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A stylized, grayscale world map serves as the background for the title. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with the Americas on the left and Europe, Africa, and Asia on the right. A thick horizontal line is drawn across the map, passing through the equator.

# **WORLD TB DAY 1998**

## **Summary of Events**



**WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme**

The events described in this document were submitted to WHO's Global Tuberculosis Programme by TB advocates around the world. This document is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of all activities that took place around World TB Day 1998.

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# AFRICA

## Ethiopia

The **Bale** Zonal Health Department gave health education seminars at schools, health stations, and on local radio, and prepared articles for local newspapers on the DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course) strategy.

The District Health Department in **Aw** Zone organized a TB meeting for local officials to promote the implementation of DOTS.



A March in Enjibara, Ethiopia

## Malawi

The Malawi Office of WHO, the Malawi National TB Control Programme, and the Ministry of Health and Population organized a press conference on World TB Day, attended by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry, the WHO Representative to Malawi, the TB Control Programme Manager and health workers. TB control was described as one of the priority programmes in achieving "Health for All," and pledges to expand DOTS were made.

Other activities included media briefings, radio programmes, and journalists visiting a TB hospital to interview TB patients. Banners with the slogan "The TB epidemic must be stopped" were displayed throughout the country; 18,000 T-shirts, and posters and calen-

dars carrying TB information and messages promoting DOTS were distributed to raise community awareness. At football games at district hospitals, players wore TB T-shirts. World TB Day activities were well covered by print media and national radio.

## Nigeria

The WHO Representative for Nigeria delivered a goodwill message and called on the

Ministry of Health to ensure that DOTS is introduced in all local government areas and in every health institution. The Ministry of Health launched the revised National TB and Leprosy Workers Manual and various health education materials to mark World TB Day, and pledged that efforts to ensure free treatment for all TB patients in the country would be intensified.

The Umeano Hospital in **Onitsha** issued a press release and sent a TB information letter to the Nigerian Bishops Association.

## South Africa

The South African National TB Association (SANTA) presented street dramas in **Johannesburg** highlighting the infection rates of TB in South Africa. Other SANTA branches conducted awareness activities such as street parades, street collections, and seminars. These activities were covered by local media.

At **SANTARAMA** in **Johannesburg**, TB patients took part in dramas and choir activities. Interviews with staff from the National and Provincial TB Control Programme were broadcast on Radio Xhosa, Khaya FM, Radio Soweto, Radio Buwa, Radio Phalaphala,

Radio Ligwalagwala, SA FM, Radio 702, Radio Metro and Highveld Stereo. Radio announcements on TB were aired on 24 March on all national radio stations, and TV presenters announced TB messages between programmes in the week leading up to World TB Day. TV interviews with one of SANTA's leading doctors were broadcast on the Breakfast Club TV Show and a TB patient on SABC Channel 2.

On World TB Day, SABC National News carried a feature on a TB patient, followed by a report on the activities of World TB Day in **Cape Town** and a brief interview with a Health Minister. This footage was aired in Afrikaans, English, Sotho, and Xhosa news. SANTA issued press releases on the DOTS strategy, the reasons for slow progress, achievements by the national programmes and goals for the future.

