

JNA NEWS

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New Year's Greetings from JNA President, Hiroko Minami, MPH, DNSc



JNA President Hiroko Minami, MPH, DNSc

Happy New Year to all nursing colleagues around the world! I hope that the year 2005 finds you in good health and I take this opportunity to wish you the very best.

Looking back at the year 2004, my heart wrenches at damages and sufferings caused by the natural disasters that hit many parts of the world, including 10 typhoon attacks to Japan, Niigata-Chuetsu Earthquake, the flood in Europe, and the catastrophic tsunami in Indian Ocean. In the tsunami disaster, more than 150 thousands lives were lost, and it is apprehended that the death toll may increase due to the aftermath infection. Nurses play an enormously important role at the time of disaster, and people's expectations for nursing heightens: In the immediate phase right after the dis-

aster, nurses are relied on as rescuers, and in the middle and later phase, they are expected to take parts in psychological care. Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) is very much looking forward to exerting ourselves to collaborate with nursing colleagues in the area struck by the tsunami as we did in the past with the colleagues in Taiwan, India, Turkey, and Iran when the disasters happened to their countries.

Regarding general nursing trends in 2004, I find myself keenly aware of growing expectations among public toward nursing. In Japan, health care reform needs to be considered not only due to exigencies of the state finance but also to the fact that the national perception toward health has been altered as the nation embarks on the era of aging society with a falling birthrate and with the changes in the disease structure. In the midst of the transitions, people expect much of nursing as a profession that combines both roles of caring and curing. In the workplaces with skillmix such as nursing homes, nursing leadership is strongly required, and nurses who work for facilities that provide advanced care are expected to have an ability to deal with complex issues.

To respond to the extensive nursing responsibilities, JNA has put much effort in preparing an efficient milieu for fostering nursing experts. Baccalaureate programs in

nursing have become ten-fold in these ten years, and the credentialing systems for Certified Nurse Administrators, Certified Nurse Specialists, and Certified Expert Nurses have developed. The most recent commitments by JNA include establishing career development systems for generalist nurses and designing compulsory training programs for freshman nurses.

I believe that if a nurse is given a chance, he/she would intend to extend the international collaborative efforts. I myself will continue the efforts of networking nurses in Japan, in Asia, and all over the world. Through working in collaboration, nursing profession will proceed together in harmony to solve such issues as global nursing shortage, the inadequate supply of nurses, and building strategies for emerging infectious diseases.

I am looking very much forward to seeing you at the 23rd ICN Congress in Taipei in May, which will be a wonderful opportunity to commit ourselves to expanding friendly and cooperative relations. In 2007, the ICN Congress will be held again in Asia, in Yokohama, Japan. It will be a great opportunity for the "East meets West, and North meets South." I have a forefeeling that the eyes of nursing professions worldwide are intrigued to Asia in this first decade of the 21st century. Looking forward to meeting you in Taiwan and then in Japan!

Special seminar to mark Japan visit by ICN President

Ms. Christine Hancock, President of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), who was visiting Japan to attend the World Medical Assembly, gave a commemorative seminar at JNA on October 11, 2004. The audience comprised of guests and JNA members enthusiastically listened to her lecture entitled "International Nursing Collaboration and the Role of ICN."

In describing the international situations surrounding nursing, she said that the health environment of the world is filled with conflicts and that individual nurses associations play important roles in health policy both domestically and internationally. She also pointed out that ICN has strengthened the unity among nurses, fostered strong nursing leadership, and has shaped healthy policy to

achieve its mission of leading our societies to better health. "ICN has raised its voice to make governments and international bodies aware of the key roles nurses play in a nation's health status," she said. She then mentioned eight goals from the United Nation's Millennium Developments Goals and how ICN, working closely with UN and WHO, developed strategies for each goal.

Ms. Hancock highlighted JNA's immense support for ICN, and urged all JNA members to participate in ICN activities through JNA. JNA has an in-depth relationship with ICN, as demonstrated in the fact that Dr. Hiroko Minami, JNA President, served as an ICN Board member. Ms. Hancock also noted that, under Dr. Minami's outstanding leadership, JNA has conducted international collabora-



Ms. Christine Hancock, ICN President

tions in such an aspect as disaster nursing.

Following Ms. Hancock, Dr. Minami gave a lecture entitled "International Cooperation and Contributions of JNA."

JNA recommends President Minami for next ICN presidency

JNA has formally decided to recommend Dr. Hiroko Minami, JNA President, for the presidency of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). ICN presidency has a term of four years, with the next president to be selected at the Council of National Representatives scheduled immediately before the 23rd ICN Congress in May 2005 in Taiwan.

