

2003 KNA NEWS

1. Proclamation of KNA Vision Commemorating the 80th Anniversary

A commemorative event in celebration of the KNA's 80th Anniversary was held on May 29th and 30th under the theme; 'Nurses as Public Health Advocates'. Nurses and nursing students gathered in celebration. The First Lady of Korea participated in the opening ceremony, offering encouragement and support for the good work done by nurses and the importance of nurses' roles in global healthcare. World nursing leaders also participated to convey their congratulatory messages.

During the commemoration, the KNA proclaimed the vision; 'Healthy Living through Self-Care - Sound Nursing for a Healthy Life'. Our vision encompasses the practical issue of how nurses offer solid help and information for better public health, taking responsibility to raise the awareness that people can manage their own health by acquiring good healthy habits, and performing activities to keep themselves healthy. Additionally, nurses provide health related information along with direct care for complete healthcare.

To further illustrate the point, the KNA placed a sign on the headquarters to remind the public that nurses are always there to offer care, and lend a helping hand.

2. Signature Petition Campaign for Upgrading Nursing Services to the Public

Establishing independent nursing law and unifying the nursing education system between 3 years and 4 years in Korea are top priority issues for us, and this year, the KNA began a campaign to petition signatures to mandate nursing reform. The campaign started with nurses and nursing students and expanded to the public for their support. Regional chapters of the KNA took an especially important role in attracting public attention to this activity, which resulted in an amazing more than 310,000 signatures to date.

Hospitals and nursing schools submitted signed petitions to the KNA. Nursing leaders from 8 Asian countries gave strong support by signing the petitions too in a showing of solidarity.

Nurses revealed their strong intentions on this issue knowing that the time was right for this campaign, which was a necessary evolution for the healthcare education system in Korea. Nursing students also participated and their efforts are welcomed for success.

3. Fostering Self-pride for Nurses: Donning a Newly Designed Emblem for RNs.

As nurses advocating people's health in Korea mark the KNA's 80th anniversary, a special new emblem was developed and certified to represent the key role of nurses as the core resource for public health in the 21st century. Designed by Mr. André Kim, a world-renowned fashion leader, the newly presented emblem symbolizes the 'Vision and Tradition' of Korean nurses. Expressing an enhanced social image of nurses, the emblem is a symbol of nurses' pride and professionalism they can wear on their uniforms for all to see.

Two kinds of badges, one made of metal and the other of fabric were developed by the KNA, and more and more nurses are wearing the badge on their uniforms in the workplace to widely publicize their pride.

At the time the emblem was introduced, the KNA also held a fashion show featuring nurses' uniforms to commemorate the KNA 's 80th Anniversary with world famous designer, Mr. André Kim. During the show, Mr. Kim presented a new concept nursing uniform that offered function, utility, stylishness and beauty. Made of a new anti-bacterial fabric that promotes control of infection, the uniform is the result of biotechnology in service to public health, giving comfort to active nurses while caring for patients. It elevates the image and dignity of nurses while enhancing their social position with a fashionable modern appearance that induces confidence from patients.

4. Nurses' Service Group Great Expedition

Members of the Nurses' service group proclaimed a great expedition in April, and held an official launching ceremony on May 30th to commemorate the day. Member nurses toured regional areas to provide their services, and followed a schedule that took them from Jeju Island in the South, to Seoul in the North, cooperating with KNA regional chapters along the way.

The main purpose of the Great Expedition was to affirm nurses' new roles as public health advocates, and to give people the opportunity to experience the real essence of nursing.

Members participated in a street campaign by providing a 'Health Calendar' designed to help people manage their health themselves and record their problems with guidance from the calendar. They visited centers for disabled children and the elderly to provide personal care for them, and also assisted low-income foreign workers, and children suffering from leukemia.

5. Establishment of the Alliance of Asia Nurses Associations (AANA)

KNA hosted the 4th Asia Nursing Forum on November 26, 2003 in Seoul. NNA representatives from 8 countries participated in the forum and exchanged useful informations. Nursing leaders from 8 countries pledged to cooperate together to create a new future for nursing and to build competitive professionalism. Throughout the successful forum, participating NNA representatives assessed that the KNA enhanced not only the level of the forum, but also presented new hope and a vision of nursing in Asia. Additionally, they agreed to initiate the Alliance of Asia Nurses Associations (AANA) to speak as one voice representing the entire Asian region. Representatives from 8 countries also participated in signing the Seoul Declaration, which states that the AANA will be actively involved in building a supportive environment for nursing service improvement, and obtain legal and systematic support from all Asian countries. Furthermore, to show their great support, they also participated in the KNA's petition campaign to establish independent nursing law and unify the nursing education system.

