Ceremony for the Nursing Policy Declaration 2012

The Korean Nurses Association(KNA) held a ceremony for the Nursing Policy Declaration 2012 on October 25, 2012 at SK Olympic Handball Stadium in Seoul Olympic Park. Under the slogan of “Healthy Korea, Working with Nurses!” some 10,000 nurses and nursing students participated in the event. The aim of the event was to propose nursing policy alternatives for the promotion of national health and the creation of a successful future for nursing. It offered a ceremonial event with special performances and a celebration for the 50th anniversary of the start of male nurses. At the ceremony, six major tasks were presented: 1) realization of safe nursing by ensuring the compliance with legalized nursing staffing standards, 2) securing the legal position of nurses in line with changes in the healthcare environment, 3) creation of a better working environment to promote compatibility between work and family for nurses, 4) development of standard wage rates for nurses to narrow the wage gap, 5) improvement of long-term care insurance by expanding nursing services, and 6) actualization of national health improvement by settling down the advanced practice nursing system. The ceremony was joined by Geun-Hye Park, then Presidential Candidate (the 18th President of Republic of Korea in 2013), and many lawmakers who encouraged nurses and promised to give full support to the achievement of the six major objectives.

Election of Kyung-Rim Shin, Former President of KNA, as a Lawmaker

Kyung-Rim Shin, former KNA President, was elected as a member of the National Assembly. Dr. Shin won the 25th representation ticket from the ruling Saenuri Party and became a lawmaker in the legislative election for the 19th National Assembly held in South Korea on April 11, 2012. So far, there are five nurses who have become lawmakers. First, Mo-Im Kim, then KNA President, was elected to the National Assembly as a member of the Democratic Justice Party in the legislative election for the 11th National Assembly held in 1981. In the 16th elections in 2000, Yeong-Hee Choi, former KNA President, and Hwa-Jung Kim, then KNA President, became lawmakers as proportional representatives of the Millennium Democratic Party. In 2008, Ae-Ju Lee, then KNA Auditor, and Yeong-Hee Jeong became lawmakers winning the ruling Saenuri Party’s proportional representation for the 18th National Assembly.

Election of Prof. Myung-Sook Sung as KNA’s 34th President

The KNA held the 79th Annual General Assembly on February 28–29, 2012 at Seoul Plaza Hotel Grand Ballroom and elected Dr. Myung-Sook Sung(Division of Nursing, Hallym University) as its 34th President. The General Assembly appointed Prof. Ok-Soo Kim(Division of Nursing Science, Ehwa Womans University) and Prof. Soo Yang(Catholic University of Korea, College of Nursing) as the first and second Vice-Presidents, respectively. It also appointed eight members of the board of directors and two auditors. According to the KNA bylaws, the president of the Korean Hospital Nurses Association and of Seoul Nurses Association were elected as the Ex-officio Vice-Presidents. The President Sung graduated from Hallym University with a degree in nursing and earned a master’s degree in education and Ph.D. in nursing at Ewha Womans University. She has successfully filled various posts such as Communication Manager of KNA, Professor of Division of Nursing, Hallym University, President of Gangwon-do Nurses Association, Dean of Graduate School of Clinical Nursing Science of Hallym University, Ex-officio Director and Auditor of KNA, and Chairperson of the Special Committee for Operation of the Four-Year Nursing Degree Program in Junior Colleges assigned by the Ministry of Education & Science Technology.
Launch of Nursing License Renewal System

The Medical License Registration for healthcare providers including nurses was introduced in April 29, 2012. Registration services are provided by a central association which each healthcare providers belong to, such as Korean Nurses Association for nursing license registration. All healthcare provider as well as nurses should report their employment status, affiliation, location and completion of continuing education to the Minister of Health and Welfare once every three years. Registration of those who do not complete continuing education will be turned down, and medical license will be suspended for those who do not register. To provide easier access to nursing license registration, the KNA opened a website at http://lic.koreanurse.or.kr.

