

***National Malaria Control Program***

***In***

**Collaboration with Liberian History, Education &  
Development, Inc. (LIHEDE)**

***MOH/LIHEDE Address: Ministry of Health***

***Bassa Community***

***Monrovia, Liberia***

***P.O. Box 10-9009***

***Proposal for Chinese-Liberia Malaria Library for  
Liberia***

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## Abstract

*If lifelong information literacy is defined as the ability to use information and the tools to find it, then public libraries become a natural extension of the formal educational process Liberia does not currently. MOH/LIHEDE is seeking the Chinese government help, to identify with and to generously donate to the proposed CHIENSE-LIBERIA MALARIA LIBRARY for Liberian people. If malaria is to be defeated and sent to the dustbin of human history and Liberia to be brought back to Liberia, education must be the first priority.*

### Statement of the Problem

The Liberian nation and people suffered great losses in terms of human life, human resources, capital investments, and infrastructural developments during the 14-year Liberian civil wars from 1989 to 2003. This decimated the lives of an estimated 400, 000 innocent people and half of the nation's population is displaced. Not only that 80% Liberians are unemployed, but also 30-50 thousand of the children are orphans and more than 100,000 child soldiers and ex-combatants who are desperately in need of education, rehabilitation and psychological counseling to once more make them productive citizens.

In a total population of 3.4 million people, the illiteracy rate of Liberia is at a high 85% due to the consequences of the war, with more than half of the nation's 1.6 million children, mostly between the ages of 3-18, out of school. The total number of schools in Liberia before the civil war stood at 2,400, out of which around 80 percent was destroyed. From these alarming statistics, it is clear that Liberia's social, economic, political, cultural, and educational institutions were severely destroyed during the civil war and are now in need of urgent rebuilding, repairs, or improvements in order to promote a better quality of life for the Liberian people.

Worst of all, 90% of the population is exposed to malaria on a continuous basis. In Monrovia where majority of the educated and decision-makers are concentrated, more than 50% of the patients, workforce in hospitals and clinics are infected by malaria. And more than one of every five newborn Liberian children will not live to celebrate their 5<sup>th</sup> birth day. Malaria has not only been the number killer of our people, but it has been the cause of agricultural dependence, poverty, instability, inequalities, and lost of Liberia's territory (Sherbro Island) to its prevalence.

Malaria is our 9/11, nuclear weapons, A-K-47, tsunamis, terrorist, holocaust, genocide, and global warming, etc. Malaria has killed more people in the history of Liberia than the total number of Liberians killed during the 14 years civil wars. Sadly, we now have both malaria and HIV/AIDS diseases to take on which all indications show will accelerate death in Liberia because anyone with HIV/AIDS who already has weakened immune system gets malaria that also targets destroying the red blood cells and elevating the body temperature will have little chance to live because Malaria accelerates the spread of AIDS. And keep in mind that our nation not only leads the world in the highest newborn crude death rate (66 deaths per 1,000 births) but life expectancy has declined to the lowest levels ever, in our modern history to, 41 years for males and 47 years for females.

The health of Liberia nation is at stake. Yet, many people do not have any malaria public library of resource center to read on malaria, watch films, or learn about seriousness their number one killer, which steals Liberia's children by the thousands. Therefore, we are asking the Chinese government and people of passion and conscious to help LIHEDE implement this humanitarian project and realize its dream.

### LIHEDE Capability

THE ORGANIZATION: LIHEDE obtained formal status as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in the United States in late 2004. The organization also has an office in Monrovia, Liberia. LIHEDE embarks on a mission as a historical, social, cultural, and education organization and comprises of a group of Liberians and non-Liberians committed to collective goals and ideals. The organization aims to preserve Liberian history and culture; promotes quality education, health care, economic opportunities and reconciliation and healing in the Liberian society, as well as strive to bridge the cultural gap between Liberians and other communities. LIHEDE was established during an era of national destruction, civil war, death, hunger, discontent, anguish, and disillusionment in Liberia. LIHEDE members, however, are convinced that Liberia can rise again in spite of television images and news reports portraying Liberia as a country ravaged by destruction and uncivilized behaviors as well as starvation and other residual effects of a 14-year civil war. LIHEDE annually convenes the best and brightest minds of Liberia in the Diaspora of the United States to dialogue on existing problems in specific areas of development in Liberia, including health and education, and derive new approaches to improve these areas. The organization's primary focus is on identifying effective strategies for the redevelopment of Liberia.

