

MYSORE DECLARATION ON MUSEUMS AND DISABLED

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

1. All Museums Shall undertake the following:
 - a. To include Accessibility in the policy or mission statement.
 - b. To organize regular access audits of both physical infrastructure (including building) and interpretation/ communication.
 - c. To provide barrier-free building and physical infrastructure.
 - d. To provide space or gallery where accessible exhibits are displayed with multi-sensory communication in order to help interpretation to persons with Disabilities.
 - e. To organize regular short-term training programmes (including sensitization) for museum staff regarding the needs of person with Disabilities with the help of professional agencies and experts.
 - f. To designate a senior 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 Indian 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 proposal it is recommended that a National Centre for Museum Accessibility Studies (NC-MAS) be established by the Government of India.

Sd/-

Signed on behalf of the delegates by

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02-02-2007