ICN/Congrex Representatives Visit Taiwan

As you may know, the ICN’s 23rd Quadrennial Congress is scheduled to take place on May 20-27, 2005 in Taipei. For this purpose, the ICN assigned its Manager of Administration Services Ms. Myriam Gomez and the Congrex PCO Organizer Ms. Carola Kruijmer to visit Taiwan on July 6-11, 2002. Congrex Holland has been appointed as the ICN’s Professional Convention Organizer (PCO) for the ICN Quadrennial Congress 2005.

Ms. Gomez and Ms. Kruijmer interviewed local PCOs for future possible cooperation, visited proposed venues for CNR meetings, the opening and closing ceremonies, workshops, keynote address, Student Assembly, and exhibition, etc. They also visited hotels ranking from two to five stars around Taipei and took the opportunity to take the metro system and easy-way buses to evaluate the congress transportation. To show the government’s full support for international conferences to be held in Taiwan, visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Health, Taipei City Government, and the Tourism Bureau, Ministry of Transportation and Communications were also arranged. On July 11, Ms. Gomez and Ms. Kruijmer met with members of the Congress Organizing Committee of the Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNA). We discussed various issues regarding the planning of Congress 2005 in depth. We thank them for their patience and kind assistance in answering the questions we raised and clarifying the division of responsibilities among ICN, PCO and the host country. The TWNA promises to make the Congress 2005 in Taipei a valuable and rewarding event and sincerely welcomes you and your relatives to visit Taiwan at any time, but especially in 2005.

Happy New Year!
AIDS Campaign 2002

Eliminating and fighting the stigma of AIDS have long been a goal for Taiwan’s government and civic organizations, which responded to the theme of World AIDS Day for 2002, “Stigma and Discrimination: Live and Let Live”.

As last year, Taiwan’s government coined its own campaign slogan for the World AIDS Day 2002. It was “有情、有福、有愛、有希望” (you liang, you fu, you ai, you xiwang — with goodness, with happiness, with love and with hope). The government invited taxi drivers, celebrities, industrial employees, hospitals, and nursing and medical organizations to jointly participate in many prevention activities. Stigma and discrimination are widespread in Taiwan. This has fueled the HIV/AIDS epidemic and is regarded as a major barrier to preventative work.

In December the association joined an AIDS Prevention Fair to showcase the efforts the association has made for AIDS/HIV patients. Jointly with the Nurses AIDS Prevention Foundation, the association also planned two Workshops on AIDS Nursing in December 2002 and an AIDS Nursing Care Workshop for Instructors in Military Nursing in January 2003.

ICN documents on AIDS were also delivered to the Center for Disease Control, Department of Health to help shape future policy. As of the end of November 2002, the number of confirmed HIV/AIDS was 4286, of whom 833 have died. Compared to 3856 cases in 2001, the statistics show, under a careful monitoring system, a slight increase of 11%.

Attending the 3rd ICN Credentialing Forum

The 3rd ICN Credentialing Forum was held at Ottawa, Canada on November 20-22, 2002. We were honored to represent Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNA) at this important forum. Other participants were representatives from Australia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

The following issues in credentialing were discussed:
* Professional control of standards and making a case for it
* Continuing competence
* Impact of credentialing on patient care
* ICN framework
* Role of nursing associations in the credentialing process
* Quality of credentialing systems
* What should we be credentialing?
* International norms for credentialing
* Advanced nursing practice
* Making credentialing user-friendly

Future issues were identified, including: (a) Linking credentialing to healthcare quality; (b) Meeting the needs of the various stakeholders on credentialing; (c) International credentialing. A consensus was also reached that action is needed as nursing credentialing is already an international trend. Research priorities in credentialing included impact of education, clinical career structures and levels of practice, continuing clinical competence, patient outcomes, credentialing mechanisms, etc.

The 4th ICN Credentialing Forum is to be held at Dublin, Ireland in November 2003.

Training Program for Three Nurses from Solomon Islands Nurses Association

To promote cooperation and exchange with international nursing organizations, the Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNA) recently put on a training program for three nurses from the Solomon Islands Nurses Association, funded by the Department of Health. The three registered nurses, Ms. Eunice Kiko, Ms. Ruth Soso and Ms. Corina Lae, received the training program at Taipei Veterans General Hospital from September 1 to November 30, 2002. The training was mainly focused on the intensive care unit, and included lectures, demonstrations and bedside teaching and practice, led by a well organized team of workers. In addition to intensive care nursing, they visited many different wards and departments. They sat and passed an evaluation test after completing their training. During their short three-month stay, they also experienced many different kinds of cultural activities.

We hope that through this well planned training program, Ms. Kiko, Ms. Soso and Ms. Lae will become good exemplars and share the experience and knowledge they have gained in Taiwan with their nursing colleagues in the Solomon Islands, and that their training will ultimately benefit critically ill patients in the Solomon Islands.
Current Status of the Nurse Specialist System

The Nurse Specialist system was explored for many years and finally adopted in November 2000 in Taiwan. The title Nurse Specialist (NSp) has been a legal professional title, included in the Nurses Act, since that time. To expand nurses’ roles is becoming a worldwide trend and the same is true in Taiwan. However, before finalizing the role of the nurse specialist, there are still many problems to be solved, such as reaching consensus with physicians, defining the scope of practice and the criteria, etc. for nurse specialists. Recently, the Department of Health has authorized the National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) to undertake research to shape the definition, training program, practice scope and model and to decide which institutions should provide the training. The NHRI called a forum inviting medical and nursing leaders to discuss the above issues in December, chaired by Dr. Yu-Mei Chao, Vice-Chairman of NHRI, who is also a TWNA Board Member. The NSp system is expected to formally get under way in the next two years.

