

SASAKAWA HEALTH FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2023

April 1, 2023 — March 31, 2024



Better Health & Dignity for All

笹川保健財団
SASAKAWA
Health Foundation

Did We Sow Seeds for the Future? Looking Back on 2023



Etsuko Kita, MD, PhD
Chair, Sasakawa Health Foundation

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which precisely speaking began in autumn 2019, and which necessitated severe restrictions due to the number of daily infections and the number of cases, has ended. However, medical research on the virus and drugs, including vaccines, and on the course of the disease following infection is continuing.

In 2023, the last year of the pandemic, we not only resumed activities that had been suspended while we waited for the pandemic to subside, and restored support that had been scaled back, but we also launched new activities. The resumption, restoration and initiation of activities, both at home and abroad, is due to the support and interest you have shown in the Foundation and in what we do. For this we are truly grateful.

Although leprosy case numbers have fallen to a hundredth of what they were when the Foundation was established some 50 years ago, the disease still exists for those who have been infected. And despite the long history of leprosy, and despite our Foundation's great efforts to address the issues of stigma and discrimination, the hardships suffered by those affected by the disease are still far from resolved.

We have supported Yohei Sasakawa, the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and chairman of The Nippon Foundation, and have intensified our health and social advocacy in collaboration with persons affected by Hansen's disease. It may seem like a road without end, but the fight against leprosy has shown us the medical, public health and humanitarian path we can take as a Foundation. We will continue our efforts and ask for your ongoing support.

The loose network of The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Centers, formed by graduates of The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Entrepreneurship Training Program, which began with the grand promise that "nurses change society," now has more than 160 home-care nursing centers in 30 prefectures across Japan. In total, 1,300 staff are working day and night in the community. Since anti-COVID measures spread to the home, our network colleagues have strengthened their functions and local partnerships to protect the community.

In 2023, we started a new entrepreneurship training program which included on-the-job training at offices in the Home-Care Nursing Centers Network. We also launched a new study tour program for our home-care nurses to visit Nordic countries. Meanwhile, eight nursing fellows studied at seven graduate schools in the United States under the Sasakawa Nursing Fellow Scholarship Program, which was also founded on the bold premise that "nurses change society." In addition, we started the Sasakawa Health Foundation Mirai-Juku, another new study tour program for Japanese college students, and we expanded networks of nursing or health-related groups.

FY2023 was about preparing for a new era. We sincerely ask for your continued support and encouragement as we move ahead.

Chair's blog *Eyes of a cat*

Columns, essays, activity logs and presentations from the point of view of a physician, issued periodically. (Japanese only)

https://www.shf.or.jp/blog_chair



Table of Contents

3	GREETINGS Did We Sow Seeds for the Future? Looking Back on 2023
4	ABOUT US Vision/Mission/Values
5	WHAT WE DO Hansen's Disease/Leprosy Program Community Health Promotion: "Nurses Change Society!"
6	EVENTS COMMEMORATE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. HANSEN'S DISCOVERY OF <i>M. LEPRAE</i>
7	MUSEUM Report on Operation of The National Hansen's Disease Museum and Other Facilities, Awareness-Raising and Publicity: FY2023 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare-Commissioned Project
8	HANSEN'S DISEASE/LEPROSY PROGRAM FY2023 Highlights
10	COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM FY2023 Highlights
12	FY2023 ACTIVITY REPORT
14	FINANCIAL REPORT/OVERVIEW OF FOUNDATION

VISION

Better Health & Dignity for All

To enrich the physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being of people — whoever they are, wherever they are and whatever their circumstances — and help them to uphold their dignity.

MISSION

We support people to lead healthy and dignified lives, whatever their circumstances.

VALUES

- A global perspective
- A steadfast adherence to our vision
- An openness to new ideas
- A belief in science-based solutions
- A commitment to relationships built on trust
- A passion to help others to help themselves

Hansen’s Disease/Leprosy Program

To realize a world without Hansen’s disease and its related problems, this program has three pillars.



-  Tackle Disease
-  Eliminate Discrimination
-  Preserve History

Community Health Program “Nurses Change Society!”

We believe that nurses should be involved in supporting people in their daily lives as well as providing medical care, and we offer training and other support to enable them to use their skills in the community.



