



Nongovernmental Organization  
In official Relation with the World Health Organization (WHO)

**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP  
OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF HYDROTHERAPY AND CLIMATOTHERAPY (FEMTEC)**



**MEDICAL HYDROTHERAPY AND HEALTH GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD:  
PRESENT SITUATION AND STRATEGIES**

LA HABANA CUBA, MARCH 9-17, 2014

**In Cooperation with:**

**THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (CUBA)  
SOCIEDAD CUBANA DE HIDROLOGÍA MÉDICA  
SOCIEDAD DE MEDICINA FÍSICA Y REHABILITACION DE CUBA**

**PAN-AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
CENTRO NACIONAL DE REHABILITACION  
THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN ITALY**

***First Invitation***

Dear Colleague,

Natural Mineral waters and climatic resources are part of the cultural heritage of every country's medical tradition. Even in parts of the world that are far away from Europe (Asia, Africa, Central and Latin America) water has always been used for health care, as well as for anthropological reasons.

In Central America, Cuba plays an outstanding role, also internationally, with its rich water and mineral resources. From the thermal resorts of the early 1700s (San Diego de los Baños, Santa Maria del Rosario, ) to the ultra-modern Thermal and Thalassotherapy Centres on the Coast, the Ministry of Health has been keeping a close focus on this sector, including Thermal medicine in the health-care system, in therapy, and in rehabilitation, and promoting the development of research.

Today Cuba is the focal point for coordination and development of thermal medicine integrated in a modern vision, and one of the most proactive Member countries of FEMTEC ([www.femteconline.org](http://www.femteconline.org)).

Holistic and integrated vision provides four principal implements: hydro-thalassotherapy, movement, nourishment, and mind/body relationship. Therefore choosing a Congress venue in the "new world" is a way to underline the important and topical teaching of Hippocrates about prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, wellbeing, in connection with and as a legacy of the "ancient world".

This year, the Centre for Research on Medical Bioclimatology, Thermal and Complementary Medicine, and Wellbeing Sciences ([www.naturmed.unimi.it](http://www.naturmed.unimi.it)) celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Established in 1969 by Roberto Gualtierotti, it is now one of the most active WHO centres in the Complementary Medicines sector, and works in close synergy with FEMTEC. The meeting in Cuba will also offer an opportunity to review the performed activities and promote new ones.

Alongside scientific lectures by Cuban and European Experts on the topics listed below, the Workshop will include high-level meetings and professional visits to Thermal, Thalassotherapy, and Rehabilitation centres in a variety of resorts (**see the attached agenda**).

Scientific topics include:

*Hot springs, spa and Traditional Medicine - Experimental and Clinical Research on Thermal medicine - Hygiene and Technologies - Prevention and health - Economic and social aspects - Energy saving and reduction of water consumption, environment protection - Hot Springs and Health Government Services - Human resources and professional training - Hot springs, medical spa and tourism development - Medical research of enjoying hot springs in summer - Research by products of the hot springs - Strategy of hot spring hotels - Business model research of hot spring tourism development.*

Prof. Florana Menéndez, Vice President FEMTEC and Expert for the Latin American countries of HidroGlobe project is the coordinator of this INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP.

Organization is entrusted to Solymed Events in the World, a company specializing in Health Scientific Tourism and Congresses in Cuba.

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