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## JAM: Sharing the voices of regional practicing midwives

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## **Editorial**

### **JAM: Sharing the voices of regional practicing midwives**

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The *Journal of Asian Midwives* (JAM) wishes all the midwives a Happy International Day of the Midwife 2015.

The Midwifery Association of Pakistan (MAP) offers its profound condolences to the bereaved families of Nepal, who faced the devastating 7.9 magnitude earthquake on 25<sup>th</sup> of April. This and the subsequent earthquake in May have resulted in the loss of more than 8000 lives, displacement of thousands of people and massive structural damage in the capital Kathmandu and elsewhere. The ICM and regional countries midwifery associations appreciate and offered their support to the Midwifery Society of Nepal (MIDSON) who have mobilized outreach clinics to earth quake survivors in affected districts with special focus to pregnant women, newborns and postnatal mothers. ICM has sent funds and supplies from Direct Relief donors to MIDSON. Being geographically located in an earthquake zone our region requires special focus on disaster preparedness of pregnant women, lactating mothers and their newborns, for which MAP offer full support in providing professional service in all the possible ways.

In this issue of JAM we bring you a paper about the new initiative of BRAC University, Bangladesh, using the ‘hub and spoke’ model for enhancing maternal and child health care services in far flung rural areas. The attention grabbing article of the current issue is about Twinning in Nepal. The article very well elaborates the lived experience of Nepal Midwifery Association for having a twinning with the Royal College of Midwifery (RCM ) through its Global Midwifery Twinning Project (GMTP). It describes the benefits and impact of the collaboration between a recognized national midwifery organization and a newly established one. It is also interesting to find out, in this issue, about the endeavors of the Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) around strengthening the three pillars of the midwifery profession namely education, regulation, and professional association (ERA), in the country. The article highlights the factors which have influenced midwifery in Afghanistan towards a positive change, both at the individual and the societal level. This latest issue also presents a case study on the unique strategy of establishing midwifery and

Lady Health Visitors (LHV) led maternal and child health centers in Gilgit Baltistan, by the Aga Khan Health Services Pakistan, to combat the alarming rates of maternal and child mortalities in the region. As an evidence of the enhanced reading circle of the *Journal of Asian Midwives*, this issue contains an article from United Arab Emirates (UAE). Interestingly, geographers at times refer to West Asia meaning the region commonly known as the Middle East. The UAE paper reports on a survey report of women's views of epidural analgesia in the Middle East. It refers to the low prevalence of epidural analgesia and its associated factors among women undergoing labour in the UAE.

JAM looks forward to more scholarly contributions to be disseminated in the world of midwives, which positively affect midwives' practice, and show its impact on the maternal and child health of the region.

Co-Editors

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