

## THE WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF NURSING (WACN)

### 13<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIEL GENERAL, 35<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL MEETING AND 22<sup>ND</sup> SCIENTIFIC SESSION HELD AT THE PENTECOST CONVENTION CENTRE, GOMOAH FETTEH, NEAR KASOA-CENTRAL REGION, GHANA

19<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2015

#### COMMUNIQUE

1. The 35<sup>th</sup> Council, 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial General meeting (BGM) and 22<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Session of the West African College of Nursing (WACN) took place at the Pentecost Convention Centre, Gomoah Fetteh, Near Kasoa-Central Region, Ghana from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2015. Six member countries (Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Benin Republic) participated with a total number of 526.
2. The official opening ceremony was performed by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama who was ably represented by Honourable Deputy Minister of Health of Ghana, Dr. Victor Bampoe on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015.
3. The distinguished guests present at the opening ceremony included Former 1<sup>st</sup> Lady of Ghana, Her Excellency Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyemang Rawlings, Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation of Sierra Leone, Madam Madina Rahman, Dr. Ken Sagoe, Representative of the Ghana College of Physician and Surgeons and Jhpiego.
4. The key note address titled: **“Profession versus Professionalism: Opportunities and Challenges”** was delivered by Dr. Mrs. Jemima Dennis-Antwi, a Fellow of WACN from the Republic of Ghana.
5. The President of the West African College of Nursing (WACN), Mrs. Amelia Eva Gabba read her Presidential address.
6. Goodwill messages were received from the following, Representative of His Excellency, President John Dramani Mahama, in the person of Hon. Dr. Victor Bampoe, the Deputy Minister

of Health, Jhpiego, Ghana College of Physician and Surgeons, Former 1<sup>st</sup> Lady of Ghana, Her Excellency Mrs. Nana KonaduAgyemang Rawlings.

7. One Hundred and Seventy Six Nurses and Midwives were awarded Fellowships in the five faculties of the College and from the following member countries: Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Benin Republic and The Gambia.

8. The following officers were elected as new executive members of the West African College of Nursing (WACN) for the year 2015-2017

- Mr. Victor DossouZoclanclounon                      President (Benin Republic)
- Mrs. Amelia Eva Gabba                                      Immediate past President (Sierra Leone)
- Mrs. Marion Subah    1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Liberia)
- Dr. Francis Sarr    2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (The Gambia)
- Col. Mrs. Monica Andoh                                      Secretary General (Ghana)
- Elder.Dr.Mrs. Comfort E. Ekanem                      Hon. Treasurer (Nigeria)

9. The programme featured three plenary presentations and twelve concurrent scientific paper presentations from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015. The Plenary sessions were on:

- Current trends in Nursing and Midwifery Education in Nigerian universities: concerns of nurse-teachers by Dr.Anthonia U. Chinwueba (Nigeria)
- Ethical implications in the professional development of the nurse/midwife by Dr. Mary Opare (Ghana)
- Research as a political and Policy tool to advance nursing practice Dr. Josephine B. Etowa (Canada)

The Scientific sessions were on:

- Assessment on the level of the application of ethics of care among nurses: comparative study between nurses in private and government owned hospitals by Mr AfamNdu
- Pain assessment and management in the critically ill unconscious patient in the adult intensive care unit by Agbakpe B. S

- Professionalism versus faith: midwives and obstetricians dilemma over provision of abortion services in Ghana by Patience Aniteye
- Re-aligning nursing and midwifery practices to enhance professionalism: action research perspectives
- Integrating professionalism into the development of a cadre of paediatric nurses presentation
- Factors hindering effective clinical training of nursing students in selected nursing educational institutions in south-east Nigeria
- Factors associated with medication errors among nurses working in selected secondary healthcare facilities in Katsina State
- The professional image of nursing as perceived by nurses in South-East Nigeria
- Dissemination of SOWMY 2014 Report and advocacy for midwifery strengthening in Ghana and West Africa.
- The use of Technology in nursing education and professional practice
- Politics in nursing and midwifery education and practice: issues and implications
- Communication: A tool for professionalism in nursing practices in a selected government hospital in Lagos, Nigeria
- The nursing process: A tool for quality care
- Research in nursing and midwifery for optimal professionalism
- Quantitative exploration of knowledge and utilization of standardized among nurses in Nigeria
- Utilization of conceptual and theoretical framework in Research by nurse educators in Akwalbom and Cross River States, Nigeria
- Awareness and utilization of E-learning for professional development among nurses in selected hospitals in Zaria metropolis, Nigeria
- My profession or my Life? Maintaining professionalism through rebuilding the confidence of health workers in the Ebola disease context
- Assessment of the knowledge and skills of nursing informatics among nurses in government and industrial hospital in Rivers State
- Implication de l'ethique dans le developement professionnel des infirmieres (eres) et des sages femmes
- Enhancing nursing care in Nigeria through the implementation of midwives service scheme
- School nursing practice in Nigeria: How far have we gone
- Home- base collaborative : a model for greater professional and socio-economic impact
- Patient perception on quality of nursing care in selected health care facilities in Kaduna-State, Northern Nigeria
- Theoretical and conceptual application in nursing and midwifery
- Emerging technology that will change the practice of nursing