Dr. Minami, whose activities are guided by the concept of "human security," places her top priority on the protection of human lives. In regard to natural and man-caused disasters, she insists that the basis of nursing is to "support victimized people into regaining autonomy." This basic ideal was formed at the time of the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, through her experience as a resident of the disaster-stricken region and also as an organizer / initiator of emergency support operations.

Based on this ideal, she says it is essential to improve the quality of nursing around the world. Nursing professionals, who serve the role of protecting human lives, must develop their expertise and improve the quality of their nursing care, thereby contributing to better rescue activities.

Regarding today's worldwide task of supporting patients of relatively new infectious diseases, e.g. HIV / AIDS, Dr.

Minami insists that nurses must take on the task, including policy matters, to ensure that all sufferers gain fair access to medical treatment.

Thirdly, she is striving toward strengthening the international organizational capacity of the nursing community. In partnership with nurses associations around the world, she seeks to reinforce the profession's organizational strength to bring about safe and healthy living.

In supporting the principles of Dr. Minami, JNA supports ICN activities in pursuit of the health of not only Japanese people but also all people around the world, and hereby recommends Dr. Minami for the post of next ICN President. Thus far, ICN presidency has been served by persons from western nations. JNA firmly believes that selecting the new president from an Asian country will lead to the introduction of oriental values to ICN, and the development of the nursing world in harmony, integrating the East and the West.

<ICN and JNA>

Since rejoining ICN in 1949, JNA has provided its members for ICN board and committees for involvement in ICN administration, dissemination of current status of Japanese nursing, and collaboration with nurses associations of other countries. In

1973, Ms. Fumie Kobayashi, the 6th JNA President, became the first Japanese nurse to become an ICN Board member, followed by Dr. Minami, who took up the position for 2 terms (8 years) starting 1985. More recently, Dr. Noriko Katada, JNA member and Dean of the College of Nursing Art and Science, Hyogo University, served as Board Member and Second Vice President of ICN for two terms starting 1993. As of now, JNA has the largest number of members among 125 national nurses associations under ICN, and is under growing expectation to play a leadership role. Dr. Minami's candidacy for the next ICN Presidency is meaningful in promoting transmission of nursing information from Asia to the rest of the world.

Responding to an ICN suggestion, JNA has been supporting the Mongolian Nurses Association in strengthening its organizational structure. JNA has also supported nurses associations in Central and Latin Americas and Africa Honor Society Association, and disaster nursing trainings in Nicaragua. JNA's international contributions include supporting nurses in the following areas struck by major earthquakes: Taiwan(1999), Turkey (1999), India (2001) and Iran (2003). JNA is now planning to support nurses associations in the tsunami-stricken countries.

New JNA office building completed

On April 6, 2004, JNA left its temporary abode and returned to its original site upon completion of the new office building. After construction work that stretched 2 years and 3 months, the building was completed in a premium metropolitan district in the fashion center of Tokyo. The beautiful and eye-

catching landmark is expected to fulfill the role as the base for disseminating nursing information, as well as providing direct services to local residents and supporting disaster nursing activities. JNA purchased the land 50 years ago, and has operated in the building there for many years before the latest redevelopment, which became necessary due to the aging of the original structure. The construction owes greatly to the donations from JNA members.

On April 17, JNA held a ceremony marking the opening of the new JNA building. Dr. Minami, JNA President, and the internationally acclaimed architect Noriaki Kurokawa who designed the building conducted a cor-

nerstone ritual at the ceremony, followed by a tape-cut in front of the Crystal Cone, an architectural feature characterizing the building.

Approx. 370 people from various organizations attended the ensuing reception. Among the guests were Chikara Sakaguchi, former Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Shigeaki Hinohara, Board Chairman of St. Luke's International Hospital, Hon. Kayoko Shimizu, Hon. Chieko Nohno, Hon. Kazuko Nose, who are Diet-members of nursing profession, and Dr. Yu-Mei Chao, ICN 3rd Vice President, from Taiwan who conveyed a congratulatory message from Ms. Christine Hancock, ICN President.



New JNA building with a crystal cone

Hon. Chieko Nohno becomes the Minister of Justice

On September 27, 2004, Hon. Chieko Nohno was appointed the Minister of Justice and State Minister for Youth Affairs and Measures for Declining Birthrate in the second Cabinet of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, becoming the nation's first nursing professional to assume the office. She had served as the

ministry's Deputy Minister, handling issues closely related to legal administration, such as the Domestic Violence Prevention Law and the law concerning special cases in handling gender for people with gender identity disorder. In accepting the post, she said, "I intend to turn Japan into the world's safest society."