

## A 20/20 VISION FOR ICDA FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

### XII International Congress of Dietetics, Philippines 1996

Madam Chairperson, honored guests, dietitians and nutritionists from around the world, we are pleased to present a future vision for the International Committee of Dietetic Associations.

Our beginning is the legacy – the gift of a vision for an international dietetic association – given to us by pioneers in the dietetics profession during the late 1940's. Today, the International Committee will describe the forces that are reshaping dietetic practice around the world and we will look at the opportunities for the profession. From this view, we will share the highlights of discussions this past week by the official country representatives who have brought new vision for *ICDA in an Interdependent World*.

*After the Second World War* there was rapid growth in international contacts within the dietetic profession. At a conference in 1945 sponsored by the British Council, two hundred dietitians from Canada, New Zealand, the United States and Great Britain met to review what had been achieved in nutrition and feeding during war time in Great Britain. They discussed the future scope of dietetics as a profession and the role of dietitians in the expanding field of nutrition. This conference provided impetus and encouragement for the development of professional activity in the post war period.

*Just after the Second World War* Miss D.J. TenHaaf of the Netherlands proposed an international dietetic association. Her vision included:

- Formation of an international dietetic organization, an International Dietetic Council on which all national associations would be represented
- Regular international Congresses held in those countries which belonged to the international dietetic organization
- Interchanges of dietitians and nutritionists throughout the world
- Exchange of literature and an international dietetic journal

Miss Tenhaaf circulated her proposals throughout the world. She also moved forward with a plan for the Netherlands Association to hold the First International Congress of Dietetics in Amsterdam in 1952. It was planned that the Congress should mark the launch of the international dietetics organization.

*In 1952 an international organization was ahead of its time.* With support of the international dietetics committee the Congress did go ahead with the purpose of discussing mutual problems in nutrition and dietetics such as training, responsibilities and the scope of work of dietitians in different countries throughout the world. At the 1952 Congress, agreement was not reached on the formation of an international dietetic organization, but a small interim Committee made up of representatives of Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States and the United Kingdom was appointed to maintain contacts between national dietetic associations and to arrange for a second International Congress of Dietetics in 1956 in Rome. During the planning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress, relationships among the national associations grew stronger. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress, official representatives of all participating national dietetic associations met twice and accepted an invitation from the British Dietetic Association to host a third Congress, the first International Committee of Dietetic Associations of representatives of 7 countries was elected, and all representatives agreed to take a proposal back to their national dietetic associations for a financial

contribution of 30 cents/active member of each association to an International Fund to support the work of the International Committee of Dietetic Associations.

***In 1961, the vision began to unfold.*** At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress, the first policy decisions about representation and dues were made and formed the basis of an international dietetic s organization. In the three and one-half decades since that time, 10 Congresses have been held – each in a different country; each with the participation of dietitians from around the world; each on a broad theme of dietetics in relation to emerging worldwide trends and issues for the practice of dietetics. Throughout 35 years, the International Committee studied the work and training of dietitians around the world, periodically publishing reports and, at this Congress, sharing the information more broadly through the two Forums on work and education of dietitians. ICDA representatives maintained a casual liaison with the International Union of Nutritional Sciences over many years and in 1978 was formally recognized as an affiliate of IUNS. This new status created a more formal channel of communication and representation.

For 40 years, ICDA has functioned in approximately the same way. The International Committee of Dietetic Associations made up of representatives of 7 elected countries oversees planning of an International Congress every 4 years, national dietetic associations pay 10 cents per active member per year to support planning the next International Congress. Currently, there are 24 countries paying dues to ICDA, and the potential for many more member associations. There are only a few policies governing membership, dues, Congress planning, and meetings of official representatives of national dietetic associations that take place during each Congress.

***In 1996 there is impetus for change.*** Nutrition is widely recognized as a factor in health, specific relationships between food, nutrition, health and disease have been verified, and the contribution of nutrition and dietetics professionals in the maintenance of healthy populations has been established. The role of dietitians is changing:

Determinants of Health – Canada

*A new understanding and broader view of the determinants of health is emerging. Governments are re-evaluating their investments in health care delivery and prevention, and community development, and creating opportunities for team-based approaches.*

Privatization of Health Care – Israel

*Privatization of the health care delivery system in Israel is driven by financial conservatism. Outpatient care and a focus on prevention are the result. The consumer is becoming a full partner with health professionals in the selection and delivery of comprehensive health care.*

Changing Expectations for Public Protection – United Kingdom

*The dynamic change in health care delivery – from institutional to community-based settings – is increasing consumer expectations for protection in the provision, maintenance and assurance of the quality of nutrition and dietetics services.*

