

## **GHANA VISIT January 2020**

In January Diane Gilmour and Sandra Pryme joined by Linda Whyte from FoAN Canada travelled to Accra, Ghana. The purpose of our visit to deliver a 3 day leadership and 2 day perioperative training programme to Ghanaian nurses.

We were hosted by the team at the Medical & Surgical Skills Institute (MMSI) who, looked after us very well providing an excellent training facility, administration support and some very nice food. Richard our driver from MSSI took us on a tour of Accra and we visited the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and memorial park. This beautiful park is dedicated to the life of Ghana's first president Kwame Nkrumah.

We had 50 delegates on the leadership programme, nurses from all backgrounds some hospital and some community based. We were very impressed to hear that a group of these nurses had travelled over 8 hours by car to attend the programme. The delegates joined in all the activities sharing their own knowledge and experiences and we had some very lively and engaging debate.

We had 34 delegates for the two day perioperative programme these nurses work in a variety of roles in theatres from health care assistants to nursing officers. They all appeared to enjoy networking with colleagues and sharing practice. Some of the issues affecting theatre nurses in Ghana are the same as those faced by UK nurses namely lack of staff, lack of equipment and a lack of training. The Ghanaian delegates impressed me with their good humour and their passion for learning and developing their own practice areas.

During our visit we met with Rita Aryee Director of Nursing Services at Korle Bu Hospital. Rita took up her post less than a year ago and she shared us with us her vision for training and development for her nursing staff. Rita would like to develop a culture of coaching and mentoring. Rita is very supportive of FoAN she told us that two years ago she attended one FoAN's leadership programmes. Rita arranged for us to visit the main theatre suite in Korle Bu hospital the staff were very welcoming and showed us around the theatres and recovery it was one of the highlights of the visit, to go to theatres and talk with our perioperative colleagues.