

MYSORE DECLARATION

The delegates who participated in the first National Workshop on Museum Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities “Access for All” held at the Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore (Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India) during 31st January to 2nd February 2007, recommend the following, which may be called as “Mysore Declaration on Museums and Disabled”:

1. All Museums shall undertake the following:
 - a) Accessibility to be included in the policy or mission statement.
 - b) Organize regular Access audits of both physical infrastructure (including building) and interpretation/communication.
 - c) Since many Museums are located in heritage buildings, special provisions may be made for its accessibility.
 - d) Provide barrier-free building and physical infrastructure.
 - e) Every Museum should try to have a space or gallery where accessible exhibits are displayed with multi-sensory communication in order to help interpretation to Persons with Disabilities.
 - f) Organize regular short-term training programmes (including sensitization) for museum staff regarding the needs of Persons with Disabilities with the help of professional agencies and experts.
 - g) Fill up 3% employment quota for Persons with Disabilities.
 - h) Designate one staff as Accessibility Coordinator.
2. Funding agencies, Government etc shall have the responsibility to make Access Audits of Museums as one of the criteria for funding.
3. Professional agencies on Museums in India (such as Museum Associations of India and India National Committee of the International Council of Museums), training institutions in Museology and University departments of Museology to include Museum Accessibility Studies in its training schedule/syllabi.
4. In order to undertake the above-mentioned proposals it is recommended that a National Centre for Museum Accessibility Studies (NC-MAS) be established by the Government of India, especially the Ministries of Social Justice, Culture, Environment & Forests etc.

Sd/-

Signed on behalf of the delegates by
Dr B. Venugopal, Coordinator

(Scientist-in-Charge, Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore-570011)