

The International Association
for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine



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Dear members of IASTAM, dear colleagues, dear friends,

The year is coming to an end and I would like to thank you for your interest and engagement for IASTAM in the past year. I send you warmest greetings, full of best wishes for you and your families.

This year saw very positive developments in traditional medicines, with the **World Health Organization** hosted the first **International Traditional Medicine Global Summit**, inviting representatives of medical traditions around the world (<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/08/17/default-calendar/the-first-who-traditional-medicine-global-summit>).

2023 was also an exciting year for IASTAM. **Membership fees** have been received from more than seventy people this year. These were paid into the account of the newly established legally registered association. Thus, the function of the old association (which was not officially registered) has been replaced.

IASTAM supported the **History of Medicine in South East Asia conference**

in Singapore (<https://www.ntu.edu.sg/soh/news-events/events/detail/2023/06/09/research-events/homsea-2023>) which hosted 48 scholars from 35 different universities across 12 different countries: Indonesia, China, Cambodia, Japan, Australia, Thailand, Philippines, USA, Taiwan, France, New Zealand and Singapore, who discussed the history of medicine in South East Asia. A change from previous HOMSEA meetings, which has usually focused on “Western”, “Colonial” or “Biomedicine” in SE Asia, this conference saw a large proportion of papers on traditional medical practices.

Panels ranged across the following topics: Chinese Medicine in South East Asia, Investigations of Traditional Medicine, Local Traditions, Historiographical Reflections, Psychiatry and Mental Health, Chinese Medicine in the Dutch East Indies and Indonesia, (Western) Medical Research in Southeast Asia, Local Histories of Health Care, Western Medicine Goes East, Traditional Medicine in Indonesia, Border-Crossing of Medical Traditions, and Medicine War and Social Upheaval.

Secondly, the project members of “**Comparative Guts**”, hosted at the **Excellence Cluster “Roots” at Kiel University**, in which East Asian medical perspectives play an important role, met for a **conference** at Kiel, June 7-9 - 2023, <https://comparative-guts.net/>.

Thirdly, the project members of “**Materialities of Medical Cultures in/between Europe and East Asia**” met for a **workshop**, June 10 at Kiel University, 2023 <https://www.uni-kiel.de/de/veranstaltungen/detailansicht/news/20230605-materialities-medical-culture>

In 2023 we were moreover busy with preparation issues for the **upcoming ICTAM conference** to be held in **Taipei in June 20-24, 2024** <https://ictam-ashm.com/>

ICTAM X had to be postponed twice because of the pandemic. But now, we are looking forward to our in-person conference in Taipei. **ICTAM X will be a joint congress of IASTAM & ASHM (Asian Society for the History of Medicine)**. Both, IASTAM & ASHM in 2024 celebrate their 10th conference. It is entitled “Challenges to Asian Medicines: Drawing a Big Picture”.

By November 30th 296 papers have been proposed. There will be four roundtables and 19 panels. Regional traditions include China, Taiwan, Korea, India, Tibet, Malaysia, Mongolia, Indonesia, Manchu, Japan, Bhutan, promising

a dynamic exchange, and showcasing the state of research on traditional medicines today.

Please be reminded to **renew your membership due to the conference in Taipei, June 20-24, 2024**: <https://ictam-ashm.com/>

Looking forward to meet up with most of you in Taipei!

Last but not least, I extend to you all Seasons Greetings and hope you will enjoy a well-earned break and happy times!

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelika Messner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angelika Messner
President, IASTAM