To nurture and to build, for mankind and nursing

Dear members and friends,

I have the pleasure to take up the chairperson of the Hong Kong Society for Nursing Education after her celebration of the 20th anniversary in 2006. The Society has marked the history in Hong Kong by contributing to the advancement of nursing and nursing education in the last two decades. I must take this opportunity to thank the past chairpersons for building a strong foundation for the Society. They are Jessie Childe, James O’Mullan, Anthony Lam, Alice Tso, Shirley Wong, Bing-shu Cheng and Sally Chan.

The mission of the Society is to achieve excellence in nursing service through the enhancement of quality nursing education. In the meeting with the new executive committee for this term, we have endorsed the direction of the Society to continue to nurture and to build, for mankind and nursing. What does this mean? Let us re-visit a story that recently happened in Hong Kong. In a public examination held in May, there was a question set in an English paper that included a web address to acknowledge the source of the information. There were rumours that some students requested to go to the toilet during the examination but actually went to search on the web for answers. Interestingly, the discussion in the community seemed to be focused on the ‘fault’ of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority in providing the web address, and not the cheating behaviors of the students. The accusation was on the provision of temptation, and not the integrity of the students who were so easily tempted. From this episode, we have to ask, did education fail us, or did we fail education? Education is more than teaching students to react and respond. In the cited case, the response (cheating behavior) was seen as an acceptable consequence of a stimulus (provision of web address). This stimulus-response behavior chain is for training, not for education. Education helps a person to be a better person, who will possess, treasure and safeguard good human values. However much the world changes. There are human phenomena, such as birth, death, health, illness, suffering, and happiness that will remain unchanged. Human beings are sustained by good values such as integrity, mindfulness, love and concern. The Society will endeavour to maintain and promote good human values through continued provision of quality courses and participation in acts that advance nursing. In the forthcoming issues of the newsletter,
we will try to capture encouraging stories, to share with you how some of our colleagues uphold quality professional values in an environment that is probably not the most favourable. In this issue, we’ll report to you the Society’s efforts in making nursing more visible in the community through the International Nurses’ Day and our efforts in advancing nursing by supporting and assisting the establishment of an Academy in Nursing in Hong Kong.

As a chairperson, I was invited to participate in the 7th national meeting held by the China Association for Science and Technology from 23-26 May 2006 in Beijing. The meeting is held every 5 years and there were more than 2,000 delegates from all over China in attendance. It is the first time that a nurse delegate from Hong Kong was invited to participate, amongst the other four nurse delegates from Beijing, Shanghai and Macau. The Society was well represented, and had good exchange with our China counterparts.

I wish you all happiness and good health to help us build and nurture ourselves and others each and every day!

Hong Kong Academy of Nursing

Since 2001, the Society has been working actively with the nurse leaders from the Hospital Authority, Department of Health and other nurses’ groups in Hong Kong to establish a regulatory system for advanced and specialized nursing practice. This joint force has proposed the formation of a ‘Hong Kong Academy of Nursing (HKAN)’, a statutory body similar to the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. The Academy’s main purpose is to ensure that all nurse specialist groups function under its umbrella by establishing professional standards and enhancing the professional development of advanced and specialized nursing practice.

In a press interview on May 9th, 2006, Prof. Sally Chan, the Vice-chairperson of the Society reiterated that it is important to establish a system for the accreditation of nurse specialist education and the registration of advanced nursing practitioners. This regulation will help to safeguard the quality of specialist nursing offered to the public. The Society will continue to play an active role in working with nurse leaders and nursing groups in Hong Kong for the establishment of the HKAN.
International Nurses Day

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every May 12th, in memory of Florence Nightingale’s birth. Along with other nursing groups, the Society actively participated in the Working Group to plan the celebration of the International Nurses Day 2006. Two main events were organized this year which included a ‘Walk for Unity’ at the Peak on May 7th and a Celebration Dinner on May 12th. Both events were well attended by nurses throughout Hong Kong.

