

**REPORT ON  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE  
HELD AT**

**FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH,  
OSHODI, LAGOS, NIGERIA  
(5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2017)**

**BY  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

International Conference on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge organized by PAX Herbs Clinic and Research Laboratories, in collaboration with Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (**FIIRO**); the Nigeria Natural Medicine Development Agency (**NNMDA**), Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Ofure (Pax) Integral Research and Development Initiative (**OFIRDI**) and National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (**NOTAP**). The Theme of the Conference was “**The Contribution of Indigenous Knowledge in Stimulating Integral Development in Nigeria and Africa**”. The conference was held at the Federal Institute of Industrial Research Oshodi, Lagos, on the Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 2017

Participants at the Conference were drawn from the Academia, Research Institutes, Government Agencies from Federal, State and Local Government, Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurs from value chain system of the, Traditional Medicine Practitioners (TMPs), Traditional Birth attendants, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Media.

## **DIGNITARIES IN ATTENDANCE**

The dignitaries present at the conference include:

1. Honourable Minister of Science and Technology His Excellency, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, represented by Pharm. Sam. O Etatuvie, DG/CEO NNMDA; **Chairman**.
2. Honourable Minister of Health His Excellency, Prof. Isaac Adewole, represented by Pharm. M. O. Lawal.
3. Prof. Maurice Iwu, Chairman, Bioresources Development Group.
4. Prof. (Mrs.) Gloria N. Elemo, Director-General/CEO, Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi, (FIIRO), Lagos; **the Host**.
5. Prof. Babatunde L. Salako, Director-General, National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) Lagos.

6. Prof. Alexander Schieffer, University of St. Galen, Geneva, Switzerland, **Guest Speaker and Book Reviewer**
7. Rev. Fr. Anselm Adodo, OSB, Director of Pax Herbals and Pax Centre for Integral Research and Development; **the Convener of the Conference.**
8. Engr. Nwosa Lucky, Director of Technology Acquisition and Research Coordination (TARC), representing Director General, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
9. Dr. Monica Imunjezie, Director of Evaluation and Regulations representing the Director General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
10. Dr. Bunmi Omosehindemi, Chairman, Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board;
11. Dr. Ohioma Pogoso, Director, Institute of African Studies (IAS), University of Ibadan;
12. Prof. Sophie B. Oluwole, Executive Director Center for African Culture and Development (CEFACAD)
13. Prof. MacDonald Idu, University of Benin, Nigeria
14. Prof. Arch. Bishop Magnus Atilade
15. Prince Aare Mare Tajudeen Olusesi, National President Association of Traditional Midwifery of Nigeria
16. Chief Ogunjimi Gbolagade, Secretary General, Association of Traditional Midwifery of Nigeria.
17. Dr. Darlington Okafor, Coordinator, Green Centre for Alternative Medicine Practitioners (GCAMP).
18. Mr. Adigun, Head of Admin, Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board.
19. Dr. Onile and his team (Collaborators and Stakeholders from South Africa).
20. Agbor Happiness, Environment Quality Control Department representing the Director General of NESREA
21. Dr. Femi Jegede, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan
22. Dr. Atoyebi, Agege General Hospital, Lagos
23. Dr. Oluyemisi;
24. International and National distributors of Pax Herbals.

In attendance on the first day of the conference were about two hundred and fifty six (256) registered participants, and six exhibitors: Pax Herbals, Bioresources Group, FIIRO, Nigerian export Promotion Council (NEPC), Greenland group. The attendance on the second day was about three hundred and fifty (350), and five (5) exhibitors. The conference attracted stakeholders that are vast in integral traditional knowledge from South West Nigeria, with some participants from the east, North and mid-west of Nigeria and South Africa. The event provided a unique opportunity for traditional medicine practitioners (TMPs), traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and young entrepreneurs to learn and network.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM DAY 1 (THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2017)

The programme started by 10.25 am. The MC for the opening ceremony was Dr) Baderinwa, a programme presenter on WAP TV. The introduction of dignitaries to the high table was followed by the National Anthem and the safety talk by Mr. Emmanuel Iyam, a member of Health Safety and Environment (HSE) team of FIIRO. The welcome address was by the Chief Host, Prof. (Mrs.) Gloria N. Elemo, Director General /Chief Executive Officer, FIIRO). The representative of the Chairman Pharm. Sam. O Etatuvi, Director General of NNMDA, read the Chairman's opening remarks and declared the Conference opened. Prof. Maurice Iwu, Chairman, Bioresources Development Group gave the Keynote address, titled "Indigenous Traditional Medicine as a vehicle for Sustainable Economic Development". He noted the use of computer aided design (CAD) for diagnosis in herbal medicine as one of the improvements made on the indigenous traditional medicine research. He also mentioned that lack of intellectual property is one of the challenges of Traditional medicine.

