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### Summary Report

**First annual Strategic Planning Symposium on: “Knowledge Management, Resource Mobilisation and sustained HIV/AIDS Research in Low-income Countries The case of Sub-Saharan Africa”.**



**“TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN”**

**Compiled By**  
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## **Background**

The HIV/AIDS Pandemic after more than twenty-five years continues to pose more challenges to health care providers in providing sustainable programmes for prevention and case management. Hardest hit of all is low-income countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, bearing more than 60% of the total world prevalence. The AEMRN whole-heartedly sympathises with these our unfortunate brothers and sisters.

There has been and continues to be huge focus and investment of human, material and financial resources in trying to contain the pandemic.

However, these efforts seem to be always facing difficult challenges and the AIDS pandemic continues to ravage mankind especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The rhetorical question we ask ourselves is what more can we do, or still needs to be better done or rather what lessons have we or haven't we not learnt and still need to learn from one another.

Thought provoking as these questions are, there appears to be no clear-cut answers.

But what we all seem to agree on is that continuous discussion, consultations and experiences sharing among ourselves, bringing together stakeholders from various disciplines, countries and continents could highlight more innovative approaches that will bring us closer to containing the HIV pandemic.

It is in these regards that AEMRN in collaboration with other local and international organisations will be organising a strategic planning symposium on the theme "Knowledge Management, Resource Mobilisation and Sustained HIV/AIDS Research in Low-income countries – The case of Sub-Saharan Africa.

It is an opportunity to bring together specialists and field workers in the area of HIV/AIDS Knowledge Management, Resource Mobilisers such as funding agencies and HIV researchers (clinical, epidemiological, public health, nursing, paramedics, laboratory, bench researchers, psychosocial etc.) Also with our current planned intervention projects of a Multi-disciplinary HIV Treatment and Resource centre with E-granary digital library in Limpopo and Kwazulu Natal in South Africa and in Kitale Kenya, the symposium is also strategically planned to identify more suitable partners including sponsors for these initiatives.

## **Goals and expected outcomes**

- The professionals from the three groups, it is expected will appreciate their contribution to the tackling of the HIV/AIDS as an individual and as a group and find more common grounds for future collaboration.
- They will continue to exchange and share new innovations and results of undertaken projects in the area of HIV Research.
- The presentation and discussions of studies at the symposium the participants may have undertaken will serve to emphasize the importance of information sharing.
- The beneficiaries we hope will appreciate the efforts of these professional in their effort to tackle the disease
- They AIDS activists can team up, support the work of the health professionals in their own way, cooperate, and collaborate with them in areas of research.
- The HIV/AIDS activists seeing how much efforts is being made on their behalf will continue to have greater hope and increase their coping mechanisms
- The report from the deliberation will serve as a working document upon which further symposia and workshops could be based upon for implementation on a wider scale.
- The symposium in bringing people from various countries continents, professions etc could help strengthen the existing collaboration and exchange of resources between the North and South.

## **Target audience**

The above experts in the three defined areas will be sharing their experiences in the company of an audience drawn from a cross-section of:

- Migrant population living in Switzerland from the different cantons.
- Participants from countries in Africa, West and Eastern Europe, USA, Canada, Asia and Latin America.
- Various pressure groups and opinion leaders
- HIV/AIDS activists or affected families
- Armed forces: police, Military, Fire force, paramilitary
- Religious sector: Muslim, Christian, Buddhism etc,
- Political activists
- University students and students from other institutions and youth organisation socio-cultural clubs
- Embassy representatives especially sub-Saharan Africa
- Socio-cultural bodies
- Humanitarian organisations and professional bodies having interest or dealing with - HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The evening will conclude with a social interaction buffet dinner, African music and entertainment to continue the collaboration and discussion in a lighter environment.

Funds from the dinner will go towards supporting our projects in Africa.

Background of Symposium:

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However, these efforts seem to be always facing difficult challenges and the AIDS pandemic continues to ravage mankind especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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Also with our current planned intervention projects of a Multi-disciplinary HIV Treatment and Resource centre with E-granary digital library in Limpopo and Kwazulu Natal in South Africa and in Kitale Kenya, the symposium is also strategically planned to identify more suitable partners including sponsors for these initiatives.

