In This Issue
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Susanna Lee, Convenor, Steering Committee

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The purposes of the meeting were firstly for fraternity and secondly for collecting views from paediatric nurses about the need of setting up a common nursing platform in Asia Pacific Region so as to enhance communication and knowledge exchange in paediatrics and child health. In the meeting, the nursing leaders from different countries shared with the group the paediatric nursing services and development and the related professional nursing bodies in their representing country / region. There was a consensus that Asia Pacific region was heavily populated with more than half of the world’s children population, a network for knowledge exchange and acting as a unified voice to address major common global health issues of children for the Asia Pacific paediatric nurses was certainly in need. In the meeting, we had the honorable presence of Dr. Chan Chok Wan, President of International Pediatric Association, Honorary President of Asia Pacific Pediatric Association. He shared his views and referred the nurse participants to the doctors’ perseverance in the formation of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPRA). The APPRA, originated from The Association of Paediatric Societies of the South-East Asian Region (APSSEAR) was formed in 1974 in achieving their visionary goals to promote child health. He envisioned that through the established APPRA in the near future, more inter-professional collaborations / initiatives could be possible to benefit our children and professional health workers within and beyond the Asia Pacific region.

With Dr. Chan’s immense support, the working group for setting up APPNA was officiated at the meeting with the nursing leaders enthusiastically volunteered to represent their own region and the Steering Committee was then formed. As the President of the Hong Kong Paediatric Nurses Association (HKPNA), I was elected as the Convenor and therefore HKPNA as the Secretariat of the Steering Committee.

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APPNA Newsletter 2012

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To: Miss Susanna Lee, Convenor of the APPNA Steering Committee
All Honorable Members of the APPNA Steering Committee
Members of the future APPNA

Dear Susanna, Steering Committee Members and Members of the APPNA,

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I take great pleasure to witness the outstanding achievements of your group from Shanghai (2009) through Hong Kong (2010), Singapore (2011) and Bangkok (2011) to this critical moment at the healthy development of your esteemed professional body in February 2012. You indeed have achieved a lot via your leadership, solidarity, power, capabilities, collaboration and administration. This is NOW a cyber-age in 2012 and yet your efficiency and efficacy are super-cyber and hyper-cyber. Please do accept my sincere congratulations for all the good work you have achieved and the entire mission you have attained!

Modern definition of Child health evolves over the past five decades from “a state of freedom from diseases” to “a state of physical, mental, and social well being”, further to the new “enhancement of attainment of one’s potential in life”. This illustrates the concept of health consequent to the good control of infectious and genetic diseases, effective medical care of pregnancy and child delivery, excellent paediatric care in decreasing birth asphyxia and complication of prematurity as well as improving environmental health which we have just started to promote. We are now at a better stage of child survival and can afford to focus on the preventive arena of child health and to the quality of life. The child here includes the age from 0-18 years (representing newborn, childhood and adolescent groups) and health covers the medical, social and education sectors. It thus follows that the professional team taking care of child health should be transdisciplinary and intersectoral comprising of doctors, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, teachers, social workers, parents and others. The Paediatric Nurses thus should shoulder up the coordination and collaboration roles to smooth up this partnership and to fill up gaps to obsolete obviations and duplications so as to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of the team work. Your duty together today definitely surpasses the duty boundary of your pioneer Florence Nightingale in that you are no longer the “Lady with the Lamp” taking care of the sick and wounded in the battle hospital at the Crimean War but you have successfully revolutionized your roles into the community performing preventive work for helping human beings to attain the highest horizon of health. Please do treasure this outstanding metamorphosis of your professionals and appreciate the lofty respect you have gained amongst your professional colleagues via your high achievements.

Please do treasure that dedication, enthusiasm, spirit, affinity and fraternity are all fundamental virtues for the outcome while your efficiency, leadership, strategy and solidarity are all vital factors for success. Do keep up this spirit. At this moment, I can visualize a powerful APPNA ready on the radiant way to advance knowledge and betterment of child health services within our Asia Pacific Region ready to be inaugurated in September 2012 at Kuching, Sararwark, Malaysia at the time of the 14th Asian Congress of Pediatrics. I am confident the close collaboration and cooperation of our future Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) and Asia Pacific Paediatric Nurses Association (APPNA) will bear fruitful results in our work in Child Health and Paediatrics so that our children can grow and develop in an optimum environment to fulfill our common goal of ‘Healthy Children for Healthy World’. Let us work together towards this common target. Thank you!

