WORK VISIT OF AMERICAN DELEGATION OF MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND MEHARRY COLLEGE AT PROMETRA International

APRIL, 15-20, 2017
Introduction:

From April 15 to 20, 2017, an American delegation composed by universities of Morehouse School of Medicine, of MEHARRY College, led by their respective Presidents made a visit, but mostly a learning and discovery visit to PROMETRA International.

Collaborative research undertaken since more than a decade with Morehouse School of Medicine on HIV/AIDS, Ebola virus fever obtained unique results at a world level, obtained only through the use of African medicinal plants, given by PROMETRA International. Those products were tested in-vivo in Senegal, through the Experimental Center for Traditional Medicines (CEMETRA of Fatick Region) regarding HIV/AIDS and in-vitro in highest standards laboratories in USA with Morehouse School of Medicine concerning HIV/AIDS and EBOLA virus with USAMRIID (United States Army Medical Researche for Infectious Diseases)

These results deserved to pay a visit.

Et c’est ainsi que la délégation américaine a passé une semaine riche en échanges, avec des rencontres à différents niveaux qui leur ont permis de vérifier certaines information et d’être rassurés dans leur convictions sur l’urgence de concrétiser les acquis obtenus à travers cette recherche collaborative.

US delegation spent a week rich in exchanges, with meetings at different levels which allowed check some information and be convinced about the necessity to shape results of this collaborative research.

Saturday April 15th, 2017:

Arrived in Dakar at 5:30 Am, the delegation went in afternoon to visit Gorée Island.

Sunday April 16th, 2017: VISIT OF CEMETRA CENTER IN FATICK REGION AND MEETING WITH HIV/AIDS PATIENTS
Having left soon Dakar, the delegation went to Fatick region where they arrived at 10:30. A high welcoming committee composed by Healers, Saltigui (Spiritual Leaders), Ndeupkatt (Priestesses) for Yoff and Rufisque as well as Youth Association of Malango welcomed our guests.
After a culturally and folkloric rich welcoming, the delegation went to hospitalization units in Khelcom, place where HIV patients were hosted during 06 months of their treatment through medicinal plants.

Coming to Healers and Saltigui of Malango’s school, President RICE from Morehouse School of Medicine, under supervision of Dr Erick GBODOSSOU, President of PROMETRA International participated in patients remedies for HIV.
Patients. It was an occasion to understand that knowledge is different from knowing. One plus one is not always equal to two.

In the frame of collaborative research, a sample of 10 HIV/AIDS patients was studied and data related to CD4 account and viral load was given to Morehouse School of Medicine.

Meeting with patients was a strong moment of exchanges. President RICE was able then to put a face on each patient’s files she had and could hold specific interviews and take an important number of information in the frame of the continuation of studies.

At end of session, US delegation made a gift of 500 US$ to HIV/AIDS Patients Association « SOPE GBODOSSOU » (LOVE GBODOSSOU) of MALANGO Center. To thank US delegation of this important and symbolic gesture, patients showed their joy by performing traditional songs and dances and asked to our guests to continue this collaboration.
Back in the courtyard of the CEMETRA, Saltigui women and Malango healers performed a ritual in honor of their guests. The highlight of this ritual is the elevation of the President RICE to the rank of student Healer and Saltigui of Sine. A traditional boubou, pearls, and especially Peme pearls were brought to him. The Priestess's scarf and a traditional leverotary dance put an end to sacred rites and rituals.

After a rich meal, interviews with Journalists Network for Traditional Medicines (REJOMETRA) were done, and session ended at 4:00 PM. The delegation moved then to join Dakar.

April 17th, 2017: WORK MEETING AT PROMETRA International’s HEADQUARTERS

Under official presidency of Ministry of Higher Education and Research, represented by Director or Research Pr Amadou Thierno GAYE, the session took place with presence of Chief of Staff of Ministry of Farming, of Cabinet Director of Ministry of Culture and Communication and with FAFS (Senegalese Women Association’s Federation ) and PROMETRA Staff members.