## Programme

- 09:30 Internal AEMRN Consultative meeting with consultants and country Representatives from all over the world to discuss their progress reports
- 11:30 *Registration and welcome coffee/drink*
- 12:30 Introduction of Chairman  
Mr. Ortopah Kojo Botchey, Secretary General, AEMRN
- 12:33 Chairperson's opening remarks  
Dr. Alena Petrakova  
Medical Officer, Health Workforce Education and Production  
Human Resources for Health, Health Systems and Services  
World Health Organization, Geneva
- 12:40 Remarks by Ueli Haenni Arzt med. pract., Praxis Kreuzmatte Zollikofen  
AEMRN Overall consultant.
- 12:45 **Using Knowledge to Strengthen Human Resources for Health Scaling Up'**  
Dr. Erica Wheeler  
Knowledge Officer, Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA)  
World Health Organisation, Geneva
- 13:05 WHO Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health Innovation and Intellectual Property  
Ms. M. Precious Matsoso- Director in PHI, WHO Secretariat on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property  
World Health Organization, Geneva Switzerland
- 13:25 **A. Oral manifestation of HIV/AIDS-** Experiences from South Africa.  
**B. Demonstration of E-granary digital mobile library-** Its role in HIV/AIDS Oral presentations and databank development for research.  
Dr Julian Fisher  
Education and Scientific Affairs Manager  
World Dental Federation (FDI), France
- 13:45 **WHO/Global Network for Health Professionals** – An exciting project of Networking among Health professional with good lessons to be shared for HIV/AIDS projects - Md. Jacqui Lunday,  
Chief Health Professions Officer, The Scottish Government, Edinburgh
- 13:55 **Different people, different messages**  
**HIV prevention among migrants in Berne:** Project Multicolore  
Aids hilfe Bern, Switzerland.
- 14:20 *Coffee break viewing of posters and exhibition from NGOs, institutions etc.*
- 14:45 **Keynote Address** - Dr. Geoffrey Kasembeli  
Consultant Obstetrics and Gynaecologist, Specialist Sexually Transmitted Infections  
Kitale District Hospital

Ministry of Health Kenya.  
Past Secretary General, Medical and Dental Association of Kenya

- 15:05 **HIV/AIDS Programme for Children and Youth**  
Md Irene Fitzl Association of Building a future- South Africa
- 15:25 **Importance of Local Wisdom in Health Care delivery and Research including HIV**  
Md. Gabriella Sozanski,  
WHO and NGO Advisory group on Health Promotion  
Geneva Switzerland.
- 15:40 **Strengthening pharmacy education for access to and rational use of medicines including ARVs: a new seven country case study in sub-Saharan Africa.**  
Presentation from International Pharmaceutical Federation (IPF)  
Prof. Claire Anderson  
PhD BPharm FRPharmS MCPP  
Professor of Social Pharmacy University of Nottingham, UK
- 15:55 **Contribution of Traditional Medicine to combating HIV/AIDS.**  
Mr. Raphael Doji Eklun-Natey, Consultant Research and Development,  
President Traditional Medicine Association Geneva, Switzerland
- 16:10 *Coffee break and viewing of posters and exhibition.*
- 16:25 **Community based initiatives including Combating HIV/AIDS in Kitale Kenya**  
Md. Marjaana Seilonen, AEMRN collaborative partner and  
President, Ordinary Women International (OWI), California, USA.
- 16:40 **Religion and HIV/AIDS Campaign**  
Dr. Alpha Grace, President Global Ministries, Neuchatel, Switzerland
- 16:55 **Improving Nursing and Midwifery Capacity in countries facing Human Resources for Health Crisis.**  
Md. Annette Mwansa Nkowane.  
Nursing and Midwifery, HRH WHO Geneva
- 17:10 "Help Khachonge Association activities in Western Kenya"- Community based initiative- Mr. Alfred Flückiger, Evelyn Flückiger
- 17:20 **HIV/AIDS in African Prisons**  
Dr. Barasa Chrisostim and Md. Nancy Shazima- Tears of Women Association,  
Kitale Kenya
- 17:30 **The impact of social pensions on the livelihood, health and the psychosocial wellbeing of older people and their grandchildren - A comparative study from the Kagera Region in Tanzania.**  
Mr. Stefan Hofmann, head, Association of Kwa Wazee-Africa`s  
Grandmothers fight against HIV/AIDS.
- 17:45 **Remarks** from "Nationalrat" Ricardo Lumengo, MP, Swiss National Parliament.
- 17:55 **Remarks** from AIDS Section Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)
- 18:05 **Statement** from Swiss African Forum (SAF)  
Mr Issa Abdullahi, National Coordinator