Operation of Career Support Centers

Each of the five regional chapters of KNA operated career support centers under the 2012 Re-entry Program for Inactive Nurses commissioned by the Ministry of Employment and Labor. These five regional chapters include Busan Nurses Association, Incheon Nurses Association, Daejeon Nurses Association, Chungcheongbuk-do Nurses Association, and Chungcheongnam-do Nurses Association. The KNA provided operational support for the career support centers nationwide and launched PR activities. Employment consultants(nurses) at the center provided one-stop service with a full range of assistance from employment counseling to job re-entry education and job placement. The KNA’s career support center opened online training course, an online theoretical education program for registered nurses who are seeking a job or want to get back to the workforce. Any nurse who has been unemployed for over a year can take the online program for free.

Foundation of the Male Nurses Association

The Male Nurses Association will be founded on April 20 this year. A Kick-off Meeting for the foundation of the Male Nurses Association was held on November 17 in 2012 at the auditorium of Seoul Nurses Association, which is a regional chapter of KNA. The foundation of the Male Nurses Association was in reflection of the growing consensus on the creation of a network for the number of male nurses in Korea exceeds 5,000. It is lately a remarkable progress to produce over 1,000 male nurses every year since Korea’s first male nurse in 1962.

Creation of the Advanced Practice Nurse(APN) Commission

The KNA created the Advanced Practice Nurse Commission in order to come up with measures for the promotion of the APN system and held its first meeting on November 10, 2012. The Advanced Practice Nurse Commission is an official body with the responsibility to discuss ways to improve the advanced practice nurse system in Korea and propose policy directions. The Commission was formed based on the results of activities of three sub-committees, which were set up under the KNA Policy Committee to secure the legal status of APNs last year. At the first meeting, members of the Commission agreed to hold a public hearing in January next year based on concrete research results in order to resolve pending issues. These include the provision of legal standards on the scope of nursing practice and nursing staffing, the arrangement of fees for APN nursing service, and the reconsideration of APN field. Ok-Soo Kim, the first Vice-President of KNA, became the chairperson of the Commission. The Commission also consists of heads of educational institutions with APN education, leaders from affiliated organizations to KNA, chairpersons of each field’s of APN Certification Exam Preparatory Committees of KABONE, chairperson of KNA Policy Committee, and chairperson of the three sub-committees for legal position of nurses.
KABONE’s Accreditation of Nursing Education Programs

As a national accreditation agency approved by government, the Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing Education (KABONE) conducted the accreditation of nursing education programs. The accreditation process includes 1) universities’ self-evaluation and their submission of self-study reports, 2) review of report and site visit, 3) evaluation review, 4) accreditation decision, and 5) appeal process. The accreditation is conducted on 6 areas - vision & governance, curriculum, students, faculty, facilities and outcomes - with 32 evaluation items. The result takes three types such as Accredited (5years), Conditionally Accredited (2years), and Denied. Accredited nursing education program can use the authorized mark in their PR activities. The KABONE will accept accreditation applications twice a year. The purpose of accreditation of nursing education programs is to establish an outcome-based educational system to foster competent nurses satisfying the demand of medical fields at home and abroad, strengthen the practical capability and ensuring sustainable improvements of nursing education programs. In order to ensure outcome-based evaluation, the KABONE reflected nursing education program outcome-based nursing competency and basic nursing skills into the accreditation standards.

Graduates of an Accredited University Qualify for the NHPLE

In the future, only those who have graduated from accredited programs qualify for taking the National Health Personnel Licensing Examination (NHPLE). The Medical Service Act amendment bill was passed at the National Assembly plenary session. The bill, which restricts the qualifications for NHPLE – a nurse, doctor, dentist, and doctor of oriental medicine – to graduates of universities that have been accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by government, will be applied to the freshmen in 2017. Thus, nursing education programs need to be accredited no later than 2016. The Ministry of Education and Science Technology designated the Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing Education (KABONE) as a national accreditation agency.

Operation of Four-Year Nursing Curriculum in Junior Colleges

With the realization of our long-cherished desire to establish a four-year nursing program in junior colleges, 33 junior colleges began operating four-year nursing education programs this year. This was attributable to the legal ground provided by the amended Higher Education Act. According to the Act, a junior college can operate a four-year nursing program, and those who complete the course may be granted a bachelor’s degree.