-  Maintain Health through Home-care Nursing
-  Strengthen Community Health Capacity
-  Cultivate Nursing Leaders

Events Commemorate 150th Anniversary of Dr. Hansen's Discovery of *M.leprae*

The year 2023 was a milestone in the history of leprosy as it marked the 150th anniversary of the discovery of *Mycobacterium leprae* by Dr. Armauer Hansen in Bergen, Norway. Dr. Hansen's discovery was historic as it represented the first time a pathogen had been identified. Although this discovery would lead to major breakthroughs in the medical field, today there are still 200,000 new cases of leprosy reported each year. Meanwhile, stigma and discrimination persist, a holdover from the days before Dr. Hansen's discovery, when the disease was considered a curse or divine punishment. The Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative used the opportunity of the 150th anniversary to raise awareness of leprosy, and held various commemorative events.

On February 28, 1873, Dr. Hansen recorded in his notebook that he had detected a rod-shaped bacterium in a sample taken from a leprosy patient. The first of three commemorative events was held exactly 150 years later in Dr. Hansen's hometown, in collaboration with the University of Bergen. The mayor of Bergen, persons affected by Hansen's disease and Dr. Hansen's great grandson were among those who spoke at the event, which reviewed the history of leprosy,

analyzed the current situation and discussed future initiatives.

Then, from June 21 to 22, the Bergen International Conference on Hansen's Disease was held, co-hosted with the University of Bergen. Earlier in the month, two preparatory webinars were held on June 6 and 13, featuring keynote speakers. The conference was organized around three themes—medical care, human rights and historical preservation—and brought together experts and researchers in these fields, as well representatives of organizations of persons affected by leprosy and other organizations. In total, around 200 people attended.

At the opening ceremony, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a video message: "In the 150 years since the discovery of *M.leprae* and in the 75 years since the establishment of the WHO, much progress has been made in the fight against leprosy, but much remains to be done towards our shared goals of zero disease, zero disability and zero discrimination." He also added that more needs to be done to recover from health system disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the conference, there was a poster session introducing best practices for organizations of persons affected by leprosy.

To conclude the series of 150th anniversary events, the Armauer Hansen International Film Festival was held from October 24 to 26. The festival, co-organized with the Bergen International Film Festival in cooperation with the University of Bergen and the Bergen Leprosy Museum, was the world's first international film festival dedicated to Hansen's disease. Four feature films and two short films were screened dealing with themes of leprosy history, stigma and discrimination, and the fight against the disease. The festival included screenings at the Leprosy Museum, and special screenings for school students.

Through these events, we were able to collaborate with many stakeholders and the anniversary proved to be a valuable opportunity to disseminate accurate information about leprosy and dispel prejudice toward those affected by the disease.



Event marking the 150th anniversary of Dr. Hansen's discovery of the leprosy bacillus (Bergen, Norway, February 28, 2023)



Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Yohei Sasakawa (4th from left) with conference participants during a poster session on best practices of people's organizations at the Bergen International Conference on Hansen's Disease (Bergen, Norway, June 22, 2023)



Participants pose for a group photo at the Bergen International Conference on Hansen's Disease (Bergen, Norway, June 21, 2023)

Report on Operation of The National Hansen's Disease Museum and Other Facilities, Awareness-Raising and Publicity: FY2023 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare-Commissioned Project

In May 2023, COVID-19 was downgraded to a category 5 infectious disease and daily life, which had been completely transformed, gradually returned to normal. In FY2023, the National Hansen's Disease Museum was able to welcome visitors during normal opening hours, with no restrictions on admission or numbers.

"The Buds of Life," the special exhibition held from the end of FY2022 through May 2023, was the first literary exhibition held by the museum. Many visitors stood in front of the exhibits and appreciated the texts, and it was impressive to see how enthusiastically younger visitors shared them on social media. From August to December 2023, "The 70th Anniversary of the Leprosy Prevention Law Protests" took up the very important theme of the movement by sanatorium inmates to fight for the revision of the Leprosy Prevention Law. "Connecting with Artistic Spirit," which started in 2024, was the first exhibition of paintings in five years. We are planning a variety of special exhibitions on diverse themes to encourage as many people as possible to visit the museum.

In addition to the museum exhibitions, visiting lectures are a core part of our activities and their number has been steadily increasing; in FY2023, our speakers were heard by almost 16,000 people. Audiences have said the lectures not only deepened their understanding of Hansen's disease, but also gave them an opportunity to reflect on issues of discrimination and human rights close to home.

