster collaboration in advancing herbal medicine, traditional pharmaceutical research, and holistic healthcare delivery across West Africa.

The MoU formalizes the commitment of both institutions to jointly pursue innovation, education, and integration of traditional and herbal medicine into modern healthcare systems. Recognizing the growing importance of natural and complementary treatments, the partnership seeks to promote evidence-based research, curriculum development, policy advocacy, and the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) in diagnostics.

Key areas of collaboration include joint research projects focused on herbal medicine and clinical trials, development and accreditation of herbal medicine curricula, as well as student and faculty exchange programs to facilitate knowledge sharing. The partnership also emphasizes blending Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) with indigenous Ghanaian practices, aiming to develop hybrid integrative health models tailored to regional needs.

organizing study visits and academic exchanges, particularly facilitating connections between Ghanaian practitioners and TCM experts from China. The association will also introduce AI-driven diagnostic tools to enhance treatment accuracy and will assist in strengthening the university's research infrastructure. Moreover, HCOWA will promote joint academic activities such as master classes

and seminars in collaboration with the 14th Chinese Medical Team to Ghana.

On its part, Nyarkotey University College commits to active engagement in collaborative research, facilitating workshops and academic programs, and publishing research findings through HCOWA's media platforms including Health Pulse Magazine. The university will ensure strong participation in HCOWA's events such as summits and expos to broaden market opportunities and partnerships.

The partnership also includes joint efforts to advocate for stronger legal and regulatory frameworks that support traditional medicine practice. Both parties will work toward policy initiatives that integrate holistic and herbal medicine safely and effectively into Ghana's healthcare system.

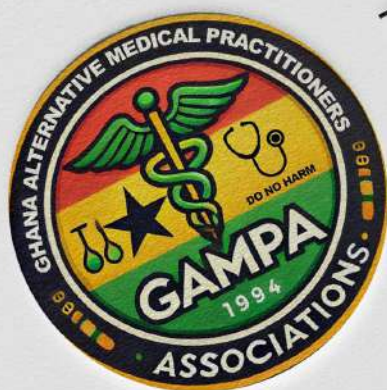
The MoU, effective indefinitely unless terminated with notice, underscores confidentiality and dispute resolution mechanisms to ensure smooth cooperation. It also provides room for amendments through mutual agreement.

This alliance between HCOWA and Nyarkotey University College represents a significant milestone in advancing holistic healthcare education, research, and practice in West Africa. By combining scientific rigor, traditional knowledge, and cutting-edge technology, the partnership aspires to enhance healthcare delivery and promote the growth of herbal medicine within and beyond Ghana.

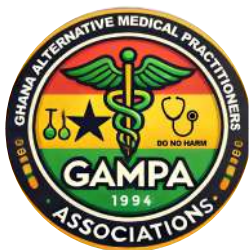
Signed by authorized representatives of both institutions, the MoU marks the beginning of a promising collaboration set to benefit practitioners, researchers, and communities across the region.

# PROFILE

## GHANA ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION (GAMPA)



The Ghana Alternative  
Medical Practitioners  
Association



The Ghana Alternative Medical Practitioners Association (GAMPA) is the official umbrella body for alternative, complementary and integrative medical practitioners in Ghana. Established in 1994 with government backing, GAMPA was created to unify various practitioner groups, promote professionalism and support the integration of natural medicine into the national healthcare system.

GAMPA's mission is to ensure safe, ethical, and effective natural health practices through regulation, education, research, and advocacy. Guided by the principle "Do No Harm," the Association sets professional standards, offers continuous training, supports scientific validation of remedies, and engages in legislative advocacy.

Through its various committees, GAMPA works closely with the Ministry of Health, the Traditional Medicine Practice Council (TMPC), and the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) to uphold quality care. It also supports practitioners with legal protection, economic empowerment, and international partnerships.

Today, GAMPA remains the leading voice for alternative medicine in Ghana, committed to advancing holistic healthcare and professional excellence.





## HCOWA AND GAMPA FORMALIZE PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE HERBAL MEDICINE IN GHANA

In order to strengthen collaborations in herbal medicine research, innovation and integration within Ghana's healthcare system, the Health Community of West Africa (HCOWA) Association and the Ghana Alternative Medical Practitioners Association (GAMPA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

This partnership aims to promote the advancement of herbal pharmaceutical products through joint research, clinical studies, and the integration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practices with indigenous Ghanaian herbal therapies. The agreement highlights the importance of combining traditional knowledge with modern technology to improve patient care.

