

2004 KNA NEWS

◆ One Voice Demanding the Enactment of the Nursing Law

This year has been a significant one, in that discussions to enact the nursing law, a long-cherished hope within the nursing fraternity, have been driven by the KNA. The Public Hearing on the Enactment of Nursing Law, held back in July by Assemblywoman Sunmi Kim, an ardent advocate of the enactment, validated the need for a separate nursing law, as well as led to a broad consensus and support among a number of arenas, including the general public, consumer groups, and legal and health care circles. The Nursing Law Briefing Tour, staged by the KNA in collaboration with its sub-organizations and members, also garnered great enthusiasm. The briefing tour has been ongoing since September, providing nurses themselves, as well as and the general public, with explanations sufficient for them to develop a solid understanding of the necessity for nursing law enactment. The briefing sessions have informed the audience of, among other things, the need for, and rationale behind, the development of a nursing law. Supporting evidence and information was presented. Also proposed were ways to resolve any potential misunderstandings and opposition to the enactment. At these sessions, nurses formed a consensus and affirmed their commitment in the nursing law, as a means for securing public health and as an indispensable way of firmly establishing the specific roles, duties, responsibilities, and obligations of nurses. The Representative Training for the Enactment of the Nursing Law Program was also presented for those who lead the movement to generate wide publicity for nurses' commitment to, and need for, the nursing law, and to win the public's support.

Throughout the year, the KNA spared no efforts in raising support for the proposed enactment, including extensive contact with the National Assembly and with a number of health care organizations to inform and convince them of the necessity of the enactment. These efforts also included the distribution of leaflets to the public. Prior to the General Election in April, the association staged a Candidate Selection Campaign, intended to support those candidates who took the lead in the enactment.

◆ ICN Officially Supports the Enactment of the Nursing Law

World-renowned nursing leaders came to Korea to demonstrate their support for the development of Korean nursing during the year. The Secretary-General of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Judith A. Oulton, the President of the American Academy of Nursing Joan Shaver, a Professor of the Department of Nursing at the University of Illinois Mija Kim, and a number of other influential nursing leaders, in addition to some American-based Korean nursing scientists all visited the country to participate in the inaugural meeting and the international scientific conference of the Global Korean Nursing Foundation (GKNF).

The group also paid courtesy visits to the First Lady Yangsuk Kwon, and the Minister of Health and Welfare (MOHW) Geuntae Kim. At their meetings with the first lady and the minister, they explained the mission statements of the GKNF, the necessity for a nursing law, and the roles of nursing practitioners (NP) in an aging society. They asked for their support and backing. Oulton officially requested of the first lady that the nursing law be enacted as soon as practicable in Korea, so that nurses can contribute to the health of Korean society, as well as to the international nursing circles. She also stated her official support of the proposed enactment in a press conference arranged by the MOHW.

◆ Foundation of the KNWF: The Operation of a Nursing Day Care Center

The Korean Nurses Welfare Foundation (KNWF), a social welfare organization, was officially launched on August 25th. The KNA established the KNWF to conduct a number of projects covering health and medical care, and social welfare, intended to enhance public welfare in Korea. In a bid to respond to the vast increase in the age of the Korean population, and to fulfill contemporary requirements and provide local communities care, the KNA opened the KNWF Day Care Center.

The first day care center established in Yongin, utilizing a remodeled section of the KNA Human Resources Development Center, provides day care services for mildly demented elderly people living in home environments, enabling them to overcome social estrangement, and indirectly to reduce the burden these elderly members of society place on their families.

The KNWF intends to embark on a number of welfare projects in order to create jobs for nurses, develop screening tools and evaluation systems for users of the facilities, and provide improved elderly health care and welfare services.

◆ KABON Activities Come to Fruition

The Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing (KABON) held the opening ceremony on April 27th, marking the commencement of the full-scale operation of our nonprofit corporation. The KABON is a self-regulatory organization for nursing professionals, established to ensure that levels of nursing services meet the requirements of the public, and to enhance the international competitiveness of Korean nurses.

Taking charge of working-level proceedings of the nursing practitioner training school evaluations undertaken by the MOHW, the KABON conducts documentary and field evaluations on those educational facilities.

These evaluations were conducted in order to develop the foundations of the training of quality guardians of public health, by profiling and evaluating NP training courses, and providing each school with feedback.

The board also successfully developed an agreement on standard training courses (proposed) and nursing duties (proposed) for a total of ten fields of specialization for nursing practitioners.

The agreement on this final proposal was reached through the scrutiny of the key competencies and duties (proposed), and thereafter the development of a broad opinion profile.

Additional agreements on the substance of the six common compulsory curricula, as well as the outlines, goals, and substance of special curricula, were reached by engaging in in-depth discussions of standard training courses (proposed), containing such requisite substances as may be deemed required to enable trainees to perform their duties as specified in these proposed nursing practitioner duties.