LIHEDE has been successful in forging working relations with organizations and institutions in the U.S. and Liberia and the USA. Between late 2004 and early 2005, LIHEDE proposed and developed, in consultation with the Liberian Department of Education and various state and private colleges in Liberia, a Liberian Studies Program leading to award B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Liberian Studies. The African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU) and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion University (AMEZU) agreed to offer Liberian Studies in their curriculums effective Academic year 2006, after a formal Memorandum of Understanding was signed between these institutions and LIHEDE.

LIHEDE has established working relations with the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare, ENCOMPASS Group of Rhode Island, a health services organization devoted to treating and providing a home for mentally challenged Liberian children, orphans, and the elderly, after the 14-year Liberian Civil War and Malaria International Foundation that has been championing malaria abatement in Africa in the early 1990s. LIHEDE traveled to Liberia with the ENCOMPASS Group in early 2005 on a needs assessment research project. The organization conducted a workshop in Liberia in 2005 with the theme "Restructuring the Liberian Military," a project aimed at creating public awareness of the need for a constitutional amendment to create a professional army in Liberia prior to the post-civil war national elections scheduled for October 2005. That workshop opened new opportunities for ongoing external assistance for Liberia to retrain and restructure its military.

LIHEDE also participated with Liberian organizations in the U.S. and Europe in organizing and hosting the March 24-27, 2005 "All-Liberia National Conference on Peace, Reform and Reconciliation (ALNC)" in Columbia, Maryland, with the goal of uniting Liberians in the USA and Europe. That conference aimed to contribute to peace and redevelopment efforts in Liberia. In 2006 LIHEDE also conducted a workshop on the "Impact of Fake Drug in Liberia" to raise awareness of the problem in Liberia. In October, 2006, LIHEDE was selected as the only African organization to participate in an International Health Conference organized by the Physicians for Human Rights, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Global Workforce Alliance headed by Ms. Mary Robinson, first female President of Ireland. The objective of the Conference brought together several international high profile guests to discuss the health and education of immigrant workers. It was hosted at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

For the past two years, LIHEDE has been leading an on-going campaign to prevent malaria from Liberia, a preventable disease that causes 47 percent of all deaths in Liberia and creates an unprecedented drain on national earnings and revenues. The organization has hosted several symposiums and focus group meetings to rally support for the eradication of malaria and National Malaria Conference in December, 2006. LIHEDE also initiated a campaign through letter writing and telephone calls to influence the US Government to include Liberia among African countries to benefit from President George W. Bush's President Malaria Initiative fund to help African countries combat malaria. This campaign led to President Bush selecting Liberia as one of the focused nations to receive

funding under the PMI fund. Liberia is therefore expected to receive 2.8 million in 2007 and 12 million in 2008 to combat the deadly but curable disease, malaria. Of course, let me clarify that although Liberia was added onto the PMI funding recipient list in part due to a letter writing campaign initiated by LIHEDE after a LIHEDE malaria symposium on Liberia held in the U.S. in 2005, the PMI funds to combat malaria in Liberia are being channeled through the relevant agencies of the Liberian government and not through LIHEDE. LIHEDE is also dedicated to reduce the rate of HIV infection and deaths from the AIDS disease. HIV/AIDS is the second greatest health problem in Liberia.

