

Editors' Preface

Asian countries have a long and rich history of traditional medicine. It has undergone its historical development, influenced by factors such as the culture, economy, society, ideology, and politics of each country. Since the late nineteenth century, Traditional Asian medicine has been surpassed by modern Western medicine, although traditional knowledge and techniques have survived in the lives of ordinary people. Despite criticism in some countries that it is not scientific, traditional medicine has always played an irreplaceable role. At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that the introduction of Western medicine also promoted the transformation and rapid development of traditional medicine in Asia.

Since the end of the twentieth century, traditional medicine has been attracting worldwide attention as an alternative medicine that compensates for the shortcomings of modern medicine. In particular, as interest in self-care, or the concept of taking care of one's own health, has increased, traditional medicine is increasingly attracting attention.

Furthermore, since the COVID-19 pandemic spread worldwide since late 2019, there has been a growing interest in the role that Traditional Asian medicine has played in historical epidemic outbreaks. In this special period, we are urged to pay more attention to the role of Asian medicine in today's society, as well as its development and transformation.

In this book, we explore Traditional Asian medicine from an interdisciplinary perspective in terms of the herbal market, traditional drinks, history, politics and the like in four Asian countries. The first chapter by Nara Oda explores the entangled history of the institutionalized Vietnamese traditional medicine vis-à-vis Western and Chinese medicine in the era of nation-building, with special reference

to South Vietnam (the then Republic of Vietnam). The second chapter by Kei Nagaoka explores the process of the marketization of medical plants in the Himalayas essential for Tibetan medicine, focusing on the discourses and practices of various actors in India. The third chapter by Xiang JingJing deals with the transition of medical knowledge from China to Japan, focusing on Chinese doctors' migration to Japan and the activities of Japanese doctors influenced by them in the early modern era. The fourth chapter by Dwijayanti Dinia gives a scientific analysis of the Indonesian traditional drink called "Wedang Secang," which local people have developed conflicting opinions about under the growing influence of modern medicine. These discussions show that diverse forms of Traditional Asian medicine are embedded in each local context, which cannot be captured by the dichotomies of tradition and modernity or Asian and non-Asian.

The content of this book is based on the presentations given at the 19th Asia Pacific Conference on December 4 and 5, 2021, held at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU), where we came together to discuss Traditional Asian Medicine. This was our first face-to-face meeting since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was a most monumental and memorable occasion for the editors.

We are very grateful to Dr. Nagaoka, and Dr. Dwijayanti for accepting our invitation despite their busy schedules. Their research topics and approaches have inspired the editors greatly. At the end of the conference, we had questions, answers, and discussions around each other's topics. These discussions provided us with a deeper understanding of the current state of research on Traditional Asian Medicine. We have also become more aware of the importance of exploring Traditional Asian Medicine from Asian and global perspectives, breaking through the limitations of nationalities.

The editors would like to convey our appreciation to Dr. Nobuyuki

Matsui for moderating our panel and discussion at the conference. We are also deeply appreciative of the Asia-Japan Institute for providing us with this valuable opportunity through its policy to foster a new generation of researchers. In particular, we would like to thank Prof. Yasushi Kosugi and Dr. Ayaka Kuroda for their valuable advice on the planning and selection of topics for this conference. We are also grateful beyond words for the help we received from Prof. Anthony Brewer in editing this book.

We hope that this humble work will provide a contribution to the development of research in this field. We are planning to expand our network with other researchers who are engaged in studies of Traditional Asian Medicine. Our readers' critical comments and viable suggestions will be highly appreciated.

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Jingjing XIANG
Nara ODA

Dr. Jingjing XIANG



Chapter 3: Transplanting Chinese Medicine in Early Modern Japan: Immigrant Doctors in Nagasaki and the Flourishing of a Japanese Clinic in Osaka

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Her recent research interests are the history of Japanese medicine in Early Modern Japan, including epidemics in Early Modern Japan, the intellectual network of Confucian scholars and doctors, and the history of Sino-Japanese medical exchange. She obtained a Ph.D. in Japanese History at The Graduate School of Letters, Ritsumeikan University, Japan, in 2020. She served as a Special Researcher (DC2) at the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science from 2018 to 2020. She also served as the 10th President of the Association of Thought and Culture of East Asia (Japan) from 2018 to 2019. Among her publications: “Shuan Kagawa’s Nichiyonoyaku: Focusing on Ippondoyakusen.” *History of Medicine*, vol. 112. pp. 225–239, 2020; “On Yamawaki Toyo’s Ideology of Medical Revival: A Discussion of the First Public Human Dissection in Japan and Its Impact.” *Chinese Medical Literature and Culture*. vol. 1. pp. 225–239, 2020; and *Medicine and Confucianism: A Study on Medical Cultural Exchange and Knowledge Circulation in Early Modern East Asia* (2023, Jinbun Shoin [In Japanese]).

Contributors

Dr. Nara ODA



Chapter 1: How to Make “Vietnamese Traditional Medicine” More Vietnamese?: Neglected History in the Divided Vietnam (1954–75)

Nara Oda received her Ph.D. in Area Studies at Kyoto University and is currently a Lecturer at the World Language and Society Education Centre, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan and a Visiting Researcher of the Asia-Japan Research Institute, Ritsumeikan University. She specializes in Southeast Asian studies, Vietnamese studies and the contemporary history of Vietnam with regard to medical history. She received the 12th Mishima Kaiun Academic Award (July 2023: Mishima Kaiun Memorial Foundation) by her recent work *The Making of “Traditional Medicine”: A History of Vietnam’s Medical Policies* (March 2022, Kyoto University Press [in Japanese]). Another her recent work includes “Traditional Medicine in the Mekong Region” in *From Mekong Commons to Mekong Community: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Transboundary Challenges* edited by Seiichi Igarashi (November 2021, Routledge). Recently she has become interested in the Japanese exploration of medicinal plants in the Indochina peninsula during Pacific War and historical research on medical practitioners during the Cold War in Vietnam from a gender perspective, as well as gender issues including sexual minorities.