6. Dr. Hwa-Joong Kim, 2nd Nurse to Serve as Secretary of the Ministry of Health & Welfare

Dr. Hwa-Joong Kim, former President of the KNA serving from 1998 to 2001, was appointed as a Secretary of the Ministry of Health & Welfare (MOHW) on February 27th 2003. It was a congratulatory moment that could be shared with nurses all over the world.

Dr. Kim has been actively involved in politics for quite a while, and has devoted considerable time and effort, serving two-years as a member of the National Assembly representing the Millennium Democratic Party. This is a most honorable occasion for Korean nurses in that she is the second nurse to serve as Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Welfare since Dr. Mo-Im Kim had took the position in 1998, the first time for a nurse in Korea to hold such office.

There are popular opinions that with her nursing background, she is the right person to bring positive change and improvement to further development of Korea's healthcare system. And now her positive reputation illustrates how good a job she has been doing according to staff from the MOHW, the press, health-related professional groups, and women's fields.

7. New Nursing Areas for Nurse Practitioners (NPs)

Areas of expertise for nurse practitioners have been expanded from 4 to 10 areas. The areas of infection control, occupational nursing, emergency care, geriatrics, intensive care and hospice nursing have been newly added by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in October, 2003 to the existing 4 areas which include public health, anesthetics, psychiatric, and home healthcare.

To become nurse practitioners, nurses must undertake additional education at designated institutions approved by the MOHW in for each area specialty to receive the required credits. This will allow them quality to take the board examination.

To be a designated education institution for NPs, it has to be at the university level with a graduate program for nursing, and nurses must achieve a minimum of 33 credits. The MOHW has already approved 22 institutions so far.

8. Founding of the Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing (KABN)

The KABN held their augural meeting in October 1, 2003. The KNA has been preparing for establishment of the KABN since members realized the need for a self-regulating body for nursing professionals in 2001. We expect that this will assure appropriate nursing services for the public, and will also make ready to train internationally qualified nurses throughout self-regulation by assessing nursing institutions for accreditation.

The KABN is taking an important step regarding several issues such as the examination for NP qualification, preparation for the nursing board examination handling licensure (issuance, renewal, & control), accreditation of nursing institutions and education programs, copyright management of nursing, and standards of nursing education and nursing practice.

9. Enhancement of Korean Nurses' International Social Position

From June 27, 2003 through June 29, 2003 the 1st International Nursing Conference of the ICN was held in Geneva and more than 100 countries including Korea participated to discuss and exchange ideas about nursing education, research, and practice with newly updated information. About 30 Korean nurses presented the nursing condition in Korea.

Right after the ICN Conference, a CNR meeting was held at the same place and 4

themes were discussed through CNR forum; Moving Advanced Practice Forward, Achieving Alternatives to Nursing Migration, Workload Tools, Ratios and Quality Care, and Poverty and Gender. Dr. Euisook Kim, the President of the KNA gave a keynote speech at the CNR Forum on the subject of “Advanced Nursing Practices: Korean Strategies and Experiences” which introduced Korea’s NP system and shared our successful experiences.

10. 50 Year History of Overseas Korean Nurses

Year 2003 was a very special time for nurses overseas in that now 50 years have elapsed for Korean Nurses to work overseas. A commemorative event was held in Los Angeles in the United States to celebrate 50 years of history, and Korean nurses from all over the world came from places such as Canada, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Norway, and China to participate in the event on Nov. 15, 2003. A party in celebration of the publication of the book; “50 Year History of Overseas Korean Nurses” was held, and a variety of programs like an academic conference and celebration of the Nightingale Award were convened. The memorial was most significant in that nurses overseas came together to observe their progress over half a century, which they are very proud of.

Another great moment established the Global Korean Nursing Foundation (GKNF), which will allow Korean nurses from all over the world to network through Foundation’s activities. The main activities for the foundation would be nursing exchange between professors, nursing students, and between areas of nursing education and practice. The foundation will also provide scholarship to support nurses studying overseas. President Euisook Kim promised that the KNA will actively involve with the GKNF.

11. Second Female General of the Army in Korea

Nurses in Korea enjoyed a momentous occasion during year 2002 to celebrate the first female General of the Army, General Seung-Sook Yang, possessed a nursing background. The first female general in the Korean army provided an opportunity to advance not only the status of professional nursing but also the social status of all women in Korea as well.

Since the long cherished desire of nursing professionals was realized in year 2002, this year we experienced the second female General of the Army, General Jae-Soon Lee, again from the field of nursing. We expect that nurses should participate in more and

varied ways to bring about greater powerful political influence from this growing opportunity.