“Nurse” is the No. 1 Occupational Aspiration of 11th Graders

Nursing as a job was ranked No. 1 on the occupational aspirations of students in 11th grade and No. 3 among students in grades ten to eleven, according to the 2012 Survey on Occupational Aspirations of Teenagers conducted by the Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIET). The research found that “nurse” was the most preferred occupation among eleventh graders (6.5%). It took the third place among tenth and eleventh graders (5.2%) and second place among girls (5.7%) in grades seven to eleven.
**Special Exhibition of Nursing History Collection**

The KNA held a special exhibition of “Nursing History Collection” on August 8~31, 2012 at Seoul Museum of History. Under the theme of “Korean Nursing, Unveiling its History,” the special exhibition had three sections. Section 1: Korean Nursing, Open the Door to its History, Section 2: Nurses’ Korean Independence Movement, and Section 3: Organizations of Nurses. The KNA, in fact, has carried out a nursing history research project since 2009 with the aim of establishing a museum of nursing history. KNA’s efforts provided a new milestone to the history of nursing in Korea, identifying nurses who had been independence activists, making contribution to the designation of Ja-Hye Park as the independence activist of the month and restoring the original of “The Korean Nursing (Vol. 1),” which was published in 1953. The KNA also published books such as “Sources of Nursing History in Korea (I),” “A Pictorial History of Modern Nursing in Korea,” and “Nurses’ Korean Independence Movement.”

**Publication of Pictorial History of Modern Nursing in Korea**

“A Pictorial History of Modern Nursing in Korea” was released. This massive tome shows the history of modern nursing in Korea through rare images taken from 1885, when Chejungwon(House of Universal Helpfulness), the first modern hospital in Korea was established, to 1945 before Korea’s liberalization. Prior to this book, the KNA, which tried to search for the nursing history in Korea, has already published a book, “Sources of Nursing History in Korea (I) 1886~1911” in October, 2011. The book consists of three main chapters: 1) Beginning of modern nursing in Korea, 2) Beginning of nursing education and creation of a nurse association, and 3) Nursing during the period of Japanese colonial rule.

**Publication of a book “Nurses’ Korean Independence Movement”**

The KNA published a book, “Nurses’ Korean Independence Movement,” which is a compilation of patriotism of nurses who devoted their lives to the independence of Korea during the Japanese colonial rule period and the course of their lives. KNA’s Nursing History Research Unit reviewed a great deal of historical data to conduct systematic research on nurses’ independence activities and also found and interviewed descendants of nurses fighting against Japan. The research includes independence activities at home and abroad. The book consists of four parts: 1) Introduction of modern nursing and cultivation of nurses, 2) Nurses’ Korean Independence Movement, 3) Overseas Nurses’ Korean Independence Movement, and 4) Biographies of Nurses in Korean Independence Movement. In particular, the last part contains the story of 26 nurses by the period of their independence activities.

**Hosting of ICN AWFF 2016 in Korea**

ICN Asia Workforce Forum(ICN AWFF) and Alliance of Asian Nurses Association (AANA) Meeting will be held by KNA in 2016.

**Preparatory Meeting for the Overseas Korean Nurses Association**

With the theme of “100 Year History of Nursing in Korea & New Leap Forward,” a preparatory meeting for the creation of the Overseas Korean Nurses Association was held on June 28, 2012 in Los Angeles, California, United States. The meeting was joined by representatives and nurses from many associations of Korean nurses around the world, including the United States (New York, Chicago, North Texas, Arizona, San Diego, San Francisco, Germany, Sweden and Austria as well as Myung-Sook Sung, KNA President. The meeting was organized following the gathering of overseas Korean nurses held by the KNA in October of 2011 in Seoul, where participants formed a consensus about the need of a global network between Korean nurses around the world. As the first President, Bun-Ja Yu, Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee was elected. For the establishment of a network of the Overseas Korean Nurses Association, five leaders who represent the Western, Eastern and Central American States, Europe, and Australia were appointed.