

The JAPANESE NURSING ASSOCIATION leads nursing in Japan in collaboration with nurses and people in the world for high quality care

The Japanese Nursing Association is a professional organization which represents public health nurses, midwives, nurses, and assistant nurses.

Established in 1946, JNA has been active in both national and local levels. Its original membership of 1,323 has grown to over 450,000 in half a century.



GOALS

JNA aims to improve the working conditions of public health nurses, midwives, nurses and assistant nurses, to raise ethical standards in nursing and to promote nursing education and research as health care professionals in order to upgrade the standards of nursing care and to contribute to improve the people's health.

ORGANIZATION

Public health nurses, midwives, nurses, and assistant nurses working in each of Japan's 47 prefectures join the local prefecture nursing association on the voluntary basis. They may choose to register in the prefecture where they work or reside. Members of the prefecture associations automatically become members of the national association. The association is run by the members on autonomous basis. The annual General Convention, which every member of JNA is encouraged to participate, is held to discuss and make decisions on policies, projects and budgets of the association. Each prefecture association sends elected representatives to the Convention. Issues related to specialized areas are discussed in the respective Professional Committees of JNA.

JAPANESE NURSING ASSOCIATION

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JNA

ACTIVITIES

IMPROVEMENT of NURSING PRACTICE JNA periodically reviews a Code of Ethics for Nurses and standards of Nursing Practice in order to improve the quality of nursing care. The scope of nursing practice, quality assurance and other issues are being examined in specialized committees.

PARTICIPATION in POLICY MAKING

JNA exerts an effort to send expert representatives to councils and committees of the national government to allow the views of the nursing profession reflected in policy-making. JNA cooperates with prefecture nursing associations to negotiate with and to lobby governmental offices and organizations on issues related to nursing. JNA formed the Japan Nursing Federation in 1959 to support nurse-candidates for the national diet. Four nurses supported by the Federation have served in the diet as of 2004.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

JNA is a member of the International Council for Nurses (ICN) and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). It organized the 17th ICN Congress in 1977 and the 22nd ICM Congress in 1990. JNA also has hosted various workshops and local conferences among Asia-Pacific nations. The Japan-China Nursing Conference is held in cooperation with the Chinese Nursing Association every two years since 1991 assisted by JNA. JNA has launched a partnership project with Mongolia since 2002, and is willing to develop partnerships with other countries. As a nursing association of a nation with an experience of Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, JNA supported nursing organizations in countries attacked by natural disasters.

CREDENTIALING

JNA has developed a certification system to authorize nurses with advanced skills, specialized and/or nursing administration knowledge. As of April, 2004, JNA has established an education and certification system for Certified Expert Nurse (CEN) in 14 specialized areas and Certified Nurse Administrator (CNA), and a certification system for Certified Nurse Specialist (CNS) in 7 fields. By

November 2003, 97 nurses are certified as CNA, 74 as CNS, 987 as CEN.

PUBLIC RELATIONS and INFORMATION SERVICES

JNA has developed various measures to communicate effectively with members, government, public administration, and health care professions. It holds press conferences and manages a web page at <http://www.nurse.or.jp> to introduce the latest developments and policies in nursing. JNA also has been working actively to provide public with information on nursing by holding various events on such an occasion as International Nursing Day.

JNA publishes the monthly "Kyokai (Association) News" to distribute copies to JNA members. The English version of the Kyokai News is published semiannually to introduce the activities and trends in nursing and health care in Japan to nurses worldwide.

EDUCATION and RESEARCH

JNA emphasizes the importance of education and research to promote nursing practice of high quality. In 1987, the JNA Nursing Education and Research Center was established to enhance activities in this field. JNA Library was founded in the Center for members.

Continuing Education

JNA runs two continuing education centers, which offer more than a hundred courses annually which vary from 6-month training programs for specialized nurses and nursing administrators to 1-day programs of in-service classes on new skills and knowledge in nursing practice. During the fiscal year of 2003, 8,945 nurses successfully completed the courses of their choice. A certificate is issued to each participant upon completion.

Nursing Research Conferences

JNA organizes annual Nursing Research Conferences in various cities in Japan for 10 different specialized areas that are pediatrics, acute and chronic care for adult patients, geriatrics, maternity care, community health care, psychiatric nursing, general nursing, nursing education and nursing management. The number of research papers presented in the conferences reaches almost 2,000 every year, and more than 17,000 nurses participated in 2003.

Research and Surveys

JNA collects and analyzes data, and conducts research related to nursing workforce, working conditions, trends and issues in health care system, and issues around nursing challenges. The achievements are utilized as evidences for policy-making suggestions, and they are made available to public through publications, homepages, and other medias.

JNA Library

JNA Library contains more than 35,000 volumes and 900 journals specializing in nursing published in Japan and overseas, which are all accessible to JNA members. The library provides a photocopy service for distant members and a data retrieval service on PCs and CD-ROMs. Around 500 Electric journals are also available.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Under the scholarship fund created to commemorate the ICN Congress of 1977 in Tokyo, a certain amount of interest-free loans is available to JNA members pursuing graduate studies in nursing. With the increase in graduate and postgraduate programs in Japan, scholarships to nurses studying overseas is limited to doctorate-level students.

NURSING in COMMUNITY

In response to the rapid growth of the elderly population in Japan, increasing the number of the Visiting Nursing Stations is being planned to provide services to wide areas. The Association established the Japan Visiting Nursing Foundation in 1994 in order to support members wishing to start such stations and to develop and advance home care services. "Town Healthcare Room" Project has started since 2003, which aims to locate institutions within a community for people of all ages to feel free to visit and get advice on health problems.

RECRUITMENTS and HUMAN RESOURCES

Nurse Centers located in each prefecture nursing association support job placements for nurses using a nationwide computer network. The Centers also offer seminars and training programs for those preparing to return to the nursing profession. The Central Nurse Center in Tokyo supports prefectural Nurse Centers by gathering information on occupational trends and analyzing research findings on job placements and job qualifications.