

# JNA News Release

Japanese Nursing Association

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<https://www.nurse.or.jp/jna/english>

## ICN CEO Howard Catton visits Japan

The Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) is pleased to report that International Council of Nurses (ICN) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Howard Catton visited Japan from Geneva, Switzerland from the 19th to the 21st of September 2023. To strengthen the mutual understanding and cooperation between ICN and JNA, and also to share current development and issues on nursing, it was a valuable opportunity to hold a Western Pacific Regional meeting, to come together with JNA's executive board members (including prefectural nursing association (PNA) presidents) and to hold a public symposium regarding universal health coverage (UHC).

## Courtesy visits made to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Diet members



Photo 1: Mr. Miyazaki, State Minister for MHLW (left) with Mr. Catton (right)



Photo 4: Mr. Catton (left) with Mr. Ishida, Member of the House of Councillors (right)

Mr. Catton held talks with various leaders of nursing and healthcare fields in Japan, including Mr. Masahisa Miyazaki, State Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Ms. Etsuko Miyamoto, Deputy Director-General for Employment Environment and Equal Employment Bureau, MHLW, and Ms. Yumiko Shuda, Director of Nursing Division at the Health Policy Bureau, MHLW. (Photos 1, 2, 3) Mr. Miyazaki talked about the necessity for creating positive work environments for nursing professionals who are protecting people's health on the front line.



Photo 2: Mr. Catton (2nd from left) and Ms. Miyamoto, Deputy Director-General, MHLW (2nd from right)



Photo 3: Mr. Catton (left) and Ms. Shuda, Director of Nursing Division, MHLW (right)

He also fully supported the calls for investing in nursing professionals from both health and economic perspectives

and expressed a willingness to share ICN's message with his colleagues.

On the same day, Mr. Catton also met with Mr. Masahiro Ishida, Member of the House of Councilors and also a nurse, to share ideas. (Photo 4)

### Western Pacific Regional (WPR) Meeting with ICN member associations

JNA and ICN co-hosted the Western Pacific Regional (WPR) online meeting to share information on issues and activities in the various countries/regions, to discuss strategies, and to enhance future networking in the region, with a focus on strengthening nursing leadership in the WPR. Over 50 nursing leaders from the region participated, including representatives from national nursing associations (NNAs) and two members of the ICN Board of Directors (Dr. Lian-Hua Huang and Professor Megumi Teshima). (Photo5)

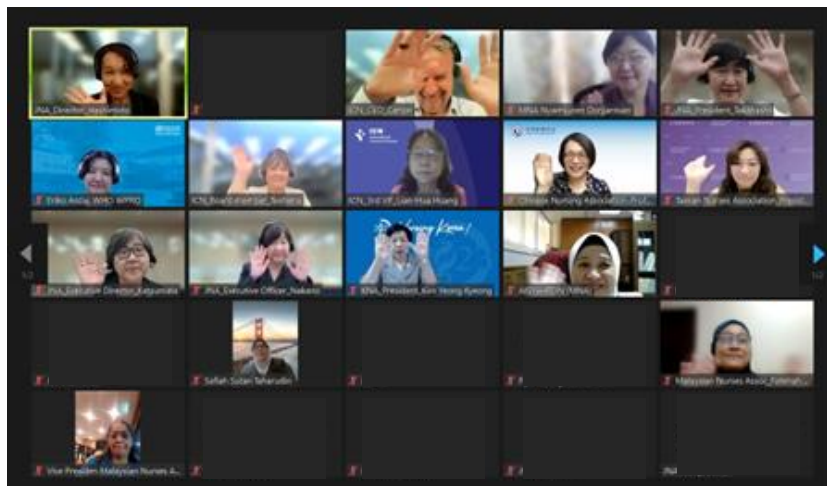


Photo5: Participants greeting at the Meeting

The meeting commenced with opening remarks from Dr. Amelia Tuipulotu, Chief Nursing Officer of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Pamela Cipriano, ICN President, and Ms. Yumiko Shuda, Director of Nursing Division at the Health Policy Bureau, MHLW. For the keynote speeches, Mr. Catton and WHO WPRO Nursing Officer Eriko Anzai spoke about the current status and issues of nursing leadership in the world and in the WPR. JNA's Executive Director Hamako Katsumata, and the presidents of the Australian College of Nursing Mr. David Plunkett and Malaysian Nurses Association Ms. Puan Aisyahon binti Suhaimi provided information on the current status and future vision for nursing leadership within their countries. Ideas were exchanged with messages from NNAs on the current situation and initiatives relating to country/regional leadership. The Taiwan Nurses Association shared information on career support for nurses and nursing students as well as initiatives for strengthening leadership. The Chinese Nursing Association shared information on its cooperative involvement with the Chief Nursing Officer for nurse training plans and programs related to strengthening leadership. The Mongolian Nurses Association and Fiji Nursing Association shared the issues on lack of nursing workforce in their countries and emphasized the importance of nursing professionals providing leadership at the policy decision-making level in terms of measures to solve this issue.