- 18:10            **Scaling-up Diaspora HIV/AIDS project initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa.**  
Mr. Solomon Tshivhula, Counsellor,  
Embassy of South Africa to Switzerland in Bern.
- 18:20            **Brainstorming session**
- Room 1:** Knowledge Management: Facilitator- Dr. Konji Sebati,  
Ambassador South African Embassy to Switzerland Based in Bern.
- Room 2:** HIV/AIDS Researchers in Low-income Countries: Facilitator  
Dr. Benjamin Sakem, Researcher, Dept. Pharmacology, University of Bern
- Room 3:** Resource mobilisation: Facilitator Dr. Clifford Kamara, Global  
Alliance for Vaccine Initiatives (GAVI), Geneva, and Head Planning Unit,  
Ministry of Health Sierra Leone.
- 18:45            **Plenary Session**  
Chairperson, Dr. Gabriela Tejada  
EPFL – VPRI, Lausanne  
UNESCO Chair in Technologies for Development
- 19:15            **Closing remarks and vote of thanks**  
Dr. Charles Senessie, President AEMRN
- 19:20            *Apero, continued discussion and further viewing of exhibition*
- 19:50-24.00    Afro European Fundraising Buffet Dinner and Entertainment evening  
With African cultural displays and music.

### **Summary of Presentations**

#### **Introduction of chairperson by Mr.Ortopah Kojo Botchey**

The Secretary General of AEMRN introduced the chairlady of the occasion and took the audience through the well earned curriculum vitae of Dr. Alena Petrakova.

#### **Chairperson’s opening remarks- Dr. Alena Petrakova**

In her opening remarks as chairperson for the occasion Dr. Petrakova welcomed everyone and stressed the importance of the symposium and the possible outcomes for the day.

She gave a short presentation on “**Scaling up Health Workforce Development with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa**” with emphasis on the following:

- Health Security
- Health Development
- Health Systems
- Health Evidence
- Partnerships
- Performance

She further went on to introduce to the scientific session of the Symposium highlighting the importance of Human Resources for Health (HRH) as a crucial element in improving health systems and health services, and attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

1. Educated and well-trained health workers save lives
2. Support and protect health workers
3. Enhance the effectiveness of the health workforce through new strategies
4. Tackle imbalances and inequalities

5. Promote global partnership and cooperation:
  - Build trust among all stakeholders
  - Governments must take the lead.

She cited some examples illustrating how professional associations at the global, regional and national levels are collaborating with the World Health Organization in finding new ways to strengthen the role of health workers particularly in those countries with critical shortages. Such innovative approaches were discussed and included creation of networks and communities of practice, and an increasing role of information and communications technology.

- networking - partnerships
- sharing information, experience & knowledge
- sharing training programmes
- sharing faculty
- creating networks & communities of practice
- using information and communications technology (ICT)

The challenges Dr. Petrakova emphasised is to quickly and efficiently scale up production of the health workforce with appropriate skills and competencies.

**Remarks by Herr Ueli Haenni, Arzt med. pract. Praxis Kreuzmatte Zollikofen**  
AEMRN Overall consultant.

In his remarks the AEMRN overall Consultant once again welcomed everyone and gave a brief background of the history and vision of AEMRN. He told the audience of his African experience more than twenty years ago as an exchange student in a regional hospital in Bafan Cameroon and related it to the symposium in terms of exchange of knowledge and experiences. He spoke of his involvement in the work of the Network and wishes everyone a fruitful deliberation and excellent networking for the rest of the day.

