Jamu

Doctor Can Recommend Jamu (Traditional/Herbal Medicines) as a Reference

By popularizing national jamu, the physicians in Indonesia could have a double practice board. Besides the chemical drugs commonly prescribed, patients needing medical services can choose medical treatment in the forms of phyto-pharmaceutical drug, herbal medicines, or jamu (traditional drug).

Do you know the difference between phytopharmaceuticals, herbal medicines and Jamu, Jamu is the Indonesian traditional medicine that is well known to be certainly safe, but there is no scientific proof. A little more advanced, herbal medicine is a plant extract that has been tested for safety and usefulness. And the phytopharmaceutical drug is the traditional that is certainly safe scientifically.

Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia have declared their commitment to supervising the national herbal medicine industries. This was revealed when the Head of Health Research and Development, Health Ministry, Professor Agus Purwadianto became a keynote speaker in the Semi-Workshop on Jamu as Cultural Heritage to Improve Indonesia Image, at IPB International Convention Center (26/5).

Prof. Agus said there are already 12 eligible hospitals as reference for applying a double board.

"We have seven phytopharmaceutical companies, but they do not sell well in the eyes of the doctors, although the research has been “bloody” work (hard work). Therefore, a doctor of herbal medicine should be fair and not inconsiderate." He said.

It is indeed necessary to do the scientific research to assess the medicinal properties
of traditional drugs. Ministry of Health has developed a Certification Program for Jamu, i.e. the effort and the process of getting scientific proof of herbal medicine.

For that purpose, the Center for Medicinal Studies, Institute of Research and Community Services, (PSB-SBRC) IPB has developed research for a standardized preparation of the raw materials for traditional/herbal medicine.

"We have a multi-efficacy curcuma of Indonesian specialty. Our dream is Jamu could be the brand of Indonesia herbal medicine. Research in IPB is directed to prepare all the requirements from upstream and downstream to the pre-clinic process," said Dr. Dyah Iswantini, Chairman of the Semi-workshop Organizing Committee.

Present on the occasion was Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Bayu Krisnamurthi. In front of hundreds of participants from Jamu Entrepreneur Joint Organization, academicians, BPOM (Drug and Food Supervising Board) and jamu stakeholders, Dr. Bayu said the development of the herbal medicine and agribusiness industry is closely related to other fields such as health, economy, culture, tourism and environment.

"Modern societies are now inclined to nature, in terms of healing and health care, fitness, beauty, and beauty. Thus, there is a big opportunity for the development of herbal medicine," he said (mtd)