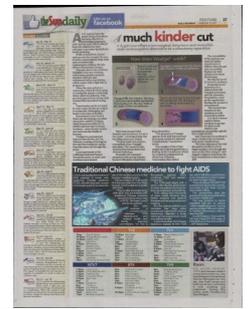


Headline	Traditional Chinese medicine to fight AIDS		
MediaTitle	The Sun		
Date	10 Feb 2017	Color	Full Color
Section	Entertainment	Circulation	306,000
Page No	27	Readership	918,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	164 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 4,209
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 12,627



## Traditional Chinese medicine to fight AIDS

CHINA will double the number of AIDS patients it treats with traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), officials have said, as part of a broader push to increase the

use of the ancient practice in the country's medical system.

The promotion of TCM is part of a five-year plan from the State Council, China's cabinet, to tackle HIV/AIDS.

"The number of people living with AIDS who are treated with traditional Chinese medicine should be twice what it was in 2015," the State Council said on its website.

The plan outlined a collaboration between TCM departments and national health and family planning commissions "to find a

therapeutic regimen which combines TCM and western medicines".

The TCM push aligns with a recent effort by the government to make the practice a priority for both development and publicity.

TCM, dating back thousands of years, treats ailments using herbal mixtures and physical therapies such as acupuncture and cupping.

But the science behind such remedies has long been questioned. Last month, medical researchers disputed a study claiming that acupuncture could cure babies of colic.

In late December, the Chinese legislature passed its first TCM

law, which will allow practitioners to be licensed and make it easier for them to open clinics.

There are about 450,000 TCM practitioners across the country, according to the State Council Information Office.

The government sees the practice as a cost-saving alternative to modern healthcare.

The new initiative to tackle HIV/AIDS will aim to reduce "AIDS-related behaviour" among gays by at least 10% and mother-to-children transmission rates to less than 4%.

In a 2015 report, China told the UN that it had 501,000 cases of HIV/AIDS as of the end of 2014. -AFP-Relaxnews