**Using Knowledge to Strengthen Human Resources for Health Scaling Up**

Dr. Erica Wheeler  
Knowledge Officer, Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA)  
World Health Organisation, Geneva.

In her presentation Dr. Wheeler gave an overview of the Global Health Workforce crises stressing on the disease burden in low income countries especially Sub-Saharan Africa and the global inequalities in the midst of plenty wealth, knowledge and technology in a connected world.

She further gave an insight into the 57 countries with critical shortage of health care workers including doctors, nurses and midwives and the lowest health spending per capita among Sub-Saharan African countries as compared to countries in the North.

The above reasons led to the creation of the GHWA to address the worsening health workforce crisis bearing in mind the impact of the crisis on health outcomes especially achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

She emphasised the need to involve all stakeholders on a broader base in recognition of the fact that no single entity can solve the Human Resources for Health (HRH) crises.

Dr. Wheeler told the symposium participants about the five areas of GHWA interest:

- Accelerating country actions
- Promoting synergy between partners
- Knowledge generation, management and sharing
- Advocating HRH ISSUES
- Addressing global HRH policy challenges

She gave an overview of the GHWA secretarial duties, working groups and task forces.

Speaking on the role of GHWA in Knowledge management, Dr. Wheeler outlined knowledge generation, collation and dissemination as key function and went on to elaborate on each citing concrete examples in selected countries.

Furthering her presentation on deliverables, Dr Wheeler highlighted national strategies implemented, evidence and information shared, tackling key Global Challenges and sustained political visibility.

On the use of the IBP Knowledge gateway Dr. Wheeler explained its use to create new communities of practice focused on scaling up education and training for HRH.

The IBP knowledge could be utilised to share GHWA products with colleagues around the world ranging from national, regional and international experience on effective practices and others

On the way forward Dr. Wheeler expanded on future plans of GHWA especially seeking active collaboration with other partners.

### **Implications of Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health Innovation and Intellectual Property**

Ms. M. Precious Matsoso- Director in PHI, WHO Secretariat on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property

World Health Organization, Geneva Switzerland

In her presentation Dr. Matsoso outlined the goals and objectives of her department and threw light on the increasing mortality due to priority diseases especially HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Africa and South-East Asia. She highlighted the unavailability of medications for children in appropriate formulations lamenting that the few that are present in managing infectious diseases among the poor are inadequate, ineffective and sometimes toxic.

Hence with both policy makers and the pharmaceutical industry previously not giving attention to this gap coupled with limited Research and Development (R&D), manufacturing systems and capacities in affected countries the WHO Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health was established mainly to tackle these issues.

Starting with the publishing of the commission's report in April 2006 followed by the World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA59.24 finally requested the Director General (DG) to set up the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG). The IGWG was to draw up a global strategy and plan of action that aims at, inter alia, securing an enhanced and sustainable basis for needs-driven, essential health research and development relevant to diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries.

This was again reinforced by the 61st World Health Assembly Resolution WHA 61.21 which urged Member States to adopt and support actively the wider implementation of the global strategy in particular through providing adequate resources to enhance implementation of specific actions recommended in the global strategy on public health, innovation and intellectual property.

Thus with the global strategy designed to promote innovation, build capacity, improve access and mobilize resources, Dr. Matsoso went on to lay out and explain in detail the eight elements of the plan of action as below:

- prioritizing research and development needs;
- promoting research and development;
- building and improving innovative capacity;
- transfer of technology;
- application and management of intellectual property;
- improving delivery and access;
- ensuring sustainable financing mechanisms;
- Establishing monitoring and reporting systems.

Dr. Matsoso further emphasised that:

- The proposed agenda as it relates to Africa is expected to address the specific African needs and incentives in terms of health innovation and drug development, production and regulation and create conducive national environments for health.