As part of the MoU, HCOWA will facilitate academic exchanges and study tours, enabling Ghanaian practitioners to collaborate with TCM experts in China. The organization will also introduce artificial intelligence (AI)-based diagnostic tools to enhance the accuracy of herbal medicine treatments. Additionally, HCOWA commits to supporting GAMPA in research development, upgrading infrastructure, and advocating for policies that promote herbal medicine.

GAMPA will engage actively in joint research projects, host training sessions, and share updates through HCOWA's Health Pulse magazine to increase awareness of herbal medicine innovations. The association will also ensure its members participate in key events such as the annual HCOWA Medical and Health

Industry Investment Summit & Expo and the China-West Africa Expo to expand professional networks and market opportunities.

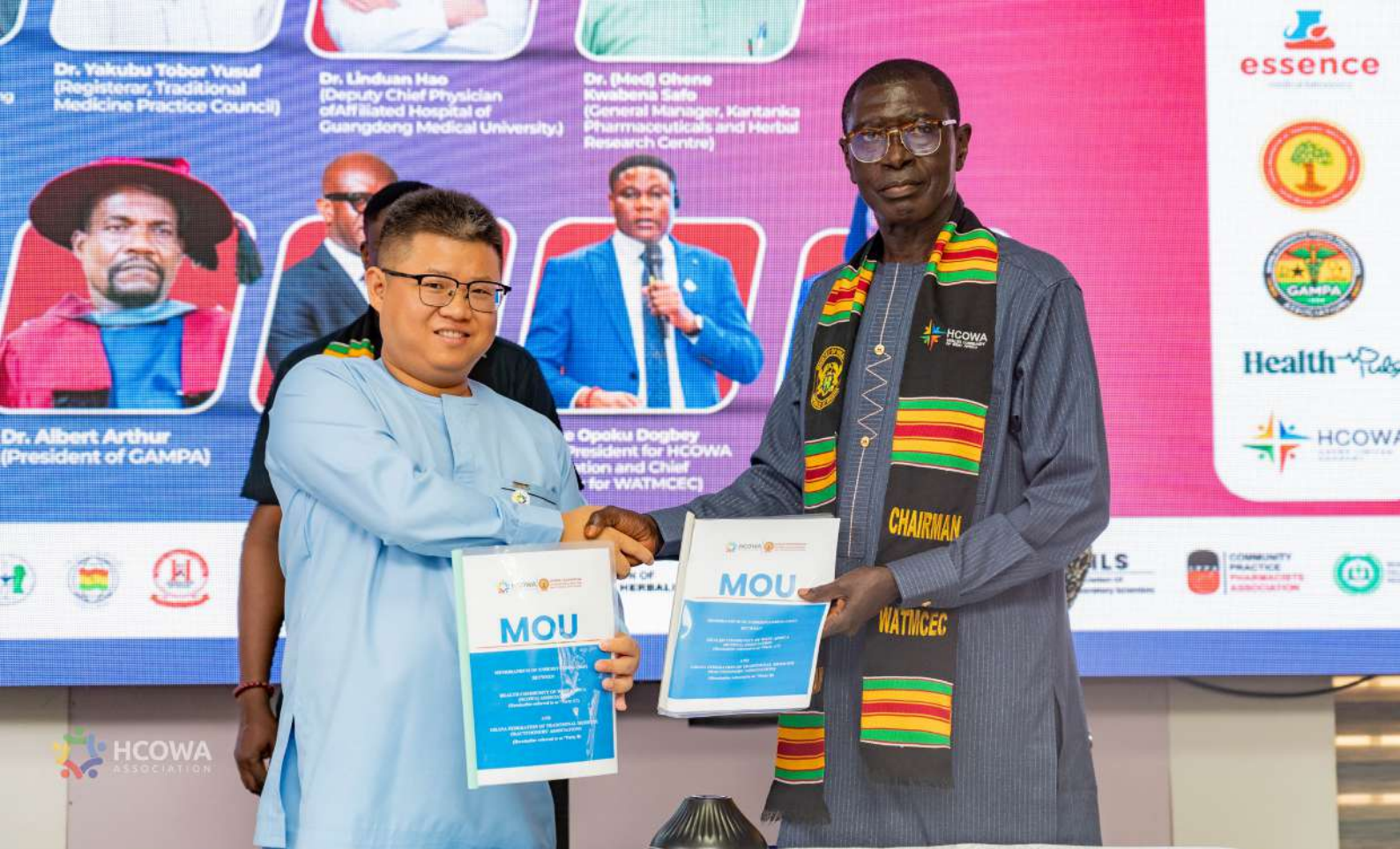
The collaboration includes the sharing of member contact information for effective communication and public health campaigns. Both parties will work toward establishing herbal medicine as a recognized and regulated part of Ghana's healthcare system.

