

**PRESS RELEASE  
14 August 2008**

**TCM COMMUNITY HELPS END THE TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES**

SINGAPORE, 14 August 2008- The Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) is pleased to announce the strong support the TCM community has shown for its efforts to wipe out the trade in endangered species for TCM in Singapore.

274 TCM shops (from 189 companies) now display the ACRES & STOC Endangered Species-Friendly TCM Label. The landmark scheme, launched in collaboration with the Singapore TCM Organisations Committee (STOC) in March 2007, aims to end the trade in endangered species for TCM in Singapore. TCM shops committed to not selling endangered species products receive the label to place at the shop, advertising that no endangered species products are for sale.

"We are delighted that about 1 in 4 TCM companies in Singapore have signed on to the labelling scheme and we look forward to more companies pledging their support for our efforts. The scheme has also been well received by the public, many of whom have stated they will support TCM shops with the labels." said Ms. Charlene Tan, ACRES Director of Community Outreach and Investigations.

"Eu Yan Sang has always been delivering quality TCM products to our consumers. We are mindful that in the process of assuring quality, we also act responsibly so as not to harm the environment. This is why we do not sell any parts of animals that are under the endangered species and are in full support of the initiative by ACRES and STOC. The ACRES & STOC Endangered Species-Friendly TCM Label are on display at all our retail stores across the island to further raise awareness," said Mr. Vincent Lim, Managing Director of Eu Yan Sang (Singapore) Pte Ltd.

The scheme is funded by the Animals Asia Foundation. It's founder and CEO Jill Robinson MBE said: "We are proud to be funding this increasingly successful initiative. Our work and research with endangered Moon Bears shows that they continue to be held in deplorable conditions on bear farms across China and Vietnam despite the fact that bear bile can be so easily and cheaply replaced by herbs and synthetics. Farming bears for their bile is unnecessary and certainly inhumane on the grounds that it severely and unavoidably compromises their physical and psychological health. Therefore, we are delighted to support this Endangered Species friendly TCM label where everyone can do their part in helping to protect bears and all endangered species."

ACRES previous undercover investigations revealed a continued illegal trade in endangered species for TCM in Singapore. This continued illegal trade creates a demand for wildlife products and fuels the slaughter and exploitation of wildlife.

ACRES undercover investigators have found alleged tiger bones, penises and paws and bear products on sale in Singapore. The investigations have, however, recorded a significant drop in trade levels. In 2006, a total of 23 TCM shops (20.0% of shops surveyed) were found offering alleged bear products for sale to ACRES investigators, compared to 50 shops (73.5% of shops surveyed) in a 2001 ACRES survey.

TCM plays an important role in providing complementary health care to Singaporeans. It is part of a great historical tradition and the culture of many Chinese Singaporeans and must be preserved. ACRES will continue our efforts in monitoring the illegal trade in endangered species in Singapore and also in creating awareness about the cruelty and illegality of this trade.

**Contact:**

Louis Ng (Executive Director, ACRES)  
Email: [louis@acres.org.sg](mailto:louis@acres.org.sg)  
Phone: +65 97968592

Jill Robinson (Founder and CEO, Animals Asia Foundation)  
Email: [jrobinson@animalsasia.org](mailto:jrobinson@animalsasia.org)  
Phone: +852 90958405

**- ends -**

## **Notes to editors**

- Photographs of the ACRES & STOC Endangered Species-Friendly TCM Label and of tigers and bears are available on request.
- For a full list of shops that have signed on to the scheme, please log on to: <http://www.acres.org.sg/tcmshoplist.htm>
- **ACRES**  
ACRES is a local charity aimed at fostering respect and compassion for all animals. The society is driven by its concern for animals and adopts research projects on the use of animals in various fields. Research findings are then used to educate the public to promote active community involvement in the animal welfare movement, as well as strive towards synergistic partnerships with authorities and related parties. ACRES has been tackling the illegal wildlife trade since 2001 and has conducted more than 240 roadshows and/or talks to raise awareness on animal welfare issues in Singapore and to create a more socially responsible community. It currently has more than 13,000 individuals on its supporter database.
- **Animals Asia Foundation**  
The Acres & STOC Endangered Species-Friendly TCM Labelling Scheme is funded by Animals Asia Foundation (AAF). AAF is a Hong Kong-based charity dedicated to ending cruelty and restoring respect for animals across Asia. In July 2000, AAF signed a landmark agreement with the Chinese authorities to rescue 500 suffering and endangered Moon Bears and work towards ending the barbaric practice of bear bile farming. To date, more than 215 previously farmed Moon Bears have been rescued and brought to AAF's sanctuary in Chengdu, Sichuan. Animals Asia is currently building a bear sanctuary in Vietnam.
- **Eu Yan Sang**  
Listed on the Singapore Exchange, Eu Yan Sang International Limited (Eu Yan Sang) is a progressive, global healthcare company with its core focus in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). The Group has come a long way from its humble beginnings offering TCM remedies to tin mine coolies in Gopeng, Perak, Malaysia 128 years ago. Today Eu Yan Sang is a household name in Asia with an unrivalled reputation as the leader in the TCM industry. Eu Yan Sang has an extensive distribution network comprising more than 140 Eu Yan Sang branded retail outlets in Hong Kong, Macau, China, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan. Eu Yan Sang products are available in drugstores, pharmacies, medical halls, supermarkets, convenience stores, hospitals, health clubs and spas worldwide. Its cybershop at [www.euyansang.com](http://www.euyansang.com) offers global customers the ease and convenience of shopping online. The Group also operates a chain of 18 TCM Clinics in Singapore and Malaysia; and three Specialist TCM Centres in Singapore.