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## **PARTNERSHIP OF BELARUS AND CHINA IN THE FIELD OF HEALTHCARE**

*The article outlines the cooperation in the field of medicine between Belarus and China, support during the coronavirus infection, bilateral relations in this area, the exchange of experience and innovations in this area, the supply of medical equipment to our country, cooperation in the field of education of health workers, the exchange of students and teachers.*

*В статье рассказывается о сотрудничестве в области медицины между Беларусью и Китаем, поддержке во время коронавирусной инфекции, двусторонних отношениях в этой области, обмене опытом и инновациями в этой области, поставках медицинского оборудования в нашу страну, сотрудничестве в области образования медицинских работников, обмене студентами и учителями.*

The greatest wealth that every person on Earth owns is health. A strong body gives us a long and active existence, helps us fulfill our plans and desires, helps us cope with difficulties and allows us to solve life problems successfully.

Huge life experience has shown that people usually start taking care of their health only after getting acquainted with some diseases, but you should not wait for the disease, but start leading a healthy life as soon as possible.

Healthcare is constantly developing in the Republic of Belarus. Significant changes have also taken place in past years, for example, the improvement of the structural and organizational foundations of the system, financial mechanisms to ensure them.

The Republic of Belarus is one of the few post-Soviet countries and European countries that maintains and adapts the budgetary

system for financing medical care. Thanks to this, medical care is provided to urban and rural residents.

At present, funds in the amount of 4 % of GDP have been allocated from the state budget in accordance with the threshold value of the social security indicator of the Republic recommended by the World Health Organization and provided for by the National Security Concept of the Republic of Belarus.

Over the past 10 years, the Belarusian healthcare system has been based on the main principles – the priority of preventive measures based on the formation of healthy lifestyles; quality, accessibility and quality of medical services, including drug provision; sanitary and epidemic well-being of citizens and their descendants.

In recent years, the health care of the Republic of Belarus has consolidated the position of the international medical community through achievements in the field of maternal and child health. The results of high-tech intervention in transplantology, cardiac surgery, traumatology, neurosurgery, ophthalmic surgery and oncology, the development and implementation of an innovative approach to the treatment of diseases, investment projects in the field of pharmacology.

The Republic of Belarus has been establishing relations with other countries in the field of medicine for a long time. In this paper, we will consider the partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the PRC. At present, the interaction between these states is intensively developing and continues.

The following programs are being implemented within the framework of joint cooperation:

In 2018, our country accepted 300 children from China with 24 accompanying persons and 30 children with 30 accompanying persons to the sanatorium free of charge for treatment in health care institutions of the republic.

In April 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus and the State Administration for Health Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Cooperation between Belarus and China strengthened and developed more intensively when a new disease appeared in our lives, for which no one was ready. This virus has been named COVID-19.

In 2020–2022 The emphasis of bilateral cooperation is on the exchange of experience in helping patients with coronavirus. Chinese experts handed over to their Belarusian colleagues a textbook on the treatment of a new disease, which discusses in detail the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of coronavirus infection.

In 2021, about 4.5 million doses of the Chinese vaccine against the new virus were delivered to Belarus as part of humanitarian assistance and commercial purchases.

At the 4th China International Trade Fair in Shanghai in November 2020, with the support of the Belarusian Embassy in China, the Industrial Park Development Company, and the Office for the Development of National Brands of the Xinhua News Agency, a presentation of projects for the development of traditional Chinese medicine was held in the China-Belarus Industrial Park “Great Stone”, and also officially began the production of a new antiviral drug, which was developed by a resident of the industrial park Novoelfa Biotech LLC. As a result, Belarus becomes the first country on the European continents where the production of traditional Chinese medicines was opened.

Minister of Health of Belarus Dmitry Pinevich said that, as time has shown, over the past 30 years, the interaction between our country and China has strengthened, become close, the friendship between the two peoples has become even stronger. It can be noted that China is actively moving forward, demonstrating success in the field of economic and social development. China is one of the main partners of Belarus. Belarus and China can consider successful cooperation in the fight against the new coronavirus. The minister also stressed the value of friendship with the Chinese people. In accordance with the order of the President of Belarus Lukashenko, Belarus became the first country in the world to send humanitarian

aid to China. When necessary, we again sent help to our friends. In response to this, when the pandemic began in our country, China also gave us a lot of help. Dmitry Pinevich stressed that the Ministry of Health is interested in further deepening the Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in healthcare. And he thanked the leadership of China for being ready to provide comprehensive assistance to Belarus.

