



THE DALAI LAMA

## MESSAGE

Tuberculosis (TB) is curable, yet it remains one of the world's most deadly diseases. The number of people that suffer and die from TB is immense; more than 9 million new cases and close to 2 million deaths each year. India suffers from the highest TB burden in the world, with close to 2 million new cases and more than 330,000 deaths annually. The poor and malnourished suffer the most from this disease. They are too weak to fight off the infection and often receive treatment of poor quality, or none at all.

The means to diagnose and treat TB are well-known and should be made available to all. Yet for millions of the poor, they have no access to medical care. We have an obligation to provide assistance to those suffering from TB and eliminate any barriers to treatment. TB is just one example of the many afflictions that disproportionately affect the poor. Limited access to clean water, proper-nutrition, and healthcare causes intense suffering for millions in India. Yet with concerted action, we can help to alleviate this situation.

The Prajnopaya Foundation is dedicated to improving medical care for the poor and to fighting the scourge of TB. Through their work in the Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, they are establishing free medical clinics and are bringing high quality TB treatment to areas that have traditionally been neglected. Their work saves lives, reduces suffering, and helps to repair the damage that this disease can bring to families and societies. I enthusiastically support the work of Bhikshu Tenzin Legphel Priyadarshi and his group of dedicated volunteers. Their effort is an important example of transforming altruistic intention into concrete compassionate action. On the occasion of World TB Day being observed today, I wish them continued success in their work and encourage others to support this noble effort.

March 24, 2010