

Healthy Life through Self-Care
Sound Nursing for Healthy Life

KNA NEWSLETTER

Prof. Kim Cho-Ja elected as 31st President of the KNA



KNA held its 73rd Annual Assembly of representatives from February 22nd to 23rd the Seoul Sheraton Grand Walker Hill Hotel, duly electing Kim Cho-Ja, Professor of the College of Nursing at Yonsei University, as its 31st President. With this election, Lee Ae-Joo, Senior Nursing Officer of the Gachon University Gil Medical Center, and Shin Kyung-Rim, Dean of the College of Nursing Science at Ewha Women's University, who were running mates of President Kim Cho-Ja, were appointed the 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents respectively. Opening ceremony of the Assembly, held under the theme of 'Nurses:

Guardians of Patients' was attended in overwhelming numbers with the participation of leading nurses as well as nursing representatives. According to KNA articles, President of the Hospital Nurses Association and President of the Seoul Nurses Association were appointed the 3rd and 4th Vice-Presidents of KNA respectively. It is provided in the articles that Presidents of regional chapters and affiliate organizations whose members account for in excess of 25 percents of KNA members, may naturally be appointed as Vice-Presidents of the KNA, in accordance with the size of its member base.

Pilot Project of Combined Services for Children's Health and Welfare

KNA, in a joint project with the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW), decided to conduct a 'Pilot Project of Combined Services for Children's Health and Welfare' under which twenty designated public health centers, distributed throughout the country, will be operated for approximately six months from April 17th to October 30th. KNA will assume responsibility for the research tasks of the project, and dispatched nursing teams sent to the twenty designated public health centers will form the main vehicle of the project's aims. The service including basic living cost and medical support will be offered to single parent families and families with children under 12. The beneficiaries will be provided with meals, and the nursing teams will provide health consultation, vaccination, and nurturing consultation services.



Public hearing at national Assembly

Public Hearing for Establishing Nurses Act at National Assembly

The National Assembly Health and Welfare Committee held a public hearing in an issue of the establishment of the Nurses Act, at the National Assembly Building on May 1st. At the hearing, Professor Kim Euisook from College of Nursing, Yonsei University (former KNA President), lawyer Hyeon Duryun (former Legislation Director of the Korean Medical Association), lawyer Lee Gyeonghwan (former Professor in Medical Ethics at Yonsei University), and Lim Jeonghee (President of the Korean Nurse's Aides Association), stated their views in the presence of a number of National Assembly Health and Welfare Committee members Uri Party, Grand National Party, and Democratic Party, who then directed a number of questions about the relevance of the Nurses Act, and problems with the existing Law for Medical Services.

Professor Kim Euisook said, 'I had a number of talks with the Nurse's Aides Association, but failed to reach an agreement, so we are trying to legislate first. Nurses have

tried to achieve a status of independence for almost 100 years, and are now ready to assume all the responsibilities for such independence'. She emphasized that an act for nurses would contribute enormously to the reduction of inter-trade disputes. Lawyer Hyeon Duryun argued, 'there are many problems involved in the establishment of the nurses act, as the act is concerned not only with nurses but also with the interests of a number of other similar trades, such as physicians, nurse's aides, and medical technicians'. He nevertheless agreed that the existing Law for Medical Services is focused primarily on physicians. Lawyer Lee Gyeonghwan stated, 'as the existing medical service law is provided for with a focus on physicians, detailed laws and regulations need urgent establishment in order to cover the interests of members of other related trades, such as dentists and doctors of Oriental medicine. With reference to nurses, a range of affairs and responsibilities needs to be legislated for.' The lawyer emphasized the importance of establishing a nurses act, stating that the 'Nurse's Aide Association should see this occasion as an excellent opportunity to establish an independent law for nurses, rather than raise objections against a nurses law without offering any viable alternative proposals.'

KNA establishes a Code of Ethics for Korean Nurses

KNA established a Code of Ethics for Korean Nurses, ensuring that nurses were able to cope with changing conditions in the healthcare industry, and perform their expanded duties in an ethical way. KNA also plans to establish Guidelines for the Ethics of Korean Nurses following the establishment of the ethics code. While the Code of Ethics for Korean Nurses is a declaration of high-level ethics for nurses as professionals in society, the Guidelines for Ethics of Korean Nurses is an explicit expression of the ethical responsibilities of nurses.

The Code of Ethics for Korean Nurses, established in 1972, was reestablished after two amendments in 1983 and 1995. It has reinforced the duties of nurses as professionals including the duty for the protection of less-favored classes, the realization of a healthy environment, and respect for biotechnology.

Era of Advanced Practice Nurses begins

The Ministry of Health and Welfare has established and put into force Rules for Qualifications and Recognition of Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs), providing for affairs

concerned with classification of qualifications, education, recognition of qualification and testing of APNs, in accordance with Article 56 of the Law for Medical Services on July 17th, 2006.