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Mission

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Objectives

1. To promote the highest attainable standards of child health through the establishment of a professional organization representing Paediatric nurses of all countries/special administrative regions in the Asia Pacific Region.
2. To enhance professional growth of Paediatric nurses associations in Asia Pacific Region by promoting training and development of Paediatric nurses through support of Asia Pacific Congress, regional forums and other activities.
3. To provide a platform to share information with other Paediatric nurses associations in Asia Pacific region on common issues such as standards of practice, innovative technology, quality indicators, staffing ratios in Paediatric settings.
4. To act as a unified voice dedicated to providing nursing care of quality professional standards for Paediatric nurses in Asia Pacific Region.
5. To collaborate and cooperate with national, regional and international bodies with similar objectives and interests in promoting the health and development of children.
6. To advocate for the universal rights of children.
7. To undertake programmatic actions which address major global child health issues.
8. To promote mutual collaborations between clinical and academic professionals in the field of Paediatric nursing.
9. To promote , facilitate and conduct research in all aspects of Paediatrics and disseminate knowledge in child health.
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Journey of the Establishment of APPNA

The 1st Steering Committee Meeting was held in Hong Kong in May 2010

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The 2nd Steering Committee Meeting was held in Singapore in April 2011

The meeting was held in the Meeting Room 210, Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre on 17 April 2011, the meeting was well attended by a total of 24 Paediatric nurses from different countries. Apart from our existing Steering Committee members, new nursing delegates from Japan, Macau, Malaysia, and Philippines also joined this meeting. They subsequently become our Steering Committee members. In the meeting, besides the deliberate discussion on the Constitution and By-Laws, membership drive was also the priority that Steering Committee members should work on. The preliminary design and layout of APPNA website, newsletter template and APPNA logo designs were displayed. Members decided to invite nurses from different counties/regions to join in a logo competition. The meeting ended in the spirit of collaboration, friendship and respect. Next Steering Committee meeting would be held in Thailand coinciding with the 9th International Congress of Tropical Pediatrics which would be held from 18-20 October 2011 at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

APPNA Logo Competition

Among the submitted logo designs in the contest, the one that scored the highest from the Selection Panel was announced as the winner at the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting.

Description of the logo:

1. Background representing Asia Pacific Region
2. Paediatric nurses and children holding hands stand for nurses taking care of the children through partnership, collaboration and respect.
3. Four people holding hands like a family reflects the importance of family-centred care in Paediatrics.
4. The Paediatric nurses and children standing in the forefront of the world represents that through the collaborative network of APPNA, knowledge sharing and exchange, children health can be promoted in the highest attainable standards, with high quality care and the most advanced nursing practice

The 3rd Steering Committee Meeting was held in Thailand in October 2011

The meeting was held on 16 October 2011 (Sunday) in the Meeting Room of Golden Tulip Sovereign Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. Professor Rashanee Seeda, President of PNC of Thailand, Professor Rashanee Seeda, President of Pediatric Nurses Association of Thailand and nursing friends of the Association gave the Steering Committee members and nursing delegates the most sincere welcome with the glorious meeting venue well arranged.

Despite of the flooding warning in Thailand, there were a total of 20 enthusiastic nursing delegates flew from their home countries purposely for joining the Steering Committee meeting. In the meeting, the newly drafted Memorandum and Article (M&A) of APPNA was tabled and discussed deliberately among members. The best logo design was selected by the highest scores obtained from the selection panel. The color of the logo was consented to be blue by members. The new APPNA website www.ap-pna.com was also demonstrated to members. Ms. Julie Tan, nurse representative from Malaysia is one of the members in the Organizing Committee of the 14th Asian Pacific Congress of Paediatrics and 14th Asian Pacific Congress of Pediatric nursing. She will assist in liaising with the Organizing Committee for the arrangement of APPNA inauguration in the Congress. The date of inauguration of APPNA would be tentatively on 10 September 2012. Julie invited Steering Committee members to be the speakers and chairpersons in the Congress. The meeting was fruitful and followed by a big feast which was sincerely pre-arranged by Professor Rashanee Seeda. The warmest hospitality from Professor Seeda and friends of Pediatric Nurses Association of Thailand was deeply appreciated by everyone of the attendants.

