The Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses Association celebrated their 85th Anniversary by holding their 7th Quadrennial Conference 1-6 June 2015. The theme for the conference was: Nursing and midwifery: power and best practice in the 21st century.

Jill Iliffe, Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation was privileged to present the keynote address: Nursing and midwifery: rebranding for effectiveness and best practice in the 21st century. Ms Iliffe’s presentation focused on demonstrating leadership both in theory and in practice and what it means to be a professional nurse or midwife. Ms Iliffe said that another name for re-branding is re-imaging but re-imaging can also be interpreted as re-imagine. Ms Iliffe painted a word picture of how it might be possible to re-imagine nursing and midwifery in the 21st century. Being a profession, Ms Iliffe said, is more than providing safe care; it means doing good and not doing harm. Ms Iliffe invited conference participants to re-imagine the future for nursing and midwifery in Trinidad and Tobago and then work toward that vision. The Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses Association is a long-standing member of the CNMF.

The 3rd Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference will be held in London UK 12-13 March 2016 (see conference notice on the second page of this e-News). The theme of the conference is: Toward 2020: celebrating nursing and midwifery leadership. The conference will showcase and celebrate the work of nursing and midwifery leaders who have followed in the footsteps of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, the first nursing theorists, a great nursing leader and a role model for nurses and midwives everywhere. Abstracts close 30 June 2015. Go to: http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2016 to submit your abstract or email to: jill@commonwealthnurses.org.

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The United Nations has released the 2015 report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The report gives a global overview of what has been achieved for each of the eight MDGs. Results within countries vary considerably and the data is dependent on what is provided by countries or on estimates. It is clear from the report that there is still a great deal to be done.

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/reports.shtml

**MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

Extreme poverty has declined significantly over the last two decades. In 1990, nearly half of the population in the developing world lived on less than $1.25 a day; that proportion dropped to 14 per cent in 2015. Globally, the number of people living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015.

**MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education**

The primary school net enrolment rate in the developing regions has reached 91 per cent in 2015, up from 83 per cent in 2000. The number of out-of-school children of primary school age worldwide has fallen by almost half, to an estimated 57 million in 2015, down from 100 million in 2000. Sub-Saharan Africa has had the best record of improvement in primary education of any region since the MDGs were established.

**MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

Many more girls are now in school compared to 15 years ago. The developing regions as a whole have achieved the target to eliminate gender disparity in primary, secondary and tertiary education. Still only one in five women are members of parliament.

**MDG 4: Reduce child mortality**

Despite population growth in the developing regions, the global under-five mortality rate has declined by more than half, dropping from 90 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2015.

**MDG 5: Improve maternal health**

Since 1990, the maternal mortality ratio has declined by 45 per cent worldwide, and most of the reduction has occurred since 2000. More than 71 per cent of births were assisted by skilled health personnel globally in 2014, an increase from 59 per cent in 1990.

**MDG 6: Combat HIV, AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

New HIV infections fell by approximately 40 per cent between 2000 and 2013. The global malaria incidence rate has fallen by an estimated 37 per cent and the mortality rate by 58 per cent. The tuberculosis mortality rate fell by 45 per cent and the prevalence rate by 41 per cent between 1990 and 2013.

**MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

In 2015, 91 per cent of the global population is using an improved drinking water source, compared to 76 per cent in 1990. Of the 2.6 billion people who have gained access to improved drinking water since 1990, access to piped drinking water on premises. Over half of the global population (58 per cent) gained access to piped drinking water on premises.

**MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

Between 2000 and 2014, official development assistance from developed countries increased by 66 per cent in real terms. In 2015, 95 per cent of the world’s population is covered by a mobile-cellular signal and Internet penetration has grown from just over 6 per cent of the world’s population in 2000 to 43 per cent.