- This Agenda needs to be largely Africa-led with clear political support, ownership and involvement of African countries and regional networks.
- It should be executed in collaboration with others; North-South Collaboration, South-South Collaboration
- It must strengthen health innovation and contribute towards enhancing capacity across various components of the Global strategy and Plan of Action
- After going through in details the eight elements of the plan of action, she concluded her presentation that for the plan of action to be successful certain strategies needs to be reinforced such as Multiple stakeholders responsible for implementation as well as needs commitment and dedication of all, not only in terms of financial resources, but also human effort.

**A. Oral manifestation of HIV/AIDS- Experiences from South Africa.**

**B. Demonstration of E-granary digital mobile library - Its role in HIV/AIDS Oral presentations and databank development for research.**

Dr Julian Fisher

Education and Scientific Affairs Manager  
World Dental Federation (FDI), France

In his very inspiring presentation, Dr. Fisher took the audience through the following points:

- HIV & AIDS and oral disease in intra & multi-professional context
- Cross cutting nature of problem and Education
- Delivery including Experiences and lessons learnt

He further went on to give a broader definition of dentistry and oral and that Physical and mental health is strongly associated with oral health in HIV AIDS patients citing the issue of caries which he described as a disease from the cradle to the grave and doubling the burden in HIV/AIDS.

In the area of education, Dr. Fisher did a review of inter-professional ICT supporting continuing professional development (CPD) Pre-design; SWOT analysis of literature and went through specific conditions in place for ICT supported CPD and review pilot design phase of international projects. On the issue of education and science: transferring knowledge into action he briefly took the audience through:

- CPD portfolio (quality as management strategy)
- Interactive educational modules (equity of content)
- Instructional design in era of hyper text - multi-professional requires new pedagogies
- In the area of delivery he spoke on focus; static and mobile tools for learning.
- from web based to offline delivery to mobile device + flash memory card (specificity of theme and individualisation of material)
- Knowledge ecosystem; import and export = mother - daughter + feedback mechanism
- Use of open source for capacity building & exchange.

**WHO/Global Network for Health Professionals**

**An exciting project of Networking among Health professional with good lessons to be shared for HIV/AIDS projects**

Md. Jacqui Lunday, Chief Health Professions Officer, the Scottish Government, Edinburgh

Introducing her presentation on Global Network for Health Professionals, Md. Lunday outlined the composition of the her group highlighting earlier international initiatives of the Chief Health Professions Group from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Southern Ireland Australia and New Zealand.

In partnership with the World Health Organisation and receiving endorsements by various international bodies around the world in conferences and workshops the GNHP is gaining great momentum. The aim, purpose and objectives of the GNHP were outlined highlighting the potential of

GHNP to:

- Harness the wealth of experience and knowledge of all health professionals in support of WHO priorities and in particular health system strengthening for improved health outcomes.
- To provide a platform for inter-professional networking, exchange and collaboration, focussed on international health priorities
- Releasing the potential of health professions to impact on global health.
- Facilitate knowledge transfer by sharing learning and best practice to support policy and practice development.
- Build capacity and capability of the health professions workforce and support staff.
- Enable or facilitate synergies and collaboration to enhance the inter-professional contribution to the global health agenda.
- In her conclusion she stressed on the role of establishing communities of practice in their mission towards a multi-disciplinary approach for health systems strengthening.

**Different people, different messages**

**HIV prevention among migrants in Berne: Project Multicolore**

Frau Sibylle Vogt and Team, AIDS hilfe Bern, Switzerland.

The AIDS-hilfe Bern Team led by Ms. Sibylle Vogt gave a brief overview of the history, aims and objectives of the group which started in 2002 as Multicolore project targeting the HIV prevention and health promotion among migrant population in the Canton of Bern.

It is an entry point for various resources and information including networking with key opinion leaders in the migrant communities especially those from high HIV seroprevalence countries including Africa.

Ms. Sibylle further elaborated on the various areas and forms they use to get the HIV prevention messages across to their target groups including informal areas such as entertainment, social gathering, small focal group discussion and even running HIV prevention courses for asylum seekers and other irregular migrants.

A brief demographic and epidemiological description of the current HIV/AIDS situation among migrant in the canton Bern was highlighted.

