It is a privilege for me to have been elected President of the Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNNA) for 2000-2003. Taking office on January 29, 2000, I started thinking about the association's prospects and its national and international roles in this new millennium. I have no doubt that the association's business will forge ahead stably with the strong support of all our members, Board Members, Committee Members and the association staff.

The nursing profession worldwide has made remarkable progress in recent years. However, from its current status in Taiwan, I also foresee several problems, such as a surplus of nursing manpower, the dispersal of nursing resources, and inadequacies in our partnership with other disciplines. Therefore finding ways to help the association to keep growing stronger, and create good opportunities for it, yet avoid weaknesses and avert threats in this competitive world, become all the more imperative. I am delighted to have this opportunity to contribute my efforts to our association and would like to thank the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and our nursing counterparts around the world for the support and friendship they have given to our association. As a part of the international community, we will do our best to help strengthen relationships with other nursing organizations.

Currently, we are pursuing a project to constructing an Internet system for the association that we think will help more nurses to become familiar with Internet use and share their professional knowledge, experience and skills with nursing colleagues around the world. We are glad that we have received very positive feedback from our members in the short two months since the project was launched.

During my tenure, the association will make it the first priority to well organize the ICN's Council of National Representatives and 23rd Quadrennial Congress for 2005. Our Congress Preparatory Committee has already been established. We hope to attract as many nurses as possible to participate in this great event. On behalf of the Taiwan Nurses Association, I cordially invite and welcome you and your relatives to visit Taiwan and attend the ICN's 23rd Quadrennial Congress in 2005.

Shou-Hui Lin, RPN, DNSc.

Once again, I would like to express our appreciation to the international community, and especially the Japanese Nursing Association (JNA), for their substantial support to our 9-21 earthquake victims. The JNA donated ¥5,000,000 in December 1999 and ¥4,900,000 this June. The funds will be used to help victims and to establish nursing network in Taiwan.

The association set up a Taskforce for the Nursing Network in June. The association is also conducting seven Workshops on Mental Health Promotion after the Disastrous Earthquake in quake disaster areas around Taiwan, and has assigns 11 nurses to attend the disaster nursing conference to be held in Aomori, Japan in August. These nurses will soon join the taskforce to help victims. Recovery from post-traumatic stress disorder may take time and there must be more we can do for our victims. The association is determined to assume its social duty and anticipates sharing its special experience with people in need in other regions.
ICNP Development in TWNNA

Dr. Shou-Hui Lin, the newly elected President of the Taiwan Nurses Association, has reorganized the association's International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP) Committee into an Academic Group and a Research and Development Group, to continue a project on a beta version of the ICNP. The Academic Group is responsible for translating the beta version, comparing the alpha and beta versions and disseminating information related to the ICNP, while the other group is responsible for field testing, computerization and conducting ICNP Workshops.

In order to promote more active use of the ICNP system in Taiwan, the association has also nominated persons to attend the ICN Translation Workshop and the ICNP Evaluation Committee.

We thank all the ICNP advocates in Taiwan who have made every effort to make our association one of the most important and influential nursing organizations in the Asian Pacific Region.

IND Celebration 2000

On May 12, the proudest day for nurses, the Taiwan Nurses Association invited over 1,000 nurses, student nurses and their relatives to Taipei Veterans General Hospital to jointly celebrate International Nurses’ Day (IND) under the auspices of the ROC Department of Health. The celebration started with a ritual of passing on candles, symbolizing that Florence Nightingale’s spirit of nursing service will continue forever. The high point of the celebration was an award ceremony for five selected outstanding nurses and for 385 senior nurses who have served nursing for at least 25 years. The award ceremony was followed by an entertaining evening program of folk songs. The celebration was broadcast on TV and the Internet so that those who were unable to attend the event could enjoy the program at their convenience.

Around 157 nursing institutions also conducted their own activities based on the IND theme for 2000 - Nurses, Always There for You!

Campaigning on AIDS

To focus people’s attention on the issue of HIV/AIDS and to help them protect themselves from the potential risk of infection, Taiwan Nurses Association and the Nurses’ AIDS Prevention Foundation co-hosted a public hearing themed “New Lifestyle of the Younger Generation by Internet”, in response to World AIDS Day on December 1, 1999. Leaders, social workers and reporters from health authorities, AIDS prevention and sex education organizations and the media were invited to participate. A special Lotus Lantern Prayer Meeting for people with HIV/AIDS was also held on the same day.

A kind of therapy called HIV Alternative Treatment was first introduced to medical staff at an AIDS nursing workshop conducted in June 2000 in Taipei. The therapy was found to help patients reduce virus levels and side effects, improve their immune response and medication compliance, and stabilize patients’ positive emotions when they were identified as HIV/AIDS patients.

In addition, the association has posted the information on browser filters offered by the ICN on the association’s web site to teach members how to effectively avoid access to pornographic sites.

