

21st CNF BIENNIAL MEETING IN PICTURES



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The 21st CNF Biennial Meeting was held in London at the premises of the Royal College of Nursing UK on Friday 7 March 2014. CNF members from Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Cyprus, Ghana, Jamaica, India, Malaysia, Malta, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom attended the Biennial Meeting.

This was a historic meeting as the membership voted to change the name of the CNF to the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation (CNMF).

Other constitutional changes were an increase in membership categories to include national midwives associations into full membership; clarification of the membership categories of affiliate and associate member; and the introduction of an individual member category. The Biennial Meeting also agreed to include a values clause in the CNMF constitution.



The CNF Strategic Plan was endorsed by the membership as well as a revised structure of membership fees to reflect the revised membership categories.

Regional groupings of members discussed CNF priorities and activities for their region in the period 2014-2016. Priorities for members were universal across the Commonwealth: raising the standard of pre-service education; availability of continuing professional development and specialist postgraduate education; regulatory support for advanced practice; shortages of nurses and midwives particularly in Africa and Asia; and the creation, without consultation, of various different health cadres undertaking nursing and midwifery roles and were the subject of lively debate.



FAREWELL SUSIE KONG

The 22nd CNF Biennial Meeting also brought to an end the nine year term of Miss Susie Kong as President of the CNF. Under Miss Kong's stewardship, the CNF had grown in membership and profile to become an influential Commonwealth organisation.



Susie Kong with Jill Iliffe

In her farewell speech, Miss Kong reflected on the achievements of the CNF over the past nine years, despite the challenges of limited funding and limited paid personnel. Miss Kong paid tribute to CNF Board Members for their commitment to and hard work for CNF and to the loyalty of members. Ms Kong thanked the Royal College of Nursing for their continued support especially for hosting the CNF Board meeting and the CNF Biennial meeting. Ms Kong commented that it would be very difficult for the CNF to function effectively without the ongoing support and commitment of the Royal College of Nursing.

Retiring Board Members included: Dr Marion Howard (Atlantic Region); Mrs Alice Asare-Allotey (West Africa Region); and Mr Donald Epaalat (East, Central and Southern Africa Region).

Ms Ramziah Binti Ahmad from Malaysia was elected the new President of the CNMF with Professor Kathleen McCourt from the United Kingdom being elected Vice President. New Board Members included: Ms Rosemarie Josey (Atlantic Region); Ms Hossinatu Mary Kanu (West Africa); and Mr Paul Magesa Mashauri (East, Central and Southern Africa).



Ms Ramziah Binti Ahmad



Professor Kathleen McCourt