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## ICN Global Nursing Conference to Focus on Dealing with the Unexpected

**Geneva, Switzerland, 17 January 2007** – Nurses' expertise and experience in dealing with the unexpected will be a main focus of the International Council of Nurses' 2007 International Conference to be held 27 May – 1 June 2007 in Yokohama, Japan. The conference theme is *Nurses at the Forefront: Dealing with the Unexpected*.

Topping the list of international speakers are Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al-Hussein of Jordan, Dr Nelson Bascombe, the Minister of Health of Bermuda and Dr Jo Manion. Jo Manion, a renowned author, international speaker and senior management consultant will deliver a plenary session focused on *Practice Environments: Responding to Emergencies*. Princess Muna, who is also the WHO Patron for Nursing and Midwifery in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, will speak at the main session on *Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery*. Dr Bascombe will tackle the hot topic of *International Nurse Migration* in the Convention Hall and will present the government's perspective on labour issues at the Socio-economic Welfare Network session. The conference will also highlight a debate on *Adverse Medical Events: Should there be a Blame-free Environment?* with Dr Otmar Kloiber, Secretary General of the World Medical Association, and Ms Dorothy Ngoma, Executive Director of the Malawi Nurses Association, leading the opposing teams. Also highlighted at the conference will be the Japanese Health System – its infrastructure, challenges and successes.

To register and to access further information and regular updates on the conference programme, please visit [www.icn.ch/conference2007.htm](http://www.icn.ch/conference2007.htm).

The conference will showcase many other prominent guest speakers in plenary sessions focusing on the most pressing and timely topics of interest for nursing and nurses dealing with the unexpected in health care, including disaster response; what's new in vaccines; human resources management; workplace violence; hypertension and mental illness. A full line-up of concurrent sessions, symposia and posters submitted by nurses worldwide will enhance the scientific programme, with more than 519 presentations and 487 posters chosen from the 1,435 abstracts submitted to ICN for consideration.

All nine of the ICN Networks will hold meetings at the conference. The networks include: HIV/AIDS, Disaster Response, Regulation, Research, Rural and Remote

Nursing, Socio-economic Welfare, Leadership for Change, Nurse Practitioner /  
Advanced Practice Nursing and Nursing Students.

A lively commercial exhibition will run throughout the three-day conference and for the first time a special “virtual classroom” will operate in the exhibition area, offering workshops on the go. Informal sessions will include a chance to meet the experts on the latest vaccines, opportunities to update your skills in writing for journals and insights on how to get involved in the Mobile Library project.

The Council of National Representatives (CNR), ICN’s governing body, will convene from 27-29 May. Conference participants who are also members of ICN member associations will be able to observe nursing leaders from all over the world identify the profession’s priorities and future directions.

Also in Yokohama, ICN and the Japanese Nursing Association will host the 8th International Conference on Regulation of Nursing and Midwifery. The conference, held with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, will take place 2-3 June.

#### **Editor’s note**

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of 129 national nurses' associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses for nurses since 1899, ICN is the international voice of nursing and works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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