In Taiwan, the number of HIV/AIDS cases has mounted to 2,773 as of March 2000 according to statistics from the Center for Disease Control, Department of Health. It is clear that everyone needs to work harder to help society combat this problem.
Facing the Challenge of the Internet Era

Taiwan Nurses Association has launched a project of offering free e-mail addresses and computer training program to our members islandwide from May 2000. This project will help the association to expedite the circulation of important information from the ICN and NNAs, will greatly facilitate communication between nurses, enhance the level of competition within nursing groups, and upgrade the quality of nursing care in Taiwan. The project also benefits some 600 hospitals and clinics in Taiwan and is designed to assist our hosting of the ICN 23rd Quadrennial Congress for 2005 in Taiwan. We believe that the system will be in reliable operation when the ICN's Quadrennial Congress takes place in 2005.

We much appreciate the full support from so many hospitals and thank all the volunteer students from the National Taipei College of Nursing, National Taiwan University and many other nursing schools. Without their help and efforts, the project would not be possible.

The Tenth Medical Care Dedication Prize

The Medical Care Dedication Prize has entered the tenth year of its history, having been hosted by the ROC Department of Health since 1991. The prize is set up to select outstanding doctors and nurses from all over Taiwan in order to honor their significant contributions to society and express special thanks to them, as well as recognizing good deeds to the people.

General Mei-Yu Chou, aged 93, graduated from Peking Union Medical College in 1930 and Columbia University in 1949, former TWNNA President (1949-1953 & 1971-1974) was nominated by the association and has been elected a prize recipient.

In 1938, when the Sino-Japanese War broke out, Ms. Chou decided to join the army to help wounded soldiers by providing her nursing knowledge and skills. In her capacity as a nurse, she unceasingly proposed various suggestions for improving health care to the government.

After moving to Taiwan in 1949, she continued to devote herself to nursing education. In view of the need to upgrade nursing, Ms. Chou urged the government to establish a school of nursing to train advanced nursing personnel. As a result, a school of nursing was established at National Defense Medical Center in 1950. In 1959 Ms. Chou helped establish the Nursing Department of Taipei Veterans General Hospital, which was then the largest hospital in South Asia.

Taiwan's only female general, Ms. Chou said she was very proud of being a nurse. General Chou has been called the Chinese Florence Nightingale, and we all believe she deserves this title. Due to poor health Ms. Chou was unable to attend the ceremony in person, and the award was accepted on her behalf by Ms. Fong-Yi Chao.
The Taiwan Nurses Association has been carrying out an experimental program on a Clinical Ladder System for Nurses in Hospitals under the patronage of the ROC Department of Health (DOH) since 1993. The main function for the association in this project is to review case reports for N3 and the nursing administration projects for N4. Currently there are 145 hospitals around the island participating in this project. As well as the association taking part in the project directly, the association's Nursing Administration Committee explored the issue broadly for several years and contributed its suggestions to the health authority prior to the implementation of the system. Under the system, hospitals are authorized to train and evaluate qualified nurses from N1 through N4. Surveys by Taichung Veterans General Hospital in 1998 and National Cheng-Kung University Hospital in 1997 found increased satisfaction among both patients and nurses and higher retention of nurses since the Clinical Ladder System was implemented.

In order to further expand nurses' roles and functions, the DOH set up an Advisory Nursing Committee in December 1997. Committee members gathered information and undertook research and analysis on building a specialist nurse system. The nursing profession in Taiwan has now arrived at a consensus to formally inaugurate a Nurse Specialist (NSp) system. Three nurse specialist roles—clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner and physician assistant—have been defined to meet the present needs of hospitals in Taiwan. The framework shown below is a conceptual structure of the nursing ladder and specialist systems (Figure 1).

In recent years there has been a shortage of physicians in Taiwan, especially in surgery. To relieve the situation, the ROC government favored recruiting nurses as clinical assistants to help physicians by writing prescriptions, issuing medical certificates, inserting sutures and performing simple surgery. The nursing profession, however, opposed this proposal on the grounds that it would lower the overall quality of medical services, and suggested that the health authority should train nurse specialists to cope with the present shortage. According to a resolution reached at a meeting of the Nursing Advisory Committee in 1999, the project will begin in following fields: medicine, surgery, OBS/GYN, pediatrics, emergency/intensive care, psychiatry and community health care. In the first phase, the Taiwan Nurses Association has been authorized by the DOH to train 100 nurse specialists in the departments of medicine and surgery at Taipei Veterans General Hospital and Chang Gung Hospital in August 2000.

Training for nurse specialists covers three areas: patient care, medical service, and nursing professional development (Figure 2). The nursing ladder and nurse specialist programs have emerged as key methods of upgrading clinical proficiency in nursing profession. It is hoped that efforts can be made in this area to create more specialized nurses in the future.

By Meei-Shiow Lu

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![Figure 1. Conceptual Structure of the Nursing Ladder and Nurse Specialist Systems](image1)

![Figure 2. The Roles and Functions of Nurse Specialist](image2)