The International Council of Nurses had set the theme for this year’s International Nurses Day as “Safe staffing saves lives.” With the transition of nursing education to tertiary institutes, the Society believes that there must also be a corresponding manpower plan to ensure an adequate supply of nurses in Hong Kong. Despite the continuous efforts of the nursing community in proposing strategies for strengthening the nursing workforce, presently, Hong Kong is experiencing a severe shortage of nurses in both the private and community sectors. This is primarily a consequence of the lack of long term planning of the nursing workforce, especially after the transition of nursing education to the tertiary education sector. In response to the current shortage, there has been a proliferation of new nursing education programmes at various levels (diploma, associate degree and degree). There is also the reintroduction of enrolled nurses training. The Society is deeply concerned that the many different levels of nursing education will lead to division in the profession and confusion among the public. The Society supports the practice of a one-level nurse (Registered Nurses). A degree programme leading to the award of ‘Bachelor of Nursing’ is required to prepare competent registered nurses. We will continue to work with the nursing community to explore the way forward for nursing development in Hong Kong.

Our Society participated in Celebration of International Nurses’ Day 2006

Celebration Dinner of International Nurses’ Day
The 20th Anniversary Symposium

The 20th Anniversary Symposium and the Anniversary Dinner were held on March 25, 2006 at YMCA of Hong Kong, 4th Floor North Tower, Salisbury Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Approximately 250 delegates from China, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong joined the Symposium. Prof. Sally Chan, Chairperson of the Society from 2004 to 2006, started off the symposium with a warm welcoming speech. The opening address was then given by Dr. Susie Lum, Senior Executive Manager (Nursing) Hospital Authority. We were also pleased to have one of our advisors, Prof. David Thompson, Director and Professor of Clinical Nursing, Nethersole School of Nursing, Chinese University of Hong Kong to give the keynote speech titled “Making a Difference: Nurses’ Role in Advanced Practice.” Prof. Thompson’s speech focused on the need to clarify what we mean by advanced practice nursing and what the competencies are for nurses practicing at the advanced level. Furthermore, he also highlighted that more research is needed to measure advanced practice nurses’ contributions to patient outcomes so that we can more accurately document the benefits to the client and to the system of having care provided by advanced practice nurses.

The programme of the symposium included three plenary sessions. Plenary session I was titled “Partnership among Education, Clinical and Research to Advanced Nursing Practice” was given by Prof. Frances Wong, School of Nursing, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Prof. Yueh-chih Chen, School and Graduate Institute of Nursing, National Taiwan University and Dr. Yan Hu, Associate Professor and Vice Dean, School of Nursing, Fudan University, Shanghai. Prof. Wong highlighted the need for deep collaboration among nursing education, research, and clinical practice, something that is not often seen in the current health-care and academic environment. She argued that advancement of the nursing profession will only occur when all three aspects of nursing are truly working in partnership. Prof. Chen provided an overview of the emergence of the Advanced Practice Nurse role in Taiwan over the past decade. During the development of Advanced Practice Nurses, there has been the commonly seen confusion over titles, inconsistencies in the definition of the role and the scope of practice, opposition by other health professionals, and nurses’ own lack of confidence in their new role. However, a milestone will be reached in 2006 with the first group of nationally accredited Nurse Practitioners in Taiwan. Dr. Hu discussed the evolution of nursing education in China in moving from an occupational setting to the university setting. Although the environment of nursing education in China is developing rapidly, there are still many challenges in areas such as the nursing workforce, the nursing care delivery system, and evidence-based practice.

The second plenary session was titled “Health Promotion in the Community” and was given by Ms. Georgina Ho, Principal Nursing Officer, Department of Health, Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Ms. Ho highlighted the enormous challenges facing public health in the twenty-first century, including demographic changes, economic forces, lifestyle habits, environmental threats, and the resurgence of infectious diseases. Because of these many challenges, health is no longer a business just for health professionals. Building partnerships with the community and other key stakeholders is essential if the health impact of these challenges is to be adequately addressed.

The third plenary session focused on Advanced Nursing Practice of diabetic care, cardiac care and wound care. The session on “Advanced Nursing Practice in Diabetic Care” focused on an empowerment approach to diabetes education and was presented by Ms. Rebecca Wong, Nurse Specialist from Prince of Wales Hospital, Prof. Anne Shiu, Associate Professor from Chinese University of Hong Kong and Ms. Eva Kan, Nurse Specialist from Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital. The paradigm shift from in-patient care towards out-patient and community-oriented care for heart failure patients was addressed by Ms. Camille Ho, Nursing Officer from Grantham Hospital. A program on cardiac rehabilitation nursing was outlined by Ms. Siu-wai Tang, Nurse Specialist of Rehabilitation from Tung Wah East Hospital. A pilot program for modified primary nursing targeting patients with cardiac problems was presented by Ms. Man-ping Sun, Nurse Specialist from Grantham Hospital. Lastly, three nurse specialists shared their valuable experiences and expertise in wound care. Ms. Suzanne Mak from Prince of Wales Hospital updated participants’ knowledge on the care of cancer patients with post-radiation skin ulcer and malignant wound and Mr. Tak-ki Chung from Shatin Hospital presented risk assessment tools used for monitoring pressure sores. Finally, Ms. Ada Lau Tak-yin from the United Christian Hospital highlighted the leadership role of the nurse specialist in advancing wound and skin care practice in an acute geriatric setting.
The 20th Anniversary Symposium

