invited to join the IND celebration, which started with a video program that was created by 56 nursing associations, underscoring the enthusiasm with which nurses’ work and care for people worldwide. A candlelight-passing ceremony followed this program. The government was highly supportive of this year’s IND Celebration, with many high-ranking officials in attendance, including the National President, Premier of the Executive Yuan, President of the Control Yuan, the Health Minister, and National Legislators. At the ceremony, 2,191 nurses received awards for 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of service and 12 nurses were presented with Outstanding Nurses Awards.

A major earthquake hit southern Taiwan at midnight on Chinese Lunar New Year’s Eve, February 6th, 2016. The final death toll reached 117, with hundreds more injured. The tragedy was particularly shocking for causing such tragedy and loss on the eve of the most important family holiday of the year. Our hearts go out to the injured and their families. Medical institutions in Tainan City, the area most affected by the quake, immediately rescued and showed their professional dedication, spirit, and compassion. This again demonstrates the crucial role that medical professionals play during disasters. Immediately after the rescue ended, the TWNA visited the nurses who were part of the round-the-clock emergency medical service response effort. We expressed our gratitude to these nurses with a certificate and a special financial incentive award. Furthermore, we wish to express special thanks to the Japanese Nursing Association for writing to us to express their concern and best wishes to those affected by the disaster.

Additionally, the TWNA became a member of the World Society of Disaster Nursing (WSDN) on September 1st 2015. WSDN is a critical platform for nurses in this specialist area from around the world to share experiences, insights, and tools. TWNA looks forward to contributing to the work of this important organization and working with other members within the WSDN to strengthen disaster nursing around the globe.

The Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNA) will host the 2nd Asia-Pacific Nursing Research Conference (APNRC) on August 2-4, 2017 at the Taipei International Convention Center in Taipei, Taiwan. The theme for the Conference is entitled “Nurse Intelligence: Practice, Research and Policy”. The main objectives of the Conference include:

- Creating a platform for nurses to exchange cutting-edge nursing knowledge and insights on best practice.
- Advancing evidence-based healthcare and exploring common nursing and health issues within evidence-based nursing (EBN).
- Promoting the ability of nurses to improve the nursing practice, share nursing research outcomes, and increase nursing and health-policy engagement.

The TWNA would like to welcome nursing colleagues from around the world to take this chance to submit your abstracts as well as to visit the beautiful island nation of Taiwan. Eminent nursing experts and scholars have been invited to attend and share their forward-looking and insightful views on our truly global profession. At this conference, you will meet many nursing practitioners, researchers, educators, and policymakers who have devoted their careers and life to advancing the nursing profession in their own countries and worldwide. They look forward to sharing their unique experiences and to encouraging new generations of nurses to strive for even better to come. We warmly invite you to participate in this important gathering of global nursing professionals both to learn and to share. We look forward to seeing you in Taipei in 2017!

**Important Dates**

- Abstract Submission Deadline: December 30, 2016
- Abstract Acceptance Notifications: February 24, 2017
- Early Registration Deadline: March 31, 2017
- Regular Registration Deadline: May 31, 2017
- Onsite Registration: August 2-4, 2017
The first workshop of the ICN Leadership for Change (LFC) Program was held in Taipei from April 6-10, 2015 and hosted by the Taiwan Nurses Association. The entire program, including the Training of Trainers (TOT), was successfully completed in July 2016. Twenty-three nursing leaders graduated, including five from Myanmar. The purposes of this training included: strengthening the leadership capacity of nurses in Taiwan in order to improve the quality of public health services; actively driving new policymaking and health-reform trends; realizing nursing leadership within the healthcare system; helping prepare future nurse leaders to handle the rapid changes in health services; bringing positive changes to the nursing curricula; and building an international partnership with Myanmar. The outcome was very positive. The post-program evaluation found significant levels of individual and group growth. The participants also reflected positively on the overall training process. All of the participants are still working on their team projects, which are scheduled to end before the end of this year. All of the participants have been encouraged to submit their abstracts to the ICN Congress in Barcelona, Spain in 2017 in order to share outcomes with their international colleagues.