

Nagashima Aisei-en, Oku Komyo-en and  
Oshima Seisho-en

## To preserve the sanatoria and document its heritage for future generations

We aim to register them for two types of World Heritage,  
both the “UNESCO World Cultural Heritage” and  
the “UNESCO Memory of the World.”

“UNESCO World Cultural Heritage” is a treaty system that promotes land  
such as monuments, groups of buildings, and other sites with  
Outstanding Universal Value, which shares cultural significance  
transcending national boundaries and is important to all human beings  
of every generation.

“UNESCO Memory of the World” is one of UNESCO’s programs that  
promotes historical heritage (movable property such as documents,  
sounds, and images) which have global significance.  
Through these registration efforts, we pledge to contribute to the true  
restoration of the dignity of those who have recovered from Hansen’s  
Disease around the world, and work for the elimination of all prejudices  
and discrimination that humanity bears.



### Our location



Google Map

### Contact us in advance of your visit

Non-Profit Organization

HANSEN'S DISEASE SANATORIA WORLD HERITAGE PROMOTION COUNCIL

6253 Mushiage, Oku-cho, Setouchi-City, Okayama, Japan 701-4501

Tel: +81-869-24-8872 Fax: +81-869-24-8873

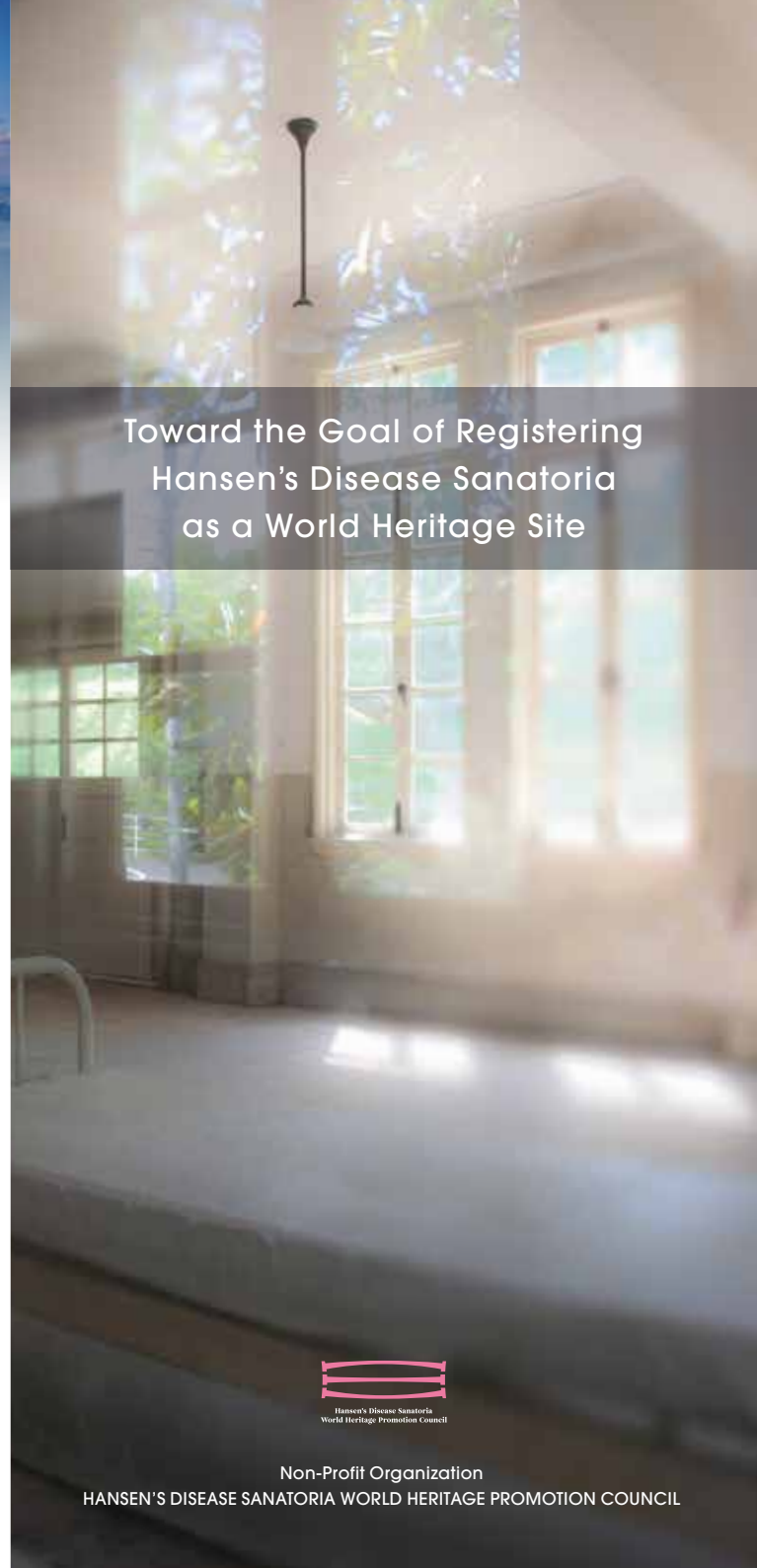
e-mail : hansen-wh.jp@aoros.ocn.ne.jp



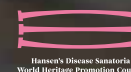
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## Toward the Goal of Registering Hansen's Disease Sanatoria as a World Heritage Site



Hansen's Disease Sanatoria  
World Heritage Promotion Council

Non-Profit Organization

HANSEN'S DISEASE SANATORIA WORLD HERITAGE PROMOTION COUNCIL



## About Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)

Hansen's Disease is a chronic infectious disease caused by a bacteria called "Mycobacterium leprae."

The name of the disease is derived from the name of the Norwegian doctor Armauer Hansen, who found the bacteria.

The pathogenicity of the bacteria is extremely low, and even if a person is infected, the pathogen is typically easily eliminated by human immunity, so it is very rare that people develop the disease.

When Hansen's Disease develops, lesions appear in the skin and peripheral nerves are damaged, which may be accompanied by deformation of the hands and face. At present, with early detection and treatment, the disease can be cured without any aftereffects.

## Unforgettable memories leading us forward

## There are people who lived on this island

Nagashima is a small island in the Seto Inland Sea with a circumference of 16 kilometers. This island is where the National Sanatorium Nagashima Aisei-en and Oku Komyo-en are located. Both were once established as isolation facilities for Hansen's Disease patients. Though over 3,000 people at maximum lived in the sanatoria, there are only 250 seniors living there now. There are currently no Hansen's Disease patients on the island. After World War II, an effective cure was developed and everyone was healed. However, the Japanese isolation policy was continued until 1996. As a result, people who had been segregated and lived in the sanatoria lost their connections to their homes and families. On the island, there are buildings that preserve the memory of human rights violations, such as a prison, an ossuary, and other materials that reflect the harsh conditions in the sanatoria.

Additionally, there is a bridge that was built in order to connect with society, and there are also many material objects and literary works left by people who worked hard to overcome the difficulties of life in the sanatoria. Their footsteps trace the history of human struggle and the importance of a society where human rights are respected. They carry unforgettable histories to create a society where everyone can live peacefully.



Photo: The center facility is Nagashima Aisei-en, and Oku Komyo-en is in the upper left

