

JNA NEWS

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Visit by Chinese Nursing Association



Chinese delegation with JNA officers.

The Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) invited a delegation from the Chinese Nursing Association from September 2 to 9, 2003. The visit was planned during the 8th Japan-China Nursing Research Conference held in Beijing in 2002. There initially were

Welfare, the prefectural hospital, and the city hospital in the northern Japanese prefecture of Aomori, to observe the education and nursing skill education at the university and the graduate school of nursing, and the partnership between local clinical facilities and

worries over the impact from the spread of SARS on the Chinese mainland last spring, but the visit was implemented as planned.

The party of four, led by Secretary-General Zhang Shi Jun, first visited the Aomori University of Health and

the university. In Tokyo, the delegation observed nursing care and care systems of Japanese HIV/AIDS patients at the AIDS Clinical Center of the International Medical Center of Japan and continuing education at the JNA Nursing Education and Research Center.

In the meeting with the JNA officers, the talks were often focused on the story with commemorative stamps making the end of SARS from China, which the delegation has strived for a response to SARS.

During the visit, it was decided that the 9th Japan-China Nursing Research Conference will be held in the Chinese city of Chongqing from September 19 to 21, 2004, under the theme "Disaster Nursing and Risk Management." In light of the increased number of subject applicants in recent years, the plan is to add a new poster presentation in addition to the presentation of oral subjects.

JNA President as Candidate for ICN President

JNA President Hiroko Minami and Executive Director Keiko Okaya participated as the JNA representatives in the Council of National Representatives (CNR) meeting of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) held in Geneva, Switzerland from June 30 to July 2, 2003.

In the autumn of 2002, Dr. Minami declared her intention to file her candidacy in the election of the ICN President for the period 2005 to 2009. JNA is the largest association within ICN, with a membership that accounts for approximately 23% of the total number of ICN membership (as of fiscal 2002). This can also be considered as a critical period for disseminating Asian nursing, as an ICN President has not been elected from Asia since the election of South Korea's Dr. Mo-Im Kim at the ICN Conference in Seoul in 1989. Dr. Minami served as a member of the ICN Board of Directors from 1985 to 1993, and has been a member of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Advisory Group on Nursing and Midwifery since 1993. She advocated and implemented the ICN Asia Workforce Forum in 2000, which has subsequently been held every year in a revolving system for the host nation. Dr. Minami is contributing to improving the diversity of culture and the approach to nursing based on the region's unique ways of thinking and values. In terms of recent activ-

ities in Japan, with the relief activities during the 1995 Great Hanshin and Awaji Earthquake, she founded the Japan Society of Disaster Nursing in 1998 and has been playing a pioneering role in establishing the science of disaster nursing in Japan.

This CNR meeting was valuable as the only meeting that gathers the ICN's National Nursing Associations (NNAs) representatives before the next CNR meeting, which will hold the election. As of autumn 2003, Dr. Ginette Lemire Rodger, former President of the Canadian Nurses Association, has also come forward as a candidate. The election trends at the 2005 ICN Congress are already a focus of much attention from persons involved with ICN.

The ICN Conference held before the

CNR meeting from June 27 to 29 gathered approximately 1,200 participants and involved the presentation of more than 270 subjects, despite the sudden change of venue. Japan sent 29 participants for a total of 11 subject presentations. The main topics of the main sessions included SARS, HIV/AIDS, human resources, and safe water. The 2003 International Achievement Award was presented to an American nurse Carol Etherington for her achievements in developing a support program for the world's socially vulnerable. ICN also took advantage of this occasion to launch two projects related to the provision of information to patients and to safe water for domestic use. (For details, please refer to <http://www.icn.ch>)

Revision of JNA Code of Ethics

For the first time in 15 years since 1988, the JNA Code of Ethics for Nurses was completely revised. The number of articles was increased from 10 to 15, creating an action guideline that appropriately responds to the current social conditions and the changes surrounding medical care and nursing while at the same time continuing on the philosophies and values of the previous Code of Ethics.

The newly added provisions involve: (1)

the construction of a relationship of trust between patients and nurses, (2) patient rights and respect for the right to self-determination, (3) maintenance and promotion of the health of nurses, (4) conduct of nurses, and (5) conservation of environmental resources.

JNA plans to prepare and release the English version of the Code of Ethics for Nurses in the near future.