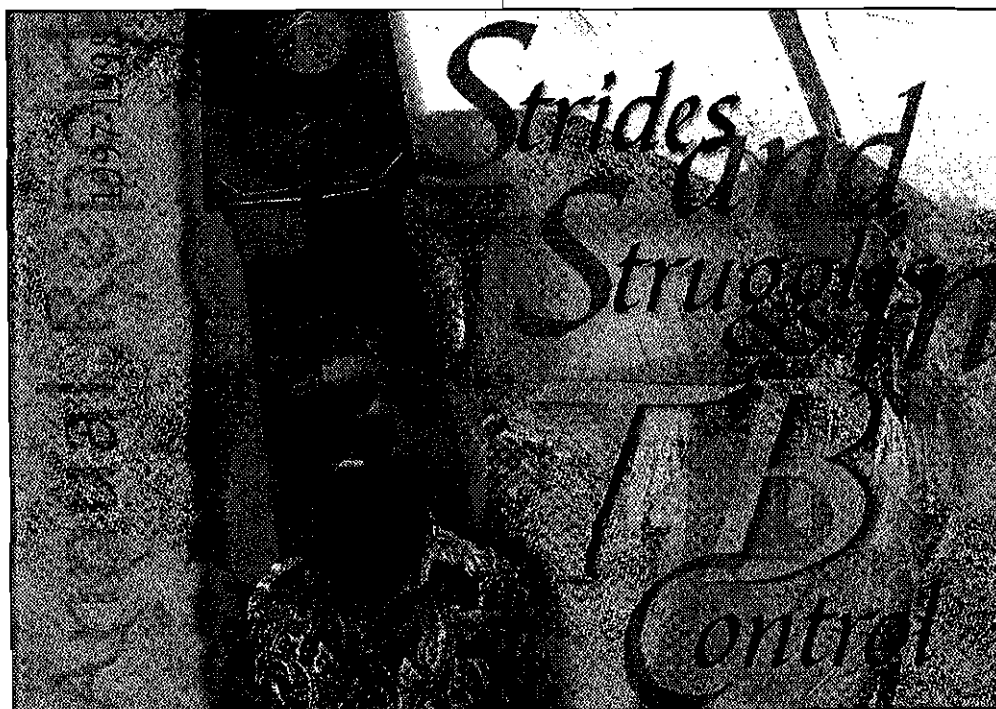
A "Walk for TB" around Athlone Stadium took place in **Cape Town**. This was followed by speeches from the Provincial Minister of Health and a launch of the annual report "Strides and Struggles" by the Deputy Director General of Health for the Western Cape. A DOTS training manual was released at Gugulethu in Cape Town. Bishop Desmond Tutu made an appearance at the Demonstration and Training district in

**Ravensmead Uitsig**. Journalists were taken for a clinic TB tour and briefed about progress in **Gauteng**.

In **Eastern Cape**, occupational nurses staffed a TB information desk at a shopping center. Vista University students staged a drama, showing how every 33 minutes somebody dies of TB in South Africa. TB information desks were set up by SANTA at a shopping center. Port Elizabeth Technikon students organized a TB Quiz. TB patients, student nurses and other students took part in a TB parade around East London and the Regional Director gave a speech at a TB function held at the community clinic there. In **Northern Cape**, a workshop for business managers in Kimberley was held to identify the role they could play and show how they can benefit from tackling TB in the workplace.

In **Standerton**, the District SANTA and the Department of Health collaborated on a march to Sakhile Town Hall, a drama that was staged in Standerton and in **Barberton** region, a TB march to increase awareness in **Bethall**, and a fun run for TB in **Middleburg**.

At the National Council of Provinces, on World TB Day, the Health Minister disclosed that she is infected with TB.



Annual Report of the South Africa National TB Programme

## United Republic of Tanzania

The Ebrahim Haji Shia Ithnaashari Charitable Hospital in **Dar es Salaam** placed stories in local papers and participated in a live question-and-answer session on TB on local radio. The Lion's Club and the Leo Club of Dar Es Salaam issued a World TB Day message about the TB epidemic and DOTS. Op-eds by leading doctors were published in national newspapers.

## Zimbabwe

The Ministry of Health and Child Welfare produced an information kit with brochures on tuberculosis for World TB Day.



TB brochure, Zimbabwe

# The AMERICAS

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## Brazil

The staff of the Federação de Entidades de Luta Antituberculose de São Paulo issued a press notice which achieved widespread news coverage in national media in Brazil for World TB Day.

## Dominican Republic

A National Symposium on tuberculosis and other emerging and re-emerging diseases was held in **Santo Domingo** on 24 March and 180 health professionals and technicians attended. The grand opening of the Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory was celebrated with officials from the State Secretariat of Public Health and Social Welfare and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) representative in the Dominican Republic. At least three television stations and eight radio stations ran interviews about tuberculosis.