Our activities have also included museum talks on Hansen's disease from different perspectives, seminars on Hansen's disease and human rights, and lectures and events for elementary school children during the summer vacation. In addition to this, we have also been focused on organizing the material in the museum's collection.



Elementary school children listen to an explanation inside a diorama of a sanatorium dormitory at a "hands-on" exhibition over the summer vacation

In FY2023, we focused on organizing written records and digitizing audio and video material. Valuable audio recordings have been found that convey what life was like in the sanatorium, as well as written records that show the struggles of the residents. We will continue to research and organize the materials in our collection that are essential to passing on an understanding of the issues surrounding leprosy to the next generation.

In March 2023, the final report of the study group on measures to eliminate stigma and discrimination against Hansen's disease was submitted, in which it was reported that efforts to eliminate stigma and discrimination and to raise awareness have been insufficient and that continuous and systematic efforts are needed in cooperation with three ministries—the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare; Ministry of Justice; and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The report also stated that a nationwide awareness survey on Hansen's disease is needed. In August 2023, the final report of the committee to review the museum's exhibits was submitted, and a policy for renewing the permanent exhibitions was decided. In December 2023, a nationwide survey was carried out in response to the recommendation of the above-mentioned study group.

All these developments have had a significant impact on the work of the museum. In order to eliminate stigma and discrimination through the dissemination of accurate knowledge and awareness-raising, and to restore the honor of those affected and their families, we will review our activities, prioritize what needs to be done and develop effective projects. We ask for your continued warm support.



A press preview of the Special Exhibition: "Connecting with Artistic Spirit: 100 Years of Paintings at Tama Zenshoen"

Location	4-1-13, Aoba-cho, Higashimurayama-shi, Tokyo, Japan
Opening hours	9:30 am to 4:30 pm (admission is until 4:00 pm)
Admission fee	Free
Closed	Mondays and the day after National Holidays, but open on Monday if it is a national holiday. Also closes for maintenance and during the New Year's holidays.



The National Hansen's Disease Museum Official YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/hansenmuseum>

Leprosy, or Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by the bacillus *Mycobacterium leprae*. For much of its long history, leprosy was a disease without a cure. Today, there is an effective cure in the form of multidrug therapy (MDT), and early detection and treatment can prevent disability. However, around 200,000 new cases are detected worldwide each year, and those affected by the disease and their family members continue to face stigma and discrimination.

Our Foundation, which aims to realize a world without problems related to Hansen's disease—a world in which no one who has experienced the disease has to suffer—carries out its activities based on the three pillars of “Tackling disease”, “Eliminating discrimination” and “Preserving history.” In FY2023, we continued to engage in a variety of activities in collaboration with various national and international organizations working on leprosy.

2023 Highlights

Tackling Disease

Continuation of the Don't Forget Leprosy Campaign



Yohei Sasakawa, the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, displays a Don't Forget Leprosy banner atop Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak. (Gilman's Point [5,685 meters], Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, February 12, 2024)



Yohei Sasakawa with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk (right)

The Don't Forget Leprosy campaign launched in 2021 continued in FY2023, with various activities to promote efforts against the disease. In particular, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Yohei Sasakawa urged heads of state and leaders of international organizations to support the campaign during his meetings with them.

On February 12, 2024, as part of the campaign, the Goodwill Ambassador unfurled a Don't Forget Leprosy banner atop Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, in support of zero leprosy. Commenting on his successful ascent, he said: “I climbed the mountain in hopes that it would inspire everyone involved in the fight to eliminate leprosy worldwide. I hope that this will be used as an opportunity to further strengthen action against the disease.”

Tackling Disease

2nd National Leprosy Conference in Bangladesh Held in Dhaka

On November 12, 2023, we co-hosted the 2nd National Leprosy Conference in Bangladesh with the country's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Healthcare professionals, national and international experts, representatives of international NGOs and organizations of persons affected by leprosy gathered to reinvigorate actions against leprosy, which had stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to achieve zero leprosy in Bangladesh by 2030.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Goodwill Ambassador thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for setting Bangladesh's goal of zero leprosy by 2030 at the first conference in 2019, saying there was no other example of a country's leader setting such a clear target for leprosy. The prime minister expressed her intention to achieve this by announcing concrete actions, such as promoting employment for persons affected by leprosy, increasing the budget for actions against leprosy and manufacturing the drugs to treat the disease in Bangladesh. A National Leprosy Strategy 2023-2030 was presented at the conference, based on four pillars of: 1) strengthening the national leprosy program; 2) expanding case detection and prevention activities; 3) preventing disability, and 4) promoting the participation of persons affected by leprosy.



