2016 Nursing Policy Declaration Ceremony Held Under the Slogan “Happy Nurses Make Happy People”

Korean Nurses Association held the 2016 Nursing Policy Declaration Ceremony at the Olympic Hall of the Olympic Park in Seoul on November 3, under the slogan of “Happy Nurses Make Happy People.” More than 4,000 nurses nationwide attended the ceremony. At the ceremony, a total of 5 policy projects and 15 detailed programs were announced. The policy projects included successful adoption of the comprehensive nursing care system △ securing and preventing the turnover of skilled nurses for the benefit of patient safety △ facilitation of visiting nurse system for the promotion of community residents’ health △ securing sufficient nursing resources for the residents of medically underserved areas △ development of nursing act and institutions in preparation for the super-aged society. The nursing policy declaration ceremony is a large-scale event and a festival held every year since 2009 participated by the regional representatives. It is the largest event held in the nursing community.

CNWEE Boosting the Re-Employment Rate of Inactive Nurses

Center for Nursing Workforce Employment Education(CNWEE; www.RN-job.or.kr) run by KNA with the funding of the Ministry of Health and Welfare expanded the number of hospitals that provide on-the-job training and implemented train-the-trainer and nurse manager training courses in order to boost the re-employment rate of non-active nurses and standardize the quality and content of training programs. According to CNWEE, since the center was established in September 2015, a total of 1,700 inactive nurses completed reemployment courses by the end of this year, of which about 1,000, returned to practice.
Organizing Committee of ICN Conference and CNR 2015 Seoul Disbanded

Korean Nurses Association held the disbanding ceremony of the organizing committee of ICN Conference and CNR 2015 at the Grand Ballroom of Grand Ambassador Hotel Seoul on June 23rd and congratulated the 1 year anniversary of the successful hosting of ICN Conference and CNR 2015. The ceremony was joined by the members of the organizing committee, representatives of Korean Nurses Association and those from sponsor agencies. KNA President Oksoo Kim delivered an opening address, which was followed by remarks from Kyung-rim Shin, Chair of the Organizing Committee, and from Jong-pil Yoon, a member of the National Assembly. ICN Conference and CNR 2015 Seoul updates were delivered, videos from the ICN conference were played, and plaques and certificates of appreciation were given to agencies that had supported the ICN conference.

Korea Nurses’ Health Study Ⅱ

Korean Nurses Association successfully conducted the first phase (2013-2015) of the Korea Nurses’ Health Study commissioned by National Research Institute of Health under Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, and the second phase (2016-2018) of the study has started. It is a large-scale cohort study identifying the factors that influence Korean women’s health and diseases based on the results of monitoring nurses’ health conditions. Women show different patterns from men in developing physical, social, and lifecycle diseases, and it is imperative to conduct research for developing women’s health indicators. KNA is carrying out the historic study so that Korean women’s health indicators can be developed, from which women’s health policies can be developed.

391 Advanced Practice Nurses in 12 Different Fields

The 13th Advanced Practice Nurse(APN) examination produced 391 eligible nurses in 12 different fields. Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing Education announced the results of the 13th APN exam on September 9th: 22 in home health care, 27 in infection control, 107 in gerontology, 8 in anesthetist, 7 in occupational, 11 in pediatric, 12 in emergency, 29 in clinical, 38 in psychiatric/mental health, 66 in oncology, 36 in intensive care, and 28 in hospice. The applicants of the test are nurses that completed the APN course(graduate course) provided at the training institutions designated by the Health and Welfare Minister.
KNA Runs a Dementia Care Training Program

Korean Nurses Association was selected as an institution to perform dementia care training program commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in 2016, and a total of 350 nurses completed the training program. KNA has been selected by the Ministry every year since 2010 and has provided dementia care training. This year, the training was held three times, and nurses working in long-term care hospitals and senior welfare facilities and visiting nurses and nurses interested in dementia care training participated and enhanced their level of professionalism in nursing for the dementia patients. The program is composed of theoretical training (8 hours online, 32 hours offline) and hands-on training (8 hours).

