

## Welcoming speech to the 5th Conference WSDN, Bremen, Germany

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Dear President of World Society of Disaster Nursing (WSDN), Aiko Yamamoto, dear Senator Prof. Dr. Quante-Brandt, dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to Bremen on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of World Society of Disaster Nursing, October 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

There are several reasons why Bremen is an excellent venue for this congress on “Future Challenges for Global Disaster Risk Management – Evidence based Research and Powerful Competencies Needed for Nurses”: Bremen is a cosmopolitan city and well-known for its responsible social, liberal and global attitude stemming from the past right through to the present day. This could be seen recently concerning the issue of refugees, to which Germany, and Bremen, have shown extraordinary commitment and which continues to move us on a global level.

Bremen is also known, at least in Germany, for its early and successful efforts to establish nursing studies at an academic level in its higher education establishments. This success means that Bremen now belongs to the best research locations in Germany.

And finally Bremen is also an innovative, dynamic, culturally exciting and buoyant city. Just have a walk round or take a city tour to see for yourselves.

By inviting national and international health researchers, academics and practitioners, the 5th Conference of World Society of Disaster Nursing aims to create a platform for dialogue related to the area of disaster nursing. To this effect, we are expecting representatives from Japan, China, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Europe, Africa and the US among others. Sixteen countries are represented, each of which is aware of the great importance of this intercommunication.

The new challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as global terrorism, the threat of climate change and the resulting natural catastrophes, and man-made disasters, have been leading to far-reaching changes in our countries, societies and global system. The highest vulnerability concerns peoples' health.

Over 40 lectures and 80 posters deal with experiences, relevant research topics and methods, innovative technologies and logistical requirements to support catastrophe aid. In addition, the focus is also on the safety of health professionals in areas of conflict, the relevance of cultural backgrounds in catastrophe management, the humanitarian consequences of crises, along with the refugee catastrophe in Syria and Africa.

I am quite sure that all these topics will enable us to learn from one another and to profit from a deeper insight into the numerous competencies of nurses, other health professions and relevant services which are active before, during and after a disaster. I have the justifiable hope that this conference will not only contribute globally to improving the situation of those people suffering from catastrophes, but also to the research on this matter, to the consolidation of training in the health and care professions, to the strengthening of the cooperation of institutions and countries involved, to the deepening of existing friendships and the formation of new ones.

I am therefore very much looking forward to us dedicating ourselves to this important topic on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018. I am also looking forward to the contributions and the resulting discussions. I would like to thank sincerely all organisers and sponsors of this conference, especially the WSDN and its President, Aiko Yamamoto, that we may be the hosts this year. We will do our utmost to ensure that you all have an enjoyable and worthwhile stay.

It is a great honour to have you at our conference in Bremen.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Stefan Görres

Chair of the Conference

Bremen, October 2018