Launching Bangladesh's National Strategic Plan for Leprosy 2023-2030. (Left to right) WHO Goodwill Ambassador Yohei Sasakawa, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Zahid Maleque and Health Secretary Md. Jahangir Alam (Dhaka, Bangladesh, November 12, 2023)

Fighting Discrimination

Global Appeal 2024 Launched in Geneva



WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and WHO Goodwill Ambassador Yohei Sasakawa look on as children read out the text of Global Appeal 2024. (Geneva, Switzerland, January 31, 2024)

On January 31, 2024, the launch ceremony for Global Appeal 2024 to end stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy was held at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. At the ceremony, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and WHO Goodwill Ambassador Yohei Sasakawa signed the appeal, which calls for ending discrimination by disseminating correct information about leprosy and ensuring that no one is left behind because of a treatable disease. In a discussion with the Goodwill Ambassador, Director-General Tedros said that the WHO's Global Leprosy (Hansen's disease) Strategy 2021-2030 clearly sets out what is needed to achieve zero leprosy, and pledged to do his utmost to support countries in implementing it.

Noting that next year marks the 50th anniversary of the partnership between The Nippon Foundation/Sasakawa Health Foundation and the WHO, Goodwill Ambassador Sasakawa said he felt a responsibility to show the results of this long cooperation and expressed his determination to dedicate his life to achieving this goal.

Fighting Discrimination

Brazil's MORHAN Advocates with Government

Since its inception in 1981, MORHAN has developed a wide range of activities to address Hansen's disease issues in Brazil, focusing on ending stigma and discrimination, ensuring human rights and preserving history. With the Foundation's support, 47 branches have been established in the last decade. Today there are 68 branches and 2,910 volunteers working in different parts of the country. MORHAN is unique in Brazil in terms of its advocacy and awareness-raising with the government, and has great influence as a member of the Health Council established by the Ministry of Health, where it makes policy recommendations.

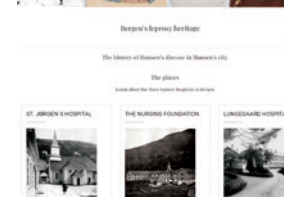
In November 2023, MORHAN's years of advocacy with the government bore fruit, with the approval of a bill to provide compensation in the form of a lifetime pension to persons forcibly isolated on grounds of leprosy and their children who were separated from them. The signing ceremony in Brasilia, presided over by President Lula da Silva, who took office in January 2023, was attended by 550 MORHAN members from all over Brazil.



President Lula da Silva of Brazil holds up a bill that he has just signed into law in the presence of Health Minister Nisia Trindade and MORHAN representatives, expanding eligibility for a special monthly pension related to Hansen's disease. (Brasilia, Brazil, November 24, 2023)

Preserving History

Bergen City Museum Opens a Digital Museum



Bergen Museum website "Digital Museum"

As part of the events commemorating the discovery of *Mycobacterium leprae*, we cooperated with Bergen City Museum in opening a digital museum. The digital museum offers visitors the opportunity to learn about the discovery of the leprosy bacillus and the history of leprosy in Norway in both Norwegian and English.

There are essays on specialized topics such as the prevalence of leprosy in Norway and segregation laws and policies, as well as 3D virtual tours of St. Jørgen's Hospital and other historic buildings. There is also a short video that introduces the discovery of *M. leprae*, the isolation policy and its impact through interviews with the descendants of patients and experts in the field.

Bergen Museum website
<https://www.lepra.no/>



It has been almost ten years since we launched the entrepreneurship training program for the establishment of home-care nursing centers with the aim of seeing "Nurses Change Society!" In FY2023, we started a new entrepreneurship training program, including on-the-job training, at some centers of The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Centers Network as the second phase of the project. After surviving more than three years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the network has become more active, starting regular study groups to share best practices and a new overseas study program, as well as accepting trainees for on-the-job training. We also started a new summer study tour program called Mirai-Juku for undergraduate and graduate students, and thus we have increasingly focused on building the capacity of professionals and future professionals in the nursing and healthcare fields.

