NAROC Renamed TWNA

To support the ICN’s policy of inclusiveness and to avoid confusion in the international community, the name of our association has been changed from “The Nurses’ Association of the Republic of China” (NAROC) to “TAIWAN NURSES ASSOCIATION” (TWNA).

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Members’ Representatives’ Council was held on March 30, 1999 and passed a resolution to change the association’s name to “Taiwan Nurses Association.” Ninety-nine percent (437 out of 475) of the Members’ Representatives voted in favor of the change. The new name officially took effect on March 30, 1999.

More details about the name change appear on page 4 of this issue.

Celebrating IND 1999

To express gratitude to nurses around the island for their day-and-night dedication to society, the Taiwan Nurses Association and the National Union of Nurses’ Associations ROC co-hosted an IND Celebration Night and a World Stamps Show on May 12 in Taipei. More than 900 nurses were invited to participate.

The Celebration Night started with a candlelight ritual. Vice President Lien Chan sent a letter to honor Nurses’ Day. Other government officials also joined in celebrating International Nurses Day.

Premier Vincent Siew addressed the audience and praised nurses highly for their significant contribution. Dr. Chi-Shean Chan, Minister of Health, also emphasized the facts of rapid change in society, the needs of the medical revolution, and the need to cope with new disease patterns. He said that nursing had faced dramatic challenges, and nurses should provide holistic care to their patients, not only tending to their physical needs, but also their psychological, social and spiritual needs.

One of the proudest and most important parts of this great occasion was the awards ceremony. Five nurses received Outstanding Nursing Professional Awards, and 424 nurses with over 25 years’ service were presented with Senior Nurses’ Awards.

To celebrate the 100th birthday of the International Council of Nurses and to respond to the International Nurses’ Day theme of “Celebrating Nursing’s Past, Claiming the Future,” the association requested the Directorate General of Posts to issue a set of two commemorative stamps and a special First Day Cover on May 12, 1999. The NT$5 stamp’s design depicts how nurses provide humane nursing service, while the NT$17 stamp symbolizes how nurses around the globe work hand in hand to promote the quality of nursing care.

Invited guests hold candles at the IND Celebration Night.
TWNNA’s Contribution to the ICN
Virginia Henderson Fund

To honor the eminent nursing leader Ms. Virginia Henderson (1897–1996) for her remarkable contribution to the global nursing profession, the International Council of Nurses established the Virginia Henderson Fund, the purpose of which is to give awards to mid-career nurses to do creative nursing research, encourage nurses to disseminate up-to-date nursing practice knowledge and enhance the development of the nursing profession. At the 22nd Quadrennial Congress and CNR meeting held in Vancouver, Canada, ICN announced the creation of the Fund and requested all NNAs to help raise US$2,000,000 for it. The Taiwan Nurses Association promised to endow US$20,000 and began a two-year fund-raising program in 1997.

To help make our members aware of the purpose of the ICN Virginia Henderson Fund and Ms. Henderson’s great contribution to nursing, we invited Ms. Shelagh Murphy, an ICN Board Member from the United Kingdom, to visit Taiwan and speak at our annual Members’ Representatives’ Council on February 5, 1999. Through prudent planning by the International Affairs Committee and the Members’ Committee, the association started to sell Ms. Henderson’s publication, along with souvenirs such as a phone card collection, jade pendants, Chinese macramé, specially designed crystalware and key chains, etc.

As of June 4, we had raised a total of US$21,491.32 for the fund and sold 60 copies of Ms. Henderson’s publication (worth US$3,792). Despite the economic problems in Taiwan due to the Asian financial crisis, our members still showed strong support for the association. We would like to once again thank all our members for their enthusiastic and generous contributions to the ICN Virginia Henderson Fund.

Anti-Drug Campaign

On June 3, 1999, which is Opium Suppression Movement Day in Taiwan, sponsors of all relevant government agencies held an evening event at Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall with the theme of “Sunny and Healthy Island” to publicly pledge their commitment to combating narcotics.

Drug abuse has badly affected youth in Taiwan in recent years. The ROC government regularly urges the public to stay away from harmful substances by campaigns in various media, such as TV, radio and posters. TWNNA also sees promoting a healthy society is one of its responsibilities and actively takes part in anti-drug campaigns. On the day of the event each of the participants signed an anti-drug pledge. TWNNA President Dr. Yueh-Chih Chen and Secretary-General Ms. Shwu Rong-Chang were, of course, no exception.