The board also conducted a formal accreditation evaluation on three-year nursing colleges, the first-ever such evaluation on the nursing discipline conducted by a non-governmental professional organization.

The accreditation evaluation was of enormous significance in that it was based on criteria that fully reflected the specificities of the nursing discipline, including the substance of training, field exercises, and character education. Both applicants, namely the National Medical Center College of Nursing, and the Christian College of Nursing, satisfied the criteria required by the board, and thereby obtained accreditation.

◆ NP Training Courses in Full Place

This year was of great significance in that the nursing practitioner training schools, as designated by the MOHW, began offering their courses for the first time.

The 23 graduate schools, (42 courses, 396 students), as designated as Nursing Practitioner Training Schools by the MOHW, selected their first-year students and embarked on fully fledged training schemes.

The recent revision of the Employment Regulations of the Medical Service Act had led to the expansion of the fields of specialization for nursing practitioners into a total of ten: public health, anesthesia, mental health, home health care, emergency, occupational health, infection control, elderly care, intensive care, and hospicing.

The MOHW additionally designated a nursing practitioner training school in November. These schools have made thorough preparations in their efforts to produce frontline practitioners, equipped not only with clinical nursing skills, but also expertise in their respective fields. The schools are striving to attract top talent.

Any nursing departments or nursing colleges with graduate courses, and any special graduate schools and professional graduate schools offering nursing courses, may apply for the designation, for which the required minimum number of credits is 33.

Any nurse with no less than three years of work experience over the last ten years may apply for enrollment in a nursing practitioner training course. Upon the completion of the course, and the passing of the nursing practitioner qualification exam, to be subsequently administered, the graduate will be thereby certified a nursing practitioner.

◆ Nationwide Family Health Calendar-Keeping Campaign

Providing an arena for the experience of *bona fide* nursing practices to the public, and reminding nursing personnel of their missions as public health guardians, the second Nursing Service Long March continued throughout May and June.

In March, the seventeen municipal nursing associations affiliated with the KNA organized their own service corps to stage the Family Health Calendar-Keeping Campaign, engaged in a number of public nursing service activities, and implemented their vision of 'Life Through Taking Care of Oneself, and Sound Nursing Taking Care of Such Life'.

The Family Health Calendar-Keeping Campaign resulted in the distribution of a total of fifty thousand calendars, and teaching of how-to's, engendering tremendous popularity.

The campaign effectively provided the public with correct levels of understanding of health issues, helping members of the public respond to potential health changes, and enabled them to acquire adequate information as medical service consumers.

In parallel with the calendar-keeping campaign, individual municipal associations offered the public a range of programs, including medical checkups and consultation, health lectures, public service visits to health care facilities, and blood donation drives, further enriching the Long March.

◆ Overseas Employment Seminar Held

Amid increasing interest in overseas employment, a host of information beneficial to nurses and nursing students who are interested in working in foreign countries is being provided.

Regional Seminars for Overseas Nursing Jobs were organized by the Human Resources Development Center of Korea (HRDCK) and municipal nursing associations. These seminars were held in nine regions across the country.

Proving a great success in attracting 500 to 1,000 participants in each region, the seminars addressed, among other issues, 21st century health care trends, the nursing fraternity's strategies and preparations for the internationalization of Korean nursing, the course of action, and project plans for overseas employment. Among subjects included detailed information on the US nurse licensure exam, cases of training course operations, and the working environment at American medical institutes.

Above all, the presentations of vivid experiences of nurses who had been successfully employed in foreign countries gained the most favorable responses. They pointed out that 'the single most fundamental and essential factor in getting a job with an overseas hospital is communication skills,' stressing the need to improve one's command of the target language. The speakers recommended the audience obtain a greater understanding of the differences in cultures and ways of life, as well as to develop critical views of nursing practices. They also presented the audience with practical information on the characteristics of individual fields of nursing in overseas hospitals, and on the treatment levels provided hospital employees.

The seminar participants primarily asked questions relating to wage levels and other working conditions, feasible strategies to improve language skills, specific methods of acquiring nursing practitioner qualifications, and the educational environment for children. The audience members demonstrated tremendous levels of enthusiasm for the

idea of overseas employment, commenting that they received sufficient, practical information and solid guidelines.

One of the municipal nursing association representatives who took part in organizing the seminars said, 'In the midst of the difficulties arising due to a lack of information on overseas employment, these regional seminars allowed nurses and nursing students to gain a clearer understanding of their dreams'.

◆ **American Nursing Exam Taken in Seoul**

It has been finalized that applicants may take the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) in Seoul. On June 1st, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) made it official in selecting Seoul, London, and Hong Kong as the overseas cities where the NCLEX-RN would be administered, beginning from 2005.

