The Amendment of the Medical Service Act
The first update of nursing-related rules in 64 years

A partial amendment to the Medical Service Act sponsored by Kyung-rim Shin, a member of the National Assembly and former KNA President, passed the National Assembly on December 9th, 2015. The amendment marks a new milestone in the Korean nursing history in that it updates provisions on the nursing profession for the first time since the Act was legislated in 1951. The amended Act has improved rules governing the nursing profession including clearer distinction between the roles of Registered Nurses and those of Nursing Aides; requirements for Nursing Aide training institutions; and systemic quality assurance of Nursing Aides. It also provides legal grounds for the launch of the Comprehensive Nursing Care System and Center for Nursing Workforce Employment Education. At the same time, the amendment made it mandatory for the government to establish a human resources management plan for the healthcare providers.

Re-Election of KNA President Oksoo Kim
First Vice President Soon-rim Seo and Second Vice President Nam-cho Kim

The 83rd Annual General Assembly of KNA was held in Crystal Ballroom of Lotte Hotel Seoul on February 25-26, 2016 under the theme of “Enhanced Public Health and Nursing Development through Nurses’ Improved Legal Status.” At the General Assembly, the participating representatives re-elected incumbent President Oksoo Kim (professor, College of Nursing, Ewha Womans University) the 36th President of KNA. Running mates Soon-rim Seo (professor, College of Nursing, Kyungpook National University) and Nam-cho Kim (professor, College of Nursing, Catholic University of Korea) were appointed as First Vice President and Second Vice President, respectively. At the election, the representatives also elected eight members of the Board of Directors and two auditors. The incoming leadership team will lead KNA for the next two years (2016-2017).
The 45th Florence Nightingale Medal Winners

Yong-soon Kim of Aju University and Ok-ran Lee of National Rehabilitation Center

Yong-soon Kim (Professor Emeritus, College of Nursing, Aju University) and Ok-ran Lee (Director of Nursing, National Rehabilitation Center) were chosen as the recipients of the 45th Florence Nightingale Medal. The awarding ceremony was held at the event celebrating the founding anniversary of Korean Red Cross on October 27, 2015. In Korea, a total of 55 nurses including this year’s winners received the Florence Nightingale Medal. Professor Kim received the honor in recognition of her commitment to nursing education and community health enhancement. Director Lee has been dedicated to caring for patients with tuberculosis and mental disorders. The congratulatory reception took place at Sejong Hotel, Seoul on the same day.

Jong-pil Yoon Elects to the Saenuri Party of 20th National Assembly

Former Korea Armed Forces Nursing Academy president, KNA board director, and KNA auditor

In the General Election for the 20th National Assembly on April 13, 2016, six former nurses ran for the National Assembly (two candidates in single-seat constituencies and four by proportional representation), and Jong-pil Yoon of Saenuri Party (SP) was elected by proportional representation (PR). SP secured 17 of the 47 PR seats and Yoon was the 13th on SP’s list of PR candidates. Yoon graduated from Korea Armed Forces Nursing Academy, and served as President of Korea Armed Forces Nursing Academy as well as board director and auditor of KNA. Yoon also took the initiative in eliminating gender-based discrimination in barracks as the third female to become a general in the Republic of Korea Armed Forces history.

Korean Nurses Senior Nursing Home Rates Class A

Founded by KNA and run by Korean Nurses Welfare Foundation

Korean Nurses Senior Nursing Home was rated Class A (the highest) in National Health Insurance Service’s latest biennial survey of long-term care facilities. Korean Nurses Senior Nursing Home is a long-term care center for the elderly operated by Korean Nurses Welfare Foundation with the funding of KNA. The quality survey was conducted in 2015 on 98 quality indicators in 5 areas which are ‘overall operation,’ ‘care environment and safety,’ ‘rights and responsibilities,’ ‘delivery of National Health Insurance (NHI) benefits,’ and ‘outcomes of the delivery of NHI benefits.’ Korean Nurses Senior Nursing Home made it to the top 10% among the surveyed facilities.
President Oksoo Kim Attending National Nurses Association (NNA) Meeting 2016