National Professional Paediatric Nursing Activities in Action

Hong Kong Paediatric Nurses Association (HKPNA) 10th Anniversary cum Paediatric Nursing Symposium – “Achieving Synergy of Paediatric Nursing Across the Region” held at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Hong Kong on 29 May 2010

The Symposium organized by HKPNA was held on 29 May 2010 in Hong Kong. It was the first time Steering Committee members met for knowledge sharing. APPNA Steering Committee members, Ms. Nancy Wong from Australia, Ms. Xianlan Zheng from Chongqing China, Professor Il Young Yoo from Korea and Ms. Nguk Lan Pang and Ms. Cindy Ong from Singapore were invited as guest speakers in the Symposium. Topics related to the latest development of Paediatric nursing practice and education in their respective regions were presented. All invited speakers and participants shared their views and actively responded in a fruitful and stimulating discussion with Dr. Chok Wan Chan, our honorary adviser. The Symposium was successfully held and well attended by nurses from Hong Kong and Mainland China. Apart from building our friendship, nurses’ knowledge was also broadened through the synergized work and knowledge exchange. After the Symposium, Hong Kong members together with Dr. Chan invited all Steering Committee members for a hearty seafood dinner. Food, singing and laughter were excellent prescriptions for team building.
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APPNA is an independent para-professional body representing the interests of Paediatric nurses across the Asia Pacific Region from China, Hong Kong, Australia, Japan, Macau, Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.
The 9th International Congress of Tropical Pediatrics (ICTP) was held in Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Bangkok in Thailand from 18-20 October 2011. ICTP is an event that pediatricians, nurses and health care professionals who are interested in tropical child health meet every 3 years for the welfare of children all over the tropical areas. The aim of the 9th ICTP is to promote, develop and advance education, research and care of diseases in the Tropics in all pediatric age groups and offer a platform for exchange of information between healthcare professionals in the field of Tropical Pediatrics. Professor Usa Thisyakorn, MD was the President of this Congress. On 18 Oct, the opening ceremony was solemnly officiated by Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, the ceremony caught most of the audience’s attention on the 1st day. The 3 days informative scientific programs extensively covered the global issues on different tropical diseases such as Malaria, Dengue fever and enteric diseases; also on vaccination, animal toxin and travel. AIDS was still a continual global challenge. The congress ended on 20 October. In the closing ceremony, it was announced that the next International Congress would be held in 2014.

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Paediatric Tracheostomy Workshop and Paediatric Airway Course held at KK Women’s & Children Hospital in Singapore on 19 & 21 August 2010

Topics in the workshop included peri-operative care, weaning and management of tracheostomy. There were also skill stations for tracheostomy care and home ventilation. Talks on SIDS, Infant and Children, Subglotic Stenosis, Vocal Cord Paralysis, Complications of Prolonged Intubation and Trauma of Larynx are well presented. Other topics from local experts included ENT procedures and neonatal airway rescue. Nurses from Hong Kong found the course very informative and what impressed them most was the “Tracheostomy Home Care & Discharge Planning.”

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Nurses from Hong Kong at the Paediatric Tracheostomy Workshop with the trainers

It is my honor being invited to the 2nd Annual Nursing Conference which took place in Beijing on 23-25 October 2010. The Conference was officially kicked off on 23 October after the opening address by Professor Xiuhua Li, President of Chinese Nursing Association, followed by a series of informative lectures given by prestigious local and global leaders. On 24 October, the International Pediatric Nursing Conference was officiated by the opening address of Ms. Xuahi Ma, Chief of Chinese Paediatric Nursing Association in Beijing. China. The 3 days conference ended on 25 October with presentations on evidenced based practice given by local renowned speakers and experts in the field of paediatric nursing. The stimulating presentations and panel discussions helped galvanized the attending nurses and inspired them the wish to make an impact at their workplaces.