Prof. Babatunde L. Salako, Director General, Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) presented the Lead Paper titled "Western Allopathic Medicine and Traditional African Medicine: any hope of synergy? Prof. Alexander Schieffer, from University of St. Galen, Geneva, Switzerland, Guest Speaker and Book Reviewer, reviewed the book written by Rev. Fr. Anselm Adodo titled "Integral Enterprise in Africa. Communitarism as an African Alternative to Capitalism". Prof. Isaac Adewole, the Honourable Minister of Health, represented by Pharm. M.O. Lawal, head of herbal Medicine Unit at the Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja, read the address of the Minister of Health. This was followed by remarks by special guests, this featured address by the representative of the Director General National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Dr. Monica Imunjezie, the Director of Evaluation and Regulations in the agency. Also, Dr. Aina from Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) also gave an insight into the relationship that exist between the Research work in NIMR and the Traditional Medicine Practitioners.

The first session ended with a closing remark by Rev. Fr. Anselm Adodo, OSB. In his remarks, he said Nigeria has remained a country with lots of potentials for too long, and that now is the time to actualize those potentials. This he said is one of the main objective of the conference. The Opening ceremony ended at 1pm.

The first of the panel sessions started at 3pm a presentation by Dr. Atoyebi, a gynecologist at the Agege General Hospital, Lagos. In his paper titled "**INFERTILITY**" he discussed the definition, risk factors for infertility, causes of infertility in both men and women, diagnosis and medical treatment. He also answered questions on the topic. Rev. Fr. Anselm Adodo in his presentation addressed the use of herbs for the management of infertility and antenatal care. Some of the herbs used to improve fertility include: *Terminalia catappa*, *Solenosemon monostachyus* etc.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM DAY 2 (FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2017)

The second day of this International Conference started with an opening prayer, the MC was Mr. Amodu Emmanuel a curator from Paxherbal. The second day featured three panel discussions. The first panel discussion for the day was titled “**Western Allopathic and Traditional African Medicine: any hope for a Synergy?**” The Chairman of this panel was Pharm. Sam. O Etatuvie, the DG/CEO of NNMDA. The discussant was Prof. MacDonald Idu. The first speaker on this panel was Dr. Femi Jegede from Center for African Traditional Medicine, University of Ibadan. The second speaker was Dr. Osunwole, a former lecturer at the Center for African Traditional Medicine, University of Ibadan, he spoke on “**The Role of Traditional African Medicine in Promoting Sustainable Development in Education, Technology Health care and Culture in Nigeria**”. The discussant gave a summary of the topic drawing from both presentations. The Chairman of the panel rounded the discussion up, then few questions and answers were taken, after which we went on tea break.

The second panel discussion for the day was titled “**Standardization, Registration and Regulation of Herbal Medicine**”. The Chairman of this panel was Pharm. Sam. O Etatuvie, the DG/CEO of NNMDA. The discussant was Prof. MacDonald Idu. The first speaker on this panel was Mr. Joseph Asipo, a Deputy Director of NAFDAC. The second speaker was Mrs. Chiemezie Esther from NNMDA, who she spoke on “**Hygiene and Safety Issues in Traditional Medicine Production**”. The Chairman of the panel asked for comments and questions and the questions were answered. The chairman of the panel Pharm. Sam. O Etatuvie, the DG/CEO of NNMDA rounded up the session and dissolved the panel.

The third panel discussion was chaired by Dr. Gbenga Aina of NIMR who represented Prof. B. L. Salako, the DG of NIMR. The discussant was Dr. Bunmi Omoseyindemi. The speakers in this session were Pharm. M.O. Lawal from Federal Ministry of Health, who spoke on “**Western Allopathic Medicine and Traditional African Medicine: any hope for synergy?**” Prof. Sophie Oluwole, a retired Professor of the University of Lagos, she spoke on **spirituality and materialism in Traditional African Medicine**, she brought some herbal or medicinal plant and talked about the traditional uses. Dr. (Mrs.) U. E. Igbo, a Deputy Director in FIIRO, spoke on “**Standardization, Quality Control and Production of Herbal Medicine.**” In her paper, she emphasized on the need of consistent quality of herbal products for the survival and success of the industry. In addition, to achieve the required standard the importance of the use of modern analytical equipment to test the various quality parameters is paramount. In conclusion, she informed the stakeholders of the availability of these modern analytical tools in FIIRO.

The last speaker in the panel was Mrs. Ham Itemire, a PhD student of Prof. MacDonald Idu, from the University of Benin, who spoke on the discovery of an herb useful in the control of bleeding which she is still working on for her PhD studies, she also spoke on packaging herbal products to make them attractive. The session was closed with the emphatic statement made by Dr. Bunmi

Omoseyindemi, that there can be synergy between Western Allopathic Medicine and Traditional African Medicine as there is already synergy between the two forms of medicine. He mentioned all his efforts within Lagos State and at the Federal level for the bill on traditional medicine to be passed into law. Pharm M. O. Lawal also pleaded with all the factions in traditional medicine Practitioners to unite a form a formidable force so as to be able to fast track the passage of the bill into law, for it is necessary to have a council of traditional medicine practitioners in Nigeria. Few questions and answers were taken after this section. Engr. Nweze, a Director at NOTAP gave a suggestion that Intellectual Property Right (IPR) should be discussed in a more elaborate form in the next conference, he also appealed to the traditional medicine practitioners at the conference to protect indigenous knowledge. The programme ended by 4.30 pm with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Bolanle Alabede, a senior researcher at Paxherbal and certificate of attendance was issued to the participants.