Nutrition Policy Across the Life Span – Japan

*Along with a rapid increase of the elderly population and non-communicable diseases, the Japan Dietetic Association will focus on 3 strategies as member's responsibility: prevention, cure and care. Dietetic practice began with a preventive focus, and this focus continues. Clinical nutrition with an emphasis in nutrition support and nutrition therapy were not previously well integrated into dietetic practice and education. Care will be provided in new settings such as home care and in new ways by teams of health professionals, including dietitians. The expanding scope of practice requires new knowledge and skills of dietitians.*

#### Nutrition Advocacy and Education – Philippines

*In developing countries, under nutrition and over nutrition coexist. Dietitians and Nutritionists will increasingly influence the formation of government policy such as iodine deficiency legislation in the Philippines. Advocacy campaigns are necessary - to educate and to help consumers make informed choices about food, nutrition and health.*

#### Practiced-based Outcomes Research – USA

*In the next decade, dietetics researchers and practitioners will be routinely and broadly engaged in practice-based research to document the cost effectiveness of comprehensive nutrition services, including medical nutrition therapy, and to demonstrate the role and value of the dietetics professional in the delivery of these services.*

#### Changing Roles/Opportunities for Dietitians – Sweden

*The public sector is shrinking and the health care system is undergoing dramatic change. There will be fewer dietitians in traditional administrative and therapeutic roles. However, there are new opportunities and possibilities as consultants and entrepreneurs for those who are well educated not only in nutrition and dietetics but also in marketing, management and economics.*

***New technology creates greater opportunities for the dietetic profession.*** To the trends identified by members of the International Committee, add telecommunications, the World Wide Web, voice activated computers with language translation capabilities, and rapid development of the next generation products and consider the opportunity for ICDA to support the advancement of dietetics globally.

#### **ICDA PURPOSE AND MISSION**

By listening to speakers and Congress participants, by participating in the two symposia on the Education and Work of Dietitians Around the World, and through discussion among representatives of national dietetic associations at official business meetings this past week, a broader purpose and mission for ICDA has begun to emerge; the image of a unique organization serving the interests of the dietetic profession around the world.

The following provisional statement of purpose will guide the Planning Committee as it addresses issues of ICDA structure and programming for consideration by delegates in 2000.

#### **ICDA will support dietetic associations and their members, beyond national and regional boundaries, by achieving:**

- **An integrated communications system**
- **An enhanced image for the profession**
- **Increased awareness of standards of education, training and practice in dietetics**

This clearer view of what ICDA could achieve will be the basis for continuing dialogue among the member countries of ICDA towards, clarifying, the purpose and mission of ICDA before the turn of the Century. Between now and the end of 1999 strategies and specific plans for achieving these results will be developed. ICD delegates will meet in 2000 in Edinburgh at the XIII International Congress of Dietetics to act on proposals that will finalize the mission and plans.

## **STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS**

**Secretariat** From 1992 to 1996, as a pilot project, Canada served as the Secretariat for ICDA. The objectives were to create a more permanent address for ICDA, to increase our knowledge and understanding of operating an international organization and, ultimately, to increase the efficiency of ICDA. The Secretariat has provided a number of benefits to ICDA and Delegates have agreed that ICDA will be better able to achieve its goals as a result of continuity and support of Dietitians of Canada.

**Congress** Delegates have agreed that the International Congress of Dietetics would continue to be held every four years. The Congress will emphasize forums for discussions of global dietetics issues and will not replicate national or regional dietetics conferences or other international nutrition congress. To ensure a fair opportunity for participation by dietitians and nutritionists from all parts of the world, a long-term plan for rotating the Congress will be developed. Following the Congress in the Asia-Pacific region, the Congress will move to Europe; following that to the America Region.

**Research** ICDA will continue the important research it conducts on trends in the education and work of dietitians and will find ways to make the information available to national associations and their members.

**Communications** *Dietetics Around the World*, will continue as a regular service to members of ICDA. The American Dietetic Association Foundation has published three issues of *Dietetics Around the World* under the auspices of the Wimpfheimer-Guggenheim Fund. The newsletter has made it possible to share information among national dietetic associations and to develop an international dialogue that otherwise would not be possible.

**International liaison** ICDA will sponsor a presentation by Dr. William Evers on “The Use of Technology in the International Community” at the 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nutrition in Canada next year. Dr. Evers, a registered dietitian, received recognition through the Wimpfheimer-Guggenheim Fund for International Exchange in Nutrition, Dietetics and Management.

## **PREPARING FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

Never before has the global dietetics profession been so well positioned to achieve a larger mission - through its members, who provide science-based nutrition leadership for improving the health and well-being of the people of the world. The visionary women who founded the International Committee of Dietetic Associations imagined an organization with potential to contribute to the advancement of the profession on a global scale. The time has arrived to create what was envisioned nearly half a century ago.

### International Committee of Dietetic Associations

Canada, Marsha Sharp

Japan, Motoko Sakamoto

Israel, Naomi Trostler

Philippines, Asuncion Macalalag

Sweden, Karin Hådel

United States, Bev Bajus

United Kingdom, Irene Mackay