### **Project Description**

MOH and the Liberian History, Education, & Development, Inc. (LIHEDE) has conceived the idea of establishing the First China-Liberia Public Malaria Library in Liberia to transform the tools of destruction into tools of knowledge. Malaria, which disproportionately affects young children and pregnant women (killing more than one million people, mostly children, annually, and negatively impacting school attendance among highly exposed populations), is not on Liberia school curriculum. Equally, sadden is that Liberia has no public library system where student can go and learn about malaria, watch film, to make field trip. MOH/LIHEDE believes that every student and community not only has a right to know about malaria, but malaria library is even more relevant today it provides a free-of-charge access to all types of information and promote children for health: children as partners in health promotion. The China-Liberia Malaria Public Library will have a collection of print and non-print materials in all areas of educational malaria materials and other related materials. It library will not only be the first of it kind in Liberia that right the students and their family in Liberia, but will be the first national symbol on malaria. It will also provide special schools for children with mental impairments due to malaria.

### **Needs Assessment**

During the National Malaria Conference held in Liberia last December under the auspices of LIHEDE, it was resolved that malaria education should form part of the national curriculum as part of our grassroots approach to address the spread of the epidemic in Liberia. The China-Liberia Malaria Public Library component of malaria education will integrate part of the national curriculum in Liberia. This collaborative gesture will straighten MOH/LIHEDE's efforts to join other national efforts in combating this deadly but curable disease, malaria, believing that in partnership we can make health issues in public education a success.

The China-Liberia Malaria Public Library will provide action research, innovation, resource center, peer-learning among local organizations, governments, academic institutions, and support the national malaria curriculum to deepen theoretical and practical knowledge of and rally the nation approaches to malaria. Forming "sharing and learning teams" that increase the effectiveness of their individual organizations while reinforcing their ability to collaborate, share learning, and continually will improve malaria control service delivery in Liberia.

### **Summary**

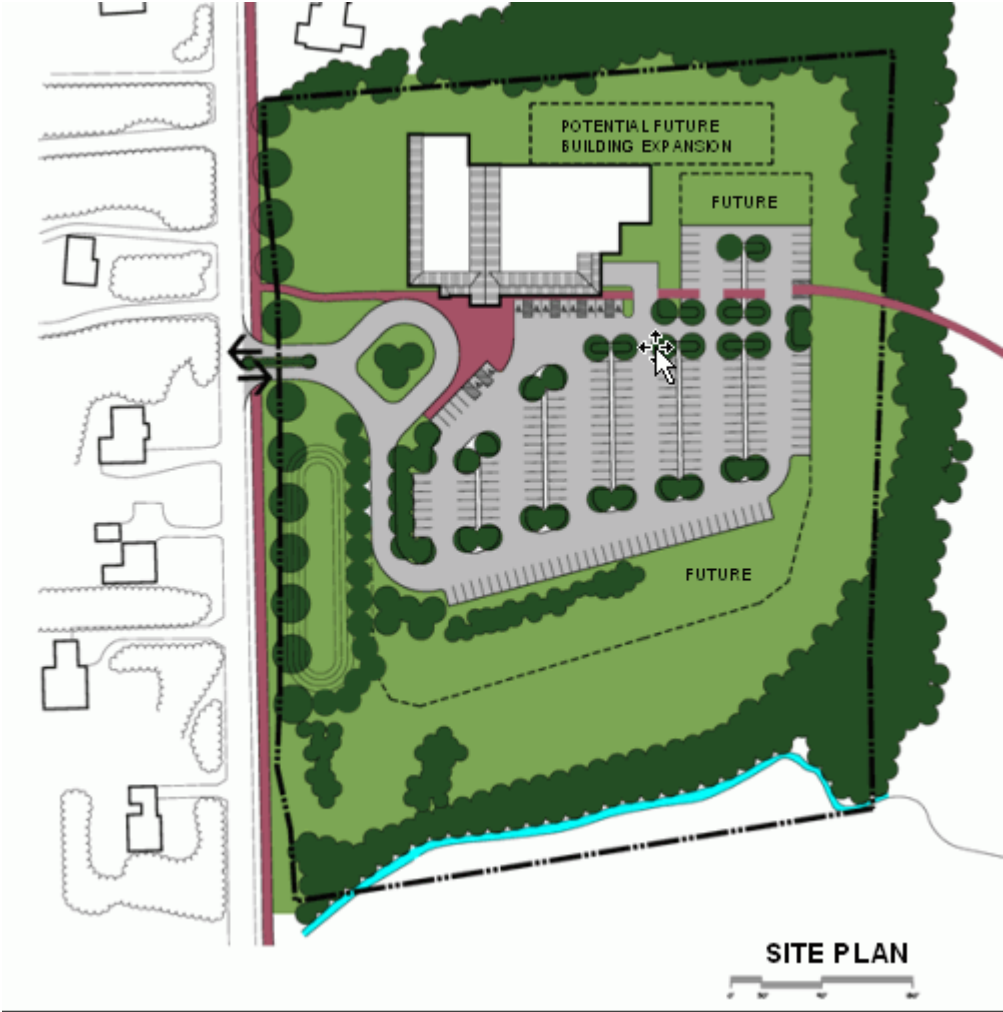
The China-Liberia Malaria Public Library in Liberia, as a knowledge venture, will cater exclusively to the education and reading needs of the Liberian people. During December 14-18, 2006 National Malaria Health Conference, organized by MOH/LIHEDE in Liberia, one of the major requests of the poor people who malaria kills the most where, "*Where do we go to read or access information about what you are telling us? If you leave where can we go and read to know more about this malaria problem. Can you ask the international community for us if they can help us with a small library, even if it is one room library?*"