The rules classify the qualifications required of APNs into the 13 categories of specialized fields: public health, anesthesia, psychiatry, homecare, infection control, occupational health, emergency care, aged care, intensive care, hospice, tumor, hospital nursing, and children care. They prescribe education for in excess of two years guaranteeing APNs with intensive knowledge and experiences.

The qualification test for APNs is conducted once annually in two terms, first with a written test, and secondly with a practical test. To be eligible, applicants must obtain in excess of 60% of their answers correct for each subject. Activation of the APN system is expected to provide a higher quality nursing service, prevent diseases, and reduce treatment periods, thus contributing to the reduction of medical expenses and medical insurance payments in society. It is also expected to provide solutions for the shortage of healthcare manpower by utilizing substitute manpower.

KNA participates in a pilot project for the Health Care Security System for the Elderly

KNA, in a joint effort with regional nurses associations and the Korean Homecare Nurses Association, has been providing nursing services for the pilot project for the caring of the elderly, initiated by the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) in July. The MOHW designated the four regional associations of Gangweon, Gyeonggi, Gyeongbuk, and Busan as detached nursing agencies pursuant to this project.

The nursing services to be provided for the project include basic nursing (nursing assessment and diagnosis, hot and cold bath treatments, position changes and oral care), nursing (replacement of nasogastric tubes, Nelaton catheterization, bedsore treatment, light wound treatment, removal of sutures, and irrigation of the bladder and urethra), inspection-related services (simple inspections such as urine sugar content and the collection and carriage of samples), medication guides (injection and fluid therapy), education (dietary treatments and exercise), counseling, and solicitation. This service is rendered to beneficiaries of public support services and the general elderly from Classes 1 to 3 residing in the relevant service areas. The population cared for amounts to a total of

7,422 people.

The project has been conducted as a preparation for the caring for the elderly that will be fully implemented in July 2008. The MOHW will survey the satisfaction levels with the nursing services offered during the pilot project, and apply the results to the main project.



Taking Commemorative photo at inaugural meeting of KSWNA

Social Welfare Nurses Association founded

The Korean Social Welfare Nurses Association (KSWNA), consisting of nurses working at social welfare facilities nationwide, held its inaugural meeting on June 21st, and officially began operations. The inaugural meeting was attended by as many as 300 guests, including member of the National Assembly, Jang Hyangsuk, (Uri Party, member of the Health and Welfare Committee), and KNA President Kim Cho-Ja. Through the words of encouragement given at the opening ceremony, she said, 'With recent increasing responsibilities of the state for citizen welfare, the government expects that nurses are to enthusiastically participate and assume more active roles in social welfare projects'. She asked the association to 'play a major role in sharing and solving a diversity of problems including the poor working conditions and treatment nurses currently face'. Following the opening ceremony, Lee Hangyu, an administrative official of the Social Policy Planning Team, the MOHW, presented a special lecture under the theme 'The Direction of Korean Social Policy.' The meeting elected Kim Huisun, Chief of the Medical Welfare Team, Seoul Seongnae Social Welfare Center, as the first President of KSWNA, and established constitution of association. Members of the association agreed to conduct a number of projects over the year, including training for the improvement of the capabilities of social welfare nurses, the exchange of information between related organizations, and research into advancement of social welfare and public health.



KNA supports the National Walking Day for Safety

KNA operated a free blood pressure check booth for the Spring National Walking Day for Safety, held at Sangam Worldcup Stadium on March 18th under the auspices of the National Emergency Management Agency, and with the support of Seoul Daily and the Korean Disaster Safety Network. Over 3,000 people including citizens and members of various safety-related organizations attended the event.



International Nurses' Day commemorated in 16 cities

A diversity of events, such as sports meetings and scientific conventions, were held in 16 metropolitan areas and provinces to affirm the duties and responsibilities of nurses, and reinforce the harmony and friendship among members of the KNA on May 12th. The event fell under the umbrella of the 83rd anniversary of the KNA and the 35th International Nurses' Day.

KNA President Kim attends WHO General Meeting

KNA President Kim Cho-Ja attended the 59th World Health Assembly and ICN Triad meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland. Following the attendance at the meeting of representatives of governments and nurses organizations, conducted jointly by the WHO and ICN, President Kim with MOHW Minister Yoo Si-Min attended the 40th Anniversary of the dispatch of Korean nurses to Germany, held in Frankfurt, Germany on May 20th, acknowledging the service of those Korean nurses forty years ago.



Appreciation Plaque from Good Neighbors

Good Neighbors, an international relief agency, presented the KNA with a plaque of appreciation to acknowledge the KNA's cooperation in its projects discussing the issue of joint cooperation to prevent child abuse.



MOU with Korean Association of Old People

KNA formed an MOU with the Korean Association of Old People (KAOP) regarding mutual cooperation for the improvement of health. In the MOU, KNA and KAOP agreed to conduct joint projects for the improvement of health among the elderly, and cooperate for the settling of a long-term insurance system for senior citizens. They also agreed to establish and operate a council to consolidate the promotion of their projects.