Also the Korea-China-Japan Leaders Meeting

NNA Meeting 2016 was held in Geneva, Switzerland on May 18-19. As Korean representatives, KNA President Oksoo Kim and First Vice President Soon-rim Seo attended the meeting. The participants shared opinions on healthcare job creation; the significance of inter-organizational network and cluster; World Health Organization’s global strategy for empowerment of nurses and midwives; and pressing issues of each participating NNA. KNA President Oksoo Kim met with new ICN CEO Frances Hughes and discussed the operating plan of KNA-ICN Center of Excellence for Nursing Leadership. On May 18, the Korea-China-Japan Leaders Meeting was held to review the program of the 4th Korea-China-Japan Nursing Conference that is held in Beijing in November.

KNA’s Visit to Japanese Nursing Association

Including tour of Tokyo Nurse Plaza

KNA visited Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) on April 19-22 to learn about JNA’s continuing education system for nurses and clinical training program for newly-graduated nurses. The KNA delegation consisting of regional chapter administrators and officers of the Center for Nursing Workforce Employment Education also took a tour of Tokyo Nurse Plaza, an institute providing career support to Japanese nurses. In order to support nurses, Japan is running Central Nurse Center designated by the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare as well as Prefectural Nurse Centers designated by prefectural governors. KNA also opened the Center for Nursing Workforce Employment Education (CNWEE) funded by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in September, 2015. The Center offers education and training in six locations around the nation to inactive nurses for their return to the profession.

Over 10,000 Male Nurses in 54 Years

One in ten licensed nurses and 60% produced in the latest five years

The number of male nurses surpassed the 10,000 mark in 54 years since Korea produced its first male nurse. In the Korea Health Personnel Licensing Examination of nurse, one in every ten successful candidates are male and the proportion is increasing year after year. In 1962, Sang-moon Cho became the first male to receive the nurse license. The number of male nurses has soared since 2005 to become 10,542 in 2016.
The 50th Anniversary Celebration in Germany of Dispatching of Korean Nurses to Germany

The Korean Nurses Association in Germany held an event celebrating the 50th anniversary of Korean nurses dispatched to Germany in Zeche Zollverein, Essen on May 21. The event was attended by some 1,000 Korean nurses living in Germany, the US, Canada, and Australia as well as Essen Mayor Thomas Kufen, Korean Minister Jin-yeop Jeong of Health and Welfare, KNA President Oksoo Kim, and President Monica Kwon of Overseas Korean Nurses Association. In a video message, President Geun-hye Park said, “The sweats and tears shed by Korean nurses in Germany provided a pillar of economic development of Korea and the trust of Germany they won through impressive services laid the groundwork for the Korea-Germany relationship development.” The event also staged the performances of a choir of Korean nurses in Germany and dance troupe Arirang. On May 20th, an academic seminar themed on ‘Global Nursing’ was held in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Korean nurses in Germany.

Bangladesh Professors and Researchers Visiting KNA

Eighteen professors and researchers of ten Bangladesh nursing schools and research institutes visited KNA on November 6, 2015. At the meeting attended by President Oksoo Kim and other KNA officers, the Bangladesh professors and researchers listened to KNA introduction and had a Q&A session, followed by a tour of the KNA headquarters. Their visit was also a meaningful opportunity to discuss how to promote cooperation between the Korean and Bangladesh nursing communities.
The First Nursing Textbooks Designates as a Cultural Asset of Korea

Korea’s first nursing textbooks were designated as Cultural Asset No. 658. *Textbook for Nursing Students* volume 1 (1908) and volume 2 (1910) were published by Margaret Jane Edmunds (1871-1945). Edmunds came to Seoul in March, 1903 as a missionary nurse of North Methodist Church in the US. In November, she established Korea’s first nursing school in Caring for and Saving Woman’s Hospital and served as the first superintendent of the school. Since there was no decent textbook for her students, Margaret published ones by herself. *Textbook for Nursing Students* volumes 1 & 2 are of significant value not only for studies of Korean medical history but also for studies of Korean language since they are materials that show how medical terms of early 20th century were translated into Korean. The copies of the textbooks designated as a Cultural Asset are both in excellent condition which is also a rare case.