## El Salvador

Seventy participants from the health sector commemorated World TB Day in a ceremony at the Hotel El Salvador International. The National Director of Epidemiology participated in a round-table discussion on the theme.

## Haiti

On World TB Day, the Director-General of Health presented an award to the TB Center at the Pavilion De Coste, which is the first site in Haiti selected for application of the DOTS strategy in 1997. A major event was held at this location with games, musical presentations and a TB parade. Nationally, video and radio spots aired throughout the day to increase awareness of the threat of TB and the services available to treat the disease.

## Honduras

The film "Tierra de Nadie" was shown on the TV programme, "Noche de Gala," in which the main protagonist suffers from TB. In his desperation to make a living for his family, the character abandons treatment when he feels better. His physician convinces him to continue the treatment with the understanding that if he is healthy, his family will also be healthy.

A press conference was held with the participation of the Minister of Health, the Director of the TB Control Programme, and a PAHO/WHO representative, who all confirmed political support for TB control, and discussed achievements and failures of the TB control programme in Honduras.

## Mexico

Activities marking World TB Day included an inter-institutional workshop for the evaluation of the DOTS strategy in **Orizaba, Veracruz**. Results for the first quarter of 1997 and ways to expand DOTS coverage throughout Mexico were discussed. As part of the workshop, a commemorative ceremony was held, in which national, state and local authorities gathered to show their support for the anti-tuberculosis campaign.

## Nicaragua

Although physicians in Nicaragua were on strike during World TB Day, the National TB Programme distributed 20,000 pamphlets about TB control in all the health centers for patients and their families. The programme also disseminated messages about DOTS via radio, television and newspapers, including a half-hour television show "Programa de Salud" on Channel 2, and a weekly hour-long television programme on Channel 4. Displays in parks, avenues, markets and schools heralded the message "Don't be deaf, blind and dumb. TB has a cure, 24 March World TB Day."

## Peru

In **Lima**, the Programa Nacional de Control de Enfermedades Transmisibles submitted articles on TB that appeared in local newspapers including *Diario El Comercio*.

## United States of America

The **New York City** TB Programme held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Fort Greene Chest Clinic's new site. The Mayor and Health Commissioner attended the press conference which followed.

**Louisiana State University** set up a TB web site. It also hosted a TB talk show and gave a presentation on TB to the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in **Atlanta** issued a statement to encourage state and local health departments to plan TB-related press events. Messages and electronic copies of documents were sent to state and local TB controllers.

The TB Programme in **Puerto Rico** held an employee recognition ceremony for outreach workers. It also held a seminar and issued a press release.

The **San Francisco** Department of Public Health TB Control Programme held a joint press conference with the TB Control Branch of the California Department of Health Services and the San Francisco/San Mateo Chapter of the American Lung Association. Calle, an elephant with TB at the San Francisco Zoo, and a patient undergoing treatment were featured.

In **North Carolina**, the AAWH "TB Alert" newsletter was sent to TB staff of local Health Departments, Departments of Correction, and state and regional lung associations.

The Department of Health in **Texas** held week-long World TB Day activities including a one-day conference opened by the State Health Commissioner; an event with repre-

sentatives from Mexico, which will focus on Project JUNTOS and bi-national TB projects between Mexico and Texas; video viewings; the opening of a new TB Clinic in **Hildago County**; an open house at a new TB clinic for local infection control nurses; a press conference with the new Mayor of **Laredo City**, and TB awareness and education activities at the TB Education Center in **San Antonio**.

A TV spot produced by PAHO for World TB Day was shown on major cable networks throughout Latin America, the Caribbean and for Latino populations in the US. PAHO also produced a video on DOTS experiences in Latin America in English and Spanish, which was used by Programme Managers for World TB Day and distributed to major TB stations throughout the region.

