



Highlights of the International Council of Nurses Congress in Durban, South Africa

Former Botswana President Festus G Mogae headlines the speakers addressing the thousands of nurses gathering in Durban

Durban; South Africa: Geneva, Switzerland, 26 June 2009- More than 5, 000 nurses will converge on Durban, South Africa from all corners of the globe for the International Council of Nurses (ICN) 24th Quadrennial Congress, co-hosted by the Democratic Nurses Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA).

Scientific programme highlights

Highlights of the Congress include the opening keynote by former Botswana President Festus Mogae, recipient of many awards for his outstanding leadership in ensuring Botswana's continued stability in the face of an HIV/AIDS pandemic which threatened the future of his country and people. Other plenary and main speakers include health human rights defender and author Miriam Were, South African celebrity and commentator Gerry Eldson and health economics expert and researcher Diane McIntyre. Ed Holloran will deliver the Virginia Henderson lecture. Professional visits organized by DENOSA will allow nurses from across the world to learn about nursing practice and health care in South Africa.

This first ICN Congress in Africa offers a scientific programme of more than 1 300 presentations, including plenary, main sessions and concurrent sessions, symposia, workshops, special interest sessions and posters, over a five-day period from 30 June to 4 July.

Council of National Representatives

The scientific programme is preceded by the Council of National Representatives (CNR) meeting, which runs from 27-30 June. The CNR is the governing body of the International Council of Nurses and meets every two years in conjunction with ICN's conferences and Congresses. The election of ICN's president and new Board members will take place during the CNR, along with deliberations on a new ICN membership model.

Exhibition

The 54 organisations participating in the Congress commercial exhibition include universities, health ministries, nursing organisations, publishers, pharmaceutical companies and local artisans. The ever-popular Virtual Classroom situated in the exhibition area will offer non-stop briefings and workshops on current trends and issues.

Editor's Note

The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally since 1899, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally.

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