Margaret Chan, Director General, World Health Organization to be ICN Nursing Conference Keynote Speaker

Geneva, 30 April 2015 – Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) will give the keynote address at the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Conference in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 19-23 June 2015.

“We are immensely delighted that Dr Chan has accepted to be our keynote speaker,” said Judith Shamian, ICN President. “At this time of growing emphasis on Universal Health Coverage, noncommunicable disease, the post-2015 agenda and other global concerns, nurses are playing a growing role in building healthy communities and healthy nations. Dr. Chan been a strong voice on the importance of nurses, midwives, primary care and collaboration among healthcare workers, governments, NGOs, public and private sector. Her message to thousands of nurses present will reaffirm once again the importance of nursing and health and WHOs contribution to global health”

Dr Chan obtained her medical degree from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. In 1978, she joined the Hong Kong Department of Health, where her career in public health began. In 1994, Dr Chan was appointed Director of Health of Hong Kong. In 2003, Dr Chan joined WHO as Director of the Department for Protection of the Human Environment. In June 2005, she was appointed Director, Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Response as well as Representative of the Director-General for Pandemic Influenza. In September 2005, she was named Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases. Dr Chan was elected to the post of Director-General on 9 November 2006. The Assembly appointed her for a second five-year term at its 65th session in May 2012.

Approximately seven thousand participants will attend the ICN Conference in Korea, with the theme Global Citizen, Global Nursing. This international gathering of nurses will explore the importance of cross-cultural understanding and global cooperation in nursing. The Conference will provide opportunities for nurses to build relationships and to disseminate nursing knowledge and leadership across specialties, cultures and countries. The three ICN pillars – Professional Practice, Regulation and Socio-Economic Welfare – will frame the scientific programme and the dynamic exchange of experiences and expertise.

Plenary speakers at this event include Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South East Asia; Dr Jim Campbell, Executive Director of the Global Health Workforce Alliance and Director of the WHO’s Health Workforce; Dr Sheila Tlou, a nurse and Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern & Southern Africa; Dr Agnes Soucat, Global Solutions Leader for Health Service Delivery at the World Bank; and Dr. Heimar de Fatima Marin, a nurse and professor at the Federal University of Saõ Paulo, Brazil.
The Conference will also provide the opportunity for the global nursing community to deliberate on important health and nursing issues during the 17 main sessions, 7 workshops, 116 concurrent sessions, 42 symposia and 137 posters, and will be the venue for ICN Network meetings.

More information on the ICN Conference in Seoul, Republic of Korea can be found on www.icn2015.com

Note for Editors
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, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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