The Board of Representatives Confirms 2007 Project

Korean Nurses Association held the 74th General Meeting at Ramada Plaza Cheongju Hotel from February 22 (Thu.) to 23 (Fri.) and deliberated and confirmed 2007 Project. The opening ceremony of the General Meeting successfully took place with the main subject ‘Leaders in the Future Society—Women and Nurses’ where the mayor of Cheongju City, Nam Sangwoon, and invited guest, leaders in the nursing industry, and representatives are participated. At the ceremony, after the representatives read the ‘Ethical Code of Korean Nurses’ standing, there was a time for a silent prayer to pay a tribute to those souls in the nursing industry who died while working devotedly and for prize giving to members who was dedicated to the development of nursing and made a contribution to elevating the status of nurses.

In the mean time, at the General Meeting, after a plan for 2007 project and a draft budget needed to implement the project was decided as 7,841,600,000 Won, they discussed issues submitted by the associations nurses from regional chapters and affiliated organizations.

Nursing Business Clarified by the Revision of the Medical Law

The Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) is promoting the overall revision of the medical law 34 years after the medical law for people (1951) was enacted, which was revised to the Medical Service Law in 1973. The revised bill of the medical law divided the business of those engaged in the medical profession was prescribed into ‘physicians, Dentists, Herbalists’ and ‘Nurses, Midwives’ clauses. The period of continuing education for those engaged in medical practice has been increased from the current 8 hours to 24 hours a year. In addition, extra supplementary training was prescribed as mandatory if a person returns to the medical field after a period of time.

The range of nursing business has been specifically stipulated as nursing in terms of treatment, such as systematic observation of patient demands, collection of data, nursing diagnosis, tasks needed for treatment of patients, such as injection or handling under the control of physicians, dentists, and herbalists, education and consultation for those who need nursing, planning and conduct of activities to promote health, and other health activities defined by the command of the President. Furthermore, the business of Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) was stipulated anew, which includes professional nursing, advising and training other nurses, researches and application of the results to improve the quality of nursing, and so forth.

Korean Medical Association argues that the inclusion of nursing diagnosis in the business of nurses infringes physicians’ right to medical treatment and threatens people’s health. In response to their argument, KNA endeavors to convey the fact that nursing diagnosis is for appropriate and efficient nursing with interest in the overall reaction on the part of patients during medical treatment, which is different from mere medical diagnosis.
Nursing Profession Recognized by Society

A survey revealed that people regarded nursing as a socially recognized profession and nurses as reliable and kind. Also, it turned out that people recognized nurses as playing an important role in making an impression of a hospital. KNA Newspaper conducted a public survey regarding how ordinary people think of nurses, as a project in commemoration of its 30th anniversary by requesting the Korea Gallup. The survey was conducted on the phone targeting 1,031 men and women over 19 years old nationwide. The sampling error is 3.1% in the reliability level.

As a result of surveying the professionalism of nurses, 9 in 10 Koreans (91.1%) thought nurses as socially recognized profession. 83.4% of the respondents thought nurses solved problems of patients with expert knowledge and techniques. Besides, 64.9% thought that nurses worked in collaboration with physicians; 61.0% thought becoming a nurse was perspective. In addition, most of the respondents (96.1%) considered nursing as stressful and demanding, recognizing the job as demanding professionalism and a lot of responsibilities. Also, it turned out that a human image of nurses was thought very positive. 8 out of 10 people considered nurses very reliable, warm-hearted, and kind. The survey result revealed 84.5% thought nurses very sincere and responsible; 80.5% very honest and trustworthy; and 78.2% kind and warm-hearted.

Furthermore, Korean people regarded nurses as important in making an image of hospitals. 93.0% said yes to a question if the image of nurses decides that of hospitals.

In reality, the survey result showed that 76.3% of Korean people have recently contacted nurses at hospitals for the last year. Hence, to elevate the image and competitiveness of hospitals, a lot of investment and support are needed in upgrading the roles, professionalism, and attitudes of nurses.

