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**EDITORIAL**

**Featured News**

Dear Friends,

As the stories in this issue testify, nurses are leading advocates for environmental health in every part of the world. Working on the front lines, nurses face the greatest number of occupational hazards, and they understand the problems most acutely.

That's why nurses are the heart and soul of the Health Care Without Harm campaign-- constantly organizing to take action on mercury, medical waste, chemical safety, and now, climate change.

What does climate change have to do with nurses, or for that matter health care? Well, as the International Council of Nurses puts it, climate change is "an important issue for the nursing profession, particularly in light of the impact on people's health and nursing's shared responsibility to sustain and protect the natural environment from depletion, pollution, degradation and destruction."

Indeed, climate change is the most serious environmental health issue the world faces today and the health sector can play a leadership role in addressing it. For this reason WHO and HCWH just published a Discussion Paper entitled, *Healthy Hospitals, Healthy Planet, Healthy People: Addressing Climate Change in Health Care Settings*. The report creates a framework for understanding the issues, citing positive examples from around the world and identifying opportunities for action.

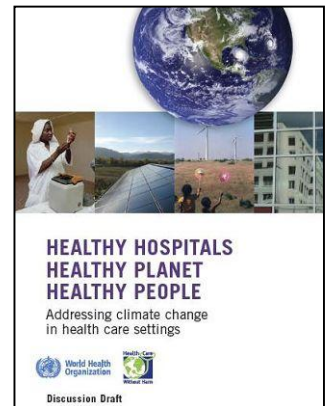
Most importantly, the WHO-HCWH discussion paper has helped launch a series of consultations around the world that will form the basis of a Global Network for Climate Friendly Healthcare. One of those discussions will take place with representatives of national nurses organizations gathered at the ICN Quadrennial Assembly later this month. Nurses are once again in the lead.

Enjoy the newsletter!

Joshua Karliner  
International Team Coordinator

**Climate Change and Health Care**

WHO and HCWH have co-published a ground breaking document addressing climate change in health care settings and the leadership role the health sector can play in mitigating global warming. Read the [press release](#) and [download the report](#)



**US and Europe**

**US: New Version of Green Guide for Health Care**

The Green Guide for Health Care has released a revised Operations section. This updated section of the best practices toolkit focuses on continuous improvement in health care facility operations. [Read press release.](#)

**EU: Are infection control measures contributing to**

**LATIN AMERICA**

**Proyecto Luminarias Launched**



Magdalena Franco  
(Mexico DF)

Health Care Without Harm and the Luminary Project recently launched Proyecto Luminarias, highlighting the stories of nurses who are addressing environmental concerns in health care in Latin America. Read the [Press Release](#), and check the [Proyecto Luminarias website](#).

### antibiotic resistance?

HCWH [Europe's new newsletter](#), Health & Environment looks at [new research](#) suggesting products used in hospitals to prevent the spread of bacteria could be accelerating the development of antibiotic- and biocide-resistant strains.

## ASIA



### Philippine Nurses Join Battle for Environmental Health

Celebrating International Nurses Day, HCWH-Southeast Asia and the Philippine Nurses Association agreed to partner to create a cleaner, healthier and more environmentally-friendly health care system. [Read the press release](#).



### Indian Hospitals Exchange Experiences with African Nurses

HCWH Partners Toxics Link and groundWork teamed up to bring nurses from South Africa to India so that they could compare, share and learn better strategies to manage health care waste. [Read more](#).

## Events

Third International WHO Conference on Children's Environmental Health, Busan, Korea, 7-10 June 2009 <http://www.ceh2009.org/>



## AFRICA



### Nurses Building Healthier Environments

HCWH and our South Africa partner groundWork, together with the Democratic Nurses Organization of South Africa and the International Council of Nurses are organizing a day-long pre-conference symposium prior to the ICN Quadrennial Assembly in Durban on June 29th. [Learn more](#).

GroundWork's  
Nomcebo Mvelase,  
RN

**Health Care Without Harm** is an international coalition of 473 organizations in more than 50 countries, working to transform the healthcare sector so it is no longer a source of harm to people and the environment.

You can visit us in [www.noharm.org](http://www.noharm.org) to find out more about our campaigns

If you no longer wish to receive updates on our work to transform health care sector worldwide, you may send an email with "unsubscribe" in the subject to [alejandra@hcvh.org](mailto:alejandra@hcvh.org)