2007 ICN Conference Concludes Successfully
The second term of president has started with Celebrating 60th Anniversary of JNA

Message from the President

Conference of Council of National Representatives (CNR) and International Council of Nurses (ICN), and Regulation Conference were held over eight days from May 27 to June 3, 2007 at Pacifico Yokohama. More than 3,900 nursing professionals attended the event from more than 100 countries worldwide. It has been 30 years since Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) last served the event, for ICN Tokyo Conference in 1977. The host country’s nursing association played a very different role compared with the last time. It was some trial for those who remember the last one to prepare for this conference. However, we especially pleased at this great success of this event, which was made possible by the powerful partnership with ICN and Congrex. We are also deeply grateful for all of those who traveled from all over the world to participate.

This year marks another milestone: the 60th anniversary of JNA. As a nursing professional organization, JNA has grown to be one of the biggest incorporated associations in Japan, with a membership about 500,000. For the past 60 years, JNA has endeavored and contributed much to advancement of Japanese health care through the efforts aimed at improving the status of nurses and other activities, but many challenges still remain. In a discussion arranged as a part of the 60th anniversary activities, I had an opportunity to look back on the history of JNA and discuss the theme of nursing and politics with Kayoko Shimizu, a nursing professional politician, a member of the House of Councilors, who has advocated for nurses for a long time. I heard many untold stories behind about related issues for the first time, and once again, painfully aware of the need for nursing professionals to exercise their political power with many association members who attended this event.

Re-elected at the annual general assembly of JNA held in May, I am now starting my second term as JNA president. Fortunately, I was able to achieve some successes in reaching the goal that dominated my first term, the improvement of nurse staffing standards, with the establishment of the 7:1 ratio. In my second term, I address the three major issues. First is the reform of the nursing education system. We need to consider about extending the length of nursing education to prevent turnover among newly graduated nurses, so that nurses can gain the knowledge and skills by which they work effectively. Secondly, it is necessary for promoting job retention to address the creation of workplaces and working conditions that allow nurses to continuously develop their careers. Finally, we are required to strengthen the level of specialization in three nursing professions: public health nurses, midwives and nurses. It is important for us to create frameworks and systems that enable each nursing professional to develop and exercise their own special skills in response to the public needs.

I am fully committed to addressing these issues and to ensuring that JNA is fulfilling its social mission of protecting people’s lives, health, and lifestyles. At this important juncture, I remain determined to collaborate with nursing professionals around the world, to learn about the efforts being undertaken by nursing and midwifery associations in other countries, and to promote the activities of JNA as a professional organization of nurses.

Introduction of New Board Members

At the annual general convention held in May, the following board members were elected: Setsuko Hisatsune as president, three vice presidents, one executive director, five executive officers, three chairpersons of professional committees, three auditors, and 15 area representatives and representatives of LPN. Information about each of these is available at our website at http://www.nurse.or.jp/jna/english/index.html.
ICN Conference Report

Council of National Representatives (CNR) & International Council of Nurses (ICN) Conference and Regulation Conference were held from May 27 to June 3, 2007 at the Pacifico Yokohama (Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture). ICN is a non-governmental federation consisting of 129 national nurses associations. It was the first international organization specializing in health professional, established in 1899. CNR & ICN Conference is held in between ICN Quadrennial Congress, and this was the first time in 30 years, since the 16th ICN Quadrennial Congress held in Japan, in 1977.

CNR is the governing body of ICN. It was held from May 27 to 29 to discuss the goals, policies and activities of ICN. This meeting was attended by 262 people from 96 countries.

ICN Conference was held from May 30 to June 1 at Pacifico Yokohama: National Convention Hall, Conference Center, and Exhibition Hall. It was attended by 3,901 participants from 108 countries (1,899 of those were Japanese). Following the theme "Nurses at the Forefront: Dealing with the Unexpected," the conference included 3 plenary sessions, 26 main sessions, 9 ICN Network meetings, as well as symposia, concurrent sessions, and poster presentations by presenters whose submitted abstracts were selected. A total of 1,452 abstracts were submitted and totally 1,010 presentations were selected: 53 presenters for conducting symposia, 526 selected for poster presentations. They covered the eight themes of Clinical Practice; Pandemics, Epidemics, Sudden Crisis, and Disasters; Nursing/Health Policy and Services Management; Nursing Education; Nursing/Health Research and Informatics; Ethics, Values and Wisdom; Labour and Workplace Issues; and Regulation. The working languages of the conference were English, French, and Spanish.

Regulation Conference held on June 2-3 attended by 359 people from 57 countries at the Annex Hall of Pacífico Yokohama. Focusing on the theme of "Protecting the Public: Regulatory Best Practice", this conference was divided into concurrent sessions and workshops addressing the topics of competence assessment, education, discipline, board governance, and licensure and regulation.

ICN Conference Memories

May 28: CNR Reception

About 300 Representatives of ICN-member nursing associations and the Prefecture Nursing Associations in Japan were invited to attend. This reception was hosted by JNA. Welcome remarks were given by governor of Kanagawa prefecture, Shigefumi Matsuzawa. Japanese traditional dancing, hand bell, and orchestra was played.

May 29: Opening Ceremony of ICN Conference

When representatives of countries in their ethnic clothes entered the venue of the official opening ceremony, participants from those countries stood and cheered. During the Ceremony, greetings on behalf of the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and welcoming remarks were given by Yokohama Mayor, Hiroshi Nakata and by JNA President, Setsuko Hisatsune. These were followed by a traditional Japanese musical and dance performance, called "Gagaku".

