

Press Release
Project Launch on Leprosy and Human Dignity
ASEAN Secretariat, 11 June 2009

People affected by leprosy can live dignified lives – that is the message the ASEAN Secretariat and the Nippon Foundation seeks to advocate through a joint project on Leprosy and Human Dignity.

The project will be officially launched on 15 June 2009 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, by the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, and the Chairman of The Nippon Foundation and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, Mr Yohei Sasakawa. Distinguished speakers from related Ministries and relevant organisations in Indonesia and guests from various institutions will also be in attendance.

The launching ceremony will be followed by a sensitisation workshop, where a number of papers concerning leprosy will be presented by speakers from various fields of expertise, in addition to a discussion on reducing stigmatisation of leprosy.

Future activities of the project could include empowerment workshops, capacity-building of people and groups affected by leprosy, awareness campaigns, and other initiatives that are targeted to sensitise society and pave the way for the social reintegration of people affected by leprosy.