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## **New Nurse Consultant responsible for socio-economic welfare issues to join ICN staff**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 22 March 2010** – The International Council of Nurses is pleased to announce that Elizabeth Adams RN, MSC, a highly respected nurse leader from Ireland, will join ICN staff in July 2010. She will serve as Director, International Centre for Human Resources in Nursing, and as the ICN Nurse Consultant focusing primarily on socio-economic issues (SEW). She will assume the position formerly held by Mireille Kingma RN, PhD who will retire in June following 25 years with ICN.

Since 2007 Ms Adams has been serving as Deputy Nursing Services Director for the Health Service Executive in Ireland. In this national role, she actively drives the strategic direction and policy development of nursing and midwifery. Her areas of expertise include positive practice environments, workforce planning, strategy and policy development.

“We are delighted that Elizabeth has joined us. She brings a wide range of relevant experience”, said David Benton, ICN Chief Executive Officer. “Through her knowledge of and commitment to critical and contemporary issues, such as promoting positive practice environments, Elizabeth will develop new and exciting initiatives at ICN, as well as maintaining the momentum of our existing signature programmes in SEW”.

In her current position, Ms Adams works to ensure that the nursing and midwifery professions are supported by appropriate legislation, regulation, policy, education, leadership, management, resources and research. She is responsible for the development and the implementation plan to introduce safe and effective nurse and midwife prescribing in Ireland. She also led the nursing and midwifery response to last year’s national strategy to establish mass vaccination clinics for the H1N1.

In an earlier position with the Department of Health and Children, Elizabeth co-researched and established systematic procedures such as a *National Nursing and Midwifery Human Resource Minimum Dataset*, a critical instrument to effectively manage and deliver nursing and midwifery services nationally.

Ms Adams also held the position of Principal Nursing Officer with the Department of Health, Western Australia from 2002 to 2005, developing state-wide framework to introduce the nurse practitioner initiative there.

“It was a fantastic experience because I was exposed to strategic policy planning in another country”, she continued. “I was amazed at how many similarities existed and now appreciate that many countries confront the same challenges such as aging populations, a widening health gap, shortage of staff and problems with their conditions of service, escalating demands in hospital care and increasing costs of technology. In Short, countries face similar issues and there is great potential to learn from and support each other”.

In 2009 she received the Government of Western Australia Recognition Award for excellence for her work to establish and define nurse practitioners in Western Australia. She is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Western Australia.

Adams was awarded a Bachelor of Nursing Studies (Hons) by the Faculty of Nursing, Dublin City University, Ireland. She earned a Masters in Science (Research) from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Dublin, Trinity College, Ireland, and is pursuing a doctoral degree there. Her awards include the First National and European Research Award and the All Ireland Research Fellowship Award.

“Dr Kingma’s groundbreaking work over the years, and her innovation and expertise in leading the profession on SEW issues has been an inspiration to so many nurses, including myself. It is a huge challenge to follow in her footsteps”, Adams said. “I’m most enthusiastic about the opportunity to work in partnership and collaboration with ICN member associations. Worldwide ICN brings so many nurses together to share knowledge and I hope that my role will support that process”.

#### **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, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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