

Closing speech

Dear Aiko Yamamoto, dear colleagues,

Being your host in Bremen has been a great honour and a great pleasure. I hope you have enjoyed the conference and I hope you have managed to explore, and even become fond of, our city.

We came together to discuss the important topic “Future Challenges for Global Disaster Risk Management – Evidence based Research and Powerful Competencies Needed for Nurses”. Over 40 lectures, some 80 posters and 170 colleagues from 4 continents and 19 countries have all contributed to the increase in knowledge and ideas of the challenges caused by disasters. We need more research on this topic, the results of which must be used to consolidate further the competencies of health staff and nurses in particular. The recent example in Indonesia has shown us all how important this is for the future, as catastrophes are increasing on a worldwide scale.

I thank everyone for coming to Bremen. In particular I would like to thank Aiko Yamamoto, President of the World Society of Disaster Nursing, for her great support. I would like to thank the keynote speakers, moderators, panellists und speakers. I would also like to thank the designers of the posters for their commitment and the great effort involved.

Our conference sponsors also deserve a big thank you, headed by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)), the German Nursing Council (Deutscher Pflegerat (DPR)), the German Nurses Association (Deutscher Berufsverband für Pflegeberufe (DBfK)), the Robert Bosch Foundation, Fresenius Kabi, the University of Bremen, and Faculty 11 - Human and Health Sciences.

A very special thank you goes to the organisation committee, especially Paulina Meinecke and Lisa Schumski, for their untiring commitment to the preparation and organisation over many months. The conference would not have been possible without them.

The students at the University of Bremen deserve recognition and thanks for their active support from the very beginning, but especially in most recent days. Here a special mention to Saziye Demirel und Ida Holland-Letz.

Last but not least, a heartfelt thank you to both colleagues from the secretarial office, Ms Joost und Ms Degering- Machirus. You took the load off us and strengthened our nerves with encouragement, cookies and chocolate.

I think we are all already looking forward to the 6th Conference of World Society of Disaster Nursing in South Korea and thank Prof. Ogcheol Lee for her readiness to organise this event.

So, that only leaves me now with the task of wishing you all a safe trip home or maybe a few more pleasant days in Bremen. I hope to see you all soon.

With sincere thanks

Stefan Görres

Chair