This proposal, therefore, details the China-Liberia Malaria Library, for which we desire the government and people of China for its implementation. We choose to make this application to the government and people of China to help raise needed fund or materials to build the China-Liberia Malaria Public Library.

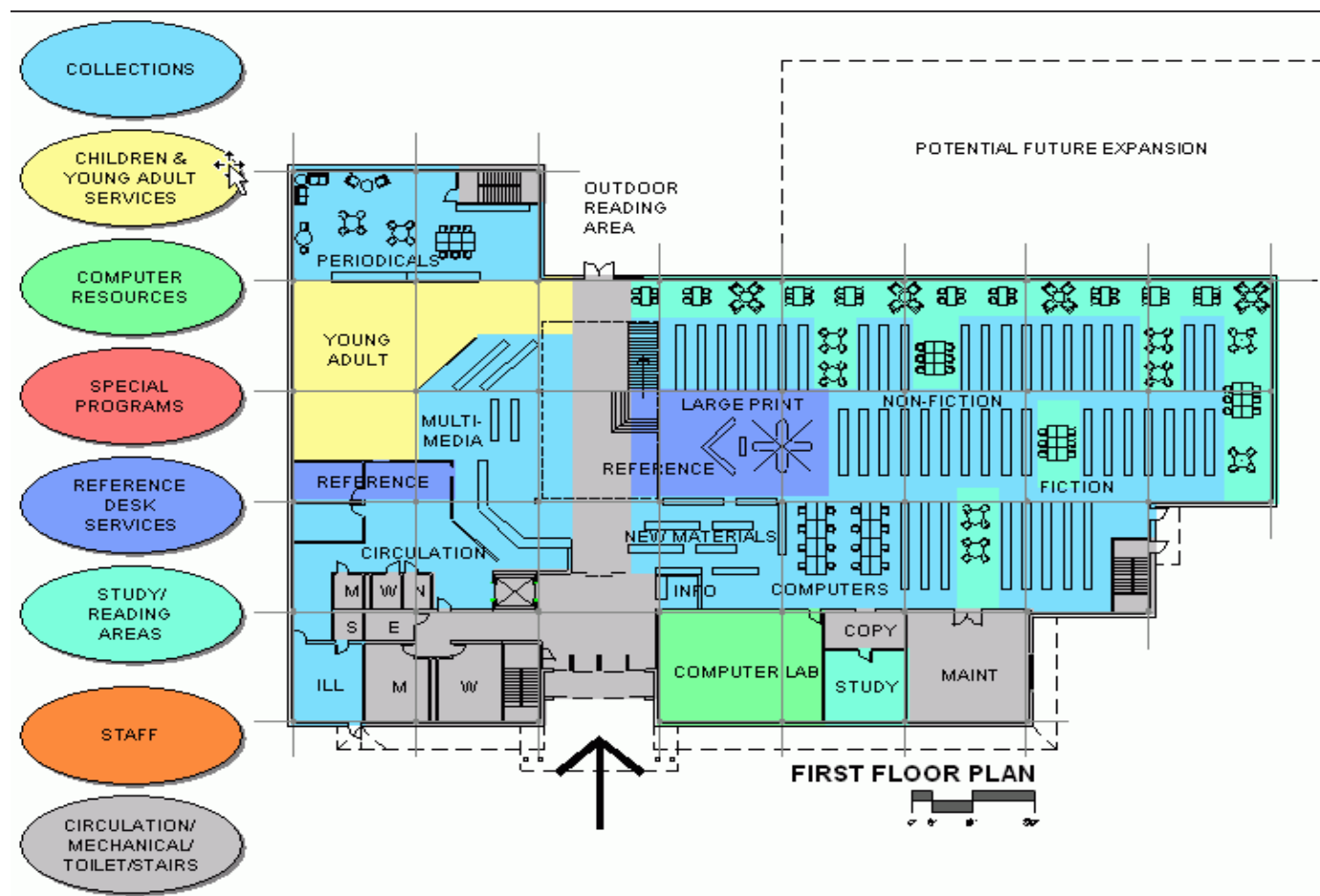
The China-Liberia Malaria Public Library will not only be a private, not-for-profit initiative to help Liberian people who are at risk or vulnerable to malaria, but will be named after China-Liberia bilateral relationship. The LIBRARY will use reading as a vehicle for beginning a massive education. The vehicle of library can have a much greater impact on the sons and daughters of a nation reeling from long periods of civil war such as Liberia. Library---safe haven for youngsters and adults alike. *Our Plan encourages reading as a source of information and knowledge.* **Hosea 4:6**

