Western Pacific Region Nursing and Midwifery Databank

Country: Viet Nam, Socialist Republic of

1. Historical events in nursing and midwifery (milestones in the development of nursing and midwifery)

1946 Rural Health Programme was set up and training of additional categories for nursing and midwifery personnel commenced.

1960 Medical secondary schools were established in the north. The schools trained primary nurses (6-12 months), primary midwives, assistant doctors and pharmacists at secondary level.

1963 The title "head nurses" was adopted, but not implemented

1968 The first course of secondary level nurses with 2 ½ years training started in Bach Mai Hospital in Ha Noi. Thereafter, training of secondary level nurses followed in many provinces. The students nowadays have a background of 12 years of general education before they enter the medical secondary education.

1972 Secondary level nurses started to take the places of the primary nurses in the north. Primary nurses were given further education and upgraded to secondary; in the South, upgrading of nurses was slower.

1975 Many medical secondary schools established in South.

1977 MOH organized test-training courses for ward head nurses.

1979 MOH encouraged provinces to develop and appoint head nurse positions in hospitals.

1980 Nurses could specialize in anaesthesia, X-ray, physiology and orthopaedics

1984 First specialized courses for paediatric nurses at Institute for Protection of Children's Health (1991; 300 graduates)

1985 New secondary curricula was implemented

1985 Faculty nursing training programme (BSc level) started in Ha Noi for nurses, midwives and technicians (two courses given)

1986 Bachelor nursing training programme started (same) Ho Chi Minh City

1987 MOH formed a National nursing working group

1988 Seminar in Ha Noi to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot hospital nursing management at the Institute of Protection of Children in Hanoi and Uong Bi General Hospital

1989 Seminar in Ho Chi Minh City on Nursing management and care

1990 National Nurses Association formed (1986-1989 the sub-nursing associations were initiated in HCMC, Ha Noi and Quang Ninh Province)

1990 MOH directive (no. 570 BYT/ QD) to establish nursing offices in hospitals with more than 150 beds was implemented throughout the country
The first nursing position was appointed at the MOH level and the nursing office in MOH created two full time and two part time positions in the nursing unit.

National Strategic Planning Workshop in Ha Noi, funded by WHO.

First chief nurse course in Uong Bi and Hai Duong Nursing School (3 months; second in Nam Dinh Medical High College; third in Ho Chi Minh City [120 nurses trained]).

MOH directive to continue upgrading secondary nurses to bachelor-level (incomplete university level). The students have background as secondary nurses with at least three years clinical experience before taking a programme (four-year part-time programme). This programme is being implemented at Nam Dinh Nursing School, Hai Phong Medical University, Hong Linh University Thanh Hoa, Hue Medical University, HCMC Medical University and Military Medical University.

WHO APO Ms Ann Mette Kjaerby was appointed.

New curriculum for the bachelor nurses started in Ha Noi and HCMC. The students have a background of 12 years of general education before they take a four-year full-time nursing programme at university level (1999, first group of nurses graduated).

New curriculum for community secondary nurses was introduced and tested.

Change the name of professional association from « Hoi y ta – Dieu duong» (Doctor’s assistant – Nursing Association) into « Hoi dieu duong VN » (Vietnam Nurses Association).

Promulgate: hospital regulations that included Holistic nursing care regulation for hospitals, job-descriptions of: staff nurses, head nurses, midwives, chief nurses, nursing offices.

MOH’s decision of appointed the Head nurse system of Provincial Bureau of Health.

Issued the National action plan for Nurse’s and midwife services from 2002-2010.

Established the Namdinh Nursing University in Namdinh province.

Running the first training course on Leadership for Change program of ICN with the collaboration of MOH, WHO and ICN.

The nursing office of Department of Therapy closed as regulations of Ministry of Interior (there was not office at departments of ministry).

Promulgating the training.

Issued the scopes of practice and salary scale for nurses in state health sector (According to the Decision No 41/2005/QD – BNV by Ministry of Internal Affair).

The TOT training workshop on LFC program running by ICN’s LFC program Director.

Assessing and nominating the title “Excellent health worker” and “Health worker for the people”. MOH appointed Mr. Muc as Vice Director of the Administration for Medical Services of MOH (this position is equal to MD).

40 nurses and midwives received awards of “Excellent health worker”.

Re-establishing a nursing office of the Administration for Medical Services of MOH and appointed Mrs. Nguyen Bich Luu, Vice president of Vietnam Nurse Association as chief-nurse.
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2009 86 nurses and midwives received awards of “Excellent health worker”.

2011 The Circular 07/2011/TT-BYT on guideline of Nursing care service in hospitals issued by Minister of Health

2. Regulations and Laws

• The Law of Examination and treatment has been enacted by the Parliament and it is being in effect from the 1st January 2011.

• The registration/licensing system for nurses, midwives and other Health Professionals will be implemented by the end of 2011.

