

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

LOCATION OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC AREA

In determining the location or relocation of regional offices of the World Health Organization, it must be mentioned that the Constitution makes no provision for the method of such determination. The First World Health Assembly delegated to the Executive Board the responsibility for the establishment of regional offices (Off. Rec. 13, p. 331). Inherent in this responsibility is the determination of the location of regional offices. In exercising this function, the Executive Board has previously acted upon the recommendation of the Regional Committee made to it through the Director-General. However, consideration has also been given by the Executive Board to the obligations which the World Health Organization has assumed under its agreement with the United Nations.

Article XI (2) of the agreement between the United Nations and WHO states that:

"Any regional or branch offices which the World Health Organization may establish shall, so far as practicable, be closely associated with such regional or branch offices as the United Nations may establish."

It appears evident, in view of the terms of the agreement between the United Nations and the World Health Organization, that a decision regarding the location of the Regional Office in the Western Pacific area will be taken only after negotiations with the United Nations or will be provisionally subject to such negotiations.