The 14th Asian Pacific Congress of Pediatrics & 4th Asian Pacific Congress of Pediatric Nursing was held in Singapore from 14 to 17 April 2011

The Congress was held from 14 to 17 April 2011 at the Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre. Ms. Lindy Ong and Ms. Nguk Lan Pang, Steering Committee members, also the Assistant Directors in KK Women’s and Children Hospital (KKH) gave us the warm hospitality. They took us for a tour to their prestigious hospital, KKH before the congress. The congress was informative. It covered a wide range of topics including infectious diseases and vaccination; intensive care and resuscitation; hematology and oncology, neurology, respiratory and airway diseases. Renowned experts from different countries were being invited for presentation. Paediatric nursing session was held on 16 April, stimulating presentations including Patient Safety. Development of Critical Pathway etc. Paediatric nurses took the opportunities to share the outcome and successes of their projects. The conference was held with great success and the organizing committee received the highest compliment from the President of the Congress and participants.

The 14th ASEAN Paediatric Congress 2011 and 3rd Asian Paediatric Otolaryngology Meeting was held in Singapore from 14 to 17 April 2011

The Congress was held from 14 to 17 April 2011 at the Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre. Ms. Lindy Ong and Ms. Nguk Lan Pang, Steering Committee members, also the Assistant Directors in KK Women’s and Children Hospital (KKH) gave us the warm hospitality. They took us for a tour to their prestigious hospital, KKH before the congress. The congress was informative. It covered a wide range of topics including infectious diseases and vaccination; intensive care and resuscitation; hematology and oncology, neurology, respiratory and airway diseases. Renowned experts from different countries were being invited for presentation. Paediatric nursing session was held on 16 April, stimulating presentations including Patient Safety. Development of Critical Pathway etc. Paediatric nurses took the opportunities to share the outcome and successes of their projects. The conference was held with great success and the organizing committee received the highest compliment from the President of the Congress and participants.

Establishment of Asia Pacific Paediatric Nurses Association (APPNA) - Background

Susanna Lee, Convenor, Steering Committee

It is my greatest pleasure to be the editor of the first publication of this Newsletter of APPNA. Let me briefly walk you through from where we were in the formation of the Steering Committee. On 15 Oct 2009, a nurse interest group meeting was held at the congress venue of 13th Asian Pacific Congress of Pediatrics and 3rd Asian Pacific Congress of Pediatric Nursing in Shanghai, China. The meeting was well attended by over 50 paediatric nursing delegates from various countries or regions.

The purposes of the meeting were firstly for fraternity and secondly for collecting views from paediatric nurses about the need of setting up a common nursing platform in Asia Pacific Region so as to enhance communication and knowledge exchange in paediatrics and child health. In the meeting, the nursing leaders from different countries shared with the group the paediatric nursing services and development and the related professional nursing bodies in their representing country / region. There was a consensus that Asia Pacific region was heavily populated with more than half of the world’s children population, a network for knowledge exchange and acting as a unified voice to address major common global health issues of children for the Asia Pacific paediatric nurses was certainly in need. In the meeting, we had the honorable presence of Dr. Chan Chok Wan, President of International Pediatric Association, Honorary President of Asia Pacific Pediatric Association. He shared his views and referred the nurse participants to the doctors’ perseverance in the formation of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPNA). The APPA, originated from The Association of Paediatric Societies of the South-East Asian Region (APSSEAR) was formed in 1974 in achieving their visionary goals to promote child health. He envisioned that through the established APPNA in the near future, more inter-professional collaborations / initiatives could be possible to benefit our children and professional health workers within and beyond the Asia Pacific region.

With Dr. Chan’s immense support, the working group for setting up APPNA was officiated at the meeting with the nursing leaders enthusiastically volunteered to represent their own region and the Steering Committee was then formed. As the President of the Hong Kong Paediatric Nurses Association (HKPNA), I was elected as the Convenor and therefore HKPNA as the Secretariat of the Steering Committee.