The sessions started by Ritual of Union Circle, followed by PROMETRA’s anthem. After welcoming speech of PROMETRA International’s President, Presidents of Morehouse School of Medicine and MEHARRY College at their
turn thanked the Organization, Ministry of Higher Education and Research and explained reason of their visit.

After a general presentation of its university, President of Morehouse School of Medicine proceeded to the nomination of Dr Erick GBODOSSOU as Professor of Morehouse School of Medicine.

This nomination and new function allow to measure at its right value bargains of such a partnership, but mostly importance that our partners give to this African man who during his lifelong has worked to for revalorization of indigenous sciences, with at the end on of most important results for tomorrow’s health.

Dr James HILDRETH, President of MEHARRY College presented his medical school which existed since 1876, and who is the first training school intended to black people in USA.
Objectives of these two schools are to eradicate health, racial and social disparities through education, training and healthcares.

Afterward, Pr Amadou Thierno GAYE made a speech by which he glorified the collaboratives research works between structures and reaffirmed the will of the Head of State of Senegal President Macky SALL to go to direction of these initiatives through development of new structuring and innovative projects, in particular within the framework of the new Diamniadio city, with constructions of Scientific Hubs, Big data calculator, the "City of Knowledge" fitted out on 14HA etc.

After coffee break, it was proceeded to the visit of the Headquarters facilities, the administrative offices including Communication Department, METRAF and Radio METRAF. A long session was dedicated to «Green Gold", where an exhibition of large number of medicinal products of PROMETRA was made as well as presentation of activities connected to the research, culture and to universal spirituality. On this occasion, Dr. Erick GBODOSSOU through posters explained the notion of Knowledge: Supreme Knowledge which will enable tomorrow science to be at service of man and humanity.

La Séance a pris fin à 17H00 avec l’atelier sur le thème: Intégration de la Science Traditionnelle Africaine dans les Formations aux Professions Sanitaires.

Afterward, a presentation followed by discussions by Dr Erick GBODOSSOU, President of International PROMETRA was made on the topic: Necessary Triangular Partnership In This Fast-Changing World.

After lunch, a second presentation was made on Reviewing and Studying Available Research Data by the President of PROMETRA International.

The session came to an end at 5:00 pm with workshop on the topic: The Integration of African Traditional Knowledge into Health Professions Education – “Knowledge and Knowing”

April 18th 2017: VISIT OF BOTANICAL GARDEN AND MEETING WITH RECTOR AND DEAN OF MEDICAL FACULTY OF CHEIKH ANTA DIOP UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR
The American delegation led by President and Rector Dr Montgomery RICE was received by the leaders of Botanical Garden of Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Dakar at 9:00 am. Managers of the Garden, led by Dr. Diatta, made a visit of botanical garden where rare plants are grown, such as fagara used in treatment of sickle cell disease. This garden which extends on 1.5HA benefited since its foundation of financial support of Enda Tiers Monde. In recent years, death of its Executive Secretary Jacques BUGNICOURT, financial difficulties have put in the obligation Enda Tiers Monde to stop its support. Consequence is that all plants that require rigorous maintenance and especially water permanently have mostly disappeared. Technical competence and expertise is always available, and it would be desirable that this extremely important structure for medical, pharmacy and stomatology students to do seagrass beds, to study biochemical and pharmacological aspects of these different plants as well as their therapeutic use.

After visiting this botanical garden, US delegation was to render its honor to Professor Emmanuel BASSENE, Head of the botanical garden.

10h00-12h00: Reception of the delegation by Rector Ibrahima THIOUB

Professor THIOUB, Rector of UCAD, assisted by Professor Amadou Galo DIOP, in charge of cooperation, warmly welcomed delegation of the two American universities. Interview was cordial, confraternal, with practical Topics. These three institutions reviewed opportunities for partnership, student exchange, faculty and collaborative research in multiple and varied fields of common interest. Professor THIOUB insisted on the need to make protocols of active and participatory agreements.

