

## Note from the Asia/Far East

### Nurses and Nurse Training

The minimum requirement to practice nursing at a professional level in Taiwan is that of being a registered nurse (RN). Hospitals and other healthcare institutions offer various programs to train nursing assistants. However, nursing assistants are not licensed as professional nurses and usually work under the guidance of RNs performing basic nursing tasks.

There are two systems of educational programs available to students to become a registered nurse, the Technical and Vocational Education system and the General University Education system (see Figure 2). The Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) system includes two types of entry-level nursing programs. After completing junior high school, students can select a program of study for three to four years in a nursing high school or enter a five-year junior college nursing program. Upon completion of either entry-level program, students can continue their nursing education by attending a two-year nursing college or a four-year institute of technology. The second system, the General University Education (GUE) system, accepts students from traditional senior high schools and provides four years of nursing education at a university level (Yu et al., 2005). Acceptance into either system is based upon scores on a national exam, high school grade point average, and participation in school activities. Entrance to both systems is highly competitive and high scores on the national exam are a prerequisite to acceptance. Mathematics, general science, biology, social sciences, English, and Chinese literature are subjects generally tested on the national exam. For master's and doctoral programs, entrance criteria and requirements are set by each individual university. Normally, both written and oral evaluations are involved in the selection process.