In his speech, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Belarus Xie Xiaoyang said that the coronavirus that broke out in 2020 would last three years, which poses a threat to the security of the population and the development of the economy of the whole world. Since its inception, Belarus and China have been closely cooperating in the fight against the disease. Belarus and China exchanged humanitarian supplies with PPE, vaccines and other medical supplies.

Delivered to Belarus – personal protective equipment, medical and diagnostic devices.

The provision of medical care at a high level is possible if doctors use modern medical equipment. High-quality equipment improves the diagnosis of diseases, facilitates the implementation of numerous operations and procedures, and allows people to be treated and operated on with minimal pain.

Most countries, including Belarus, use medical equipment from China. China has long been a leader in the production of numerous products: clothing, footwear, transport, packaging. And although medical equipment is a complex commodity, Chinese factories successfully produce it.

The main advantages of medical equipment from China:

- High level of quality. Chinese manufacturers strive to maintain a stable position in the world market and be the best among competitors and gain maximum customer confidence, so they offer reliable, durable equipment and other medical products.

- Huge selection. Equipment includes not only inhalation devices, electroknives, devices for visualization of medical devices, ECG.

In China, you can also order a bed, a couch and a screen, sterilizers and disinfectants, orthopedic equipment, optometers and others.

- Profitable price. In comparison with the products of Europe and the USA, medical equipment from China is much more affordable. At the same time, the cost does not have a negative impact on the quality of materials, reliability, and safety of equipment.

- Leading Chinese manufacturers use heavy-duty plastic, intelligent control systems, highly sensitive sensors, and modern digital technologies to improve device performance.

From China, you can order various medical equipment for different departments, which include:

- Dental.
- Diagnostic.
- Surgical.
- Therapeutic.
- Laboratory.
- Physiotherapy.
- Resuscitation.
- Sterilization.

Also, blood pressure monitors, patient monitors, infusion pumps, pulse oximeters, hearing aids, scales, nebulizers, ultrasound machines and many others can be delivered from China.

Belarus and China do not stop only at humanitarian aid, but also found another way of cooperation – medical tourism. China intends to strengthen this cooperation with Belarus in the field of medical tourism, said Zhang Meng, a representative of the State Committee for Health of the People’s Republic of China, at a meeting with Minister of Health of Belarus Valery Malashko in Minsk.

Both Republics discussed the prospects that open up with the launch of a program for the treatment of Chinese children in Belarus.

On September 9, the first group arrived in the republic to undergo medical rehabilitation. The course at the Republican Children’s Hospital of Medical Rehabilitation lasted 20 days.

Doctors develop an individual program for each child depending on their state of health.

Chinese representative Zhang Mang stressed that before the trip they were interested in the Belarusian Embassy in China, in general, about the state of healthcare in Belarus, and found out that it is at a high level. During the visit, they tried to find out more information about the opportunities in this area.

He also stressed that in this case their goal is to familiarize themselves with the activities of the most leading centers for children's rehabilitation and strengthen relationships between healthcare organizations and establish ways of interaction.

The Ministry of Health took a responsible and high-level approach to organizing the visit of children from China.

According to Valery Malashko, the Belarusian side will do everything possible to make the treatment of patients with serious pathologies successful.

In addition, the Ministry of Health hosts a delegation of colleagues from the health sector.

Chinese specialists will visit several republican scientific and practical centers to determine which children with what pathologies should be sent for treatment to Belarus.

“Our institutions correspond to the world level. I have no doubt that the inspection will end successfully and we will be able to provide medical services to children with cancer and diseases of the musculoskeletal system”, the minister said.

Valery Malashko convinced that the developed system of interaction in providing medical care to children in China would form the basis of work with adult patients.

Belarus is ready to provide medical services to Chinese citizens at any time and at a high level.

Cooperation between China and Belarus takes place in all areas of healthcare, including dentistry.

On May 25, 2018, the Belarusian State Medical University was visited by a delegation from the Medical University of China,

consisting of the Deputy Dean of the Dental School and Dental Clinic of the Chinese Medical University, Professor Yong Zhuu, Associate Professor of the Department of Orthopedic and Cardiovascular Surgery of the Dental School and Dental Clinics of the Medical University of China Bei Xiaofeng.