2023 Highlights

Home-Care Nursing Network

Phase 2 of The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Entrepreneurship Training Program

The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Entrepreneurship Training Program, which started in FY2014 and was temporarily suspended after being completed by 108 trainees, was an eight-month intensive training program that cultivated not only knowledge but also an entrepreneurial mindset coupled with the determination to start a business.

In FY2023, the first year of the second phase, we launched a new training program that remains true to the original objectives, but the new program includes six months of on-the-job training, giving trainees the opportunity to learn home care and business management practices in the field.

The four trainees enrolled in the program underwent several days of intensive lectures in the first, middle and final semesters, during which they learned about the history, current situation and the challenges of home-care/home-visit nursing; about finance, labor and information dissemination as they relate to running a business; and about welfare and regional administration issues. They also visited The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center offices in the cities of Osaka, Wakayama and Hiroshima as well as in Toshima and Bunkyo wards in Tokyo, and received on-the-job training.

At the completion of training, managers from the host offices where the trainees had undergone on-the-job training gathered to hear the trainees present their business plans, which they had drawn up in response to the challenges they face in their respective regions. The plans were approved and the graduates are supposed to open their businesses within 12 months and join The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Network.



Trainees taking part in on-the-job training with colleagues from their host office



All trainees presented their business plans and completed their training.

The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Network

The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Network is active in 162 locations in 30 prefectures. (As of May 1, 2024)



Hosting a symposium on "The Inconvenient Truth Behind Home-Care Nursing" at the 5th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Association for Home Care Medicine.



Flyers for online seminars on "Home-Care Nursing and Dementia" and "Home-Care Nursing and Palliative Care".



For information on each business site, please refer to the Foundation's website. (Japanese only)

Home-Care Nursing Network

The Network's First Study Program in Nordic Countries



Participants listen to an explanation at a shelter for victims of domestic violence in Finland.

To confront the challenges associated with a super-aging society and population decline and consider how to respond as nurses, we recruited applicants for a study tour of Nordic countries from among 1,000 managers and staff of approximately 160 offices of The Nippon Foundation Nursing Center Network. The 12-member delegation visited Finland, which is ranked as the world's happiest country, and Denmark, which, like Finland, is known as a high welfare country. In Finland, the itinerary included a "neuvola" maternity and child care clinic, and an end-of-life care facility, and in Denmark care homes for the elderly. Many of the participants not only praised the efforts of the countries they visited, but also said that it is important for Japan to adopt policies that reflect our own cultural and social environment. A report of the visit is available on the Foundation website.



(Japanese only)

Strengthening Community Health Capacity

Lively Discussions Take Place at the Research Grant Project Report Meeting

This research grant program provides annual grants for pioneering and original research to improve and enhance community health services. In FY2023, 11 projects were approved. The research reports on each project are published on the Foundation's website, but the Foundation has also set up a research grant program report meeting as a forum for sharing the results.

At the meeting, each researcher who received a grant in the previous year makes a presentation, and we encourage professionals from different areas of research, such as community health, home care, and nursing, to exchange ideas and generate new ideas for multidisciplinary collaboration. At the FY2023 research grant report meeting, researchers who have received grants from the Foundation in the past acted as coordinators, and the discussions were lively.



Dr. Kusakabe (left), who continued to serve as a coordinator in FY2023, and Dr. Shimosato (right) who was a presenter in FY2022.

Cultivating Nursing Leaders

Sasakawa Nursing Fellows Get to Know Japan, and Learn About Diversity in the World



A fellow studying at the University of Washington gives a presentation about her summer internship in Peru.

In FY2023, five new students began their graduate studies in the United States. You can see the diverse environments in which the five fellows are studying on the Foundation's official website. Fellows preparing to study abroad in FY2024 also did well, with 13 accepted to graduate courses in the United States and Canada. Before heading overseas, the fellows went on a field trip to Kumamoto Prefecture in southwest Japan to learn about community health care and social issues in the region, and found out a lot about home-care nursing, some diseases with a history of social discrimination, welfare and other issues.



Visiting the Residents' Association of Kikuchi Keifuen sanatorium during a field trip to Kumamoto. Among those in the photo are association president Yasushi Shimura (seated, front right) and vice president Akira Ota (standing, second from right).

