

## **The Future of Pharmaceutical Drug Production in Developing Countries**

What is missing and standing in the way of establishing a successful robust pharmaceutical production in Cameroon?

**AIDSfreeAFRICA's answer:**

### **The Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Training and Support Center of Excellence**

**The past:** Lessons learned from past attempts to produce drugs in Cameroon, some of which resulted in total loss of the assets put into place, are:

- Meditech never made it past renting a plot, (2009)
- Diamond Pharmaceutical raised money, bought land and build a building, (2005)
- Kakwa Biopharm started production of a Malaria drug and was shut down shortly thereafter by WHO for quality reasons. None of the assets were recovered. (2006)
- Genemark is producing an estimated 5% of the countries needs for three pediatric syrups, is expanding, but needs to invest in reaching compliance with local and international standards. Genemark could be considered a success, but the lack of compliance makes it vulnerable to government shut down.
- The Cameroon Baptist Convention produces IV fluids and some compounds but has limited itself to produce for in house use only,
- Cinpharm was the first serious large scale attempt. In 2011 production of ~ 40 quality pharmaceuticals started in compliance with international quality standards. Cinpharm produced more or less for two years, but never to capacity and only due to steady cash infusions from the owner's other successful businesses. Stopped production May 2013. Is now for sales. We fear the loss of assets if buyer or grantor is not found.

**The present:** Cinpharm had recently been evaluated by Strides Arcolab an Indian pharmaceutical company. The findings were such that the company abandoned plans to buy Cinpharm and is now building a new factory in Douala, Cameroon, the home town of Cinpharm. AIDSfreeAFRICA concurs with these findings. Cinpharm had been build on the foot prints of an old factory which had put constrains on the new architecture. Problems with lack of senior management capacity, supply chain management, high energy cost, lack of access to local experts to fix and trouble shoot when serious breakdowns occurred were only some of the problems Cinpharm could not have overcome by itself.

**The future:** What are needed now, as agreed to by the local colleagues attempting to work in pharmaceutical manufacturing is education, training and support:

- Training programs in pharmaceutical manufacturing, called GMP.
- Management training programs specifically for the pharmaceutical environment.
- Supporting the government establishing guidelines for regulatory.
- Training experts in repair and maintenance of machines and equipment
- Build a machine shop able to repair or make spare parts.
- Teach supply chain management.
- Create and training experts for all aspects of production and maintenance.

#### **What is needed right now:**

Financing to reopen the company as a Training Center of Excellence

**Possible Partners:** Cameroon Government, Cameroon and international Universities, International NGO's, Public Private Partnerships, DED and GIZ Germany, and more.

#### **Financial sustainability:**

Plans to lease parts of the production lines/machines to contract manufacturers  
Charge for services of experts and training programs

Submitted March 9<sup>th</sup>,

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