Princeton Project 55 Tuberculosis Initiative issued a news release for World TB Day and sent copies to journalists of a letter to President Clinton with over 150 signatories, urging him to prioritize TB, expand DOTS and fund research into infectious diseases.

A news release was issued in **Baltimore** announcing the 1997 morbidity rate as the lowest ever in Baltimore and the 20th anniversary of DOTS in the region.

## Uruguay

World TB Day received wide press coverage. *El Observador* reported on 99-year-old Dr Uruguay Marino who has dedicated 55 years of his life to the fight. He declared that although TB is re-emerging he does not believe the battle is lost.

## Venezuela

Community events, coordinated by the National TB Programme, were held throughout the country. Venezuela's major paper, *El Nacional*, carried a large story on the nation's TB problem and its efforts in implementing the DOTS strategy. Events were also held with medical and technical staff in hospitals and universities.

# EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

## Afghanistan

The WHO Office in Afghanistan issued a news release highlighting the TB situation in Afghanistan and the gender prevalence of the disease in the country: 70 percent of the total TB cases are in females in the reproductive age group of 15-45.

## Iraq

A symposium held by the Al-Kamalyia Hospital for Chest and Infectious Diseases was well attended by doctors, various social figures and the media. There was extensive media coverage of the epidemic.

## Jordan

On World TB Day, the Minister of Health appeared on national television to launch the TB Elimination in the Year 2010 Initiative. A press conference with the National TB Programme Manager was held and resulted in widespread media coverage on TB and the DOTS strategy.

## Oman

The Ministry of Health in **Muscat** organized a high-level meeting on World TB Day. Speakers included the TB Programme Manager, the Under-Secretary of Health Affairs, a representative of the TB/Leprosy and Acute Respiratory Infections Control Programme, as well as various prominent medical doctors from Oman.

## Pakistan

The Aga Khan University in **Karachi** organized activities designed to heighten public and government awareness of the widespread threat of TB in Pakistan. A public awareness seminar and lecture held at the Aga Khan University auditorium were very well attended by the general public. Print and



**TB Parade, Karachi, Pakistan**

visual materials were widely distributed on the campus; articles and letters to the editor were printed, and a one-hour live radio programme was aired throughout the country.

The TB Control Board sent letters to the Director-General Health in **Islamabad**, the Secretary of Health in every province in Pakistan, the Chairperson/Secretary of the Anti-TB Association in every province, and all members of the Chest Specialists Panel to encourage them to celebrate World TB Day. Activities included seminars, walks, TV interviews, contributions to newspapers, advocacy efforts to encourage the Zakat Fund to allocate funds for TB control using DOTS, and the establishment of anti-TB drug banks.

The Ojha Institute of Chest Diseases in **Karachi** organized a week-long media awareness campaign. Activities included lectures in schools, colleges and hospitals; a Walk Against TB led by the Advisor to the Chief Minister on Social Welfare in **Sindh**, attended

by 3,000 people and widely covered by the media; media briefings, radio talk shows and workshops in the community.

The Dera Ghazi Khan Host Lions Club organized a TB clinic. Fifty-eight patients were examined, medicines were provided and patients were advised to cooperate with health workers.

A meeting was held for Lions Club and the local TB association workers to advise them to use DOTS more widely. A seminar titled "Use DOTS More Widely" was attended by around 80 participants including Lions and para-medical staff and included presentations on the threat of the epidemic and the need to use DOTS.

## **Sudan**

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the Omdurman Islamic University held a TB symposium attended by staff members, medical officers, house officers, medical assistants, and medical students.

## **Syrian Arab Republic**

The TB Control Center for **Lattakia** marked World TB Day by arranging meetings with health educators and health workers. Lectures on TB were given in various towns and villages throughout Syria. Meetings were arranged with the private sector to demonstrate what DOTS can offer TB patients. A number of newspaper articles were published.

