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## Exciting Times in South-Asian Midwifery

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## **Exciting Times in South-Asian Midwifery**

Welcome to the summer 2017 issue of the *Journal of Asian Midwives*. We have again an exciting number of papers, ranging from a contribution on the recent historical developments in midwifery in Bangladesh to a paper maternal health promotion in Nepal. We also have a midwifery education contribution from Pakistan focusing on the development of a mentorship module for community midwives. There are also papers covering midwifery and maternity care in India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Turkey, the latter situated on the border of Asia and Europe.

This year is a special year in the international midwifery calendar as the triennial International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Congress was organised in June in Toronto, Canada. The ICM supports, represents and works to strengthen professional associations of midwives throughout the world. There are currently 116 midwifery associations, representing 102 countries across the globe. The South-Asian midwifery associations of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan are all members of the ICM. The ICM Council consists of two members from Africa, two from America, three from Europe and three from Asia Pacific. The *Journal of Asian Midwives'* editor Rafat Jan is one of the three ICM Board members representing the Asia Pacific Region. The ICM Council voted for its new President Ms. Franka Cadée (from the Netherlands), its new Vice-President Ms. Mary Kirk and the treasurer Ingela Wiklund. The new president Franka Cadée motivated midwives to help improve maternity services across the globe by saying: "All midwives here know when it's time to breathe and when it's time to push. This is our time to push!"

The midwifery associations linked to the ICM represent more than 300,000 midwives working across the globe. The Congress, held every three years, provides an educationally robust scientific programme whilst offering midwives the opportunity to meet colleagues from different parts of the world. At the ICM many midwives join in an exciting walk in Toronto, followed by an impressive opening event, and many interesting sessions, exchanges of ideas, research presentations, debates, information and FUN!!!

This year at the ICM midwives succeeded in a world record attempt for the *Guinness Book of World Records* achieving the World's Largest Infant Massage Lesson. Bravo!!

Professors Rafat Jan & Edwin van Teijlingen