The MoU is effective indefinitely, with provisions for confidentiality, dispute resolution, and amendments. This partnership underscores a mutual commitment to elevate the role of alternative medicine, blending scientific research and traditional practices for the benefit of healthcare delivery in Ghana and across West Africa.

The signing ceremony marks a significant milestone, signaling a united effort to enhance the quality, credibility, and accessibility of herbal medicine in the region.







## HCOWAA AND GHAFTRAM JOIN FORCES TO BOOST HERBAL MEDICINE IN GHANA AND WEST AFRICA

**T**he Health Community of West Africa Association (HCOWAA) and the Ghana Federation of Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Associations (GHAFTRAM) have signed a partnership agreement to advance herbal medicine research, integration, and policy development.

The collaboration, sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aims to bridge traditional healing practices with modern healthcare. With rising global interest in natural remedies, both organizations see an opportunity to enhance the credibility, accessibility, and effectiveness of herbal medicine in Ghana and across the region.

Under the agreement, HCOWA will lead initiatives such as academic exchanges between Ghanaian herbal practitioners and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) experts, access to AI-powered diagnostic tools, and infrastructure support for GHAFTRAM's research and training centers. These efforts are designed to bridge the gap between traditional healing and modern medical standards.

Meanwhile, GHAFTRAM, Ghana's leading federation for traditional medicine practitioners will spearhead the development of collaborative research programs,

facilitate practitioner workshops, and publish findings on herbal remedies and innovations.

A major highlight of the partnership is the creation of the West African Traditional Medicine Cooperation and Exchange Centre, a hub for research, training, and cross-border collaboration. The two groups will also push for policies that officially recognize traditional medicine within Ghana's healthcare system, ensuring safer and more standardized practices.

To boost visibility, HCOWA's Health Pulse Magazine will feature breakthroughs, expert insights, and success stories from the herbal medicine field. Additionally, joint events like the HCOWA Medical and Health Industry Investment Summit and the China-West Africa Expo will open doors for Ghanaian practitioners to connect with global partners.

This alliance signals a new chapter for traditional medicine in West Africa—one that respects its roots while embracing innovation. By combining science, technology, and ancestral knowledge, HCOWA and GHAFTRAM hope to improve healthcare options for communities and position Ghana as a leader in holistic healing.

Both organizations are optimistic that this partnership will bring tangible benefits, not just for practitioners, but for everyone seeking safe, effective, and culturally rooted healthcare solutions.



