

Profile: Afro-European Medical and Research Network (AEMRN)

By Mola Ajisafe

The Afro-European Medical and Research Network (AEMRN) a Non-Governmental and not-for-profit Organisation was founded in May 2006 with a strong vision of helping to improve the quality of life for people from and living in resource limited settings.

The founding members are from six African countries namely, Democratic Rep. Of Congo, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Cameroon and Liberia, together with some Swiss and American citizens. Its Headquarter (and Europe Headquarter) is in Berne, and the Africa Regional Headquarter in Liberia.

The members strive to contribute to the medical, mental, social, and educational well-being of mankind irrespective of race, creed, beliefs, faith and social affiliation. AEMRN serves as a platform wherein active professionals from disciplines such as education, medicine, engineering, nursing, faith-based etc can interact at various levels of self-initiated conferences, seminars, workshops, exchange programmes and voluntary work camps including medical camps with mobile clinics. It collaborates with International Organisations such as World Health Organisation, UNAIDS, International AIDS Society, International Organisation for Migration, UNICEF and is a member of Medicus Mundi Switzerland and AIDFOCUS Switzerland as well as African AIDS Research Network etc.

Within the two years of its existence, AEMRN's impact is being felt in Africa with its projects, among them is the opening of Community Health Centre in Pagos Island, Liberia, in November 2006 which helps the Islanders fight the prominent diseases of the island such as: malaria, acute respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, diarrhoeal diseases, and the posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) brought by many years of war in the country.

The project is providing health care to the patients of Pagos Island and surrounding towns and villages a population of about 30,000 people, and jobs. The clinic also



Some of the founding members (l-r): Dr. Charles Senessie, Ms Renate Krienbühl (VP), Johnson Belangenyi and K. Bat

serves as a training and intern centre for medical students from the Liberian Medical School, A.M. Diglotti Medical School, and University of Liberia.

Other projects in the pipeline are: Kenya Kitale community Hospital where AEMRN first Medical Work camps with mobile clinics started on 18 June 2008, and the Sierra Leone Masanga Community Hospital in collaboration with Seventh Day Adventist. Also is the HIV/AIDS Multidisciplinary Treatment Centre in Limpopo and Kwazulu Natal region of South Africa with integrated Oral Hygien from World Dental Federation.

"We understand that Health care delivery services are being carried out in every African country, though not enough, but what is lacking is the translation on a regular basis of the clinical, laboratory and public health observations into sound research documents for presentation at local and international conferences and for publications.

"It is our vision to motivate the health and social workforce to be more interested in their work, develop innovative research topics for which we will guide them to acquire the necessary logistical and material support and possibly minimise temptations of migrating for economic reasons thus combating brain drain of skilled health workforce," said Dr. Senessie, AEMRN

President

Educational Projects

In Cameroon the organisation has embarked on a school, Bekoko Childrens School, project run by a founding member of AEMRN Mr. Samo Yokezi. The school is given capacity building and infrastructure support, while a summer school and school health educational programme is planned for the school.

The organisation will hold a Strategic Planning Symposium on the theme: "Knowledge Management, Resource Mobilisation and sustained HIV/AIDS Research in Low-income Countries - Case of Sub-Saharan Africa", and a Fundraising Dinner and Entertainment evening on Friday 19 September 2008 at Universal Postal Union Complex (UPU) Weltpoststrasse 4, Berne.

■ For more about AEMRN access: www.aemrnetwork.ch



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