Unemployed Manpower of Korean Nurses Estimated at 75,632

According to the survey into the status of active and unemployed nurses in each field presented by the Korean Research Institute for Nursing Policy after it collected and analyzed database data of the license department of operation and support team in the Ministry of Health and Welfare(MOHW), the resident registration information center of the Ministry of Government Affairs and Home Affairs, and the qualification collection office of the National Health Insurance Corporation, as of the end of 2006, a total of Korean nurses was estimated at 225,385, and 75,632 nurses (36.8%) were not working. Besides, 7 out of 10 had intention to be retired, which all pointed to an urge to prepare a plan for employing the manpower in the future.

In terms of age, 30 to 39-year-olds account for 39.1%, which was most, 24.4% were 40 to 49-year-olds; nurses under 29 were 20.8%; and 50 to 59 added up to 15.7%. The average age of Unemployed nurses was 38.

As a result of phone survey to ask 1,400 unemployed nurses if they would like to work, by using quota sampling by 1.5% by age and area, 75% of their retirement age was less than 35 and most of them quit because of marriage, pregnancy, or raising children. Also, 68% of them wanted to work again, while 32% were not ready due to their children, irregular work hours, excessive workload, and low wages.

Furthermore, 84.6% of those who said they wanted to work again answered that retraining programs for employment should be installed, and selected KNA as a suitable organization to conduct retraining programs. KNA will plan to build an organic cooperative system with MOHW and private organizations to use unemployed nurses.

Opens Doors for Public Unification to Promote Making Hospitals without Guardians

KNA offered a chance for public unification, Making Hospitals without Guardians on October 25, with a catchphrase “Nursing into Community Service!”. The event, with about 500 participating nurses working at hospitals and guardians including the Minister of Gender Equality and Family(MOGEF) Jang Haein, took place as part of a campaign for the institutionalization of nursing service held by KNA with the support of MOGEF this year.
KNA is looking forward to having ample, good-quality nursing service from hospitals without guardians around, once the government-aided ‘Making Hospitals without Guardians’. Not only that, it also anticipated this gathering to be an opportunity to increase public interest in and awareness of the institutionalisation of nursing service and for those engaged in medical institutes to reconcile for ‘Making Hospitals without Guardians’. Another interesting part of the event was the presentation of prizewinners at the ‘Memorandum of Hospitalized Patients’ Families Contest’ which took place to shed light on difficulty that families of hospitalized patients have in nursing them and spread the thought that our society must solve this problems systematically. Besides, singers were invited and a signing for people to support ‘Make Hospitals without Guardians’ was run along with performances of nurses and students at nursing colleges. Furthermore, many booths to provide information about health were installed and health consultation sessions for the participants were conducted as well.

Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing Conducts Credential Evaluation of Nursing Colleges

The result of 2006 evaluation of the discipline of 4-year colleges of nursing was announced. In total, 33 colleges received the evaluation nationwide and all of them got ‘Approved’. For this evaluation, Korean Council for University Education commissioned the Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing to conduct it. Targeting 49 schools where the department of nursing has been 7 years, 33 of them participated in the evaluation. Each submitted reports on self-evaluation and had written and visit evaluations.

As a result of evaluation, 33 colleges all met 24 requirements and got ‘Approved’. With the judgment, colleges which won 95 conversion points in 9 evaluation areas are voted as ‘Best’; those with points between 90 and 95 as ‘Excellent’. The evaluation areas include learning objective and goals, composition of curriculum and theoretical learning, practice, students, professors available, accomplishments and support of professors, facilities and resources, administration and finance, education achievements and improvement activities of curriculum.

More important is the fact that the Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development (MOE & HRD) and the

Korean Council for University Education commissioned the Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing, self-governing organization for nursing experts, to conduct 2006 evaluation. The colleges participating in the evaluation got an opportunity to confirm their strong points and those to complement and to establish an improvement direction and plan. Hence, an evaluation is an essential course to develop nursing education and nursing colleges, and is expected to become a valuable base to upgrade the level of nursing education and to strengthen international competitiveness.

Actively Participates in Discussions for Enactment of Long-term Care Insurance Law for the Aged

A long-term care insurance law for the aged has been passed and will be enacted in July 2008. MOHW is planning to spur on the enactment of subordinate acts stating requirements for establishment of visiting nursing providers as the law has finally been passed by the National Assembly. Looking at the main part of a long-term insurance care law for the aged related to nursing, for visiting nursing service, it is paid by wages at home among long-term care payment options. In other words, nurses, under the command of physicians, herbalists, or dentists, as the long-term care staff, visit homes of care-recipients to provide nursing, assistant treatment, consultation about care or oral hygiene.