Linking Up with Miss Supranational to Raise Awareness of Leprosy

Miss Supranational is considered one of the top five beauty pageants in the world, and each year contestants from around the globe compete for the crown. But Miss Supranational is not just about beauty: community involvement and philanthropy are hallmarks of the pageant, and individual contestants are expected to fulfill their social responsibilities and address various global issues.

Our collaboration with Miss Supranational began on July 7, 2023, with a Miss Supranational Forum on Leprosy held as part of the Miss Supranational 2023 contest in Poland. To encourage the contestants from the 65 countries and regions participating in the pageant to get involved in raising awareness of leprosy, we provided basic information on leprosy, arranged for representatives of leprosy organizations to share their experiences, and organized panel discussions.

Indicating the interest in the topic, the contestants asked many questions during the Q&A session, including about symptoms and how the disease is transmitted, and there wasn't enough time to answer them all. After the end of the pageant, many Miss Supranational contestants shared information about leprosy on social media.



Miss Supranational contestants from 65 countries and regions (Krakow, Poland, July 2023)

The winner of Miss Supranational 2023, Ecuador's Andrea Aguilera, while busy working as Miss Supranational, has also been active in raising awareness of leprosy. On World Leprosy Day, she uploaded a video message about leprosy that was viewed more than 70,000 times when it was first posted.

She also traveled to Brazil and Peru to visit leprosy sanatoriums and meet with organizations of persons affected by



the disease. In Brazil in particular, she was active in increasing the effectiveness of awareness-raising activities, for example by presenting a petition on leprosy to the government.

Miss Supranational 2023, Andrea Aguilera, said that interacting with 70 members of a Peruvian organization of persons affected by leprosy and listening to their life stories made her realize the healing power of listening (Iquitos, Peru, January 2024)

Building the Capacity of Future Health Professionals

The Foundation is engaged in developing diverse human resources who can play an active role in the field of health and medical care around the world. In FY2023, we provided training for undergraduate and graduate students who will lead the next generation.

One initiative is the Sasakawa Health Foundation Mirai-Juku Kyushu Study Tour, which aims to nurture students who can think about and address issues of health and human security not only in Japan but also in the world at large. For five days from August 28, 2023, 12 students attended lectures given by Nagasaki University faculty and other lecturers from a variety of backgrounds and



Group work



Mirai-Juku report (Japanese only)



Students participating in Mirai-Juku

professions, participated in group work, and conducted field work at museums and archives in Nagasaki, deepening exchanges among each other. A report is available on the Foundation's website.

Another initiative is to send Japanese nursing students to the biennial congress of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), which attracts thousands of people from around the world. We provided partial funding for 12 Japanese undergraduate and graduate nursing students to attend 2023 congress in Montreal and the ICN Student Assembly held the day before. During their time at the congress, the students interacted with world-class researchers



Nursing students from Japan participate in the ICN Student Assembly

and had the opportunity to reflect on issues of importance to the global nursing community, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and planetary health.

WHO Sasakawa Health Prize

The WHO Sasakawa Health Prize is presented by the WHO to individuals, non-governmental organizations and other institutions that have made outstanding contributions to the improvement of health around the world. Winners receive prize money and a statuette from the Foundation.

In FY2023, the 39th edition of the prize was jointly awarded to the Nick Simons Institute, a non-profit working to enhance rural healthcare in Nepal, and Professor Vichai Tienthavorn of Thailand, known for his work on the prevention and treatment of thalassemia. At the award ceremony held on May 26, 2023, The Nippon Foundation's chairman, Yohei Sasakawa, congratulated the winners and said that he hoped they "continue to work as pioneers in further advancement of primary healthcare."



Representative of the Nick Simons Institute (second from left)



Professor Vichai Tienthavorn (second from left)

"Embracing an Aging Society" Co-Presented with the Hong Kong Jockey Club

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust is one of the world's leading charitable organizations. It gives back profits from horse racing, donations and other surpluses to charitable causes and as community contributions. At the Philanthropy for Better Cities Forum convened by the Trust, it organized a session on "Embracing an Aging Society," co-presented with our Foundation and The Nippon Foundation.

Experts from the United States and Australia were among those invited to a round table on aging in the Asia-Pacific Rim, where entrepreneurs from The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Network introduced examples of home-care nursing in Japan. In particular, there was a great deal of interest in "small-scale multifunctional in-home nursing care" facilities known as "kantaki," which are unique to Japan, where nurses are stationed to provide multiple services.



