Following the Second East Asian Nursing Forum held in Beijing, China in 1999, the biennial Forum will next take place in Taiwan on November 19, 2001. Representatives from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macao, Mongolia and the host country Taiwan will meet together and make presentations at the Forum on the theme of “Culture, Value and Challenge for 21st Century”. The Forum was originated by the Korean Nursing Association in 1997 with the aims of motivating thinking, enhancing learning, developing proactive strategies and international sharing for the development of the nursing profession.

Immediately after the close of the Nursing Forum, the Taiwan Nurses Association and the ICN will co-host the ICN Asia Workforce Forum 2001 on November 20-21, following the first meeting in Japan in 2000. The topics will focus on the following issues: Environmental Scan, Nursing Workforce Statistics, Supply and Demand of Nurses, Marketing Nurses and Nursing, and Occupational Health and Safety of Nurses. Information on these important issues impacting the nursing profession in Asian countries was collected from the invited Nurses Associations. We are pleased that the Nurses Associations of Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Macao, the Philippines, and Thailand, will assign their representatives to Taiwan to attend the Forum and share their unique viewpoints with all participants. Dr. Yu-Mei Chao, the ICN Third Vice-President and Dr. Mireille Kingma, the ICN Nurses Consultant will address the Forum on behalf of the International Council of Nurses.

Both the Third East Asian Nursing Forum and the ICN Asia Workforce Forum 2001 will be chaired by Dr. Shou-Hui Lin, President of the Taiwan Nurses Association. We anticipating sharing the outcomes with you in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Starting in June of 2001, Taiwan Nurses Association has published The Journal of Nursing Research in English as a way to expand our international perspective, and to exchange academic expertise with other countries. We would like to take this opportunity to solicit your original articles, as we all put forth our best efforts for the benefit of the nursing profession. Please help spread our invitation by posting this letter on the web sites and in the newsletters of your nursing associations. The results of your research can thus be shared with nursing professionals throughout the world. If you are interested in submitting your original articles, please contact our Editorial Board by e-mail: tnaj@twna.org.tw. For further information, please visit our web site: www.twna.org.tw.
IND 2001 Celebration

Every year the Taiwan Nurses Association and National Union of Nurses Associations, ROC jointly host an International Nurses Day (IND) Celebration, and invite nurses from around the island to join together and mark IND on May 12. As usual, about 1,000 nurses were invited to the Veterans General Hospital-Taipei and enjoyed the Celebration Night on May 10, 2001. During the event, five nurses recognized to have significantly influenced clinical nursing, public health, nursing administration and nursing education, improved nursing practice, advocated humanitarian values and made creative achievements in nursing were presented with Outstanding Nursing Professional Awards, and 465 nurses serving nursing for at least 25 years were presented with Senior Nurse Awards.

In order to increase nurses’ awareness of the IND theme for 2001: “Nurses Always There for You: United Against Violence”, the association disseminated IND-related information by mail to about 600 hospitals and nursing schools around the island. We were happy to learn that many hospitals and nursing schools have their own celebrations and activities related to the theme.

Working for Better Nursing in Future

In view of the rapid changes in medical care systems both in the international community and throughout Taiwan, many important issues relating to the public and nursing personnel have become highly interdependent. Dr. Shou-Hui Lin, President of Taiwan Nurses Association and Mrs. Jeanli Tseng Chin, President of National Union of Nurses Associations, ROC co-invited 16 leaders from nursing schools, hospitals and nursing associations to meet and discuss nursing issues. The aims were to integrate the resources of all associations, to enhance the development of nursing, to increase exchange and interaction among associations, to promote the quality of services to members, and to consider nurses’ rights, remuneration and welfare, etc. Experts also discussed the Nurse Specialist System and Nurses Act and were deeply interested in how to help the ICN Quadrennial Congress to be successfully held in Taiwan in 2005. The meeting was felt to be very important and needed and will be conducted regularly.