# EUROPE

## Denmark

The World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe held a news event in **Copenhagen** on 24 March to highlight the worsening epidemic in Eastern Europe. Keynote speakers included senior staff from the WHO Europe Office and WHO's Global TB Programme. Twenty journalists attended and the story generated widespread coverage in international media.

## France

The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) and the Comité National contre les Maladies Respiratoires et la Tuberculose (CNMRT) held a major joint press conference for the French-speaking media in **Paris** chaired by the French Minister of Health. The conference highlighted the importance of political will to fight TB. The President of CNMRT and the Executive Director of IUATLD were present.

IUATLD prepared a documentary on TB (with footage from Benin, New York City and Kenya) that was broadcast on national television on World TB Day with an interview with a WHO medical officer.

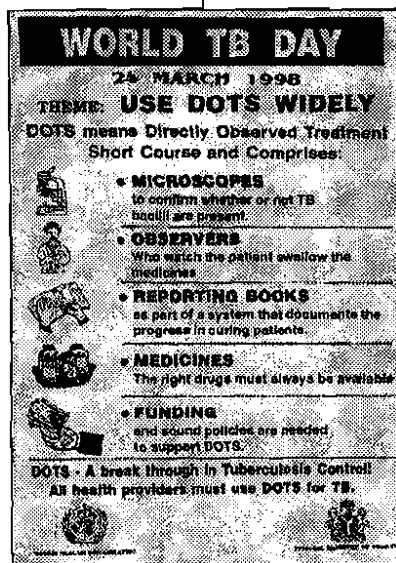
## Norway

The Norwegian Health and Lung Association (LHL) held a news conference announcing its participation in a new TB programme in Russia/Arkhangelsk, partly funded by the Norwegian government. It also invited leading public health and TB experts in Norway to a hearing to discuss common future challenges. Representatives from WHO, the IUATLD and the Russian Embassy attended. A leading

Professor from Bergen University delivered an official report to the Minister of Health describing the TB situation in Norway and challenges for the future. The event received extensive media coverage. An LHL representative was also interviewed by the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation.

## The Netherlands

The Royal Netherlands Tuberculosis Association (KNCV) held a major International TB Platform of Dutch development and health NGOs to encourage greater collaboration and expand DOTS. Eleven Dutch NGOs signed an official agreement to that effect. Representatives from four leading political parties took part in a panel discussion and later requested information from the Minister of Development Cooperation on the government's policy towards TB control in developing countries and Eastern Europe. KNCV issued a press release and distributed TB post cards at universities and high schools.



TB Poster, Bucharest

## Romania

The National Pneumology Institute of **Bucharest** held a news conference on World TB Day attended by TB experts to raise awareness among the President, government, political groups, NGOs and foundations. It achieved wide media coverage with TB stories appearing in journals and local papers throughout the country.

The Clinic of Pulmonary Disease in **Iasi** prepared brochures and posters for health centers for World TB Day.

The Health Messengers Association organized a fair at a local park to commemorate World TB Day in **Bucharest**. Activities included

games, competitions, displays, street plays and TB presentations. The Association worked with national media to help raise community awareness of TB. Various radio programmes about TB and DOTS were aired on public radio stations.

## **United Kingdom**

The World Health Organization held a news conference in **London** on 19 March following a two-day meeting of a TB Committee convened to evaluate progress in TB control in the 22 high-burden countries. The message that progress stalled in key countries was jeopardizing global efforts to control the epidemic was given by keynote speakers including the Director, Deputy Director, and a Medical Officer from WHO's Global TB Programme, and the Chair of the TB Committee. Forty journalists attended and the conference achieved blanket coverage in international media.

A documentary on TB and DOTS, produced by Action TB, "One in Three," was aired throughout the world.

## **Switzerland**

UNAIDS issued a news release out of **Geneva** on World TB Day on the HIV/TB epidemic, which generated coverage in international media.

The Double Income Project held a news conference on World TB Day at the University of **Zurich** with the message "Knock TB Out of the Air." Masks carrying this slogan were distributed with press materials.