After group photos, the delegation went to the Mixed Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy and Odontostomatolog. The Dean, Professor Amadou DIOUF, surrounded by his staff reserved a warm, fraternal and committed welcome to the delegation of two American universities. They
exchanged views on the MSM-A.YOUNG-PROMETRA partnership, and on the encouraging results they have achieved in the treatment of HIV / AIDS and EBOLA virus disease, with the plants used by African healers. These extremely encouraging results caught the attention of the dean and his staff, and he invited researchers from two American universities to meet with researchers working on HIV and virology.

A luncheon was planned at the faculty 48 hours later to allow meeting of these scientific leaders. This rich lunch allowed both to think about results obtained and to discuss together the possibilities of partnership for the next stage.

**At 1 pm, US delegation left Cheikh Anta Diop University for Pink Lake.**

The delegation observed with admiration this unique tourist city and witnessed live the salt picking at the bottom of the lake by women, some with a baby on the back. It was also an opportunity for the delegation to visit artisanal village, to appreciate artistic works but also to buy some souvenirs to immortalize their passage in this site. visit ended at 15:00 and the delegation visited the new industrial area of Diamniadio.
Visit of the Industrial Unit of METRAF in Diamniadio:

After workers had welcomed the delegation, Dr GBODOSSOU recalled the history of the project. In order to combat malnutrition in Senegal, the subregion and Africa, PROMETRA / METRAF has drawn up a memorandum of understanding with Procter & Gamble to produce Nutristar in Senegal. To this end, as recommended by HE Ambassador Andrew YOUNG, PROMETRA-METRAF and P & G were invited to the CGI (Clinton Global Initiative) to present this joint project. METRAF acquired in the industrial area nearly 02 ha of land, part of which is fully equipped for this production. For cautiousness reasons, Dr. GBODOSSOU suspended the operation of the plant. This decision was subject of extremely rich discussions and exchanges between PROMETRA and its hosts.

At 18:00, the delegation took direction of Dakar for a rest at the Radisson Blu.

After security formalities, the delegation was received by Director of USAID surrounded by her staff. The 3 group leaders gave individual presentations. Dr. RICE gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining history of MSM, evolution of training of various disciplines as well as perspectives of this university. She highlighted the value of partnership that her university has with A.Y. Foundation and PROMETRA International, which have resulted in exceptional in-vitro results using African healer plants on AIDS and Ebola fever. President of
MEHARRY, Professor James HILDRETH also made a presentation emphasizing the history of MEHARRY which is the first black university founded in USA. He stressed on different disciplines, especially on the important number of students in odontostomatolgy.

The President of PROMETRA International, Dr. Erick GBODOSSOU, reviewed history of research and clinical studies conducted at CEMETRA of Fatick in HIV / AIDS patients. He recalled that in 1999, PROMETRA organized the first HIV / AIDS and traditional medicine conference, conclusions of which were the subject of Dakar Declaration. A statement that gave to PROMETRA two responsibilities:

1. PROMETRA is responsible at continental level to involve healers in prevention of HIV / AIDS.

2. To undertake collaborative research in scientific institutions and with African healers.

PROMETRA has developed a teaching manual called FAPEG Method (Healer’s Self Proficiency Method) to train healers in order to help them fully play their role as I.E.C. agents.

After an unsuccessful contact with local leaders on HIV / AIDS, PROMETRA, an international scientific committee chaired by Dean Antoine Yangny ANGATE, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Côte d’Ivoire has set up an international scientific and legal committee. Clinical trials in Malango were conclusive, H.E. Ambassador Andrew YOUNG, a member of the Steering Committee, introduced us to MSM for further research, the results are absolutely positive. USAID Director expressed her interest in this partnership and wished to support it, and to this end, she planned to organize a meeting between local officials and PROMETRA to learn more about the results they had achieved.

Reporter

Mamadou DIAW

PROMETRA International