

**International Symposium on
Leprosy/Hansen's Disease History as Heritage of Humanity**
January 28 – 30, 2016, Tokyo, Japan

RESOLUTION

Understanding that for many people leprosy / Hansen's disease¹ is a current health issue associated with stigma, discrimination and loss of human rights,

Recalling the recommendations of the two preceding International Workshops on the Preservation of Hansen's Disease / Leprosy History and Heritage, held in Japan on 24-25 October 2012 and 31 October 1 November 2014 respectively,

Recalling further the fifteen years of accumulated work of the International Leprosy Association's Global Project on the History of Leprosy,

Recognizing that the history of leprosy is emblematic of systematic violations of human and health rights, and can contribute significantly to successfully combat and prevent the disease in the present and the future, both as a matter of health and human rights,

Acknowledging the pioneering efforts of many individuals, groups and institutions to collect, preserve and present the living heritage of leprosy and carry it into the present and the future, including images, oral narratives and writings of the people who have lived with leprosy, through exhibits, museums, and other forms of documentation,

Acknowledging further the increasing interest and attention expressed

¹ [Hansen's disease] applies wherever 'leprosy' is used in this document.

by the government/public sector of various countries on the value of preserving the heritage of leprosy, and the in-depth research by academics on various aspects of the history of leprosy,

Appreciating the special references made by the WHO Goodwill Ambassador on the importance of preserving the history of leprosy,

We the participants of the International Symposium on
Leprosy/Hansen's Disease History as a Heritage of Humanity,

1. *Agree* unanimously that the history of leprosy contains vital messages and lessons for the present and future of humanity and is thus worth preserving;
2. *Agree further* that the preservation of the history of leprosy is a race against time that demands immediate actions and efforts from all stakeholders of the world;
3. *Encourage* all stakeholders, including governments, relevant public bodies, academics, civil society groups, organizations and associations of persons affected by leprosy, their descendants and their family members, non-government and religious organizations and potential funding agencies to continue the advocacy and sustain the quest for preserving the heritage of leprosy, to benefit the present and future generations;
4. *Encourage in particular* the formation of a network, both within a country and in regions, of groups of individuals of both public and private bodies interested and working for the preservation of the heritage of leprosy;

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5. *Request that:*

- 1) Each stakeholder endeavor to put into action both existing and newly-developed plans without delay;
- 2) Each regional focal point develop a network of individuals and existing groups and/or coordinate with existing networks who recognise the value of leprosy's heritage and are determined to preserve it in their region;
- 3) Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation continues in its role to facilitate, to encourage and consolidate the above actions by providing appropriate opportunities and necessary funding;

6. *Acknowledge* this opportunity to have participated in the International Symposium, which has enabled us to learn, share and liaise with many likeminded individuals and groups and strongly affirm that the history of leprosy is a valuable asset to humanity and one that we have been entrusted with an important challenge and mission to preserve.

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