May 30-June 1: Exhibition

In the Exhibition Hall, 39 nursing associations, businesses, and organizations presented about their activities with panels and materials. JNA and Prefecture Nursing Associations (PNA) coordinated "JNA booths" and provided information about nursing in Japan and give participants from foreign countries introducing the Japanese Culture. At the part of cultural exchange programs, JNA provided tea ceremony demonstration, try on summer kimonos voluntarily provided by PNAs, and Japanese nurses. They are very well received by the conference participants.
May 31: Session with the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

A joint session was held with Tetsuo Tsuji, Vice Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Yoko Nomura, Director of the Nursing Division, Health Policy Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare, and Setsuko Hisatsune, JNA President. The theme was "The Health System of Japan."

May 31: JNA Reception

This reception was held to give ICN conference participants a chance to meet and talk with others. Her Majesty the Empress Michiko of Japan, was invited to the first portion of the programme, where nurses from Japan and abroad had a chance to talk directly with her. During the second part, members of Prefecture Nursing Associations showed their regional dances.

June 1: Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony featured greetings from Hiroko Minami, ICN President, a speech by special guest Princess Muna of Jordan, and the presentation of a commemorative gift from ICN to JNA. The Democratic Nursing Organization of South Africa, which is going to co-host the next conference, introduced their country and plans. Finally, a video summary of the conference was shown to compile the various aspects of this event. A DVD of this video was sent by JNA to each of ICN member associations.

June 2: Site Visit

JNA planned site visits for overseas participants. There were 15 site visit routes focusing on 12 themes and 173 participants from about 35 countries attended. Representatives of each site described their work at their facilities, and participants asked not only about the theme, but also the machines and equipment in sites. At some of the facilities, participants had a chance to directly talk with users and patients. They could interact not only with nursing professionals, but also with those receiving care.

Volunteer Activities

ICN Yokohama Conference was supported by many volunteers. Assistance was provided by as many as 762 volunteers, including 342 linguistic volunteers who could speak the ICN working languages (English, French, and Spanish) and the other languages, and other volunteers for general support.

The volunteers wore sun visors and scarves in one of four colors, indicating their role: English (dark blue), French (green), Spanish (red), and general support (yellow).

June 30: Asahi Shimbun Article

The morning edition of the Asahi Shimbun, a national Japanese newspaper (with circulation of 8.5 million), carried an article on the ICN Conference. Entitled "Collected Latest Information of Nursing throughout the World," the article introduced ICN, the CNR, and the conference sessions, and reported on the Empress Michiko’s attendance at the JNA reception. It also introduced the speeches given by the ICN President and the JNA President.
Recent News

Disaster Response Efforts in Japan

On July 16, 2007 (Mon.) at 10:13 a.m., a magnitude 6.8 struck the Niigata Chuetsu area, affecting people in Niigata, Toyama, and Nagano prefectures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human casualties</th>
<th>11 fatalities, 0 missing persons, 182 seriously wounded, 1,807 minor injuries</th>
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<tr>
<td>Housing damage</td>
<td>Totally destroyed 993, Half-destroyed 3,286, Partially damaged 35,068</td>
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From July 20 to August 11, JNA dispatched a 244 disaster relief nurses\(^*1\), total man-days of 719 nurses, to evacuation shelters in 21 locations to provide nursing care and basic health checks.

*1 Disaster relief nurses
Nurses dispatched to a disaster-stricken area through partnerships between JNA and Prefecture Nursing Associations (PNA).

Disaster Relief Network

Based on lessons learned from the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, in which more than 6,000 people perished, JNA has developed a disaster relief system for responding to disaster situations in Japan. When a disaster occurs, nurses in the affected region are both victims as well as care providers. JNA does not provide emergency medical relief immediately after the disaster, but dispatches and coordinates disaster relief nurses\(^*2\) who can provide nursing care and basic health checks at evacuation shelters. It is known as the Disaster Relief Network System\(^*2\).

*2 Disaster Relief Network System
When a disaster strikes, JNA, upon receiving a request from the affected PNA, support to provide relief collaborating with all PNA nationwide in the form of the following relief activities:
1. Gathering and disseminating disaster information
2. Dispatching and coordinating disaster relief nurses

May 12 Nursing Day

- Nursing Week
This marks the 17th year that Japan has celebrated Nursing Day and Nursing Week, which were first recognized in 1991 with the theme of "Making the Hearts of Nurses the Hearts of All."

During the Nursing Week (May 6-12) in 2007, JNA distributed Nurses Day goods to 1,500 people, and appealed the importance of the nursing professions. For the two weeks from May 16th, efforts were made to raise the image of nurses by hanging flags on the front street of JNA featuring the key phrase of the Nurse Retention Promotion Project, "We need you", and poster designs of JNA Nursing Day. Advertisement in color highlighting Nursing Day was also featured in two major national newspapers, the Yomiuri Shimbun (circulation of 10 million) and the Asahi Shimbun (circulation of 8.5 million).

- Nursing Forum
The Nursing Forum was held in Wakayama Prefecture on Nursing Day. As many as 1,400 nursing students and public participated. The event featured lectures, symposia, the concert by the Civic Opera Association, and career counseling for high school students how to be a nurse and they were very well received by participants. The event also featured the town healthcare room, where nurses performed body and body fat measurements, and participants had a chance to experience being an expectant mother.