Presidential Official Meets with Nursing Leaders

The association was invited to the Presidential Palace on June 1. Mr. Shyi-Kun Yu, Secretary-General to the President, met with nursing leaders at the Presidential Palace before they departed for Copenhagen, Denmark for the ICN’s 22nd Quadrennial Congress. Mr. Yu was very interested in our publicity to be conducted in Denmark and stated that the government would give full support to the conferences to be held in Taiwan. We are proud that officials from the Department of Health also attended the meeting to show their support. During the meeting, Dr. Shou-Hui Lin, President of TWNA, reported on the efforts made by the association.
TWNA Members’ Representatives’ Council

The Taiwan Nurses Association called the 2nd Meeting of its 26th term Members’ Representatives’ Council on February 14, 2001 at Taipei Medical University Hospital. 565 nurse representatives from all over Taiwan were invited to attend. The highlights of the meeting were award presentations and the discussion of resolutions. We presented awards to 114 hospitals and nursing schools at which TWNA membership among nurses has surpassed 70%, and to 18 for 10% growth rate in membership. We also presented fellowships to nurse students and members who are receiving in-service training. Since 1999, B. Braun Taiwan Co., Ltd. has sponsored the association fellowships to encourage members to carry out nursing research, and fellowship awards were also presented at the Council meeting.

At the meeting, we passed a free membership resolution for those members who have paid their membership subscription for 30 consecutive years. Presently, the number of free memberships stands at 202 and is expected to increase. This will undoubtedly affect our financial position in the short term but the association intends to compensate the loss by recruiting more new members.

In her report, the President expressed appreciation to the members for their long-term support, and encouraged new nursing staff to join the association. The goals set for new fiscal year are: (1) to restructure the organization and recruit more members; (2) to start volunteer projects and push through the computerization of the association’s business; (3) to expand the Clinical Ladder System to more hospitals and help push forward the Nurse Specialist System; (4) to follow up the progress of nursing manpower policy suggested to the National Health Research Institutes (NHRI); (5) to draft a credentialing system for Continuing Education credits; (6) to actively take part in political activities and ensure nurses’ rights and welfare; (7) to promote Taiwan-China nursing exchange; and (8) to raise funds for the ICN Congress 2005 and actively participate in the international community.

After the Council two symposia were held, entitled “Sharing with Successful International Conferences” and “Putting the Clinical Nurse Specialist (NSp) System into Practice after the Amendment of the Nurses Act”, which attracted more than 450 members’ participation. Many participants from different backgrounds committed themselves to working as volunteers for the ICN’s 23rd Quadrennial Congress to be held in Taipei in 2005.

The second topic brought comprehensive discussion mainly because the NSp system is still very new and under construction in Taiwan. The ROC Department of Health has officially announced a draft Clinical Nurse Specialist System in the following fields: Adult, OBS/GYN, pediatrics, psychiatry and community health care, and has authorized the accredited sub-specialties of nursing associations to screen NSp qualification for those who have completed training program including 144-160 hours’ training courses and 6 months’ practicum. According to the draft, NSp certificates must be renewed every six years.
The Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNA) is honored to be hosting the International Council of Nurses’ (ICN) next Quadrennial Congress in Taipei in 2005. In order to well prepare the Congress and invite nursing colleagues from around the world, the association assigned a large group of observers to look at the process of the congress and put on various promotional activities at the 22nd Quadrennial Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark in June, which was greatly recognized by the participants.

The observers were divided into eight groups—Finance, Secretariat, Reception, General Affairs, Program, Student Assembly, CNR and Risk Management—to observe and carry out a variety of promotional activities such as a DVD program, presentations by TWNA President Shou-Hui Lin and Dr. Fu-Yuan Huang, a deputy minister in Taiwan’s Department of Health, the exhibition at our booth and entertainment at our dinner party. These activities were said to be quite interesting and attractive.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to the International Council of Nurses and the Danish Nurses’ Organization for their kind assistance during our preparation for the promotional programs and sharing their valuable experience of conference organizing with us.

The same gratitude is due to the Royal College of Nursing, UK, which also set aside time to share its experience of its Centennial Conference in 1999 with us when we were in Copenhagen. We have indeed learned a lot. So many other friends also showed their friendship and exchanged their unique and farsighted opinions with us. Their valuable suggestions will be carefully considered in planning the Quadrennial Congress 2005.

With our best efforts, not only were the promotional programs considered a success but also our Board Member Dr. Yu-Mei Chao has been elected ICN Third Vice-President for the quadrennial term of 2001-2005. We are so proud that Dr. Chao will be able to contribute another four years to the ICN Board and the global nursing with this great position and we thank you all for your support.

The association has started to plan the Quadrennial Congress 2005 step by step and believes that with your enthusiastic participation, we will have another successful congress ahead of us.