After extensive deliberations on issues raised during the opening ceremony and plenary sessions, participants noted the following:

1. The Stakeholders in indigenous traditional knowledge sector in Nigeria are doing well with the application of the trainings gotten from Federal Government Agencies over the time and are coming up with quality products for public consumption which will soon be upgraded to exporting as a means of diversifying the economy.
2. The wealth of indigenous knowledge and technologies in Nigeria present some unique and unlimited opportunities for economic diversification, job and wealth creation, foreign exchange earnings and overall economic development of the country.
3. No one single herb is recommended exclusively for a given health disorder and no one single health disorder is linked with one single herb.
4. Traditional and Complimentary Medicine has growing economic importance with the products selling all over the world even on internet. This may reduce health care cost.
5. Traditional knowledge in Africa is going extinct, how do we bridge the gap?
6. Factors Affecting Integration of T&CM into Modern Medical Practices include Herb Quality Issues, Quality Assurance/Quality Control In Processing And Manufacturing/Preparation of herbal Medicines (Good Manufacturing Practices Issues), Herbal Mechanisms of Action, Bioavailability, Herbs Chemical Constituents, Herb–drug Interactions Efficacy Measurements, Quality of Life, other Safety Issues , Use of poor quality, adulterated or counterfeit products, Unqualified practitioners, Misdiagnosis, delayed diagnosis, or failure to use effective conventional treatments, Exposure to misleading or unreliable information, Direct adverse events and side effects or unwanted treatment interactions

7. National Infrastructural development by the Federal Government is a needed support for development of Traditional African Medicine in Nigeria
8. Pouching and indiscriminate use of indigenous bio resources and genetic resources is affecting the sustainability of the indigenous traditional knowledge.
9. Presently, the global worth of medicinal and aromatic plants in indigenous traditional knowledge now worth US\$184.10bn and estimated to grow to US\$302bn by 2022. Indigenous traditional knowledge in Africa is dominated by Ghana, Kenya, Cameroon and South Africa.
10. From three WHO's recognized degree of integration of Traditional and Complimentary Medicine into national health system namely Integrative systems, Parallel System, Tolerant systems, only the parallel system is practiced in Nigeria which involves the separation of biomedical and traditional medicine in the national health system.
11. African traditional knowledge is one of the keys to unlock the expected global transformation and for societal reunion.
12. Traditional African knowledge is broad involving farming, production, practice and spirituality, when well harnessed, and the issue of unemployment will be fixed once and for all Nigeria.
13. African Herbal Medicinal Products of global economic importance are well documented in European Pharmacopoeia, African Pharmacopoeia, African Herbal Pharmacopoeia, West African Herbal Pharmacopoeia, Ghana Herbal Pharmacopoeia, Nigerian Herbal Pharmacopoeia, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia, United States Pharmacopoeia and Dietary Supplement Compendium as reference for .research and development
14. African Regional Standard Organization Medicinal Plants Monographs contains *Gum arabic and Gum seya, Calotropis procera, Aloe vera, Urtica dioica and Urtica urens, Ambrosia maritima, Carica papaya, Oil Palm (Elaeis guineensis)*.
15. Issue of intellectual property rights (IPR) is paramount to economic advantage of traditional African knowledge.
16. The next Conference should consider training of Traditional Medicine Practitioners on Intellectual property right (IPR)
17. Traditional Medicine Bill is currently undergoing 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly.

**Recommendations:**

1. Identification of abundant wealth of indigenous knowledge and skills in Nigeria with the applications of scientific methods will help the nation to withstand competition and move on the path of economic development
2. The application of the triple helix model in building bilateral relationship between industry, government and the academia/research institutes in the stimulating and development of indigenous knowledge in Nigeria should be adopted.
3. A working Committee for the integration of Traditional African Medicine and Western medicine into national healthcare delivery system should be formed.
4. A national policy for the sustainable use of our indigenous bio resources and genetic resources should be developed to boost our Gross Domestic Products (GDP).
5. Incorporate traditional medicine knowledge and practices into the training curriculum of all health care workers, all Medical Schools and as an undergraduate course in Nigerian universities.
6. Awareness, sensitization, campaign and advocacy among Physicians and TMPs on the role of scientific, cultural, educational and legal tools should be encouraged.
7. Traditional and Complimentary Medicine Practitioners must be open to sharing their methods and knowledge by allowing western Doctors to examine and analyze them using their own systems of fact finding engaging acceptable intellectual property guidelines/MOU from the beginning of collaboration
8. For commercialization of products locally and internationally, traditional medicine practitioners should pay attention to GMP and standardization in product formulation.
9. The Traditional Medicine Practitioners should be well trained and employed in the national healthcare delivery system in Nigeria.
10. There is a need for the Traditional Medicine Practitioners in Nigeria to be united under a single body so as to garner enough weight when approaching the Federal Government for any help.