The main purpose of the visit by the delegation of the Chinese Medical University to the Belarusian State Medical University was to conclude and sign a trilateral agreement between the educational institutions of the Belarusian State Medical University, the Russian Clinical Dental Clinic in Minsk and the Medical University in China, to discuss the prospects for scientific and academic cooperation.

The delegation was received by the Rector of the University A. V. Sikorsky. The meeting was also attended by the chief physician of the Republican Clinical Dental Polyclinic A. M. Matveev, Vice-Rector for International Relations V. V. Rudenok, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry S. N. Parkhamovich and head of the department of foreign languages M. N. Petrov.

The rector of the Belarusian State Medical University gave detailed information about BSMU, i.e. on the composition, educational process, as well as the organization of educational and scientific activities of BSMU, on the existing faculties and the specifics of teaching foreign citizens at this university.

The university also noted that more than 7 thousand students study at the university, more than one and a half thousand students, undergraduates and clinical residents from different countries of the world. Rector of the University A. V. Sikorsky also emphasized that BSMU occupies a leading position in Belarus and has a highly qualified teaching staff, modern clinical facilities, and comfortable living conditions for students.

Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry S. N. Parkhamovich acquainted the guests with the history and main stages of development of the Faculty of Dentistry, which was opened in 1960. Sergei Nikolaevich emphasized that when training specialists in the field of dentistry, the Belarusian State Medical University pays attention to three

main criteria: the high level of training of doctors, the quality of the materials used and the perfection of the technologies used.

The chief doctor of the Republic of Belarus A. M. Matveev spoke about the development of dentistry in Belarus, about the use of dental equipment and materials used by our country. Andrei Mikhailovich also noted the high level of dental education and the level of training of dentists by Belarusian medical education institutions.

In addition, Bai Xiaofeng, Associate Professor of the Department of Orthopedic and Maxillofacial Surgery of the School of Dentistry, Dental Clinic of the Medical University of China, Bai Xiaofeng presented a report on the university, founded in 1931 after the merger of two medical colleges.

The university is located in Jingzhou, Liaoning Province. Over the past 60 years, China Medical University has developed rapidly and has become the largest medical university in Liaoning Province. Bai Seifeng also said that dental education is being developed at the university. The Faculty of Dentistry was founded in 1985, the School of Dentistry in 1998.

In continuation of the meeting, the participants discussed the prospects for scientific and academic relations, including the possibility of exchanging students and teachers, the possibility of organizing joint congresses, congresses and online conferences on topical medical problems.

As a result of the meeting, an Agreement on academic and scientific cooperation and exchange of students of the educational institution of the Belarusian State Medical University, the Republican Clinical Dental Clinic of Minsk and the Chinese Medical University was signed.

Cooperation under this agreement will be carried out in the following areas:

- exchange of teachers, students, undergraduates and graduate students, medical specialists;
- development, implementation and joint educational programs;



- exchange of materials, publications in academic and scientific fields;
- organizing and holding joint tele- and internet-conferences, scientific-practical conferences and symposiums on actual problems of medicine.

At the end of the meeting, the Rector of the University A. V. Sikorsky thanked the guests for their visit and expressed hope for long-term bilateral academic and scientific cooperation with the Medical University of China, expressed a desire to establish long-term bilateral academic and scientific cooperation, and presented memorable souvenirs from Belarusian manufacturers.

After the official meeting with the Rector, representatives of the University of China gave a lecture to students of the Faculty of Dentistry, clinical intern, professors and practitioners on the topic “Treatment of injuries of the maxillofacial region. Our experience”. The topic of the lecture aroused great interest among all the guests, as well as an active discussion.

Therefore, China is one of the leaders in the development of the medical field. This partnership is beneficial for both Belarus and China. I would like to hope for closer and more fruitful cooperation in the future.

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## **КУЛИНАРНЫЕ ТРАДИЦИИ КИТАЯ, ПРИУРОЧЕННЫЕ К НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫМ ПРАЗДНИКАМ**

*В статье рассказано о кулинарных традициях Китая, которые приурочены к национальным праздникам этой страны. Китайцы очень гордятся своей культурой, народ любит свою историю и чтит традиции и праздники. Приготовление пищи для праздников обусловлено*