ICNP Development in Taiwan

With great help from the ICN, the Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNA) has completed a Chinese version of the International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP) Beta 2, and developed a Chinese ICNP browser in December 2002. The browser can surf any ICNP terminology in both English and Chinese and can be used to make a simple Nursing Electronic Record (NER). The ICNP browser was designed to create a complete sentence when making a nursing record. It is also allows other notes to be added if needed. The ICNP browser has been posted on the association’s web site, www.twna.org.tw/06-3.htm, for interested individuals or nursing institutions to validate in their clinical settings. We also welcome you to visit our web site and we would appreciate your valuable feedback to help us improve this tool.

Taiwan-China Academic Exchange in 2002

Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNA) carried out its fifth exchange with the Chinese Nursing Association during November 14-22, 2002. TWNA initiated its annual nursing research paper presentations in 1984. Since 1998 TWNA has invited nursing experts from China to present their nursing papers in Taiwan. On average, about 250 abstracts have been accepted and reviewed at each conference. Some years ago, obtaining entry to Taiwan from China and vice versa was difficult due to political reasons, but now the procedures have been simplified to meet the needs of exchange on both sides.

The one-and-a-half-day 19th Nursing Research Paper Presentation was scheduled for November 15-16, 2002 at National Yang-Ming University. The 22 invited Chinese nursing experts, from three major cities and 10 provinces — Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Liaoning, Sichuan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan, Hubei, Fujian, Shanxi, Jiangsu and Tibet — shared their valuable knowledge and experience with nursing colleagues here. Overall, the conference was considered a great success. We give a special thank-you to National Yang-Ming University for its full support with the pre-conference arrangements, the site and A/V equipment. After the presentation, the 22 nurses took the opportunity to visit nursing schools, hospitals and cultural spots from northern to southern Taiwan.

Dr. Yu-Mei Chao (second from left), Dean of the College of Nursing, National Yang-Ming University accompanies 22 nursing leaders from China to visit the demonstration room for nursing students.
To reveal in depth the most important contemporary nursing values from the perspective of nurse clinicians and educators, a qualitative triangulated research design was used, including semi-structured focus-group interviews with groups of participants and an open-ended questionnaire for each individual participant.

Two hundred and sixty-six registered nurses (RN) participated in this study, including 242 nurse clinicians (91.0%) from three hospitals and 24 nurse educators (9.0%) from one nursing college. Seven nursing values and six themes of nursing values were explored. They are described as follows:

**Seven Nursing Values:**

1. Nursing values include caring for clients with humanity demonstrated by empathetic and respectful attitudes ($n = 200, 75.2\%$).
2. Nursing values include providing professional, competent and holistic care to help solve the client’s health problems from the perspectives of illness prevention and health promotion, to ensure patients’ sense of safety and comfort ($n = 189, 71.1\%$).
3. Nursing values include fostering nurses’ self-growth, particularly in the areas of critical thinking capability, independence in care provision, and realization of the meaning of life ($n = 133, 50.0\%$).
4. Nursing values include constructing examples of give-and-take through care experience ($n = 30, 11.2\%$).
5. Nursing values include providing financial rewards for nurses ($n = 5, 1.9\%$).
6. Nursing values include raising the public’s awareness of health dimensions ($n = 1, 0.4\%$).
7. Nursing values include serving as role models for student nurses ($n = 1, 0.4\%$).

**Six Themes of Nursing Values:**

1. Nursing values are concerned with the individual’s as well as the public’s health and well-being.
2. Nursing values are appraised from the perspective of multiple roles and benefits, rather than single ones.
3. Nursing values are constructed through the learning of nursing-science epistemological systems, aesthetics, and independent retrospective insight as well as the knowledge system underpinned in the empirical world.
4. Nursing values pursue the well-being of humanity encompassing the merits of truth, goodness, and beauty.
5. Nursing values are visible and acknowledged by demonstration of nursing professional competency and humanistic attitudes.
6. Finally, nursing values would be better fulfilled if they co-existed with nurses’ personal self-fulfillment.

Based on the nursing values revealed in this study, a tentative statement was further developed to reflect the nursing values described from the perspective of contemporary Taiwanese nurses. The nursing profession has proved itself to be an irreplaceable and valuable health profession since it provides significant contributions to professional nurses, their clients and students. It fosters nurse professionals to grow to be knowledgeable, skillful, and thoughtful with humanistic attitudes in providing holistic care unique to the health needs of their clients as both individuals and groups, in order to prevent illness in their clients as well as promoting their health status for optimal well-being. It offers role models for student nurses and reasonable financial incomes for nurse professionals as tangible support for their competency and assurance of their socio-economic status.

The study produced some valuable findings:

1. The most important nursing values for Taiwanese nurse clinicians and educators were explored in depth for the first time in this study.
2. A tentative statement describing nursing values was further developed to reflect the perspectives of critical care nurses in contemporary Taiwan.
3. With knowledge of nursing values and the background context, health professionals can be more sensitive and empowered to better understand nurses’ perspectives of the significance of their care experience within their professional and cultural frameworks. Meanwhile, since Chinese and Taiwanese share many traditional cultural roots, the findings revealed in this project might be of value to both Eastern and Western health professionals who work with Chinese nurses in different countries.