The Taiwan Nurses Association will continue to play an important role in promoting a healthy lifestyle for the public, ensuring good quality of nursing for clients and developing its positive influence in society.

Emergency Medical Aid to Macedonia from Taiwan

The armed conflict in the Balkans region caused tens of thousands of Kosovar refugees to flee into Macedonia. The Medical Station, a non-governmental organization in Taiwan, cooperated with government agencies to immediately organize a medical team in the hope of helping to meet the emergency health needs of the refugees and other civilian population in Stenkovce. On April 12, a group of eleven volunteer nurses and doctors departed for Macedonia and extended their professional support until April 26.

Ms. Shelagh Murphy, a Member of the ICN Board of Directors (front row, middle) was invited to make a presentation on the ICN’s purpose in establishing the Virginia Henderson Fellowship.
TWNNA Group of 99 Nurses Attends ICN Centennial Conference

The year 1999 is very special for the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and its members around the world. From June 25 through July 1, 1999, at least 4,500 nurses gathered in London, the city where the ICN was founded, to celebrate the organization’s 100th birthday. Ninety-nine nurses from Taiwan were among those who headed for London to join in this great occasion.

During the Conference, 1,371 papers were presented, including 69 from Taiwan. The number of presentations from Taiwan ranked sixth among all participating countries.

At the Conference opening ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall on June 27, the TWNNA delegates dressed in Chinese traditional costume, the “chifao.” They were all delighted by the dramatic and well-designed program provided by the host, the Royal College of Nursing.

Although the schedule in London was very tight, President Dr. Yuel-Chih Chen led a group of nine Board Members to visit the Taipei Representative Office in the UK. Board Members and government officials exchanged views on the nursing profession and international affairs.

During the Conference, the TWNNA rented a booth to demonstrate the status of nursing development and public health in Taiwan. We thank the many delegates who visited our booth.

In May, the Taiwan Nurses Association was informed by the ICN that it had been chosen to host the ICN’s Council of National Representatives and 23rd Quadrennial Congress in 2005. The decision was formally announced at the CNR meeting in London in June. We would like to welcome nursing colleagues and their relatives from around the world to visit Taiwan at any time, but especially in 2005.
The History of Our Name Change to Taiwan Nurses Association

Until 1949, the official name of the China was “The Republic of China,” (ROC). The Republic of China was founded by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1911 after the overthrow of the Ching Dynasty.

In 1949, when the Communists gained power throughout Mainland China, the ROC government relocated to Taiwan, and continued to use the name “Republic of China.” Just as the ROC’s origins go back to the early years of this century, the history of the development of nursing organization in the Republic of China also has to be traced back to the 1910s.

In 1914 the first National Nurses’ Council was held in Shanghai and resolved to set up a national nursing organization entitled “The Nurses’ Association of China”. Considering the importance and necessity of sharing and exchanging nursing knowledge and experience with international nursing organizations, in 1922 the association applied to become one of ICN’s national nurses’ associations (NNAs). However, its membership in the ICN became inactive when the ROC government moved to Taiwan in 1949. Membership was reinstated at a CNR meeting held in Melbourne, Australia in 1961 under the country name of Taiwan, which has been used since then. However, the association name used was “The Nurses’ Association of the Republic of China.”

To support the ICN’s policy of inclusiveness and avoid any further confusion about the name, from 1989 onwards the ICN wrote letters to NAROC suggesting it should change its name. But for years the issue remained unresolved.

However, since then the political environment has changed radically both in Taiwan and worldwide. On December 10, 1998 the Board Members passed a resolution to adopt the new name of “Taiwan Nurses Association.” This resolution was submitted to the Members’ Representatives’ Council for approval on February 5, 1999, but was rejected in an open vote.

Realizing the serious consequences of leaving the name unchanged, some Board Members urged that a new Representatives’ Council Meeting should be called to re-discuss the issue. With strong support for our active participation in international organizations both from our government and from friends worldwide, and with a clear reassurance that our association would be treated fairly and equally from ICN’s CEO, Ms. Judith Oulton, an Extraordinary Meeting of the Members’ Representatives’ Council was called on March 30, 1999.

Following the clear explanation by President Dr. Yueh-Chih Chen and full support expressed by Chairperson of the Controllers Ms. Jeanie Tseng, the Members’ Representatives voted their support for changing the association’s name to “Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNNA)” by secret vote. Of 475 representatives attending, 437 voted in favor of the name change. Thus our association was renamed “Taiwan Nurses Association,” with effect from March 30, 1999.