This inaugural holding of the nursing exam outside American soil was devised to encourage non-American nurses to obtain employment in the United States, thereby alleviating recent shortages of nurses in American hospitals.

Having actively expressed interest in their selection, the KNA formed proactive and systematic preparations until its success in securing Seoul as a designated test site, winning the full support of the government.

Upon the announcement of the NCSBN, the KNA held the Seoul NCLEX-RN and the Globalization of Nursing Education Seminar, to explore strategies for the globalization of Korean nursing education, possible practices in improving nursing curricula and the Korean National Nursing Exam, and courses of action for employment in the US, among others.

◆ **GKNF Established**

With a view to building a global network of Korean nurses and cultivating Korean nursing leadership, the Global Korean Nursing Foundation (GKNF) was officially established.

The GKNF came into regular operation upon its inaugural assembly on November 1st, with a Professor of the Department of Nursing at the University of Illinois, Mija Kim, elected as the Chief Director of the foundation.

Among the first steps taken by the foundation upon assembly was a postdoctoral training aid program, forming a key project to be undertaken by it. This program is intended to help a select group of talented students, through postdoctoral courses in the United States, develop their skills, utilizing the services of Korean nursing scientists working in prestigious American universities to provide personal guidance in a mentor-type arrangement. Scholarship certificates were presented to those nurses, who were privileged with the honor of being selected as scholars.

Meanwhile, commemorating the establishment of the foundation, an international scientific conference, under the theme of 'Excellence of Evidence-Based Nursing', was held and co-hosted by the Korean Society of Nursing Science, the KAN, the Korea chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, and the GKNF. A total of 400 participants at the conference explored cutting-edge trends in the global nursing industry.

◆ **KNA CI Established: Their Website Renovated**

With the intent of publicizing its status, the KNA fully renovated its website, (www.koreanurse.or.kr), establishing a new corporate identity (CI).

The website was transformed into one centered around the member-oriented intranet. The prior emphasis on public relations of the association shifted towards a greater focus on active member-to-member and member-to-association communication and utilization of information, resulting in a web portal format site. Cyber-Community services and the One-Stop Service system are the most significant improvements of the site. Data and information search functions have been substantially enhanced for the benefit of its members.

The websites of the KNA Human Resources Development Center, (www.kna1004.or.kr), the KABON, (www.kabon.or.kr), and the KNWF, (www.knwf.or.kr) have also been improved.

The CI is a newly designed proposal of the KNA, to help raise the public image of nurses through a consolidation of previous images. All individual municipal nursing associations will use a single unified CI. This is expected to assist the KNA, and will be used in advertisements, publicity materials, forms, banners, signs, and on all associated websites.

◆ **Cyber-Training Center: Continuing Education**

This year marks the beginning of a new era in which nurses may opt to receive continuing education on the internet... anytime and anywhere they want it. Opening in February, the Cyber-Training Center of the KNA provides online continuing education services for nurses, extending the educational opportunities for all its members at different workplaces, working under differing working conditions.

Throughout the year, the center offered certain courses, including Elderly Nursing 101, Elderly Nursing 201, and The Nurse and the Law (four credit points each), winning enormous interest and receiving favorable feedback. The KNA will offer new courses as the website is developed.

The nursing fraternity has responded positively about the consumer-oriented on-line training system that allows for repeated learning without time or location limitations. The KNA hosted briefing sessions for those in charge of, and responsible for, continuing education across the country, informing them of how to utilize the cyber-training services.

To use the cyber-training center, simply direct your browser to edu.koreanurse.or.kr, and select and enroll the desired courses. Upon the completion of any course, the grade points earned will be automatically recorded.

◆ **Korea-China Nursing Forum: Exploring Asian Methods of Nursing Intervention**

Being an arena of exchange between the KNA and the Chinese Nursing Association, the 6th Korea-China Nursing Forum was held in Seoul in September, under the theme of the 'Development of Uniquely Far Eastern Nursing Intervention'. At the forum, over fifty nursing leaders of the Chinese Nursing Association, as well as Korean municipal nursing association representatives, nursing scientists, and nurses participated in the exchange of extensive knowledge and information.

Given the regional, cultural, and historical proximity and common ground between the two countries, the discussions in this year's forum were centered around the identity of ideal nursing practices for the Far Eastern culture, as well as the development of unique nursing intervention practices, based on the cultural peculiarities and philosophies within the region. Discussions resulted in the formation of a consensus that it was imperative to develop uniquely Asian nursing research and practice techniques.

It was also, of course, a good opportunity to learn about the astounding pace of recent growth of the Chinese nursing industry. Through the greatly developed research content and method of the Chinese nursing fraternity, the participants in the forum were able to develop a greater understanding of recent efforts in China to develop a top-notch nursing industry.