Competency Training for New Nurses to Help Them Better Adapt to Nursing Field

Korean Nurses Association extended two free competency training programs for new nurses working in small & medium-sized hospitals in local cities as a favor to the members. The first training program was held in the Nursing School of Jeonbuk National University on September 23, and the second in Asan Hospital in Gangneung on September 29, recognized as continuing training. The training programs were co-hosted by KNA’s Nurselife, a life style portal for nurses, Jeollabuk-do Nurses Association, Gangwon-do Nurses Association and CNWEE. 200 nurses with 1-3 years of experience participated in the training. Before the competency training, Nurselife held a competition for the catchphrase, and there were a total of 93 entries. The winner was “We are beginners. Jump UP!” by a nurse Kim Ju-eun working at Jesus Hospital, and it was used in the design of banners and proceedings for the training programs.

Participating at the 4th China-Japan-Korea Nursing Conference

The 4th China-Japan-Korea Nursing Conference was held at Beijing International Convention Center from November 12 to 14 under the theme of “Enhancing professional competency of nurses through promoting academic development.” It was hosted by Chinese Nursing Association, and the Korean delegation included KNA President Oksoo Kim, First Vice-President Soon-rim Seo and 70 nurses. Many papers were presented at the conference including recent nursing trends and status of the three countries. The papers included: Healthy aging and aged care; Curriculum innovation and evaluation research for nursing education; Acute care nursing practice; Community care nursing practice and chronic illness management; Specialized nursing for disaster trauma; and Other related to nursing.
Meeting with Visiting Nurses Participating in Pilot Project of Integrated Home Care Services

Korean Nurses Association invited visiting nurses working in institutions that participate in pilot integrated home care services for the elderly to a meeting held at the KNA Meeting Room on July 22. The pilot project allows the long-term care beneficiary to receive home-visit nursing, home-visit care, and home-visit bathing services by long-term care staff or visiting nurses after he or she applies for them at the long-term care facility and is deemed eligible after patient assessment. The pilot project runs for 6 months starting in July at the 30 long-term care facilities in 22 regions nationwide. The Ministry of Health and Welfare selected the pilot institutions by asking for submissions.

Panel Discussion on Measures to Integrate Nursing System in the Age of Reunification

Korean Nurses Association and Unification Nursing Forum held a discussion on “Measures to Integrate Nursing System in the Age of Reunification” at the International Convention Hall of Korea Press Center. In a keynote lecture titled “Let us not fear reunification after 70 years of division,” President Dae-seok Choi of Graduate School of Policy Sciences at Ewha Womans University said, “We need to think about how the future generation will assess us. They may think that we were hesitant to reunify because we were scared or because we did not want to.” Kyung-rim Shin, Representative of Unification Nursing Forum said in a keynote titled, “Unified Nursing, Future of Korea,” “The nursing community must be of one mind to prepare for the days of unification.” A North Korean defector nurse shared her experience, and there was more talk about North Korea’s nursing education system and status of related research policies.

Forum on “Measures to Secure Nursing Resources and Build Support System”

Korean Nurses Association co-organized the forum on “Measures to Secure Nursing Resources and Build Support System” with Korea Alliance of Patients Organization, which was hosted by Jong-pil Yoon, a member of the National Assembly of Saenuri Party and sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. The forum was held at the National Assembly Library Auditorium on September 22, joined by 20 members of the National Assembly including both ruling and opposition parties indicating a high level of interest. The consensus was reached during the forum that the shortage of nursing resources was directly affecting patient safety and that all possible measures should be taken to prevent the turnover of active nurses. Gun-jeong Lee, Professor of the College of Nursing at Ewha Womans University emphasized in her presentation, “Matching the supply and demand of nursing resources must be taken care of in a systematic manner under a long-term, comprehensive national plan, refurbishing laws and regulations as necessary.”
Launching 2016 KNA Student Nurse Ambassador Program