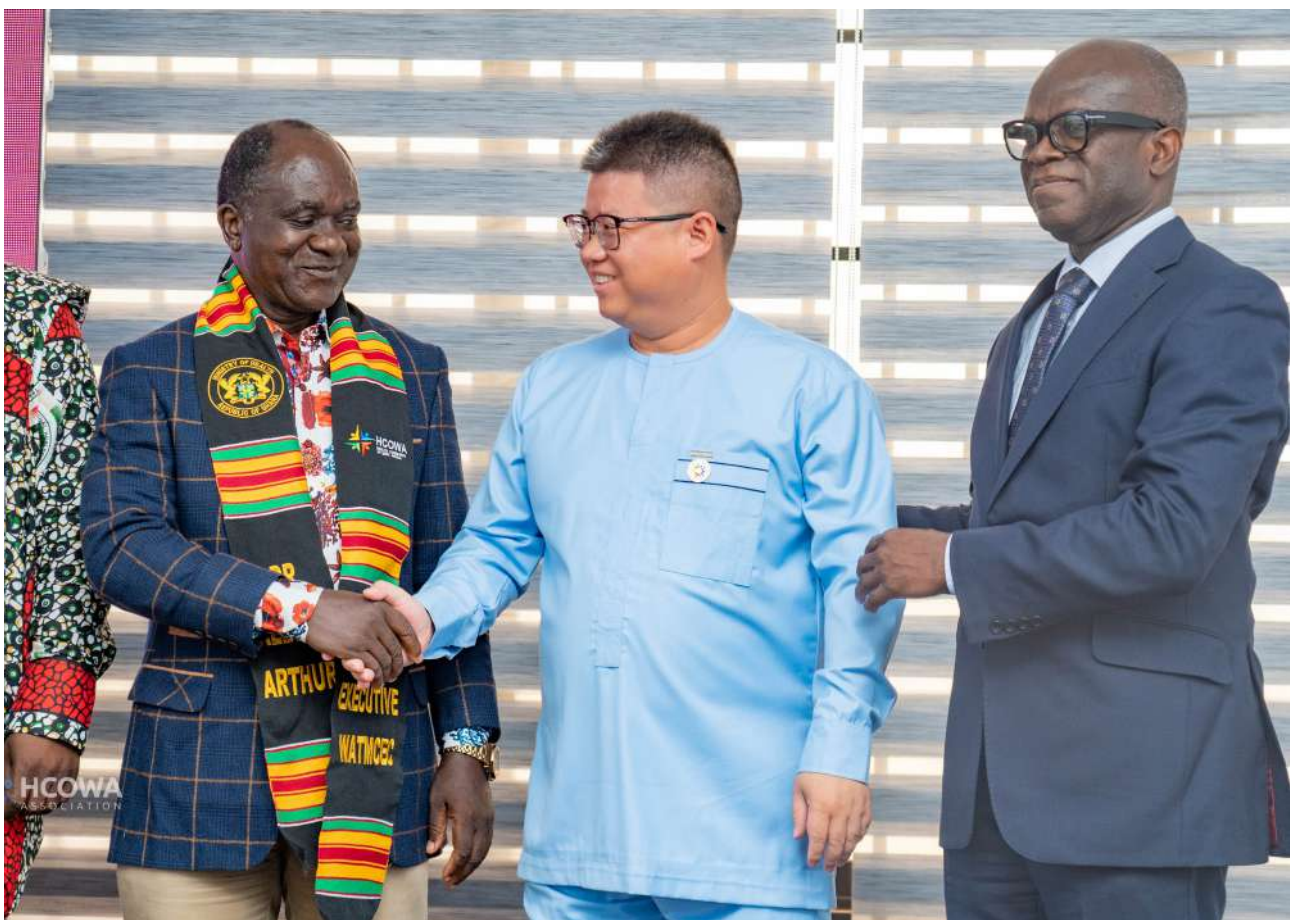
# SECTION



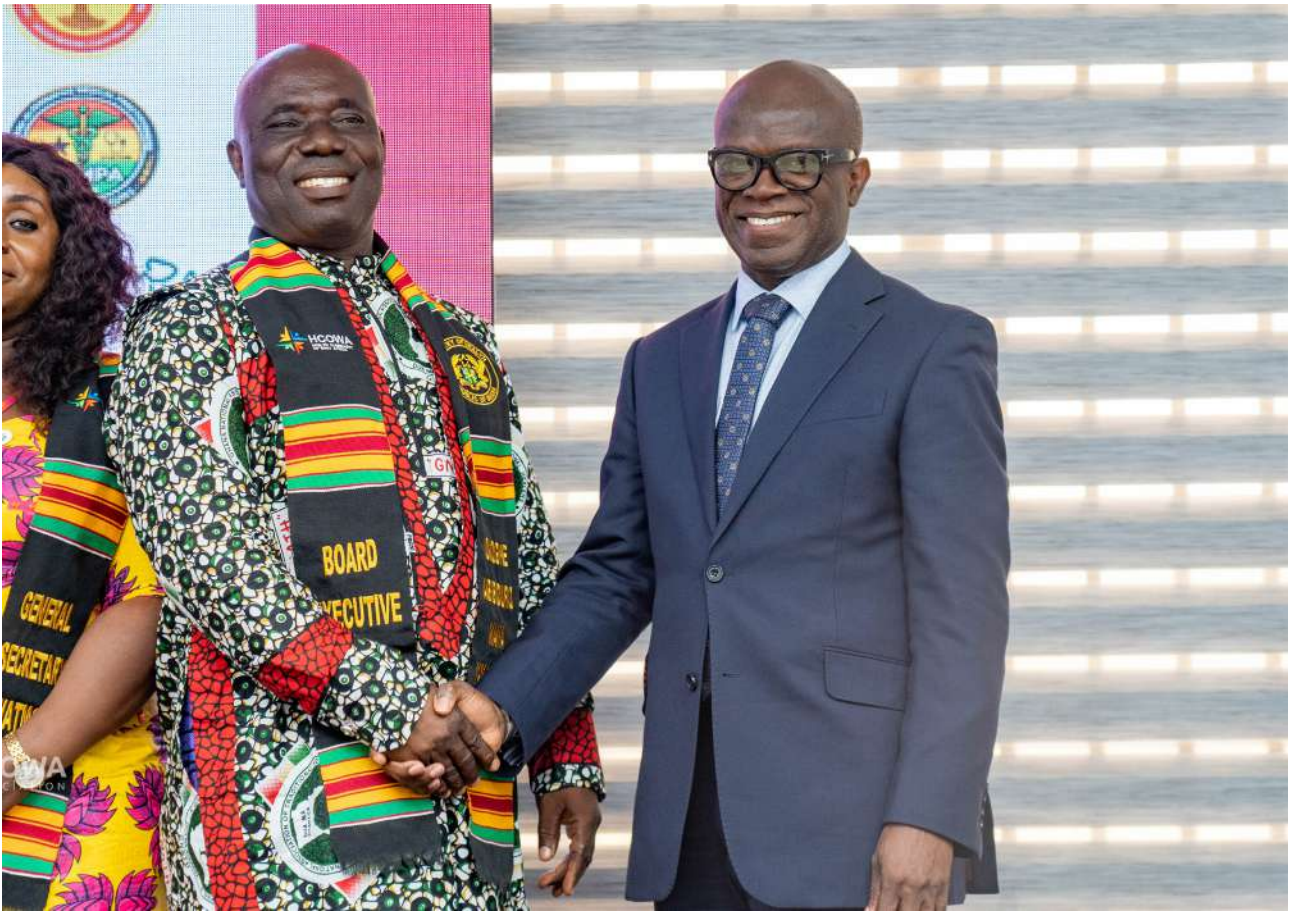
GALLERY  
WEST AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE  
COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE CENTRE































## 2025 ANNUAL WEST AFRICAN HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION EVENT SCHEDULE

No.	Event Date	Event Theme
1.	January	Promoting Regional Integration Of AI In Healthcare To Enhance Service Delivery
2.	February	Seminar on AI Diagnosis and Treatment Deployment Framework and Application Standards
3.	March	AI Diagnosis and Treatment: A Multilateral Symposium on IVD and Smart Diagnostics
4.	March	AI Diagnosis and Treatment: A Multilateral Symposium on Medical Imaging and Smart Diagnosis
5.	April	AI Diagnosis and Treatment: Seminar on the Development and Applied Medicine of Smart Chinese Medicine
6.	April	AI CDC - Seminar on National Intelligent CDC Deployment Framework and Application Standards
7.	May	AI Supply - Seminar on the Deployment Framework and Application Standards of Medical Supply Systems for Medicines, Consumables, Reagents, etc
8.	May	AI Applications — West African Hospital Needs Exchange Meeting
9.	June	West Africa Medical Mission First Study and Exchange Activities-Cheng-du Station (Tentative)



No.	Event Date	Event Theme
10.	June	West Africa Medical Delegation Preliminary Investigation and Exchange Activities-Changsha Station (Tentative) China-Africa Economic and Trade Forum - Medical Cooperation Forum
11.	July	West Africa Medical Mission Preliminary Investigation and Exchange Activities-Jilin Station (Tentative)
12.	July	The 2025 China-West Africa Medical Expo will be an online warm-up exchange meeting for enterprises and hospitals
13.	August	China-West Africa Medical Expo & AI Health In-depth Application Summit
14.	August	2025 West African Government Summit on Centralized Procurement and Project Cooperation
15.	August	The first batch of AI diagnosis and treatment pilot hospital experience exchange meeting and smart medical cooperation summit
16.	September	West African FDA Joint Access Symposium
17	October	Open Seminar on HeFRAAI Standards of Care for West African Countries
18	November	The annual summit of the Ministry of Health of West African countries on the development of artificial intelligence and health



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