Continuity and Changes: The Evolution of Rakhine and Burmese Indigenous Medicine

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Abstract: Based on my ethnographic fieldworks conducted in Rakhine State (Myanmar), my

presentation focuses on the Rakhine indigenous medicine (taing-yin hsaypyinnya). The aim is

to outline its origins, its principles, the evolution it underwent following the arrival of

biomedicine (ingeleikhsaypyinnya) and, particularly, its partial transformation into a neo-

traditional medicine by the hands of the government. Finally, the role these two forms of

indigenous medicine play in the everyday life of Rakhine people.

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