Welcome to KOREA!

Successful bid to host ICN Conference and CNR 2015 Seoul, Korea

Korea has world-class international convention infrastructure which enabled the city to successfully host a number of international events including ICN Conference in 1989 and G20 Summit in 2010.

1. David C. Benton, Chief Executive Officer of ICN visited Seoul in February 2010 for a site inspection of the candidate host city for ICN Conference and CNR 2015. Mr. Benton met First Lady Yoon-ok Kim(Photo 1), Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon (Photo 2), and Minister of Health & Welfare Jae-hee Jeon (Photo 3). The Korean government offered full-pledged support for Seoul’s bid to host ICN Conference and CNR in 2015. Mr. Benton came to Korea again in February 2011 and encouraged Korean nurses on behalf of ICN President, Rosemary Bryant (Photo 4).

5. Seoul’s successful bid to host ICN Conference and CNR 2015 was chosen as a major achievement of the Korean government and was introduced to the general public through a public advertisement displayed on large display boards in 30 locations across the nation.

6. KNA has set up a CNR Organizing Committee to make thorough preparations for the event.
License Renewal for Health Care Providers Passed through the National Assembly

The bill to amend the Medical Service Act including the proposal to adopt a license renewal system for health care providers passed through the National Assembly on April 5th, 2011. Since the initiation of health care professionals’ license renewal in 1973, health care licenses have not been properly managed in Korea posing challenges to the establishment of health care workforce supply plans and stable administration of continuing education for health care providers. With the license renewal legislation, the legal foundation for an effective health care license management has been prepared. Under the legislation, health care providers are required to submit the certification of continuing education and status report to maintain their license. It is anticipated that the related government authorities can establish effective plans for the health care workforce supply and administer consistent continuing education programs for health care professionals to offer high-quality health care services to the public. In addition, the legislation is expected to serve as an institutional tool to bring inactive experienced nurses, numbering 90,000, back to the profession.

The legislation awards the head office of each health care professional association with the right to request the government to suspend the license of a health care professional who has damaged the integrity of health care providers so that the autonomy and public contribution of the organizations of health care professionals can be enhanced. The bill for the amendment of the Medical Service Act was proposed by Ae-ju Lee, a member of National Assembly and a nurse, on July 30th, 2009 and passed through the National Assembly after a year-long deliberation of the government and discussions among related organizations.

Four-year Nursing Curriculum about to be Realized

The bill for the amendment of the Higher Education Act regarding the adoption of a standardized four-year curriculum for nurse education, a four-decade dream of the Korean nursing community, is about to pass through the National Assembly within April, 2011 after the deliberation of the relevant standing committees of the National Assembly. Korea has maintained two different curriculums for nursing education since 1955: a three-year program and a four-year program. Over the past 40 years, KNA consistently asked the government to integrate the curriculums into a single four-year program, but the request was not satisfied due to legal, institutional, and circumstantial limitations.

On the occasion of the Nursing Policy Declaration on December 3rd, 2009, however, KNA ramped up its efforts to pressure the government and the National Assembly for a single nursing curriculum. As a result, the bill is about to be legislated into an Act after finishing all the necessary procedures, including a public hearing. KNA reiterated to the government and the lawmakers that the level of nursing education should be raised to accommodate the rapid advancement of health care technology and changing health care environment and that quality services of nurses are integral to save lives and the health of patients. Rep. Yeong-hi Jeong, a nurse-turned National Assembly member, spearheaded the campaign to amend the Higher Education Act regarding the adoption of a standardized four-year curriculum for nurse education including the organization of the public hearing. It is noteworthy that the bill for a four-year nursing education curriculum proposes to allow only the three-year nursing colleges that acquired quality certification and have sufficient education infrastructure (faculties and facilities) to begin to offer four-year degree programs. Accordingly, the bill is expected to raise the quality of Korean nursing education significantly.
2. Presidents and representatives of KNA regional chapters and affiliated organizations in major cities and provinces stepped onto the stage following the entry of the flag bearers and stressed that the public have the right to enjoy high-quality care of Nursing. On behalf of All nurses nationwide, they proclaimed their commitment to the public health of the next century.

3. Dr. Setsuko Hisatsune, the President of Japanese Nursing Association(JNA), gave a special lecture titled “Nursing Policy and Accomplishment of JNA.” She said: “Japan improved the job security of nurses by quickly adopting a permanent employment system, and JNA strives to enhance the quality of nursing services through an on-the-job training program for entry-level nurses supported by the government.”

