

2023 CMAAO General Assembly And 58th Council Meeting Dhaka, Bangladesh Sept. 1 – 3

Country Report Korean Medical Association (Activities 2022 - 2023)





1

Opposition to the Nursing Act





Opposition to the Nursing Act

- On February 9th, the National Assembly's Health and Welfare Committee decided to submit to the National Assembly's plenary session a bill amending certain medical laws, including the establishment of the Nursing Act.

 In response, the Korean Medical Association(KMA) formed an emergency response committee to stop the bill from passing.
Starting with a rally by the health and welfare medical solidarity, KMA engaged in a wide range of efforts over two years, including approximately 50 large-scale rallies and media coverage (interviews), to strongly denounce the unfairness of enacting the Nursing Act.



Opposition to the Nursing Act

While the Nursing Act was passed during the plenary session, the President's right of reconsideration request was exercised. Afterwards, a re-vote in the National Assembly ultimately discarded the bill.





2

Promoting the establishment of the Korean Medical License Management Institute (preliminary title)





Korean Medical License Management Institute

 Regarding medical license management, global organizations such as the World Health Organization, International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities, and World Federation for Medical Education have continuously advanced medical workforce training and regulation (management), contributing to the international trend of autonomously regulating a medical license.





Korean Medical License Management Institute

- The KMA also aims to systematically and efficiently manage the medical license system through an independent license management institute. By autonomously regulating medical licenses, the association seeks to enhance the ethics and professionalism of physicians and further protect and improve the health and lives of the public. Hence, the KMA has been promoting the establishment of the Korean Medical License Management Institute.

 For the establishment of the institute, various endeavors will be made to obtain license management authority from the government through reforms such as amendments to existing medical laws.





3

On Supreme Court's en banc review on the use of ultrasound by Oriental doctors





Issue of the use of ultrasound by Oriental doctors

- In a case where a oriental doctor failed to diagnose endometrial cancer in a patient using ultrasound diagnostic equipment on 68 occasions over a period of two years, resulting in the aggravation of the disease, the Supreme Court's en banc review declared the doctor not guilty, causing outrage within the medical community.





Issue of the use of ultrasound by Oriental doctors

- This ruling, seen as erroneous, failed to properly consider the qualifications and expertise required for the use of ultrasound diagnostic equipment, as well as the potential risks that directly affect the lives and health of patients. It also raises serious concerns about the detrimental impact on the health and lives of citizens and the potential for confusion within the medical field.

- In response, the KMA is vigorously addressing this issue, aiming to rectify the unjustifiability of Oriental doctors' use of ultrasound diagnostic equipment and correct the irresponsible decision by the Supreme Court that may condone illegal and unlicensed medical practices.





4 Efforts to preserve essential medical care vital to the citizens' lives





Efforts to preserve essential medical care

- To safeguard "essential medical care and local healthcare," the KMA has advocated for measures such as **A** the establishment of a special law for handling incidents related to essential medical care and \blacktriangle appropriate compensation for fields considered less desirable, including crucial medical care and local healthcare. Through these measures, we seek to urge the government to create a fundamental solution that ensures a stable medical environment, encouraging highly skilled medical professionals to voluntarily engage and enter the fields of essential medical care and local healthcare.





Efforts to preserve essential medical care

- While the Ministry of Health and Welfare agrees with our association's proposals and arguments, it has additionally put forth suggestions for expanding medical school enrollment and other measures to increase the number of medical personnel. This has raised concerns among many. The number of doctors in Korea is currently in a state of excess rather than shortage. The KMA emphasizes that the core issue lies not in the number of personnel but in the challenge of deploying medical professionals to the essential medical care sector due to a lack of interest. We are actively seeking solutions to address this problem.





5 Installation of CCTVs in operating rooms





Installation of CCTVs in operating rooms

- A partial amendment to the medical law, which mandates the installation of CCTV in operating rooms, was enacted on September 24th, 2021, and is scheduled to come into effect on September 25th, 2023, following a two-year grace period.

- The mandatory installation of CCTV in operating rooms is an unprecedented global issue, and it raises concerns about potentially hindering the smooth practice of medical procedures by physicians, as well as damaging the trust between doctors and patients. This could lead to significant disruptions in providing optimal medical services.



Installation of CCTVs in operating rooms

- In response, the KMA is working hard to develop preemptive strategies related to the establishment of sub-legislation (Ministry of Health and Welfare decree) for the mandatory installation of CCTV in operating rooms. We are also engaging in advocacy efforts within the National Assembly and government to ensure full government support for the costs associated with the installation and management of CCTV in operating rooms.





6 The KMA's social contribution activities, together with the public





- "Sharing warm hearts, providing warmer meals campaign".

As a professional organization, we are actively engaging in community activities to set an example and provide substantial assistance to our less fortunate neighbors.







- Blood donation campaign to overcome blood shortages

The KMA, as a protector of the health and lives of citizens, has launched a blood donation campaign in collaboration with the medical community to overcome blood shortages. Starting in August 2021, we have been consistently conducting blood donation campaigns.







대한의사협회





대한의사협회



- Operation of the 25th World Scout Jamboree Medical Support Team in Saemangeum, 2023

Our association sponsored medical supplies and other items. We also ran a medical support center to ensure the health and safety of participants, including scout members and visitors, during the 25th World Scout Jamboree. We fulfilled our social responsibilities as a professional organization by providing medical assistance.