# SOUTH-EAST ASIA

## Bangladesh

A message from the President, Prime Minister, Health Minister and Secretary of Health was released and broadcast on TV/radio and published in the main newspapers as a special supplement. A ten-minute group discussion with the Project Director and others was recorded for radio and TV broadcast on 24 March. In addition, a 15-minute TV interview with the Minister of Health, Secretary of Health, WHO representative and Project Director was broadcast on World TB Day, and TV spots and radio jingles were intensively broadcast over a three-day period before and after the 24 March.

A "walkathon" through the main road of each district town was organized, attended by health staff, volunteers, NGOs and others. This was followed by a discussion meeting at the Civil Surgeon's office in each town.

Festoons and banners were hung at the main junctions/circles of **Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshai and Khulna**. There were decorated vehicles with microphone facilities and mobile exhibitions on World TB Day around Dhaka city with stops at important roads and junctions where messages and slogans were transmitted.

## India

The South-East Asia Regional Office of WHO in **New Delhi** prepared a press release for World TB Day.

The Chief of Medical Services of South Eastern Coalfields in **Balispur** organized TB detection camps in various coal mines. Articles on TB and DOTS were prepared for local newspapers.

Lupin Laboratories Limited launched a new TB web site.

The International Centre for Study and Development in **Kerala** included World TB

Day in their 1998 Action Plan and encouraged district branches and affiliated organizations (including 200 local NGOs) to observe the event.

Action Aid in **New Delhi** worked closely with URMUL Rural Health Research & Development to prepare a newsletter to observe World TB Day.

The Community Development Society for World TB Day activities conducted TB seminars in local villages in **South India**, published TB information pamphlets and booklets in different regional dialects, and established a Village Volunteer Committee to directly observe old and new TB cases. It also arranged a large rally and issued a press release.

The staff of Jalpaiguri Welfare Organization in **West Bengal** distributed pens and pencils that carried the DOTS slogan to doctors.

The Hope Foundation in **Bangalore** celebrated World TB Day with a week-long session of events including TB volunteers staging street plays, a cycle rally, and TB hospital visits.

On the occasion of World TB Day, a seminar on Revised National TB Control Programme was held at the office of the Guyrat State TB Association in conjunction with the state government. TB papers were circulated to seminar participants and articles were published in local newspapers.

The **Maska** Anti-TB Clinic and the **Gujarat** State TB Association held a joint seminar on the Revised National TB Control Programme.

## Indonesia

A national TB campaign was carried out by the Persahabatan Hospital, a WHO Collaborating Center in **Jakarta**. A booklet entitled "Tuberkulosis Paru" (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) was published. The center published and distributed a special edition of

"Warta TB" (TB Bulletin) to health workers in Indonesia and participants in the Third International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Pacific Rim. A national press conference was held. Other activities included the presentation of a paper on management of TB to medical students at the University of Indonesia, a newspaper article titled "TB & Ekonomi" (TB & Economy) published in the Kompas, the biggest newspaper in Indonesia, the establishment of a TB Hotline for people to call in and ask TB-related questions, and a national survey prepared for drug-resistant TB information.

In **Jakarta**, the Director-General of Health, representatives from several NGOs, the WHO Representative of Indonesia, and provincial TB managers were interviewed by local and national media.

Seminars on DOTS were held for medical students, NGOs, district coordinators and provincial health managers.

The **Central Sulawesi** province printed TB envelopes to commemorate World TB Day and materials on DOTS were sent in these envelopes to doctors working in the Province.

Throughout the country, World TB Day banners were displayed and shopping bags with the DOTS logo were distributed.

## Malaysia

The Minister of Health held a press event that led to widespread media coverage. At the same time, local dignitaries held events at regional level. The Ministry of Health also sponsored a medical exhibit on TB, a children's short story competition, and gave free medical examinations to the public.