Dr. Etsuko Kita introduces The Nippon Foundation Home-Care Nursing Center Network

Foundation Marks 50th Anniversary With Commemorative Booklet

The Foundation produced a commemorative booklet to mark the 50th anniversary of its founding on May 4, 2024. The publication was divided into four parts, beginning with an interview with Yohei Sasakawa, the chairman of The Nippon Foundation. In the interview, he covered various topics, including how the foundation came into being, its initiatives against leprosy from the early days to the present, and the challenges he faced as head of the Foundation's delegation tasked with providing medical assistance following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. He encouraged us by saying, "Since its inception, the Sasakawa Health Foundation has maintained its focus on the fight against leprosy while responding to the needs of the moment, which is both its uniqueness and its strength."

The second section summarized the landmark events in leprosy control, community health promotion and other areas that have been emblematic of our activities. It provides an overview of our 50-year history of leprosy control initiatives, including the developments that led to the beginning of a focus on human rights issues and history preservation, following a period when the main goal of our activities was to control the disease from a medical point of view. This section also provides an overview of major activities and achievements in community health promotion and other areas.

In the third section, program officers and managers responsible for leprosy control, operation of and promotion of the National Hansen's Disease Museum and related facilities, awareness-raising and community health promotion summarize their activities and review the progress made. Written in their own words, these accounts cover in more detail what could not be included in the previous section, such as the background to the projects, the impact they have had, the current situation and future prospects.

The fourth and final section utilizes the timeline created for the Foundation's 40th anniversary and adds the activities that have taken place over the past 10 years. World events are also included to facilitate understanding of the historical context.

Our 50th anniversary is just a milestone. The Foundation will continue its activities under the banner of "Better Health and Dignity for All." We would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the Foundation and ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Statement of accounts: Net asset increase/decrease

'From April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

1 General net asset increase or decrease					(Unit : Yen)
Items			A/C Public Benefit Services	A/C Entity	Total
1. Ordinary increase or decrease	(1) Ordinary revenue	Profit from endowment management	0	11,096,164	11,096,164
		Profit from special asset management	37,195,378	24,384,807	61,580,185
		Operating revenue	572,789,000	0	572,789,000
		Subsidies received	978,081,382	82,610,000	1,060,691,382
		Donations received	2,092,706	0	2,092,706
		Miscellaneous revenue	12,956,944	0	12,956,944
		Profit from special asset sales	535,486	28,779	564,265
		Total ordinary revenue	1,603,650,896	118,119,750	1,721,770,646
	(2) Ordinary expenses	Subsidies program cost	896,397,545	0	896,397,545
		Self-funded program cost	130,387,927	0	130,387,927
		Contract business cost	570,509,833	0	570,509,833
		Total program expenses	1,597,295,305	0	1,597,295,305
		Subsidies administration cost	0	51,638,405	51,638,405
		Self-funded administration cost	0	22,935,806	22,935,806
		Total administration expenses	0	74,574,211	74,574,211
		Total ordinary expenses	1,597,295,305	74,574,211	1,671,869,516
		Ordinary increase/decrease before adjustment of profit/loss valuation	6,355,591	43,545,539	49,901,130
		Valuation profit/loss of special asset	48,770,536	25,784,916	74,555,452
		Total valuation profit/loss	48,770,536	25,784,916	74,555,452
		Ordinary increase/decrease	55,126,127	69,330,455	124,456,582
2. Nonrecurring increase or decrease	(1)Nonrecurring revenue	Total nonrecurring revenue	0	0	0
	(2)Nonrecurring expenses	Miscellaneous expenses	0	70,000,000	70,000,000
		Total nonrecurring expenses	0	70,000,000	70,000,000
		Nonrecurring increase or decrease	0	△ 70,000,000	△ 70,000,000
		Increase/decrease of general net asset	55,126,127	△ 669,545	54,456,582
		Balance of general net asset at beginning of year	801,839,715	3,087,785,849	3,889,625,564
		Balance of general net asset at end of year	856,965,842	3,087,116,304	3,944,082,146