JNA President Participates in WHA

JNA President Hiroko Minami and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Yayoi Tamura participated in the World Health Assembly (WHA) held in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2003. This was the first time that the CNO and a NGO representative joined the Japanese government delegation as persons involved in nursing. Representatives from approximately 40 countries gave their opin-

ions and requests on issues regarding nursing and midwifery. CNO Tamura presented the nursing situation in Japan for the first time as an official presentation by the Japanese government in the WHA. The explanation included the positioning of the nursing profession within the Japanese administration, in addition to the Japanese nursing situation that indicates a stable entitlement balance for domestic nursing staff under the current fore-

cast while at the same time requires an improvement in care quality and expansion of roles. The Japanese government also supported the request that the interim report on strengthening nursing and midwifery be given at the 2006 WHA.

JNA intends to strengthen its positioning within the Japanese government in order to maintain its position as a member of the WHA government delegation.

Field Survey in Mongolia

JNA has been engaged in the support of the organizational strengthening of the Mongolian Nurses Association (MNA) since 2002. Anticipation has been mounting in the ICN as well over the collaboration between MNA and JNA as a cooperation activity between two nurses associations in the Asian region.

The fact-finding visit during the summer of 2002 helped create an understanding of the important issues of "strengthened organization system for MNA" and "development of basic nursing education, clinical nursing

practice, and continuing education." In addition to an additional fact-finding tour held for three weeks in mid-August of this fiscal year, hearing investigations and focus group meetings were conducted at clinical nursing sites, remote area medical practice sites, and universities of nursing. The results indicated concrete support items related to (1) developing basic education (nursing teachers training, developing educational materials, etc.), (2) improvement and enhancement of the continuing education opportunities (developing programs, improving access, etc.), (3)

care providing to remote areas, and (4) strengthening the organizational foundation of MNA. Regarded as important are the building of frameworks and acquiring of power for the proactive development of items (1) through (3) in particular.

JNA invited a MNA delegation in early 2004 and conducted a study tour of the practice and education, with the main objective of holding a tour relating to the association activities and the organizational system. The details of this study tour will be reported in the next number.

Study Visits of the International Collaboration Projects of NNAs

The activity to support the MNA organizational strengthening marks JNA's first international collaboration project. Japan is still a developing nation in terms of international collaboration and development activities, and needs for overseas assistance is yet to be nation's consensus. JNA is engaging in the issues while collaborating with MNA and attempting partnerships with various related organizations. From the perspective that there is much to be learned from the international collaboration projects implemented by the other nurses associations that have pursued numerous similar activities, JNA sent two staff members from the Department of International Affairs for a study trip in 2003 to three northern European nurses associations and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). The main objectives of the visits were to study the systems and management techniques for conducting international collaboration projects, and at the same time to learn the organization structure that serves as a foundation for pursuing those activities.

In February the staff members visited the Finnish Nurses Association and Swedish Association of Health Professionals, with a focus on the Danish Nurses' Association. In addition, related reports and facts were given by the Norwegian Nurses Association. In northern Europe, an implementation system for international collaboration projects is in place at the overall European level, at the level between northern European nations,

and at the national level. In addition, development of international collaboration projects is also established among institutes related to unions. This system has various points that are widely different from the environment currently surrounding JNA, but proved to be useful information in the sense of examining the development of international collaboration projects in Japan from a long-term perspective. Furthermore, the importance of "collecting information from an impartial and extensive perspective" and "constructing a network with specialists" when starting support activities, and the concrete case examples related to "democratic development" and "techniques for step-by-step activities," served as beneficial information for JNA as it geared up for the second Mongolia field survey.

The staff also underwent a study trip to CNA in October. CNA does not include an union function, similar to JNA, and can be regarded as a model for the approach to international collaboration projects aimed for by JNA, in the positioning as a functional

organization and the approach to a collaborative system with various related institutes within Canada. However, the perspective and activities toward international collaboration projects is rooted in the various experiences and broad consensus of the overall Canadian nation, a point that is similar to the northern European nations and an area in which Japan is still in an early stage of development. The activities of CNA's Department of International Policy and Development (IDP) begin with expanding the awareness of Canadian nurses and extend to the perspectives of a social justice agenda and gender equity and equality. These are the important guidelines in CNA's project development. The significance of these guidelines is in the fact that new perspectives were obtained for JNA's development of collaboration activities.

JNA would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to all NNAs that kindly allowed the visits. At the same time, JNA keens to use information in further collaborative activities with NNAs to bring about fruitful outcomes.

2003 JNA General Convention

The JNA General Convention for fiscal 2003 was held on May 21 and 22 in Osaka. Approximately 4,600 members attended. Questions and opinions from the floor were actively deliberated, with all nine of the res-

olutions being passed and approved. Particular attention was focused on the subjects "Nursing System Reform Promotion" and "Visiting Nursing and Home Care Promotion."