



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

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## CHANGE OF DATES FOR CNF BIENNIAL



Susie Kong  
CNF President

The ICN have changed the dates for their 24<sup>th</sup> Congress to be held in Durban, South Africa, due to a clash with a sporting fixture. The new dates are now 27 June 2009 to 4 July 2009.

Consequently, the dates for the CNF Biennial, to be held in Botswana have also changed. The CNF Biennial is held just prior to the ICN Congress. The new dates for the CNF Biennial are: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009. There will be a CNF Board meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Please make this change in your diary.

## SOUTH PACIFIC NURSES FORUM

The 14<sup>th</sup> South Pacific Nurses Forum will be held 6-10 October 2008 in Suva Fiji at the Raffles Trade Winds Convention Centre. The Forum is being hosted by the Fiji Nursing Association. Contact the FNA for further information:  
Ph: + 679 3305855  
Email: [fna@connect.com.fj](mailto:fna@connect.com.fj)



## COMMONWEALTH HEALTH MINISTERS

Susie Kong and Jill Iliffe, on behalf of the CNF, attended the Commonwealth Health Ministers (CHMM) meeting in Geneva on Saturday 18 May. The theme for the 2008 CHMM was *eHealth*. Jill made a presentation to the Health Ministers on behalf of the Commonwealth health professional associations (nursing, medicine, dental and pharmacy). A copy of the presentation will be available on the new CNF website. The CNF is also represented on the Commonwealth Advisory Committee for Health. The theme for the 2009 CHMM is: *Climate change and health*.

## ICN MEETINGS

The CNF was also represented at the ICN meetings of national nursing associations held in Geneva 14-18 May prior to the CHMM and the World Health Assembly. It was great to see so many Commonwealth countries, who are also members of ICN, represented.



Fiji

Malaysia

One of the most important presentations was on task shifting by the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO response to the world wide shortage of health professionals, especially nurses and midwives, is to shift some of the current responsibilities of health professionals to other worker classifications. This is often workers who have a lower level of education and who are less expensive to educate and employ.

Strong concerns were expressed by delegates at the meeting about the lack of consultation with health professionals; the absence of a supporting framework for the workers; the potential for patients and the workers to be put at risk; and the erosion of the role of nurses and midwives. The ICN has published principles to support safe task shifting. These can be found at: [http://www.icn.ch/Statement\\_12\\_principles.pdf](http://www.icn.ch/Statement_12_principles.pdf).



South Africa and Kenya



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Vanuatu



New Zealand



Singapore



Australia

## WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The World Health Assembly (WHA) was also held in Geneva 19-24 May. Many nurses formed part of their official country delegation. It is important that the contribution nurses and midwives make to the health of their countries is acknowledged by health ministers including nurses in their delegations.



Singapore



Marion Guy (NZ)

## CNF FUTURE WORK

The CNF will be conducting a workshop at the SPNF in Fiji 6-10 October on safe care and safe practice. There are also four workshops on the same theme being held in the Caribbean 21-31 October in Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and St Lucia. Workshops on governance and leadership are being planned for Malaysia.

The Commonwealth Steering Committee for Nursing and Midwifery will be conducting workshops in India 16-17 February 2009 and the CNF is planning an associated activity to help raise funds for the Trained Nurses Association of India project to build a Central Institute of Nursing and Research including a care home for the elderly.

Additionally, the CNF has applied for funding to conduct some research on nurse migration based on a very successful research project conducted by the Nurses Association of Botswana.

The CNF is also preparing a funding submission to replicate a study conducted in Australia on nurses' access to and use of information technology and barriers to that access. The study will be replicated in a number of other Commonwealth countries giving nurses research based information to take to their governments to support better access to information technology including email and the internet.

Other work includes finalising the new CNF website which will be launched within the next few weeks and transferring CNF subscription histories to an electronic medium. Once these are completed they will be made available to individual countries.

It is certainly an exciting time for the CNF and I am looking forward to reporting to you on CNF activities at the Biennial in Botswana next year.



**Jill Iliffe**  
Executive Secretary