CNWEE Planning Next Year

After achieving this year’s goal

Center for Nursing Workforce Employment Education (CNWEE; www.RNjob.or.kr) run by KNA for four months from September to December in 2015 with the funding of the Ministry of Health and Welfare is anticipated to reach its goal of educating 1,200 nurses. The primary mission of CNWEE is to secure an appropriate level of nursing human resources as a prerequisite for the Comprehensive Nursing Care System project. Based on the results of the 2015 operation, CNWEE plans to upgrade its program for the 2016 operation so as to help inactive nurses return to the profession and reduce nurses’ turn-over rates more effectively. CNWEE’s education program is comprised of 80 hours of lessons including 40 hours of in-class and clinical lessons (8 hours offline, 16 hours online, and 16 hours clinical) and 40 hours of practicum.

KNA-NUAC MOU

Regarding cooperation in health and welfare for unified Korea

Chairperson Su-gu Lee of Religion & Welfare Committee of the National Unification Advisory Council (NUAC) and KNA President Oksoo Kim signed an MOU Regarding the Provision of Recommendations on Health and Welfare Policy for a Unified Korea on September 16, 2015. Under the MOU, the two parties will work together to provide volunteer health service to North Korean residents as well as North Korean defectors; support the North’s health professional education program; provide emergency aids and preventive measures against epidemics for flood victims; donate health devices, medicines, and hygienic goods; and promote the South-North exchange in health field.
National Women’s History Museum Forum and Photography Exhibition

On 112 years of Korean nursing history

The 5th National Women’s History Museum Forum sponsored by Rep. Kyung-rim Shin (SP) and co-organized by KNA and the Women’s History Museum Establishment Promotion Committee (WHMEPC) was held at the National Assembly Members’ Hall on November 23, 2015. The event was prepared to contribute to the correction of Korean Women’s history as well as to support the WHMEPC’s successful establishment. Prof. Young-sim Kang (Department of History, Ewha Womans’ University), Prof. Sung-deuk Oak (Department of Korean Christianity, University of California, Los Angeles), President Boon-ja Yoo of Overseas Korean Nurses Association, and KNA President Oksoo Kim gave theme presentations shedding a fresh light on nursing history of Korea. In addition, KNA had a photography exhibition on Korean nursing history at the National Assembly Members’ Hall lobby attracting a considerable public attention.

Smoking Cessation Counseling Training for Nurses

Four session in 2015

KNA offered four smoking cessation counseling training for nurses in 2015. The training program was launched since the smoking cessation treatment project funded by NHI allows nurses to work as smoking cessation counsellors, which is an achievement of KNA’s robust involvement activities in the government’s policymaking. While the initial project plan allowed only doctors, Korean medicine doctors, and dentists to offer smoking cessation counseling, KNA strongly argued for nurses to be included in the project.

KNA Volunteer Corps

Efforts to support multi-cultural families and North Korean defectors

KNA Volunteer Corps offered voluntary nursing service to North Korean defectors together with NUAC health volunteer team at the Ilsandong-gu District Office in Goyang-si on January 28, 2016. The volunteering nurses also visited the Namyangju Migrant Welfare Center in Gyeonggi Province to provide physical check-ups such as blood pressure and glucose measurements as well as health counseling to multi-cultural families. KNA Volunteer Corps has 16 regional chapters and carry out diverse volunteer works for the underprivileged in society as well as needy people in developing nations.