

## NEWSLETTER # 45 – February/March 2007

### PHARMACIENS SANS FRONTIERES COMITE INTERNATIONAL

This year again you have the opportunity to meet us at **Pharmagora** on 24, 25, 26 March at Paris-Expo, Porte de Versailles, Paris. Come and visit us on stand **P70** to collect a copy of our 2006 annual report and to understand the importance of pharmacists in the provision of development assistance in the area of health in the poorest countries. From the implementation of regular supply channels for medicines to the delivery of training and transfer of skills to local health care staff, to the fight against illicit markets and the counterfeiting of medicinal drugs, to the provision of quality essential medicines, to the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, and to the management of medicines in disasters, *Pharmaciens sans Frontières* ensures the pharmacy profession's contribution to a fairer world. [www.pharmagora.com](http://www.pharmagora.com)

## EVENTS

Also at Pharmagora, **ReMeD** will organise a conference on Monday 26 March at 3 pm: "Campaign against the illicit market: what can the pharmacist do?" [www.remed.org](http://www.remed.org)

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Fair Trade Fortnight** will take place between 28 April and 13 May in France. [www.maxhavelaarfrance.org](http://www.maxhavelaarfrance.org)

On 20 March, the website of the **Conférence Internationale des Ordres des Pharmaciens Francophones (CIOPF)** was launched. For 13 years, the CIOPF has served as a discussion forum on the promotion of public health. Its work has focused on anti-HIV/AIDS campaigns, the great pandemics, the illicit market in medicines, continuing education, the counterfeiting of medicines, the shipment of unused drugs to developing countries, e-commerce and pharmacy services, and policies to improve access to medicines in developing countries. The CIOPF is also a forum for exchange in the fields of drug regulations and Good Professional Practices. <http://www.ciopf.org>

**The International Narcotics Control Board** warns of counterfeit medicines flooding markets and calls for action to be taken to curb the unregulated market.

*"The danger of unregulated markets is the theme of chapter one of the Annual report. The Board is calling for it to be addressed on a priority basis. The existence of unregulated markets means that substandard and sometimes even lethal medication is sold to the unsuspecting consumers".*

The Board has called on member States to enforce existing legislation to impede this menace, **and also take appropriate measures to increase the availability of medicinal drugs through legitimate channels, particularly in areas where there is lack of access** <http://www.incb.org/incb/en/index.html>

WHO publishes guidelines on cultivating essential plant used in anti-malaria medicines, *Artemisia annua L*, a Chinese traditional medicinal plant which is the source of artemisinin, used to produce the most effective medicines for malaria. The guidelines will contribute to improving the quality of *Artemisia annua L* to further develop artemisinin-based medicines, and help ensure a sustainable supply to meet market demand.

"As with most medicinal herbs, artemisinin's contents and efficacy are subject to climatic, geographical and environmental conditions. Not all *Artemisia annua* plants necessarily contain artemisinin and in some places, depending on the quality of the soil and rainfall, the content may be very low and without industrial value. These factors make it necessary to run pilot tests of cultivation on small areas of land to ensure that the land selected is suitable for growing high-yield plants before large-scale cultivation begins".

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2007/np10/en/index.html>

WHO monograph on good agricultural and collection practices for *Artemisia annua L*. - [pdf 921kb] <http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/traditional/ArtemisiaMonograph.pdf>

**IFAID Aquitaine (France)** is inviting applications (2007/2008) for its new Development Programme Coordinator training course. This 2-year training programme prepares students for employment in development projects in the social, urban, health, rural, and environmental sectors, and solidarity economy in France, Europe, emerging-market countries or southern countries. Applications forms may be obtained from IFAID. Completed forms must be submitted by 25 April 2007. For more information, the website is: <http://www.ifaid.org> – Contact [formation@ifaid.org](mailto:formation@ifaid.org)

## MISSIONS

### **Southern-Sudan – Stories from volunteers....**

By Marjolein DE BRUYCKER

*“South Sudan..... A country that has been ravaged by a decades-long civil war, Africa’s longest running conflict.... A region as remote and isolate a corner as it’s possible to imagine, where the most persistent sign of the developed world is often the Kalashnikov.*

*A corner of the world as big as half of Western Europe with no roads, no electricity, minimal infrastructure, no telephone network, and a serious landmine problem; Where you won’t be spoiled for choice when it comes to eating, where fresh fruits and vegetables are rare, and a great deal of the people rely on food drops to survive; Where malaria and other diseases are taking a high toll amongst mainly small children and pregnant women; with only sketchy access to primary health care and essential drugs, high morbidity and mortality rates for easily treatable diseases, and poor access to clean water for the majority of the population; Where temperatures are reaching easily 40 degrees, and not only in local power struggles between rival commanders and ethnic groups. Where summer rains are turning hard earth roads into impassable mud tracks, while elsewhere the rising Nile simply floods the plains, isolating great swathes of land.*

*But beyond troubled South Sudan lies an extraordinary country, as diverse as Africa itself.*

*This is also a country of smiling faces, where the end of the civil war has inspired a spirit of optimism, and a burning desire for peace, with the peace process moving slowly but steadily forward. A land with a culture of kindness, warmth and hospitality; where the people are delighted if you try to speak their language, even if you’re mangling the words; Where they have less than nothing, but a small boy on bare feet and with a torn shirt is offering you his chicken; where the women are in a heated discussion if this Khawadja (Westerner) is a man or a girl, ‘cause hey, it’s carrying a pack on the back instead of the head and it’s wearing trousers, and they can only be convinced after the Khawadja showed them – on special request- her breasts.*

*This is a place of delightful contrasts, arid desert-like places, thick green and mango trees, the lush banks of the Nile and plenty of birdlife; Where over a hundred languages are spoken by dozens of different tribes, from the nomadic Dinka and the pastoralist Nuer along the Nile to the proud Shilluk and agricultural Azande; Where the Sudanese health workers are eager to learn, and primary health care is slowly beating a path to the South; Where internally displaced persons and refugees are slowly returning home and cross-border trade is increasing; Where people like to laugh, the kids are inventive and the adults of easy-going nature.*

*For me, I have suffered sometimes facing the challenges of Sudan, but above all, I have enjoyed greatly. “Living hard/for a while/will hurt your bones/but not your style”. This was a very interesting and fulfilling year, where I’ve learned a lot, gave a lot of myself and got it hundreds of times back in return. I hope the peace deal sticks and Sudan can continue improving the health care system and access to medicines. I’ll miss our PSF team greatly.”*

**In compliance with the French data protection act in the law of 6 January 1978 (CNIL), you have the right to access and correct information about yourself. You can exercise this right by writing to PSF-CI Service informatique 4 Voie Militaire des Gravanches 63100- Clermont-Ferrand (France).**