

# Spurring Regional Growth in TCM with GAP Scheme

Under a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) signed on 10 August 2007, Agrifood Technologies Pte Ltd (ATP) and Eu Yan Sang International Ltd (EYSI) will jointly develop and implement a Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) Certification and Audit Scheme for Herbs.

Filling the gap of a lack in industry standards for the regulation of the quality and safety of Chinese herbs sold, this Scheme, will serve as a model for the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) industry in Singapore to self-regulate the sale of herbs locally and in the region.

The MOC was signed by Chairman, ATP, Mr John Lim and Group Chief Executive Officer, EYSI, Mr Richard Eu Yee Ming and witnessed by General Manager, ATP, Dr Philip Chew and President, EYSI, Mr Will Hoon Wee Teng, CEO, Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), Dr Chua Sin Bin, and Directors of ATP, Dr Ngiam Tong Tau and Mr Robert Lee were also present at the signing ceremony.

Under the Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) Scheme for Herbs, an in-house GAP for Herbs (GAP-HERBs) Standards will also be developed for EYSI, with reference to international food safety guidelines. These standards will form the basis for auditing and certifying source farms that are supplying herbs to EYSI.

With the increased consumption of traditional Chinese herbs as a health supplement by Asians as well as Westerners, the initiative to develop in-house GAP Standards for Chinese herbs will help assure safe and quality Chinese herbs for local and regional consumers. Standards and certification for the proper and safe cultivation of Chinese herbs will help to spur a growth for the traditional Chinese medicine industry in this region.



*Top: Mr Richard Eu and Mr John Lim exchanging of copies of MOC signed*

*Bottom: Attendees at MOC signing ceremony (from left to right): Dr Philip Chew (General Manager, ATP), Mr Clifford Eu (Managing Director, EYSI), Mr Will Hoon (President, EYSI), Dr Ngiam Tong Tau (Director, ATP), Dr Patrick Loh (Senior Vice-President, Technology, EYSI), Mr Richard Eu (Group Chief Executive Officer, EYSI), Mr John Lim (Chairman, ATP), Mr Robert Lee (Director, ATP); Dr Chua Sin Bin (CEO, AVA), Ms Dawn Lee, Vice-President, Product Marketing, EYSI); and Mr Leslie Mah (Executive Director, EYSI)*