3. Nursing and Midwifery Associations

1990 Viet Nam Nurses Association formed (VNA) at Decision No 375-CT, 26.10.1990, given by the Prime Minister.

1990 Organized The 1st Vietnam Nurse Association Representative Congress in Hanoi

1993 Organized The 2nd Vietnam Nurse Association Representative Congress in Hanoi

1993 Published the first “National Nursing Journal”

1995 VNA collaborated with MOH and National Health care Union organized the first of national contest to chose the best nurse and midwife. This even has advertised for nurses, midwives, nursing profession and VNA images

1997 The VNA's Constitution was amended and accepted by the Government.

1997 The Government agreed to pass a new name to VNA (Hoi Dieu Duong Viet Nam).

1997 Organized The 3rd Vietnam Nurses Association Representative Congress in Ho Chi Minh city.

1999 The VNA has 42 sub-branches at the provincial level.

2000 VNA collaborated with MOH and National Health care Union organized the second of national contest to chose the best nurse and midwife. This even has advertised for nurses, midwives, nursing profession and VNA images

2002 The Vietnam Nurses Association (VNA) Representative Congress the 4th in Hanoi.

2006 VNA collaborated with MOH and National Health care Union organized the third of national contest to chose the best nurse and midwife. This even has advertised for nurses, midwives, nursing profession and VNA images

2007 Awarded The 3rd rank Labour Medal by the Government.

2007 Established the Center for Nursing Consultation & Services Based on Community.

2007 Organized The 5th Vietnam Nurses Association Representative Congress in Hanoi.

2008 The VNA Head office has five full time positions in the unit.

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2009 The VNA has 59 sub-branches at the provincial level and 2 branches association.
2010 The VNA celebrated the 20th anniversary of its foundation
2010 The VNA celebrated the 4th Scientific Conference
2010 The VNA issued the set of competencies for nurses
2010 The VNA issued the set of criteria of nursing quality in hospitals
2010 Established Nursing teacher branch under VNA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Association</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone number</th>
<th>Fax number</th>
<th>E-mail address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Viet Nam Nurse Association (VNA)</td>
<td>138A Giang Vo Street, Ha Noi, Viet Nam</td>
<td>84 4 37260041</td>
<td>84 4 37260041</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hoidieuduong@gmail.com">hoidieuduong@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese Association of Midwives</td>
<td>29 – Hai Ba Trung Street Hue City, Vietnam</td>
<td>84 54 820 653</td>
<td>84 54 847 007</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Vam_hue@dng.vnn.vn">Vam_hue@dng.vnn.vn</a> <a href="mailto:ttmsihue@dng.vnn.vn">ttmsihue@dng.vnn.vn</a></td>
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4. Nurse, Midwife Leaders and/or Focal Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and position title</th>
<th>Organisation and Address</th>
<th>Phone number</th>
<th>Fax number</th>
<th>E-mail address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madame Vi Nguyet Ho</td>
<td>President, Viet Nam Nurses Association 138 A Giang Vo, Ha Noi Viet Nam</td>
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<td>84 4 37260041</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hoidieuduong@gmail.com">hoidieuduong@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Phan Thi Hanh</td>
<td>President Vietnamese Association of Midwives Hanoi</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Pham Duc Muc</td>
<td>Vice director of The administration for Medical services Ministry of Health First Vice President, Viet Nam Nurses Association 138 A Giang Vo, Ha Noi Viet Nam</td>
<td>84 4 37260041</td>
<td>84 4 37260041</td>
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5. Categories and functions of nurses, midwives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Entry requirement</th>
<th>Length of training</th>
<th>Level/Credential</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master in Nursing or public health</td>
<td>BsN</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Master degree</td>
<td>Accounts for 0.5% of total of nurses and midwives who are graduated from BsN or BsM, studied 2 year program inside country or overseas in Nursing or one year overseas in PH. Most hold position in training institutions or in management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Nursing Science</td>
<td>12 yrs basic education</td>
<td>4 yrs, full-time</td>
<td>Senior BsN</td>
<td>Accounts for 6% of total of nurses and midwives. Most hold senior positions in management in Ministry, hospitals and Nursing school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery</td>
<td>- Secondary nurses/midwives with over 5 yrs work experience - Experience</td>
<td>4 yrs, part-time</td>
<td>BSN.</td>
<td>Accounts for about 8% of total of nurses Most hold senior positions at provincial Health Bureau and hospitals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Nurse/midwife</td>
<td>12 yrs basic education</td>
<td>3 yrs, full-time</td>
<td>Junior BsN</td>
<td>Accounts for about 5% of total of nurses Most work in hospitals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse/Midwife (second level)</td>
<td>12 yrs basic education</td>
<td>2 yrs, full-time</td>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Accounts for about 75% of total of nurses Most work in hospitals and health care centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse/Midwife (Primary level)</td>
<td>9 yrs basic education</td>
<td>1 yr, full-time</td>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Accounts for about 5% of total of nurses Most work health care centres.</td>
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</table>
6. Education

One Nursing University, 13 universities are running Nursing University program.

35 Medical colleges are running 3 year program

43 medical secondary schools involve in training 2 year program.

The competence based curriculum for BsN has been being developed.

The proportion of nurse teachers in training facilities for nurses is increasing year by year.

7. Resources available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject/Title</th>
<th>Year published</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contact (Name, Address, Telephone No., Fax No., E-mail, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Nursing care        | 2011           | The Circular of Guidance on nursing care in hospitals | Tran Quang Huy  
Nursing Officer  
Ministry of Health, 138A Giang Vo Street,  
Ha Noi, Viet Nam  
Tel: 0912492209  
Email: huyub@yahoo.com |
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| Nutrition for patients | 2011 | The Circular of Guidance on Nutrition in hospitals | Vu Thi Hong Ngoc  
Nursing Officer  
Ministry of Health, 138A Giang Vo Street, Ha Noi, Viet Nam  
Tel: 0912622898  
Email: ngocm81@yahoo.com |

8. Main Nursing and Midwifery issues/priorities

- Increase number of nurse teachers to teach nursing in training institutions.
- Increase nursing workforce, especially in Hospitals to take care of patients.
- Development of nurses’ competences.
- Development of nursing ethic codes.

9. Important policies or strategies needed

- International and regional collaboration and integration in nursing field.
- Improve Quality of Nursing Care Services.

10. Is there a National Health Plan or Human Resources for Health Strategy for Vietnam?

    Yes. Nursing and midwifery workforce policies are integrated into this plan