Korean Nurses Association held two workshops in August at the KNA Human Resources Development Center for the KNA student nurse ambassadors. KNA student nurse ambassadors are operated for the first time this year, and their mission is to engage in online and offline monitoring and make improvements to the policies based on their understanding of the healthcare policies and at the same time perform roles to enhance better images of nurses. There were two two-day workshops dividing the groups into two depending on the cities and provinces they were from. 230 nursing students from 110 nursing universities attended the workshop. At the workshop, lectures were given by KNA President Oksoo Kim on nursing occupation and nursing policies; Wolhee Kwak, Head of PR committee on introduction to KNA student nurse ambassador programs; Professor Heon-gyeong Kim of Chungcheong University on definition and methodologies of monitoring; PR deputy General Manager Chan-ki Back on writing articles; A former member of the National Assembly Kyung-rim Shin on nursing related issues and policies.

Nursing Volunteer Work 2016

Korean Nurses Association hosted the Nursing Volunteer Work 2016 from August 4 to 6 at Bu-nam-myeon of Muju County in Jeonbuk Province. 50 nursing students and nurses who belong to the KNA volunteer corps participated. Korean Medical Association, Korean Dental Association, Korean Pharmaceutical Association, Korea Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, Korea Foundation for International Healthcare, Sarangbat, Jeollabuk-do Nurses Association, Jeonbuk Volunteering Comprehensive Center, Muju-gun Volunteer Center and Bu-nam-myeon Office sponsored the event. The KNA volunteer corps set up a treatment facility in the auditorium of resident autonomous center at Bu-nam-myeon, from which they provided diagnosis and treatment services as well as health consulting to solitary elders and multi-cultural families in Bunam-myeon. They visited two social centers for elderly and provided health education. They also visited the senior citizens in their homes, making environmental improvements to their surroundings and doing laundry services.

Open Lectures “Nurse Crush” for Nursing Students

Korean Nurses Association held open lectures “Nurse Crush: Having a Crush on Nurses” for the nursing students on November 19th. Famous nurses that students wanted to meet were invited and asked to give a lecture. The open lectures were hosted by Nurselife, a life style portal for nurses, and attended by 350 nursing students at the auditorium of Pusan National University Hospital’s emergency medical service center.
FinlandCare Project Team Visits KNA to Find out about Korea’s Healthcare System

Finnish government-run FinlandCare project team visited Korean Nurses Association on November 1. FinlandCare is a healthcare growth program supported by FINPRO for the internationalization of Finnish healthcare and well-being companies. The FinlandCare project team was on a mission to understand the current status of Korea’s healthcare and to seek measures for mutual cooperation. The FinlandCare project team watched together the Korean Nurses Association promotional video, and listened with huge interest to presentations about continuing education and license registration system by Korean Nurses Association, and nursing education accreditation and assessment done by the Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing Education. The FinlandCare project team also introduced the Finnish health management model that is focused on self-care and home-care befitting the aging society.

Mongolian Nurses Association Visiting KNA

Nine members of the Mongolian Nurses Association visited Korean Nurses Association on August 10 to benchmark KNA’s operating system. The visit was led by Professor emeritus Kasil Oh of Yonsei University who is currently the Dean of School of Nursing at Ulaanbaatar University. KNA provided the Mongolian Nurses Association with a briefing about how Korean Nurses Association was run, which was followed by a question and answer session. KNA President Oksoo Kim stated that KNA will help in any way it can to develop Mongol’s nursing just as Korean nursing had received help from the advanced nations in the past.

Delivering Aid Money of 5 Million KRW to the Ecuadorian Earthquake Victims

On July 15, Korean Nurses Association donated 5 million KRW (Korea Won) through the Korean Committee of UNICEF to Ecuador which was hit by a severe earthquake in April. The money will be spent to help the Ecuadorian people and nurses who were devastated by the earthquake. Korean Nurses Association had raised funds for the earthquake victims and nurses in Ecuador up until May 18.