



COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

eNews Vol.3 Issue 3 March 2010

8th CNF EUROPEAN REGION CONFERENCE

The Cyprus Nurses and Midwives Association hosted a very successful 8th CNF European Region Conference: *Advancing health through nursing*, 12-13 March in Paphos, Cyprus. Over 200 nurses attended from countries both within and outside the CNF European Region. The CNF European Region is made up of Cyprus, Malta and the UK.



Ioannis Leontiou President CYNMA



Delegates from Australia



Ioannis Leontiou and Christos Andreou (Secretary and President)
Three Presidents: Ioannis Leontiou, Cyprus; Maura Buchanan, UK and Paul Pace, Malta



Young traditional dancers entertained the delegates at the closing ceremony.



Sophia Michaelidou, one of the founders of the CNF European Region Conferences, then President of CYNMA

WEST AFRICA 4 SAFETY WORKSHOPS

Ghana 26-27 April 2010

Sierra Leone 21-22 April 2010

The CNF in partnership with the Ghana Nurses Association and the Sierra Leone Nurses Association will be conducting two two-day workshops in the CNF West Africa Region as part of the 4 Safety series: a safe patient, a safe workplace, a safe profession and a safe nurse. Nurses from other West Africa countries are also invited to attend. A third West Africa workshop will be conducted in Cameroon in June.



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

15TH South Pacific Nurses Forum

8-11 November 2010 Auckland New Zealand

NURSES AT THE HELM

Steering health across the Pacific



CLOSING DATE: 26 March 2010

For more information contact: Aretha Wahanui (NZNO SPNF Planning Committee) spnf@nzno.org.nz.

The CNF e-News is sponsored by the



RCN Publishing Company

<http://www.rcnpublishing.co.uk/>



COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

eNews Vol.3 Issue 3 March 2010

NURSES CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Monday 8 March

The CNF joined the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood to celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day by wearing white to highlight the need for universal access to safe health care services for birthing women and their babies. Around the world, CNF members and nurses and midwives joined the celebration.



Royal College of Nursing UK march to London's Millennium Bridge



Susie Kong, CNF President joins the Malaysian Nurses Association



Former Board member Alumita Bulicokocoko celebrates in Fiji

COMMONWEALTH DAY 2010



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY
COMMONWEALTH DAY 8 MARCH 2010

Commonwealth Day was celebrated Monday 8 March with a flag raising ceremony to commemorate the admission of Rwanda as the 54th member of the Commonwealth.



The Rwandan flag joins 53 others at Marlborough House



Traditional dancers from Rwanda at the flag raising ceremony



COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

eNews Vol.3 Issue 3 March 2010



MEMORIES OF HAITI

27 February to 6 March

Ampusam Symonette, a senior nurse from the Bahamas, responded to a request from the Bahamas Ministry of Health for volunteers to go to Haiti to help provide health care following the devastating earthquake 12 January 2010. Ampusam, as part of a team of three doctors and four nurses from the Bahamas, joined other Caribbean colleagues and spent from 27 February to 6 March in Haiti. The volunteers were well prepared: briefings, immunisations, equipment and skills refreshers were provided before they left the Bahamas for Jamaica and then on to Haiti in a Caribbean Regional Security Force military plane and taken to their base in Port of Prince a short distance from the airport.



Accommodation was a United Nations health workers unisex tent with stretchers and sleeping bags with open air showers and toilets at the edge of the camp. Volunteers were advised not to move away from the camp without an escort. Their day started at 0500 hours with prayers and breakfast before hitting the rough and bumpy road to drive a couple of hours to a local community where they provided health care and distribute food packages. To ensure their safety, each team of one doctor, one nurse and one interpreter were driven to the local community by United Nations military personnel supported by the Jamaican Defence Forces.



The clinic tents were set up in the shade usually in the grounds of the local school or church with benches provided for the waiting people. The team worked until 1600 hours seeing as many people as possible, especially children and elderly people, before they had to head back to base before sunset and curfew. In that one week, the health teams saw 1,446 patients predominantly for the treatment of communicable and non-communicable disease.



Ampusam said that when she thinks back about her time in devastated Haiti she remembers the resilience of the Haitian people; their ability to rise above the squalor and despair; their pride, their warmth, their simplicity; their industriousness; their love of family; their receptiveness to learning and acquiring new skills; their need to survive. *The response from the international community was awesome. I saw caring people from all around the world who extended compassionate hearts and loving hands: the UN, the Jamaican Defence Force, the USA Army, the Canadian Army, the Red Cross, Roman Catholic nuns from India, church groups, NGOs, the Pakistani Army.*

Ampusam found the experience humbling, gratifying and fulfilling as she and the other members of the team discovered they had abilities, strength and determination they did not realise they had. They learned to be innovative in the practical application of nursing care and health knowledge that was as effective as possible with the limited time and resources available. Ampusam said: *We worked harmoniously together with no complaints and rolled our sleeves up and gave of our best and managed our time well. We worked with an extended team from other Caribbean countries and learned from them as they learned from us.*

