

SASAKAWA MEMORIAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

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25th May 2011

Announcement: Grant Application

Dear partners,

Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation would like to start by thanking you for your cooperation in working closely with us.

Due to some organisational changes within the foundation, we would like to request any applications for our grant for the fiscal year 2012 (April 2012 to March 2013) to be submitted by **30th July 2011**. Please note that the deadline has been moved forward by a month than originally announced in July 2010. We apologise for the change, but we hope to have your kindest understanding.

Please also note that our focus from fiscal year 2012 to 2014 will be on the following areas;

- 1) Strengthening participation of persons affected by leprosy in all aspects of leprosy services
- 2) Capacity building of the persons affected by leprosy and their associations
- 3) Sensitisation / awareness raising to create an inclusive society, and
- 4) Preservation of heritage of leprosy

Priorities will be given to the projects that coincide with the above areas, especially those in line with *the Guidelines to Strengthen Participation of Persons Affected by Leprosy in Leprosy Services (WHO)* (attached), and *Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and Their Family Members (UN)* (attached)

Please find below a list of some examples which have been funded by us for your reference. **We welcome innovative and unique ideas and proposals.** Contact us for any details, and we thank you in advance for your kind understanding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Genji Matsumoto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Genji Matsumoto

General Secretary

Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation

Some activities funded where further progress is desired

- **Capacity building of organisations of people affected by leprosy**

Organisations of people affected by leprosy in India, China, Myanmar, Indonesia, Nepal, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Ghana, and Colombia were supported through various projects such as scholarship, vocational training, socio-economic rehabilitation, empowerment workshops, and awareness raising.

- **Youths Volunteer Work Camps**

Groups of young people (those in colleges and work) held **Work Camps** in leprosy colonies in China, Indonesia, and Vietnam (expected to start in India in 2011). Groups are a mixture of local youth/students and those from overseas including Japan. It brought 'hopes' to people living in the colonies, and understanding and less fear to people living nearby. The committed young students started to move people in society, and to **transform a society** into more inclusive and understanding one.

- **Positive Images**

Stories of people who have overcome and outshine difficulties caused by the disease were collected in India, Philippines, Cambodia, China, Ghana, Myanmar and Indonesia. These stories were produced with the initiative of the people themselves and written in their own local languages. The stories told are not only touching but also serve as a powerful tool to change people's perception of the disease and people affected by it.

- **Recording Legacies**

A young group of Malaysian college students conducted series of interviews to those who live at former Sungai Buloh leprosy settlement in Malaysia. **Recording of the history told by the people themselves** not only preserves the collective memory of the settlement but also helps society to reflect their own social memories. The stories told by the people are expected to be published in a form of a booklet, in Chinese, and will do justice to those who have shared their stories.

- **Participation of persons affected by leprosy in leprosy services**

We supported participation of experts affected by leprosy to WHO Meeting

on the above subject in Manila, Philippines. The Guidelines which recognise and encourage active participation of the persons affected by leprosy in leprosy services are published and distributed in May 2011 by WHO GLP. It is hoped to be utilised as a useful and powerful tool to ***accelerate more active participation of the people concerned.*** We welcome innovative trial/pilot activities that will enhance health services in the field.