The group concluded their presentation by a live role play of how the mediators reach out to the target group using various skills by Ms. Faida Nelson, Ms. Félicienne Villosz and Mr. Ghideon Ghebray

**Keynote Address –**

Dr. Geoffrey Kasembeli

Consultant Obstetrics and Gynaecologist, Specialist Sexually Transmitted Infections

Kitale District Hospital

Ministry of Health Kenya.

Past Secretary General, Medical and Dental Association of Kenya

In his keynote address Dr. Kasembeli once again reminded the audience about the current statistics of HIV/AIDS globally but specifically the pathetic situation in Sub-Saharan Africa. He lamented that despite so much spent on the fight against the virus the commitment from various stake holders especially political continues to be weak thus further weakening the health systems, infrastructure, personal and food security.

With half of all hospitals beds been occupied by HIV/AIDS patients most of them passing away Dr. Kasembeli called for more action and stressed that instead of re-inventing the wheel, we need to bridge the knowledge gap between the HIV researchers through innovative means. He called for a wider perspective of looking at issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.

He highlighted the role of religion, traditional medicine and community based initiatives in the fight against AIDS.

In conclusion, he thanked AEMRN for organizing the symposium and challenged all the participants to get more involved in research and have their findings presented at such fora in future for he firmly believed that is where we can have the answer.

He encouraged everyone to network, share information and keep updating each other on the various developments from their respective countries and further appealed to us all to prevent Africa from a preventable premature death whilst rhetorically questions the sustainability of some HIV/AIDS intervention projects in Africa.

### **HIV/AIDS Programme for Children and Youth**

Md Irene Fitzi Association of Building a future (BAF) - South Africa

Md. Fitzi gave a brief background of her association of BAF which is a non profit organisation based in Barkly West, Northern Cape South Africa. She took the audience through a short film highlighting their activities.

She gave the three layout of BAF which are Action Team, Rising Stars and Mzansi Youth Centre with a historical background.

As the vision of BAF is to create a holistic, dynamic and diverse culture of opportunities through training, education, mentoring, coaching and relationship building to strengthen the children and raise independent young adults, Md. Fitzi went through the various activities in line with their vision.

She concluded with the health needs of her programme including a primary health care centre and HIV/AIDS awareness programme for the children and youth.

### **Importance of Local Wisdom in Health Care delivery and Research including HIV**

Md. Gabriella Sozanski,  
WHO and NGO Advisory group on Health Promotion  
Geneva Switzerland.

Md. Sozanski in her presentation gave the rationale and reasons for using local wisdom in health care and research defining local wisdom as a dynamic knowledge resource held, evolved and transmitted by a defined population and integrated with their understanding of surrounding nature and culture. She gave the values and types of local wisdom as applies to food, medicine, housing, clothes and types of production.

Building her presentation further she gave instances of scientific validation of local wisdom especially in the area of HIV/AIDS and traditional medicine.

She introduced the NGO, Alliance for Health promotion and their special on Focus on Local Wisdom demonstrating its impact on global development efforts and told the participants of their 7th Global Conference on Health Promotion, Nairobi, 10-14 August 2009.

### **Strengthening pharmacy education for access to and rational use of medicines including ARVs: a new seven country case study in sub-Saharan Africa.**

Presentation from International Pharmaceutical Federation (IPF)  
Prof. Claire Anderson  
PhD BPharm FRPharmS MCPP  
Professor of Social Pharmacy University of Nottingham, UK

In response to her opening question as to why pharmacy education, Prof. Anderson quoted the report of the 2005 UN Millennium project taskforce on HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and access to essential medicines which stated : "Inadequate human resources for health, including pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, threatens to undermine all efforts to strengthen health systems and improve healthcare".

She briefed the audience about the distribution of pharmacists in the world and the access to essential medicines coupled with lowest pharmacy density in low-income countries.

Using country specific examples of Malawi, Prof. Anderson spoke about the workforce shortage and the access to medicines stressing on the need to increase the pharmacist workforce.

