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Chögyal Namkhai Norbu at Bologna University

The ancient Tibetan medical system was the core of the Keynote Address given by Chögyal Namkhai Norbu on September 11 in the auditorium of the Institute of Anatomy of Bologna University.

Bologna, capital of Traditional Tibetan Medicine for a day. On Saturday September 11 at 9 am, Prof. Namkhai Norbu, one of the most important living Masters of the Tibetan tradition, gave a keynote address entitled "Tibetan Medicine, Patrimony of Mankind" in the Auditorium of the Institute of Anatomy of the University.

This was the first time that the Auditorium of the Institute of Anatomy at Bologna University has been open for a public address.

The event which was organized by the Associazione per la Medicina Centrata sulla Persona (Association for Centered Person Medicine, Onlus – a Charity established according to the Italian Law) in collaboration with the International Shang Shung Institute for Tibetan Studies, in acknowledgement of its overall significance, has been granted of the following endorsements:

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama
The Presidency of the Council of Ministers
The Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Government of Emilia-Romagna Region
The Government of the Province of Bologna
The Municipality of Bologna
The Faculty of Medicine, University of Florence



The Italian Institute for Africa and the East, Rome
The European Medical Association
The European Association for Predictive, Preventive and Personalised Medicine
The College and Council of MDs and Dentists of the Province of Bologna
The Observatory and Methods for Health, University of Milano-Bicocca)
Bologna Local Health Authority
Noopolis Foundation, Rome

The Keynote Address given by Professor Norbu was the first public initiative at the international level by the Associazione per la Medicina Centrata sulla Persona Onlus, (Onlus is the Italian acronym for a charity recognized by the Italian Law) a not-for-profit association founded in 2007 in Bologna by psychiatrist Paolo Roberti di Sarsina, MD, one of the leading experts in Europe for the advancement of Traditional, Complementary, Alternative and Unconventional Medicine and member of the research consortium financed by the Eu-

ropean Commission. Roberti di Sarsina explained, "Tibetan medicine is an ancient science in which some of its fundamental principles are listening carefully to the patient, a close global examination (body, mind, energy, but also surrounding circumstances) and personalized medical care.

Therefore it is a therapeutic system that really has a lot to give to a West that has not come to terms with its own approach to the problem of suffering. It is an integral part of the Tibetan Tradition that is the patrimony of Mankind". In Italy, 18.5% of the population, more than 11 million people, have chosen to use non-conventional medicine (source: Eurispes); there were 8 million in 2005 (ISTAT data). The trend is even more impressive at the European level with more than 130 million citizens in the EU who regularly make use of non-conventional medicine.

This is a phenomenon of great importance which, however, according to Roberti di Sarsina, the Italian establishment is not responding to adequately. "Our

Parliament has not yet understood or wanted to set up that series of laws to regulate non conventional medicine that we have been waiting 20 years for. Yet, by now everyone is aware of the need to move from a type of unpersonalised medicine to one that is humanistic and promotes the health of the person taking into consideration his/her globality and uniqueness. Our Associazione was created in order to contribute actively to this process".

Emilia-Romagna is one of the regions that is focusing attention on the change that is taking place as evidenced by the creation by the Regional Government, in 2004, of the Observatory for Non Conventional Medicine, of which Roberti di Sarsina is founding member, with the aim of giving rise to some experimental projects within the Local Health Authority. The integrated bill presented to the Health Commission of the Senate by proposer Sen. Daniele Bosone also includes the national bill sent to the Chambers, during the last legislature, by the Emilia-Romagna Region.

Strongly desired by Paolo Roberti di Sarsina, the arrival in Bologna of Chögyal Namkhai Norbu Rinpoche, one of the highest level representatives of the Tibetan Tradition, shows the authority and commitment of the Associazione per la Medicina Centrata sulla Persona Onlus, as far as promoting and safeguarding of such this Knowledge of Health are concerned.

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More than 400 people attended Rinpoche's lecture. The Main Hall was completely full and another lecture hall was equipped with a sound system to receive those who could not find a place.