



Aidemet Ong

Aid to the Development of the Traditional Medicine

Non-Governmental No-Profit Organization

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August 31st: African Day of Traditional Medicine.

1. Press Conference of FEMATH and Aidemet Ngo.

In prelude to the commemoration of the 5th African Day of Traditional Medicine, the Federation of the Associations of Traditional Healers and Herbalists (FEMATH) and the Ngo Aid to the Development of Traditional Medicine, *Aidemet Ngo*, organized, the August 27th 2007, a press conference on the theme: "*Experiences of collaboration among the actors of the traditional medicine*".

Besides the written and oral press, this conference recorded the participation of numerous therapists and herbalists, representatives of the different Associations of Bamako, of researchers, of experts, and of international organism's representatives (UNDP, UNIDO, WHO).

First, M. Toumani Diakité, General Secretary of the FEMATH, introduced his federation. Created in March 16th 2002, the FEMATH aspires to join all the associations of the actors of the Traditional Medicine of Mali. The FEMATH, that puts together today 72 associations of all the regions of Mali,

set herself to encourage a best knowledge of the ancestral art of health care, to contribute to the development of a collaboration frame between the traditional and the modern medicine, to participate in the protection of the natural environment through the rational use and the restoration of medicinal plants, to encourage the adoption of rules of behavior for the legal practice of the traditional medicine, in the perspective of the creation of a Professional Association of Traditional Healers.



Photo n° 2 : The Kiosks for the Herbalists.

Then, Dr Rokia Sanogo, President of *Aidemet Ngo*, introduced the activities of the Ngo and conducted some reflections on the accompaniment of the actors of the traditional medicine. According to the opinion of the Dr Sanogo, is important "*to create a relationship of sincere and open collaboration among the actors of the traditional and modern medicine, for the wellbeing of populations*". It's a question of developing "*social, joint and several sanitary alternatives, anchored to the local socio-cultural realities, using for the best all the available resources on the territory*". To do this, is fundamental the modern system to be effective and accessible and the traditional system to be organized and ready to the collaboration. When it is decided to approach the actors of the traditional medicine, "*it needs to do it with respect and attention, but it needs also to be willing to listen to them and to work according to the priorities that themselves express*".

In partnership with the association of the Traditional Healers and Herbalists of the District of Bamako, ATTHDB-*Kenya Iriwaton*, and with the financial support of AEMETRA (Italy) and of Hope Foundation (Switzerland), *Aidemet Ngo* has recently put to herbalists of Bamako availability



Photo n° 1: The Presidium.

about twenty Kiosks that allows the orderly exposure and the hygienic and sure storage of the stocks of medicinal plants. It is for this reason that another strong time of the day of information has been the symbolic giving of the keys of the Kiosks to the herbalists of the District of Bamako by Salif Traoré, President of ATTHDB-*Keneya Iriwaton*.

The meeting permits also to Dr Sergio Giani, Programs Officer of *Aidemet* Ngo, to introduce to the public the web site of the Ngo, which has been launched recently. The site allows the visitors to discover the Ngo and to be informed on its experiences, activities and projects in the field of the valorization of the resources of the Traditional Medicine. The address of the site is: www.aidemet.org.

2. The 5th African Day of the Traditional Medicine.



Photo n° 3 : The Stands visit.

The 5th African Day of the Traditional Medicine was celebrated August 31st 2007 inside the new building of the Department of Traditional Medicine of the National Institute of Research in Public Health, situated in Sotuba. The ceremony was developed under the presidency of the Minister of the Health, Dr. Maïga Zeïnab Mint Youba, in presence of the Dr N'Doutabé Moudjiroun, representative of WHO, and of the General Manager of the INRSP, Prof. Flabou Bougoudogo. The theme of this year was: "*Research and development of drugs derived from the traditional medicine*". The day recorded the participation of a good number of traditional therapists and of all the structures and stakeholders implicated in the valorization of the

traditional medicine.

In his allocution, the Minister of the Health underlined that "*the valorization of the Traditional Medicine is an integral part of the program of the Government of Mali*". She then affirmed that "*for taking in account of the products of the traditional medicine in the systems of health, it needs to develop the scientific research to determine their effectiveness, safety and quality. The manufacture on a large scale of the traditional drugs cannot only be carried out by the institutes of research and by the traditional healers and herbalists. To do this, the implication of the private sector and of the promoters of industries is needed*".

Three themes have been introduced to the public: "*From the natural substances to the drugs. Intellectual right of ownership.*" by the Prof. Ababacar Maïga (DMT); "*The role of the private sector in the production of drugs derived by the Traditional Pharmacopoeia.*" by the Prof. Mamadou Koumaré (SMP) and "*The role of the Traditional Healers in the development of drugs derived by the Traditional Pharmacopoeia.*" by Mr. Toumani Diakité (FEMATH).



Photo n° 4 : Labo of Pharmacodynamics

The strong time of the day was the visit of the stands of the Traditional Healers and above all of the laboratories of the Department of Traditional Medicine: a modern building cost more than 580 millions of F CFA, on financing of PPTTE funds. The equipment has been insured from the Norwegian Cooperation for a value of 300 millions of F CFA.

Text compiled by Dr Sergio Giani, Programs Officer of *Aidemet* Ong.

Photo: Archive *Aidemet*