4. In the Ceremony for the Nursing Policy Declaration 2010 and Successful Hosting of the ICN conference and CNR 2015(November 9th, 2010), KNA and the Patients Welfare Center(Director : Hyeon-ho Kim) signed an MOU regarding cooperation for the protection of patients’ right and patient welfare enhancement.

Adoption of Standing KNA President Position Finalized
KNA held the 78th General Assembly in the Jeju Shilla Hotel from February 17th to 18th, 2011 and finalized the adoption of full-time KNA president position. The current procedures of presidential election and the president tenure remain unchanged.
The first full-time KNA president will be elected during the 79th General Assembly in February 2012.

Donations for the Earthquake Victims in Haiti and Japan
KNA and Korean nurses waged fund raising campaigns to aid earthquake victims in Haiti and Japan. KNA delivered the raised funds to Haiti in 2010 and Japan in 2011.

The 2nd Korea-China-Japan Nursing Conference
The 2nd Korea-China-Japan Nursing Conference organized by JNA took place at the St. Luke’s College of Nursing in Tokyo from November 20th to 22nd, 2010. At the academic conference with theme “Expanding the Work Scope and Enhancing the Status of Nursing Professionals”, KNA President Kyung-Rim Shin and around 80 nurses representing Korea learned about pressing nursing issues of the three countries and shared the latest research findings.

Discoveries of Modern Nursing History of Korea
KNA's endeavors to find the roots of the modern Korean nursing have made a number of significant discoveries. We collected materials related to the modern history of nursing. Those with historical significance went through special conservation treatment for permanent conservation. KNA plans to publish a book titled ‘Korean Nursing History’ to introduce the research achievements to the general public.
Ceremony for Nursing Policy Declaration 2010 and Successful Hosting of ICN Conference and CNR 2015

KNA hosted the Ceremony for the Nursing Policy Declaration 2010 and the Successful Hosting of ICN conference and CNR 2015 in Jangchung Gymnasium on November 9th, 2010. About 6,000 nurses and nursing students attended the Ceremony. In the event, KNA declared that nurses will continue to play a leading role to insure the patients’ rights.

1. In her opening remarks, President Kyung-Hee Shin said: “In order to increase the number of healthy and well-trained nurses and enhance the public safety and health, it is urgent to abide by the legal manpower requirements and prepare an appropriate rewarding system for night shift duty.”

KNA news on Policy Project

18 Nurses elected as public officers on June 24th. Local Elections
KNA held a celebration in the Seoul Press Center on June 24th to congratulate nurses who were elected as public officers in the latest provincial election. The 18 nurses won the 5th Nationwide Local Elections on June 2nd, 2010 and their terms are until June 30th, 2014.

Re-employment Support Program for Idle Nurses
Seven regional chapters of the KNA were selected as the administrators of the ‘Re-employment Support Program for Idle Nurses 2011’ by the Ministry of Employment and Labor. The program which will be implemented from April 20 to December 31, 2011 aims to assist idle nurses who left the profession due to pregnancy and child rearing to continue their career by offering education on new medical technologies (minimum 100 hours), career consulting, and job matching service.

Public hearing on nursing services for the protection of patients’ right.

Public Hearing on Nursing Services for the Protection of Patients’ right.
A public hearing on ‘Ways to Enhance Nursing Services for the Protection of Patients’ Rights’ took place on September 24th, 2010, organized by Rep. Geum-ran Kim (Grand National Party, Health and Welfare Committee) and sponsored by KNA. During the public hearing, consensus was formed that patients have the right to receive reliable, high-quality nursing services and that the government should ensure that hospitals employ a sufficient number of registered nurses in accordance with legal manpower requirements in order to provide quality nursing services to the public.

Launched Dr. Lee Jong-Wook Fellowship Program
Eight nurses from Laos participated in Dr. Lee Jong-Wook Fellowship Program to Nurture Maternal and Child Health Care Providers in Laos for four weeks from November 29th to December 23rd, 2010. The Program sponsored by the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KFHI) was developed and administered by KNA. The focus of the program was to help the nurses to nurture maternal and child health care providers and implement maternal and child health projects when they returned to Laos. Dr. Lee Jong-Wook Fellowship Program was created in commemoration of the late Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, former General Director of the World Health Organization. Dr. Lee was the first Korean to serve as the head of an international organization.