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August 29, 2006

Greensboro, NC: 8/29/2006: The first post-war National Health Conference, which is being organized by LIHEDE in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, continues to gain momentum in Liberia, as the University of Liberia has joined the list of interested parties by offering to host the Conference, if approved by the organizers.

Dr. Al-Hassan Conteh, President of the University of Liberia, made this disclosure recently when he met with Dr. Emmett Dennis, Director of Social Services of LIHEDE, at the campus of the University in Liberia. Dr. Dennis was in Liberia this month, August, to attend his first meeting as member of the Board of Trustees of the University recently appointed by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

According to Dr. Dennis, during the meeting with Dr. Conteh, he was taken on a tour of the campus facilities and he was very much impressed with the newly renovated auditorium and the new chairs available in the facility. He added that in addition to the auditorium there are three break-out rooms and classrooms which could serve for group meetings during the Conference.

However, he indicated that further discussion on the offer with the University of Liberia can be pursued based on a review and subsequent approval of the offer by the organizers of the National Health Conference slated to be held on December 14-19, 2006 in Liberia.

In a related development, while in Liberia, Dr. Dennis met with the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Walter Gwenigale, who reaffirmed the commitment of the Ministry to the Conference and reconfirmed the appointment of Dr. Joel Jones, Director of the National Malaria Control Program, as the Point Person of the Ministry to the organizing committee of the Conference.

He also met with the WHO Representative to Liberia, Dr. Eugene A. Nyarko, to consolidate the participation of the WHO in the Conference.

The National Health Conference slated to be held in Liberia on **December 14-19, 2006** is to bring together health professionals and traditional health practitioners to discuss and develop appropriate strategies to combat the debilitating disease, malaria, in Liberia with the overall goal and objective to control and eventually eradicate the disease from the country.

Dr. Dennis, who is also a Dean at Rutgers University in New Jersey, has since returned to the United States awaiting his next mission on behalf of LIHEDE come September 12 in New York. He is expected to represent LIHEDE at an international symposium being organized by Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, which is headed by Mary Robinson, former first female President of Ireland.

The Conference will be held in New York near the headquarters of the United Nations under the theme: Global solutions to Health Workers Migration. LIHEDE was invited to the Conference based on discussion

held at the offices of Realizing Rights in New York between Ms. Heather Grady, Director of Partnerships of Realizing Rights and Sam Togba Slewion, Director of Publications of LIHEDE in last June.

In the Meantime, the LIHEDE is extending invitation to members and well wishers of LIHEDE, friends of Liberia and the general public to come to Greensboro on **September 30, 2006** to spend the entire day with LIHEDE to support the "Pre-Conference Rally" for the National Health Conference in Liberia under the slogan: "**We Want No More Malaria in Liberia.**"

Signed:

Sam Togba Slewion

Director of Publications-LIHEDE

See below the Announcement for the Rally:

Come as Liberians and friends of Liberia to lend your helping hand to this all important cause so that together we can generate the necessary public awareness and needed funds for the December Conference in Liberia. Your presence and contributions are not only crucial to the success of the malaria campaign, but will also send the right signal and beacon of hope for a child who is praying for a miracle from a human angel like you to rid himself or herself of malaria. Through these kinds of fundraising activities we can assist the less fortunate who are at the mercy of malaria and who need our collective help to break the shackles of this preventable disease.

We have put together an exciting and educational program in order to make your stay enjoyable in the City of Greensboro. We have made arrangements with area hotels, car rental agencies, and airlines to provide available discounts to you. We have also contacted radio stations and local newspapers about the program and informed them that many Liberians and friends of Liberia will be in the area, along with the locals, having fun, sharing experiences about the malaria epidemic in their country and raising funds for the National Health Conference.

The preliminary Schedule of Activities for the rally is as follows :

- Continental breakfast 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM
- High-profile speakers to enlighten the participants 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM (speaker 1)
- Renowned Country Western music star, Corey Lea (www.lilcowtown.com), has agreed to perform his latest recorded song on malaria eradication at the events at 12noon: to 1:00 PM
- Lunch 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
- BnetTV of Canada has agreed to broadcast the entire program world-wide via the Internet. A similar service was performed by BnetTV during the LIHEDE Health Symposium last July in Greensboro, NC
- A soccer game between the "Old Timers" of Lone Star and retired players from England. The famous "Monkey Brown" is expected to serve as referee. 3:00pm to 4:45 PM
- Black Tie/Formal Attire dinner (RSVP for 250 persons) 6:30 PM to 8:45 PM (Speaker II)
- Ball from 9:00 p.m. 11:45 p.m.

Apart from the above, if you have a story to tell on the scourge of malaria, please join us and share your experience. If you are a musician, a writer with a poem on malaria, or a drummer with a beat for malaria eradication, come and share your artistic depictions. If you are a pastor, reverend, deacon, or Imam, come help to give the best gift, which is the rejuvenation of life itself.

This precious gift of life is being lost in Liberia where children know little peace, as malaria continues to be a principal killer of our people: 20,000 (MOH, 2006) Liberian children die each year from the curable disease. Across the African Continent, an estimated 500 million people contract malaria every year - up to 3 million die (half of them children), and tens of thousands are left with irreversible brain damage.

Come let us begin preparation to bury this national calamity in the dustbin of history. With our collective will, vision, nationalism, and patriotism, we can do just that. Email us at lihede2003@yahoo.com so that we can put you on the program.

I hope that you will honor my request, and join us in Greensboro on September 30. However, if you cannot come, donations are welcome. Other ways you can assist is by disseminating information about the rally and conference, and asking those that you know who may be able to help. Visit us at www.lihede.org for more information and updates on the program. We therefore look forward to your emails or phone calls with any questions that you may have to make you an active participant in the Pre-Conference Rally on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro on **Saturday, September 30**.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Syrulwa Somah, PhD
Executive Director-LIHEDE