



**Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research in
the Post-genomic Era**

GP-TCM

223154

D9.3

**Evaluation of the conference based on participants'
satisfaction**



Document description	
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Abstract	Participants of both GP-TCM Final Conference and Congress were asked to complete an evaluation sheet for both meetings. The results were very positive.
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1 GP-TCM FINAL CONFERENCES

The task for WP9 is to organise and host the final conferences, which is split up in two parts, one the final conference for the project members to finalize the conclusions of the work packages, and a second part in which the results are presented in an open meeting to the international forum.

1.1 Date of the Final Conference and the Congress

The final conference was organised in Rolduc, the Netherlands on 12th – 14th April 2012. The open conference (i.e., the GP-TCM Congress) was held in Leiden, the Netherlands on 15th – 18th April 2012. The deliverable D9.2 reports on the full details of the organization and results of both conferences.

1.2 Venue

The Final Conference was organised in Rolduc Conference Center, Kerkrade, the Netherlands. This venue was chosen as it is located close to Belgium and Germany and could easily be reached from different directions by public transportation or car (<http://www.rolduc.com/index.php?lang=en>).

We had 80 participants both beneficiaries and a number of non-beneficiaries that have been active in the work packages. All participants were provided with a grant to cover their meeting expenses. For travel costs, WP9 used the model of the COST action that set certain maxima to the costs (for details see COST web-site <http://www.cost.eu>). This worked well, and as a result WP9 Coordination Team was able to reimburse the non-beneficiaries using the same rules.

The GP-TCM Congress, which aimed to disseminate the results of the project, was organised in Leiden, in the Gorlaeus laboratories of Leiden University with some 130 participants, about 50/50 EU and Chinese scientists.

1.3 Programme

The Final Conference was originally planned to be held over 3 days. However, with hard work and good planning of the whole consortium, main results of each of the work package were published in the Journal of Ethnopharmacology (JEP) Special Issue in April 2012 prior to the Conference (Journal of Ethnopharmacology, 2012, volume 140 issue 3, page 455-642). This allowed the duration of the Conference to be reduced from 3 days to 2 days. Still there was sufficient time to discuss all work packages individually.

The GP-TCM Congress was the forum to present the results of all work packages, with some extra lectures dealing with important aspects such as systems biology. Also a discussion session with the Dutch Society against Quackery was part of the meeting. In addition, there were a number of posters and short lectures (selected by the Scientific Committee), which provided a good overview of current activities and future prospects in TCM research around the world. For further details, please refer to *D9.2 - Host of the meetings* report.

2 EVALUATION (Deliverable D9.3)

For both meetings an evaluation sheet was given to all participants, of which about 1/3 was returned. For both meetings the participants the venue and the conference itself scored quite good (most 4 and 5). A number of specific remarks are shown below. The food was in general



also scored good, but the Dutch bread lunch for some only was satisfactory. But that is inherent to a choice for a congress venue with all meals included. Concerning the content of the open meeting: that was of course very much based upon the work packages, no doubt with a general TCM congress one may make some other choices for the speakers. But in fact most participants found the program good to excellent.

2.1 Summary of the evaluation forms:

Have you been properly informed and helped (visa, hotel advise, venue map, programme etc.) via e-mail and website?

Very bad 1 2 3 4 5 very good

Final Conference: almost everybody selected very good (5)

Congress: almost everybody selected good (4) - very good (5)

The final conference/GP-TCM Congress came up to my expectations based on the information provided. If not explain why.

Totally disagree 1 2 3 4 5 totally agree

For both *Final Conference and Congress:* good (4) - very good (4)

Is there any topic you missed in the programme? Individual remarks

Final Conference

- Herbal drugs interactions
- Sustainability of TCM plants and importance in the claim of production
- How to process TCM QC
- GP-TCM, East/west medicine, 'omics'
- Herbal drugs versus Granules for prescription

Congress

- Clinical trials with TCM
- A more clear link with European regulatory aspects and legislation
- Practitioners of TCM

Is there any topic you did not like in the programme? Individual remarks

Congress

- Grants, Students should be asked to be present
- Panel discussion outcome
- Some of the presentations given by companies were too corporate style (minimal research info)
- Discussion with prof. Vermeulen and colleagues from 'antikwzakzilverij vereniging' was too provocative.
- Some presentations by companies, panel discussion about how did the concept of meridiens survive
- More discussion time between speakers and audience, panel discussion session would be good
- The 'panel discussion' between 'TCM' and anti-quakery which was a complete disaster



- More pharmacology would have been great for me personally
- Better link between quality and disease

How was the accommodation for the Final Conference?

Very bad 1 2 3 4 5 very good

For both *Final Conference and Congress*: most people selected good (4) or very good (5)

How was the venue for the GP-TCM Congress?

Very bad 1 2 3 4 5 very good

For both *Final Conference and Congress*: most people selected good (4) or very good (5)

How was the food during the meeting in Rolduc?

Very bad 1 2 3 4 5 very good

Final Conference: most people selected sufficient (3) or good (4) however a few people selected low (2) or very good (5)

How was the Conference dinner at the beach?

Very bad 1 2 3 4 5 very good

Congress: problem with this question was that the dinner was on the last evening so most people didn't know the answer at the time they were completing the evaluation form. Those who attended were very positive.

Was it easy to find a hotel in Leiden?

Very difficult 1 2 3 4 5 very easy

Congress: here the answers varied from difficult(1) to very easy(5)

Should the length of the conference/congress be:

- Shorter (2 days)*
- Be the same (3 days)*
- Longer (4 days)*
- Longer (5 days)*

For both *Final Conference and congress*: most people selected 3 days, some 2 days

What is your overall rating of the conference/congress?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent

Final Conference: 50 % good (4), 50% excellent (5)

Congress: Most people selected good (4), some excellent (5) and a few people sufficient (3)



Do you have any further comments to improve a future congress in Rolduc/Leiden?

Individual remarks

Final Conference

- The location was perfect to ensure people stayed focused. The main meeting room however got stuffy, needed aeration. Some members asked for cookies with their tea/coffee.
- Catering
- Food and hours/ schedule for lunch

Congress

- This meeting to be held in Asia, Japan or Taiwan can be better understanding of TCM in management and methods
- Better and stringent conference organisation
- Earlier release of meeting agendas, further info about local facilities attractions, social event was using for the final conference
- Separate sessions for acupuncture-related presentations and herbal products
- Presenters of posters should have been available, brief (3minutes) presentations by poster authors
- Bad lightening in the conference room (Gorlaeus), very cold on first day, disappointing lunch for Asian Guests
- Internet access (Gorlaeus)
- Two meetings in a row is difficult for agenda's
- Stricter time control of speakers

Other individual remarks:

- Very good programme, lots of topics covered
- Very good collection of topics
- Keep up the good work!
- Great organisation and execution