

KS-2



Leadership for Nursing Development : My Personal Work Experience

Tassana Boontong

Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council, Thailand

Nurses today are facing with many challenges of disruptive health systems. The demographic, epidemiological and socio-economic-cultural transition, the advancement in medical technology; the emergence of artificial intelligence; the unexpected emerging diseases and disasters; and the high demands of public for equity, quality and safety create complicated working environment. Strong and effective leadership is critical for nurses to make practical and workable solutions. Every nurse may not be in leader positions but all can be educated and trained to have leadership capacity. Nursing leadership can influence the changes needed to improve health of people and contribute to the Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goals. Leadership requires vision, knowledge of health care systems and profession, and certain characteristics, skills and attitude. The 9 essential qualities of leadership are emotional intelligence, integrity, critical thinking, dedication to excellence, communication skills, professional socialization, respect and mentorship.

Today at the age of 78 years old, I am still very much active in self development, management of educational institution as well as in advancing nursing and midwifery professional development. Working with others as full partners in a context of mutual respect and collaboration and networking with other fields including politics are well recognized as important factors in my work. In this conference I would share three examples of my work, namely, the collaborative PhD programme in nursing, the 20-year plan for nursing and midwifery development, and a pilot project for nursing and midwifery clinic as a service unit in the health insurance system under the National Health Security Office. My vision, aspects of leadership used to achieve the desired goals or targets and factors contributing to the success would be analyzed. Also key reasons that still drive me to continue to juggle many diverse tasks simultaneously with commitment, passion, enthusiasm and happiness will be also presented.