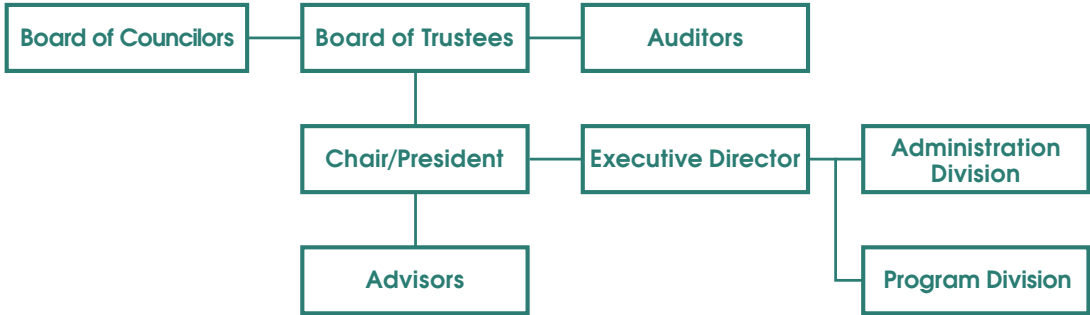
II Restricted net asset increase or decrease					
		Subsidies received	134,537,326	0	134,537,326
		Donations received	68,943,437	0	68,943,437
		Profit from endowment management	0	1,134,396	1,134,396
		Profit from special asset management	28,208,306	0	28,208,306
		Valuation profit/loss of special asset	73,969,281	0	73,969,281
		Reclassified into general net asset	△ 160,771,551	△ 1,134,396	△ 161,905,947
		Increase/decrease of restricted net asset	144,886,799	0	144,886,799
		Balance of restricted net asset at beginning of year	3,230,549,860	113,600,000	3,344,149,860
		Balance of restricted net asset at end of year	3,375,436,659	113,600,000	3,489,036,659

III	Balance of net asset at end of year	4,232,402,501	3,200,716,304	7,433,118,805
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Profile

Name:	Sasakawa Health Foundation
Representatives:	Chair: Etsuko Kita, President: Hideo Sato
Address:	The Nippon Zaidan Building 5F, 1-2-2 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052, JAPAN
Telephone/Fax	+81-3-6229-5377 / +81-3-6229-5388
URL:	https://www.shf.or.jp/en/
Established:	May 4, 1974
Administrative Jurisdiction:	The Cabinet Office
Objectives as stipulated in the Articles of Incorporation:	This foundation will seek world peace and the welfare of mankind in accordance with the principle: ‘The world is one family. All mankind are brothers and sisters.’ We aspire to extend healthy life expectancies and to resolve health issues, physical as well as social, mental and spiritual. Persons affected by Hansen’s disease have undergone the most severe anguish in the world and we wish to serve them as well as contribute to better health and dignity for everyone.

Organization chart



Board Members, Auditors and Advisors

As of June 1, 2024

Chair	Etsuko Kita	Honorary President, Japanese Red Cross Kyushu International College of Nursing
President	Hideo Sato	
Executive Director	Takahiro Nanri	
Trustee	Kazuyo Ichimori	Visiting Professor, Nagasaki University
Trustee	Hiroyoshi Endo	Honorary Professor, St.Luke's International University
Trustee	Megumi Teshima	Professor/Vice-Dean, Tokyo Healthcare University/Director, The International Council of Nurses
Auditor	Akira Kaneko	Director, General Affairs Department, The Nippon Foundation Human Milk Bank
Auditor	Toshiaki Manome	Representative, Manome Certified Public Accountant Office
Councilor	Takeju Ogata	President, The Nippon Foundation
Councilor	Shigeki Sakamoto	President, Center for Human Rights Education and Training
Councilor	Tomoko Takaki	Journalist, The Asahi Shimbun
Councilor	Eiji Nagao	Honorary Chief, National Sanatorium Oshima Seishoen
Councilor	Tsuguya Fukui	President, Tokyo Medical University Ibaraki Medical Center
Councilor	Toshiko Fukui	Professor/Vice-Dean, Graduate School, International University of Health and Welfare
Councilor	Chiaki Miyoshi	Medical Doctor, Izu Health and Medical Center
Advisor	Yasuko Ishigaki	Honorary Professor, Hokkaido Medical University
Advisor	Genji Matsumoto	
Advisor	Shunichi Yamashita	Executive Advisor to the President/Vice President, Fukushima Medical University

Sasakawa Health Foundation

The Nippon Zaidan Building 5F, 1-2-2 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052, JAPAN
Tel: +81-3-6229-5377 Fax: +81-3-6229-5388

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