

## **Herbal Medicine Regulation Forum**

Hosted by ATCM, Herbal Medicine Regulation Forum was successfully held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at King's Fund in central London. ATCM sent the invitation to MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency) officers, main herbal medicine and TCM organisations, Chinese medicine wholesalers, Chinese embassy, Chinese media in the UK, mainstream media from China, several parliamentary members and lords. Over 50 guests attended the forum, including Mr Richard Woodfield from MHRA and Lord Cotter, the secretary of Parliamentary All-party China Group. The TCM/Herbal medicine sector expressed their concern over the impact of European Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive. Mr Woodfield answered some questions raised from the sector. The forum provided a platform for TCM and herbal medicine sector to dialogue with the UK authority, aiming to urge the government to maintain the livelihood of practitioners and the wholesale businesses. A consensus was reached at the forum that the No 1 priority for the sector is to continue striving for the statutory regulation of the practitioners to allow status of "authorised healthcare professionals" to us, so we should be able to use Article 5.1 of the EU Directive for commissioning of manufactured herbal products to meet patient needs. For this purpose, ATCM, RCHM, EHTPA and many wholesale companies, TCM institutions jointly signed a briefing letter to Ann Milton MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health. The letter was written by Mr Michael McIntyre the chair of EHTPA.