

Pakistani nurses remember victims of the earthquake

Zeba Arif, RCN London Board member, reports...

EVER SINCE Wasim Ahmad Khan set up a network for Pakistani nurses in the UK in 2004 – the All Pakistan Nurses Association (APNA) – the membership has grown.

This year's AGM was particularly poignant after the earthquake in Northern Pakistan claimed so many thousands of lives, leaving millions with absolutely nothing in the harsh Himalayan winter. The meeting in London on New Year's Eve was attended by Pakistani nurses from all over the UK, as well as Manzoor ul Haq, Counsellor, High Commission for Pakistan. Margaret Hodge, MP for Barking, sent a message of good wishes.

The packed agenda started with a prayer for the earthquake victims. It seemed that everyone there knew someone who was affected by the disaster. Two British nurses, Mohammed Asghar from London and Farzana Adam from Preston, Lancashire,



Members of APNA, including the President, Wasim Ahmed Khan, with Manzoor ul Haq, Mohammed Asghar and Farzana Adam.

presented a tremendously moving and inspirational account of their visit to Pakistan to join in the recovery effort.

Manzoor ul Haq gave an account of the help that the High Commission is providing to anyone who is involved in the recovery effort – not only the aid agencies but individuals as well. On a sombre note, he declared how desperately nurses were needed in Pakistan and how much the Embassy appreciated the efforts APNA members were making to help earthquake victims.

Waseem Ahmad Khan brought the meeting to a close by urging nurses everywhere to consider giving up at least two weeks of their annual leave in order to make an enormous difference to the lives of people who would truly appreciate even the smallest gesture of help.