Therefore, the China-Liberia Malaria Public Library is to provide library services to all children of Liberia, including individuals and groups of every age, economic level, occupation, ethnic origin, philosophy and human condition. The purpose of the library is to maintain a current collection of print and non-print materials in all areas of educational, social, political, occupational, creative and spiritual undertakings.

China-Liberia Malaria Public Library  
Layout



## Malaria Library Future Expansion II



We will be grateful if one of the two above library initiatives is considered. The children of Liberia and generation to come will remember the donor if this can be done through our collective effort or anyone. *Samuel then took a stone, which he set up between Mizpeh and Shen, and named it Ebenezer, he said, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us' 1 Samuel 7:11-12. Indeed, thus far the Lord has helped us, He is worthy of all our praise.*

### About the PI

Since 2000, when the civil war ended, Dr. Somah, the Project Director has made twelve trips to Liberia, representing LIHEDE, appearing on radio programs, hosting workshops and soccer tournaments, and bringing cultural groups to perform programs that emphasize the opportunity to end malaria in Liberia. He has written more articles on malaria and Liberian development than any contemporary Liberian (see [www.lihede.org](http://www.lihede.org) for some of his articles). Dr. Somah has met with

religious leaders, heads of educational and religious institutions, the Liberian vice president, Liberian cabinet ministers, ambassadors, and international organizations on many occasions.

He recently had an opportunity to appear on several Liberian radio programs to spread the LIHEDE message that malaria can be prevented, treated, cured, and controlled in Liberia. Dr. Somah was instrumental in having national and international musicians record special songs about treating and preventing malaria that are now playing on Liberian radios. Under his leadership, this year's county soccer league has dedicated its entire season to malaria awareness.

These successes demonstrate that this proposal's goals and objectives will be achieved. Dr. Somah is highly respected and loved by the Liberian people and the government, and is looked upon as an individual who means good for Liberia. (The American English construction is "who has Liberia's best interests at heart." A native-born Liberian who attended school in five of the first nine counties of Liberia (before the number was expanded to fifteen), he personally knows the country's culture and customs, is on a first-name basis with many journalists and government officials, and speaks two of the most popular Liberian languages (Bassa and Kpelle), as well as English and French.