



19th World Scout Jamboree - Chile 1999 Press Conference

The Director Action Programme Elimination of Leprosy, WHO, Geneva, Dr. S.K. Noordeen, participated in the AHM Press Conference. He showed WHO's keen interest and support for the disciplined work of Scouts to stamp out Leprosy.



*From left to right - Speakers:
Max Gruner, Chairman, AHM Germany,
Dr. S.K.Noordeen, Director Leprosy Elimination Programme, WHO,
Dr. Jacques Moreillon, Secretary General WOSM,
Dr. Clovis Lombardi, Director Panamerican Health Office*

Foto: Marc Clayton, World Scout Bureau

MESSAGE

from

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland
Director-General, World Health Organization,
Geneva, Switzerland

to be read by

**Dr. S. K. Noordeen, Senior Adviser,
Action Programme for the Elimination of Leprosy**

Salutations

"It gives me great pleasure to greet all of you who have come from different parts of the world to attend this 19th World Scout Jamboree.

Leprosy is an age-old disease full of myths and mysteries. As those of you who come from countries where leprosy is common already know, the disease causes severe deformities leading to patients being shunned in many societies where these people need help. More than that, we need to identify patients as soon as they develop the disease and cure them with the help of modern treatment known as multidrug therapy (MDT), which is now available everywhere. The role of scouts and other community volunteers is extremely important in achieving these objectives.

Scouts have already changed the situation with regard to leprosy in many communities. Your initiative in India of "knocking on every door" in the community has yielded enormous results towards eliminating leprosy. We need more such initiatives so that we can see a world free of leprosy in the not-too-distant future.

From the point of view of the World Health Organization, we would like to support your work towards eliminating leprosy in order to see an end to this, not only as a public health problem, but also as a human and social problem. I wish you every success in your efforts to fight leprosy and to win over it."

Dr. Jacques Moreillon, Secretary General, WOSM introduced the RANGA RAO LEPROSY TRUST.

Later he sent the following Message to the Scout Pack:

This special trust fund has been established by our partner organization in the fight against leprosy, AHM Leprosy Relief Organization Munich e.V. Mr. Ranga Rao was for many years director of the Bharat Scouts & Guides, India, one of the National Scout Associations which has played a key role in combatting leprosy and has, since his retirement from that position, dedicated his life to that cause.

Although good progress is being made towards eradication of the disease, it is estimated that one person is newly affected by leprosy every minute: 800,000 new cases were detected in 1998. For more information, see the fact sheet [Scouting and Leprosy](#). Donations to the Ranga Rao Leprosy Trust should be transferred to either:

UBS (Union Bank of Switzerland), Geneva, Switzerland,
Account No. 279 D 360 0000.0

or to:

Deutsche Bank Munich, Germany,
Account No: 220 1880 57 400 - BLZ 700 700 24

For Scout Leprosy information please see
http://www.scout.org/wsn/v3li2/Main31_2.html





18th World Scout Jamboree Netherlands 1995



Mrs. Sadako Ogatha,
United Nations
High Commissioner
for Refugees (UNHCR)
was impressed by
AHM's activities.

AHM was invited to participate in the 18th World Scout Jamboree, Netherlands. A combined exhibition stand AHM WHO drew the attention of World Scout Experts and other UN Authorities. His Majesty, King Gustav of Sweden, enquired of Mrs. Mathilde Gruner, Managing Director AHM, about its relationship with WHO and what kind of contribution Scouts really can make.



"Scouts can help cure" was the innovative message for the Scout Movement at the beginning of the Leprosy campaigns. Scouts have proved they can help cure, which was published and officially accepted by WHO. (see WHO's "LEP News")



World Health Organization realized the importance of the Scouts in the fight against leprosy.

Excerpts:

Scout Movement; a Willing Army

The elimination of leprosy as a public health problem depends on finding the resources to track down every case and persuading each individual to accept the simple treatment with multidrug therapy (MDT) that will effect a cure. The Scout Movement is a dedicated body of young people, well organized, disciplined and highly motivated to serve their communities. They have proved themselves capable of recognizing the basic symptoms of leprosy.





34th World Scout Conference 1996, Norway. Resolution

Considering that the goal of the World Health Organization (WHO) is to eliminate leprosy as a public health problem, and recognizing that the partnership has already been established between WOSM and AHM Leprosy Relief Organization Munich for the prevention and control of leprosy, the conference

urged all National Scout Associations concerned to involve their members in working towards elimination of leprosy in coordination with WHO, leprosy authorities and ministries of health.



34th World
Scout Conference

World Organization of the Scout Movement

35th World Scout Conference 1999, Durban, South Africa.



AHM was invited to meet with authorities from the 10 countries of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding WOSM-WHO-AHM). Important discussions were held with each individual country.

Scouting Involvement in the Elimination of Leprosy: Memorandum of Understanding between WOSM, WHO and AHM

"You will recall that the 34th World Scout Conference held in Oslo in 1996 adopted Resolution No. 12/96 urging" All National Scout Associations concerned to involve their members in working towards elimination of leprosy in coordination with WHO Leprosy Authorities and Ministries of Health."

As a follow-up of this Resolution, for several months, the World Scout Bureau, the World Health Organizations "Action Programme for the Elimination of Leprosy" and the AHM Leprosy Relief Organization Munich" have negotiated a "framework agreement" which culminated in the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding, signed at the World Scout Bureau in Geneva on 3rd July, 1997.

The main aim of this Memorandum of Understanding is "... to develop the capacity of selected National Scout Organizations to carry out effective leprosy awareness, detection and treatment programmes with the support of WHO and AHM in their respective fields of competence."

The three partners have identified the following 10 countries where the prevalent rate of leprosy is particularly high and where the National Scout Organization members of WOSM are strong enough to make a significant contribution to the leprosy elimination goal: Bangladesh, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Nepal, Philippines, Sudan, Tanzania. Those countries will be approached individually within the framework of the Agreement. Some countries are already very involved in anti-leprosy programmes and it will be useful to benefit from their experience. Others may wish to study the most appropriate way to start or to increase their activities in this field. To support these efforts, relevant publications are being prepared and will



be shared with the countries concerned. There will also be a need to establish or to reinforce a mechanism of co-operation with the Leprosy Elimination Programmes of Ministries of Health in the countries concerned.

For those Associations which are not directly affected by this problem, but would like to express their solidarity or give their support to the Association concerned, they can do so through the normal channel of bilateral or multilateral partnership."

The MOU requires each country to create a Plan of Action between the responsible Scout Leaders and the National Health Ministries. These Action Plans have to be approved by WHO because WHO will ensure that the proposals are realistic and efficient to meet the health needs of the population concerned and, in particular, the goal of elimination of leprosy as a public health problem.



AHM “World Letter”

25th anniversary

AHM’s Strategy: A conceptual model about the contribution of the World Scout Movement towards elimination of leprosy as a public health problem in connection with National Leprosy Programmes.