Ribbon Cutting

Welcoming speech given by Prof. Sally Chan
(Chairman 2004-2006)

Plenary Sessions

From left: Mr. Cheng Bing Shu (moderator), Dr. Yan Hu, Fudan University, Shanghai, Prof. Yueh-chih Chen, National Taiwan University and Prof. Frances Wong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

From left: Ms. Shirley Wong (moderator) Ms. Eva Kan, Prof. Ann Shu and Ms. Rebecca Wong

From left: Ms. Winnie So (moderator), Ms. Ada Lau, Mr. Tak-ki Chung and Ms. Suzanne Mak

Dr. Susie Lum, Senior Executive Manager (Nursing) Hospital Authority presented a souvenir to one of our plenary session speaker, Ms. Georgina Ho, Principal Nursing Officer, Department of Health, HKSAR

From left: Ms. Winnie So (moderator), Ms. Ada Lau, Mr. Tak-ki Chung and Ms. Suzanne Mak

Prof. Sek-ying Chair (moderator), Ms. Man-ping Sun, Ms. Siu-wai Tang, Ms. Camille Ho participated in a plenary session of cardiac care

Keynote speaker:
Prof. David Thompson
The 20th Anniversary Dinner

A memorable 20th anniversary dinner was held at YMCA of Hong Kong on the evening of the Symposium.

The dinner was accompanied by the lovely piano playing of Ms. Grace Tse. A welcoming speech was given by Prof. Sally Chan, followed by the opening address by Society Patron, Dr. Leong Chi Hung. Over 150 members and guests attended the dinner. The anniversary dinner was officially started with a cake cutting ceremony by our Patron, Dr. Leong, Dr. Susie Lum, Prof. Pan Yong Hua, Dr. Vivien Tam Wong, all advisors and past chairpersons, including Mr. James O’Mullan, Ms. Alice Tso and Mr. Cheng Bing Shu, and all the newly elected Executive Committee members. A video was presented that highlighted the historical development of the Society. Members and guests had an opportunity to share their views and wisdom with new and old friends and to enjoy the highlights of the evening including a dance performance and a lucky draw.
Snapshot
Invitation for submission of articles

Dear members,

You are cordially invited to contribute your opinions on how to be make a difference in achieving the mission and vision proposed by our Chairperson, Prof. Frances Wong and was agreed by the Executive Committee members. As an individual member or as a nurse, what do you believe can be done in order to contribute to “maintaining and promoting good human values” such as “integrity, mindfulness, love and concern?” By sharing your valuable experiences and observations, the next generation of nurses will be guided by the models and methods which demonstrate high quality of care. The purpose of our newsletter is to serve as a platform for sharing nursing excellence. In order to make our Newsletter more diverse and reflective of our profession’s attributes, your contribution is necessary. I am looking forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Thank you very much.

Kind regards,

Wah
Co-ordinator
Publication sub-committee
Hong Kong Society for Nursing Education

The Newsletter can be read on the web site: http://www.hksne.org.hk
Submissions to the Newsletter or suggestions on nursing topics can be sent to:
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Dr. Marie TARRANT (member, publication sub-committee) tarrantm@hku.hk

Course Attendance Regulations

The following are policies regarding attendance to all courses organized by the Hong Kong Society for Nursing Education. Participants of courses will be awarded an attendance certificate for observing these rules appropriately.

1. Attendance certificate will be granted to participants who have 100% attendance (for courses with 4 sessions or less) and 80% or above attendance (for courses with 5 sessions or more)

2. Late arrival of 30 minutes or more for a session does not account for attendance of that session; and

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Wishing you an enjoyable and fruitful learning experience with the course you attend.

Hong Kong Society for Nursing Education reserved the final right for making the decision regarding course attendance