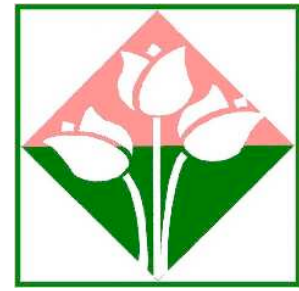


FEMATH



Aidemet Ong

Role of Civil Society for the involvement of Traditional Medicine in Community Health and Local Development.

Saturday, August 28, 2010, as part of the celebration of the 8th African Day of Traditional Medicine and coinciding with the end of the Decade for African Traditional Medicine, Mali Federation of Associations of Traditional Healers and Herbalists (FEMATH) and NGO Aid to Development of Traditional Medicine (*Aidemet*) held a press conference on the theme "Role of Civil Society for the involvement of Traditional Medicine in Community Health and Local Development".

The press conference was animated by Mr. Mohamed Fall, Chairman of FEMATH, and by the President of *Aidemet* NGO, Prof. Rokia Sanogo. More than twenty journalists, about fifty traditional healers and representatives of all institutions involved in the development of Traditional Medicine have participated in discussions, moderated by Dr. Nazoum Diarra of the National Board of Health.

Mr. Fall has focused on the evolution of FEMATH since its creation in March 2002. The FEMATH now includes 125 traditional healers' associations from all regions of Mali. The FEMATH has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health, and in this context it participates in various organs of the Program of Socio-Sanitary Development at national, regional and local levels. The FEMATH is also member of the High Council for the Fight against AIDS and of the Monitoring Committee of the implementation of the National Policy on Traditional Medicine. Mr. Fall then presented the various activities of capacity building for the FEMATH member associations.

Prof. Rokia Sanogo confirmed the commitment of *Aidemet* in recovery activities of Traditional Medicine in Mali, on a context of sociality and solidarity. Since its creation in 2003, *Aidemet* has placed special emphasis on strengthening the empowerment of actors of Traditional Medicine. Thus *Aidemet* contributed to the development of Traditional Medicine during the decade 2001-2010. The main activities involved the decentralization of health care, the promotion of low-risk pregnancy, the fight against malaria, the improvement of the work of herbalists and the restoration of medicinal plants endangered. The ambition for the incoming years is to continue coaching the actors of Traditional Medicine in the context of strengthening the local health systems and promoting the local development.

The press conference has been achieved through the technical and financial support of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Mali, as part of a Programme for Policy Dialogue on Decentralization of Health and valorisation of Traditional Medicine, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to *Aidemet Ong* on July 9, 2010.

Bamako, August 2010