## Nepal

The Nepal Anti-TB Association organized activities in Kathmandu to heighten public and government awareness of the widespread threat of TB to the people of Nepal. These included workshops with the Red Cross, street dramas in different parts of the country,

and a procession around **Patan**, in which 1,000 school children and adults took part — many of them wearing T-shirts advertising DOTS, designed by the JICA National TB Control Project.

The Nepal Anti-TB Association and the German Nepal TB Control Project organized a DOTS Orientation Programme that was attended by the State Minister of Health and President of NATA. Radio speeches were given by the Prime Minister, the Health Minister, the NATA President and the National TB Control Programme Director.

The **Tarai** TB National Programme organized a musical band procession, prepared a TB message for local radio, showed a TB film and slide show at the local theaters, and printed T-shirts with TB slogans for staff members to wear on World TB Day. The Nepal Anti TB Association, Britain Nepal Medical Trust, International Nepal Fellowship, and the Netherlands Leprosy Relief Association worked with many districts to organize activities to commemorate World TB Day.

The WHO Regional Office launched the Kathmandu Valley Coalition Against TB to raise awareness about the burden of TB in the valley and the need to take urgent action to combat the growing epidemic in **Kathmandu**. 400 politicians, social workers, NGO activists, government health workers, and representatives from the valley municipalities attended an inaugural meeting, opened by the State Minister of Health. The Secretary of Health, President of the Nepal Anti-TB Association, Director of the National TB Center, the Mayor of Kathmandu Municipality, and a WHO representative gave keynote addresses. The Director-General of Health Services presented the plan for TB control and participants signed a statement of commitment to join the fight against TB.

There was media interest and wide coverage in the press, TV and radio. Full-page advertisements in the four largest circulation English and Nepali language newspapers were funded by JICA.

## **Sri Lanka**

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society commemorated World TB Day by displaying banners in front of its National Head Quarters in **Colombo**, seen by thousands of people.

Local branches also put up banners, conducted awareness-raising seminars for school children and refugees, screening people for TB and providing medical treatment from its mobile medical units.

## **Thailand**

The National TB Programme published a TB newsletter for World TB Day 1998.

# WESTERN PACIFIC

## China

The Ministry of Health marked World TB Day with publicity campaigns to raise awareness of the epidemic and DOTS.

## Japan

A national TB awareness campaign was carried out by the Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association. The Third International TB Seminar was held to build public awareness of the threat of the epidemic.

Radio messages were broadcast on radio stations throughout the country and moving neon messages beamed in major cities in the country. TB pamphlets on the world TB situation were widely distributed to mass media and government officials.

## Papua New Guinea

The Disease Control Unit of the Department of Health held a national awareness campaign with the staff of the TB Clinic, TB ward, and urban clinics in the National Capital District. Activities included public addresses to TB patients by staff of the Ministry of Health, video viewing of TB documentaries, distribution of a TB health education booklet to the general public at hospitals, city market areas and settlements, and a TB parade with floats and banners. Activities were covered by newspapers, radio and television stations.

## Philippines

The Committee of German Doctors for Developing Countries worked with different rural health centers and health care workers from various municipalities to plan World TB

Day activities, commemorated for the first time in **Bukidnon**. These included a two-day DOTS training seminar, and an Anti-TB walk with banners and T-shirts with TB slogans which ended with a speech by the Municipal Health Officer in **Valencia**. A question-and-answer session was aired on local radio.

The WHO regional office in **Manila** issued a statement highlighting the scale of the epidemic in Asia and progress in TB control stalled in key high-burden countries in the region.



TB March, Bukidnon, Philippines

## Viet Nam

The Pham Ngoc Thach TB and Lung Disease Centre (PNT) in **Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC)** held a TB meeting attended by the Chairman of HCMC People Committee, Director of HCMC Health Service, Director of the Board, doctors and health staff of PNT Centre. Other members included the Red Cross Association, TB officers, the HCMC AIDS committee, and the media. Broadcast messages were aired for two weeks and articles on the TB meeting were published in local papers. Posters and banners were placed on the main streets near the PNT Centre.