Lastly, Mr. Catton emphasized the following: to place nurse leadership as a key enabler at the forefront of advocacy and lobbying when tackling global challenges; not only to have nurses at the policy table, but to make it effective; to develop a training plan for next generations including nursing students and early-career nurses and succession planning for ourselves; to support nurses to understand policymaking mechanisms and processes to take part in policies; and in order for the voices of nurses to be heard, to collect nursing-related evidence, utilize the media and promote public understanding. The meeting participants were in agreement with recognition of the urgency for strengthening nursing leadership at the country/region/organization level. The ICN has been promoting its activities at the regional level, and this meeting served as a valuable opportunity for information exchange toward strengthening the future networks of stakeholders in the WPR.

## Prefectural Nursing Association (PNA) Policy Directors' Meeting and Symposium on "Significance of Nursing in Promoting UHC"

Mr. Catton gave a keynote speech at the Prefectural Nursing Association (PNA) Policy Directors' Meeting 2023. (Photo6) This meeting, hosted by JNA every year, aims to strengthen policy capacity building of the policy directors of 47 PNAs to support the promotion of regional nursing policies. This year, a total 125 people met in person, including 94 PNA presidents and board members in charge of policy as well as JNA executives and staff. Mr. Catton encouraged understanding of the ICN activities and the importance of nurse involvement in policymaking in both Japan and the world. His message inspired participants, making them feel that nursing and the expertise of nurses could contribute to peace, security and economic sustainability.

After that, the symposium on "Significance of Nursing in Promoting UHC" was held, with Professor Megumi Teshima (Professor at the Graduate School of Nursing, Chiba University, and ICN Board member) serving as moderator. The presentations were delivered by Mr. Catton from the ICN's perspective, Dr. Takeshi Kasai (Executive Supervisor and Visiting Professor at the International University of Health and Welfare Group) from the global health expert's perspective, and Ms. Hiroe Takahashi (JNA President) from the perspective of a professional nursing association.

Mr. Catton's presentation was titled "Global Nursing Challenges and Universal Health Coverage." He reiterated that healthcare systems and health workforce were essential to the promotion of UHC, and furthermore that nursing professionals have a key role in managing overall patient care in all communities and in all the areas of prevention, promotion, treatment, and rehabilitation, therefore showing that nursing professionals are a valuable and important part of UHC.



Photo6: Mr. Catton's presentation at the PNA Policy Directors' Meeting

In a presentation titled "Two Experiences in the Western Pacific Region" Dr. Kasai spoke on two important key words: 'connectedness' and 'back casting'. He suggested that 'connectedness' is one of the keys to improving the quality of healthcare services, and that the 'back casting' approach is important in situations of increased uncertainty, where one should imagine the future and work backwards to decide on a course of action. In a presentation titled "Challenges of Nursing: Looking ahead to 2040 in Japan," Ms. Takahashi presented the JNA's policy recommendations for a healthcare system in which nursing professionals can fulfill their roles and use their expertise. She also talked about the direction of measures for securing and retaining nursing workforce. In the panel discussion that followed, there was more in-depth discussion from the speakers on Japan's experience and knowledge with UHC and on its contributions to global health.

In addition, the panels suggested the importance of discussing a healthcare system in which nursing professionals can fulfill their roles and use their expertise in their communities, and a structure that supports nursing professionals, by making use of the links between the JNA and PNAs, by sharing information, and carrying out in-depth discussions.

Throughout the meeting and the symposium, the value and potential of the expertise of nursing/nursing professionals in society was highlighted. It was an opportunity to think about how nursing professionals could fulfill their roles in their capacity to contribute even more to the healthcare system and to society, as well as the importance of solidarity. The symposium is available on the following links.

\*1 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zC1I4\\_loPWI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zC1I4_loPWI)(in English)

\*2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nTsRpgSblk> (in Japanese)