She introduced the pharmacy education taskforce, their action plans, vision and the different stakeholders and shared specific country case specific studies and the positive feedbacks they received about their projects.

She concluded by inviting participants to visit their websites and join the task force.

### **Contribution of Traditional Medicine to combating HIV/AIDS.**

Mr. Raphael Doji Eklun-Natey, Consultant Research and Development,  
President Traditional Medicine Association Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Martin Sigam, Vice-président, Gaston Gnagnasignan Comlan, Thérapeute

In his paper Mr. Eklun-Natey spoke about the need of medical research in Africa and touched on the two main diseases of HIV and Malaria and the poor attitude of ignorance towards natural richness and other socio-economic issues. He mentioned the creation of his organisation in 2002 and its importance at the local and the international scene. Citing the importance of Tradition and Medicine and HIV and the collaborative work between his group and colleagues in Mali, West Africa. He told the audience about the success of his group and the potential for further collaborative works. His colleagues Dr. Sigam and Mr. Comlan lent more support to his presentation showing certain examples of the benefits of tradition and medicine.

### **Community based initiatives including Combating HIV/AIDS in Kitale Kenya**

Md. Marjaana Seilonen, AEMRN collaborative partner and  
President, Ordinary Women International (OWI), California, USA.

Md. Marjaana introduced her organisation and the fundamental principles that led them to establish it. She shared with the participants the passion of OWI to fight health problems and their plans and strategies for long term success.

She went through their past project as regards water and sanitation by digging wells and training the local community about sanitation.

In the area of HIV/AIDS training she told of their innovative approaches to get the message across to the target groups.

As comprehension of clinical language is limited in rural villages words like immune system, virus and bacteria may not be understood. They looked for various methods to overcome this obstacle in the form of skits, role plays and demonstrations illustrate those meanings.

She outlined their multi-pronged, multi-professional and multidisciplinary plans to maintain sustained attack on the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

On the mobile clinics OWI and its partners have been running in Kitale, plans to do on a more sustainable basis by forming a coalition of NGOs for the acquisition of a hospital was spoken about. Other projects were also highlighted including agriculture, conferences for women, food relief and taking care of orphans.

### **Religion and HIV/AIDS Campaign**

Dr. Alpha Grace, President Global Ministries, Neuchatel, Switzerland

Dr. Grace gave an insight into Religion and HIV/AIDS from the perspective of the Africa Centre of Socio-cultural development. He spoke of the heavy burden of AIDS especially on religious families even whilst we pray and also on many generations to come.

He stressed the role of the Christian in the fight against HIV especially in Switzerland and highlighted the six things the religion has as advantages to use in the fight against HIV from capacity to credibility etc.

He also gave very good tip on stigma reduction and concluded on the benefit of risk reduction to minimise being infected with the virus.

### **Improving Nursing and Midwifery Capacity in countries facing Human Resources for Health Crisis.**

Md. Annette Mwansa Nkowane.  
Nursing and Midwifery, HRH WHO Geneva

In her presentation, Md. Nkowane focused on:

- The Global HRH situation

- The Role of Nurses and Midwives
- Global Programme of Work for scaling up nursing and midwifery capacity
- Sustainable HIV/AIDS Research in Nursing & Midwifery Services
- Challenges.

She described the lack of nurses in sub-Saharan African countries and stated that approximately 2.3 million doctors, nurses and midwives required to strengthen health systems and Primary Health Care (PHC). With geographical maldistribution, fewer nurses are available in rural and remote areas and where HIV prevalence is 15%, it is estimated that there will be up to 33 % loss of health workers in 10 years.

Also as nurses in sub-Saharan Africa constitute 50-80% of the health workforce, the biggest burden of care is shouldered by them and midwives, being most times the first and last points of contact. Hence the Global Programme of Work for scaling up nursing and midwifery with specific objectives and agenda for action has been quite progressive and coordinate with various stakeholders.

Md. Nkowane concludes by touching on Sustainable HIV/AIDS Research in Nursing & Midwifery Services and some of the challenges that needs to be addressed to achieve the outlined Global Programme for nursing and midwifery.