With regards to the establishment of long-term care resident institutions, if some of those above institutions, not medical ones, provide home-visiting nursing, they must be accompanied with nurses as in charge of the visit.

The Health and Welfare Committee of the National Assembly underwent several debates on issues such as the name of the law, basis of a long-term care insurance system for the aged, the name of service providers, targets that deserve rights to establishment and operation, and so forth. In the process, KNA strongly urged the committee to allow professional nurses to operate visiting nursing institutions, to secure the rights to people’s health.

As the law has been passed by the National Assembly, in the course of enactment of the enforcement act and regulations, nurses will actively express their opinions to do their best as supporter for health of the aged in this aging society by playing its core roles in providing wages for long-term care like home-visit nursing.
Publication of Collection of Episodes

KNA has published a collection called 'Gathering Helping Hands in Heart', consisting of 50 episodes selected at 'The 1st Nursing Scene Episode Contest'. The collection contains passion and modest humanity of nurses working at hospitals and will be offered to scenarios through Korean TV & Radio Writers Association. Its 8 prize winners and 42 participant works are grouped into △ Chapter 1 'My freshman days starting with coffee', △ Chapter 2 'Story of a nurse who came to love guardians more than patients', △ Chapter 3 'Who needs 'scissors' indeed', △ Chapter 4 'The most beautiful face in the world'.

7th Korea-China Nursing Forum Held in Xian China

The 7th Korea-China Nursing Forum was held at the Xian Guest Hall in Xian, China starting on October 17, with the subject ‘Oriental Strategies for Development of Nursing Theory and Intervention’. The nursing forum began in 1996 for nursing exchanges between Korea and China in every other year, and this forum was hosted by Chinese Nursing Association (CNA) this year.

The forum involved 80 Koreans including the President of KNA, Kim Cho-Ja, 100 Chinese participants including the Vice President of CNA, Peng Wenhua. After the forum, they visited nursing-related institutions, such as Seogyoeng Hospital and Sansoseong People’s Hospital on 19th, having some time to build friendship and harmony between nursing leaders from the two countries.

Ratios of Successful Nursing Applicants: 91.9%; 11,956 Applicants Passed

As a result of the 47th National Nursing Exam, 11,956 applicants passed, accounting for 91.9% of the success rate. The exam, conducted last January 26, had a total of 13,005 participants and 91.9% of them passed, which indicates a 4% increase in the success rate compared with that of the last year, 87.9%. The average score of the passed applicants turned out to be 238.2 (72.2 out of 100), while the perfect score is 330, the average degree of difficulty of the exam questions was analyzed as 72.19. This year, would-be nurses who applied for the test were well over 13,000.

Donation to Help Children with Burns

KNA held ‘Donation Ceremony to Help Children Patients’ at the conference room of KNA on January 10. The donation consists of prize money that ‘Health Exemplar’, a club at Jiju College of Health which received the best MBC Community Service Award, entrusted to KNA, and was given to ‘Vision Hope’ (aid association for burned children patients). The club ‘Health Exemplar’, which entrusted the donation to KNA, received an award at MBC Community Service Award held on last November 26, for their contributions, such as ‘Organ Donation Campaign for Love’, led by students in nursing major at Jiju College of Health.

Medi-Town Signed Agreement with Korean Nursing Welfare Foundation

Korean Nursing Welfare Foundation (KNWF) announced on November 13 that they had an agreement ceremony with Medi-Town to support medical supplies to Korean Nursing Service Groups (KNSG) at Yongin KNA training center. Through this agreement ceremony, Medi-Town made clear that they would support needed medical supplies to nursing service groups from 16 cities and provinces nationwide under the control of KNSG as much as possible.

Forum for the Aged and Film Festival for Human Rights

KNF held a forum and film festival for human rights of the aged with the subject ‘Living Confident and Healthy Old Age’ at Seoul Art Cinema from December 27 to 28. The forum and film festival were prepared to find a solution to social problems of aged people as well as elevate their sense of social self-existence.