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Editorial - Summer 2023

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Midwifery in an unsettled world

Welcome to the latest issue of *Journal of Asian Midwives, JAM 2023*. We would like to take the opportunity to highlight an interesting webinar which took place in early May 2023, discussing "Midwifery in South Asia: Building Bridges for the Future". The event coincided with the global celebrations as part of the International Day of the Midwife. The webinar promoted a dialogue and collaboration among midwifery professionals in South Asian. This year's theme for the International Day of the Midwife was "Together Again: From Evidence to Reality." Midwives are, or should be, at the forefront of evidence-based practice, advocating for high-quality care, and improving maternal and newborn health services around the world. In addition, there were the celebrations around the Virtual International Day of the Midwife which offered a 24-hour online conference on 5th May for midwives and anyone interested in childbirth.

This year we saw the first in-person meeting at the 33rd ICM (International Confederation of Midwives) Triennial Congress in Bali, Indonesia in June 2023. The Triennial International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Council meeting made decisions on some very important aspect for midwives, women and babies as well as for the midwifery profession. The ICM developed strategic directions and priorities for the next three years. Our environment and the climate were important discussion issues at the ICM meeting. Climate change is unsettling in many ways, in midwifery it is impacting on pregnancy and newborns' outcomes.

The Midwifery Professional Framework also incorporates midwifery services framework will provide empowerment for midwives and women across the globe. The ICM Council delegates elected a new President Ms. Sandra Oyarzo Torres from Chile, and also endorsed new board members.

The highlight of the congress were the plenary sessions held all three days. The first Congress plenary session, titled "Realizing the Top Demands of Midwives." The session featured a diverse range of experts who shared their successful lobbying efforts to improve the compensation and working conditions for midwives, women, and other marginalized groups.

The 2nd plenary session highlighted the crucial roles of midwives in emergencies, disasters in humanitarian and fragile setting. Two very brave midwives working in conflict situations, Vira Tselyk from Ukraine and Jeffthanie Mathurin from Haiti resulted in standing ovations, as they each provided firsthand accounts of their work in crisis situations.

The 3rd plenary session explored the role of ICM in advancing inclusive midwifery and how can we support midwives to deliver the best-possible care to women and all community members.

The last plenary was based on Addressing the world's most pressing issues through midwifery and exemplify the potential of the midwifery scope of practice to extend far beyond pregnancy and childbirth.

The three-day ICM meeting ended with a main message of advocacy for midwives and women around the World. Midwives play a crucial role in protecting and promoting maternal and newborn health outcomes. It is worth reminding readers of *Journal of Asian Midwives* that 'Some nurses are midwives, but not all midwives are nurses!'

JAM receives inclusion in SCOPUS

We would like to share the good news to readers that in May 2023, the *Journal of Asian Midwives* has been approved for indexing by SCOPUS, which is owned by the publishing house Elsevier which is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. We received highly encouraging comments from the content evaluation team, which are as follows The Scopus assessors of our application made some very nice comments about the *Journal of Asian Midwives* including that:

1. "The Journal has developed citations across the international Scopus journals in midwifery, maternal health, and other related fields.
2. The journal consistently includes articles that are academically sound and relevant to an international academic or professional audience in the field
3. The journal has clear aims and scope/policies that are consistent with the journal's content
4. The articles and abstracts are keeping with Scopus English Language requirements, well written and understandable.
5. Although the scope of this journal is narrow, it addresses the need of an important niche audience."

We are very proud of this achievement, and we thank all our supporter, especially the library staff at The Aga Khan University in Karachi, our reviewers, our authors and of course, you, our readers!

Recent Advancement in JAM

We are also looking forward to including a section for the proposals and blogs in JAM from the next issue onwards. From December 2023 onwards view point/short essays will be added to offer contributors a chance to raise delicate issues related to maternity care, childbirth and midwifery.

In this first issue of 2023 of the *Journal of Asian Midwives* brings you nine interesting articles covering Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Uganda.

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