### **Help Khachonge Association activities in Western Kenya- Community based initiative**

Mr. Alfred Flückiger, Evelyn Flückiger

Mr Fluckiger gave a short background of their association, Help-Khachonge started in 2003 to lead development projects in the region of Khachonge in western Kenya.

In addition to other community based activities, they have a library, managed by the local youth committee who has also been trained in AIDS prevention to spread the message.

Children, AIDS orphans, handicapped or left behind for any reason are identified and sponsors found to support them through their education in boarding schools.

Their projects are managed “ bottom-up” community based and use a systemic approach to address the issues in parallel.

### **HIV/AIDS in African Prisons**

Dr. Barasa Chrisostim and Md. Nancy Shazima- Tears of Women Association, Kitale Kenya

Giving his paper on the above topic, Dr. Barasa gave a brief background on the association Tears of Women as an NGO based in Kitale that was created 3 years ago to address issues of poverty and fighting exposing the women to rape, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) etc.

The abandoned wives and women cry because of above social ills exposing them to HIV/AIDS.

In addition to other factors, ex-convicts are main contributory factors in that part of the country as international data show that HIV prevalence among prisoners is between six to fifty times higher than that of the general adult population.

He quoted similar from neighboring countries but little or no available data in his region in Kenya.

Thus recognizing such a significant knowledge gap in understanding the magnitude of the epidemic within the prison communities and its multiplier effect on societies at large, Dr. Barasa called for more activities in that area of neglect.

He appealed and urged networks to promote cooperation and establish integrated work between prison and correctional services, prison health systems, public health systems, national AIDS committees, international and national civil society organizations, to promote good prison and public health and in turn good HIV prevention, treatment and care.

### **The impact of social pensions on the livelihood, health and the psycho-social wellbeing of older people and their grandchildren** - A comparative study from the Kagera Region in Tanzania.

Mr. Stefan Hofmann, head, Association of Kwa Wazee-Africa`s Grandmothers fight against HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Hofmann presented preliminary results of the above studies conducted in Kagera region in Tanzania Surveying 108 older people.

He described the spiral of poverty among grandmothers in a community with insufficient external support when the traditional support system fails and hence the experiences from Pilot Pension Scheme of KwaWazee in Nshamba, Kagera which in November 2003 with 55 pensioners.

The impact of pensions on the lives of older people and their grandchildren in Tanzania's Kagera region was studied using quasi-experimental comparison design.

The study concluded that Pensions for older people offer more security and more dignity.

Also Children growing up in a supported older people headed household enjoy very good improvements in psycho-social wellbeing.

**Remarks** from "Nationalrat" Ricardo Lumengo, MP, Swiss National Parliament.

In his remarks Mr. Lumengo praised the AEMRN for the symposium and such events serve as a model for replication by other migrant populations. He hopes the initiative will be built upon confirming the Swiss Government support for such ventures

**Remarks** from AIDS Section Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)

Representing the AIDSHILFE Schweiz and the FOPH, Mr. Tshibangu expressed his satisfaction and hopes the message and inspiration goes a long way.

**Statement** from Swiss African Forum (SAF)

Mr. Issa Abdullahi and Mr. Carlson Ngwa, National Coordinator

Mr. Ngwa joined hands with other speakers in congratulating the AEMRN and that the Swiss African Forum is very much in agreement with such initiatives.

He pledged continued collaboration with SAF.

### **Brainstorming session**

Due to time factor the brainstorming session was blended with the plenary session.

### **Plenary Session and recommendations about the way forward**

Chairperson, Dr. Gabriela Tejada

EPFL – VPRI, Lausanne

UNESCO Chair in Technologies for Development

Dr. Tejada welcomed everyone to the plenary session and together with Dr. Charles Senessie to the high table.

The main points of the session were as follows:

### **Closing remarks and vote of thanks**

Dr. Charles Senessie, President AEMRN

In his vote of thanks Dr. Senessie thanked everyone for taking time off to come and the patience exercised in staying to the end as it was already 21:10 hrs CET.

He announced dinner and social evening at the Kornhaus.