- Systematic review of antimicrobial stewardship in surgical settings
- Analysis of nursing practice challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Nigeria
- Exploring the strategies to promote professional development in nursing
- Excellence in research for enhanced professionalism

10. The 13<sup>th</sup> BGM and 22<sup>nd</sup> scientific session ended on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 with a banquet and the installation of the 18<sup>th</sup> President of the West African College of Nursing (WACN), Mr. Victor Dossou Zoclanclounon from the Benin Republic.

11. The West African College of Nursing (WACN) expresses gratitude to the Government and people of Republic of Ghana for the warm reception accorded to the delegates during their stay in Ghana.

12. The College decided to hold its 14<sup>th</sup> BGM and 23<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Session in March, 2017 in Nigeria.

(Signed)

Mrs. Amelia Eva Gabba, FWACN  
President, WACN

(Signed)

Ms. Shelly A. Wright, FWACN  
Secretary General, WACN

## **WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF NURSING (WACN)**

### **DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING, AND 35<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL MEETING AND 22<sup>ND</sup> SCIENTIFIC SESSION HELD FROM 19- 24 JULY 2015, AT THE PENTECOST CONVENTION CENTRE, GOMOAH FETTEH, NEAR KASOA-CENTRAL REGION, GHANA**

West African College of Nursing (WACN) 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial General Meeting, 35<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and 22<sup>nd</sup> Scientific sessions was held at the Pentecost Convention Centre, Gomoah Fetteh, Near Kasoa-Central Region, Ghana from 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The theme “**Profession versus Professionalism; opportunities and challenges**”, have at the end of the meeting come out with the following decisions and resolutions:

DR01 That effective 2016 Fellowship will be by examination through Fellowship programmes.

DR02 That Election of College officials will be held before the official opening programme at each BGM.

DR03 That The next BGM will be held in Nigeria.

DR04 That all reports will be contained in the BGM bags including the Minutes of reports of activities by the committees of the college.

DR05 That the College should develop a five-year Strategic Plan.

DR06 That all Chapters to send to the Secretariat final comments for the constitutional review.

DR07 Increase partnership locally and internationally.

DR08 That Fellows of WACN be accorded the same recognition as sister colleges

DR09 Proceedings in Liberia should be done and disseminated to all Fellows of the various Chapters.

DR10 Vote of thanks be extended to the following for the successful conduct of the BGM:

- The President and government of the Republic of Ghana
- Governments of sister countries for their support to various Chapters
- The planning committee of the BGM
- Sister colleges and guests of the opening ceremony
- Standing ovation to the WACN President Mrs Amelia Eva Gabba

**Nursing/Midwifery Education and Training:**

DR11 That all training institutions and health facilities within the sub-region should endeavour to make the learning and implementation of the nursing process an essential component in nursing and midwifery in order to enhance efficiency in our health delivery.

**Collaboration, Networking and Partnership:**

DR012 The Research and Education committee of WACN should facilitate collaboration of other sister colleges and agencies to source grants/projects for the college.

DR013 that the WACN should continue to collaborate with the Ministries of health and sister colleges WANPC and other relevant stakeholder including NGOs to enhance efficiency in health care and service delivery

DR014 the college appreciates the contribution of our governments in member health states and especially the ministries of health and further advocates for improve planning and budgeting to ensure resource sufficiency for effective health care delivery.

DR015 that the college encourages partnership and set up networking groups with organizations and groups that will enhance the visibility of the WACN and impact on the health of people of the sub-region.

DR016 maintain continuity of innovations as witnessed in the 2015 BGM to attract and encourage diaspora nurses and midwives to contribute their skills and expertise and attract funding exhibitors and more contract credit opportunities especially for the BGM

DR017 Member countries should recruit and retain nursing and midwifery personnel to increase the workforce and address the issue of migration and those leaving the profession

DR018 member countries should provide laws and by laws for implementation and sustenance of programmes and maternal and child health to ensure reduction in maternal and child morbidity and mortality rates in the sub-region.

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DR019 Any member country hosting the BGM should ensure adequate arrangements for standard interpretation to facilitate understanding by participating non Anglophone countries.

(Signed)

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Mrs Amelia Eva Gabba

President, WACN

(Signed)

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Ms Shelley A. Wright

Secretary General, WACN