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Welcome to the first Journal of Asian Midwives

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Editorial

Welcome to the first Journal of Asian Midwives

Welcome to the *Journal of Asian Midwives* (JAM), the first regional online midwifery journal launched by the South Asian Midwifery Alliance (SAMA).

JAM is the platform to share the voices of regional midwives, nurses-midwives, women's health clinicians, and reproductive health professionals as well as social scientists, through letters, comments and articles. JAM brings Asian midwives together with the common goals of (a) disseminating of evidence of midwifery education, practice, research and policies; (b) advocating for professional midwifery; and (c) consequently improving maternal, child and infant care through advancing the status, competency as well as the number of midwives.

This past year has been an important year for the developments in midwifery in general and in South Asia in Particular. Regional collaborations in South Asia were accelerated through the meeting in Dubai during December 2013, which brought together Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal. Of course, scope of the journal is beyond these countries. At a regional level such collaborations are necessary to strengthen midwifery. Moreover, we had for the first time a special sub-meeting on South-Asia at the 30th international congress of the ICM (International Confederation of Midwives) in Prague, Czech Republic, where the JAM was launch officially. In our own humble way this first edition of the *Journal of Asian Midwifery* is both a sign of progress of the field and a foundation for further growth in the profession of midwifery.

At the ICM (International Confederation of Midwives) in June 2014 the *State of the World Midwifery Report 2014* was also launched. This Report, with the sub-title *A Universal Pathway. A women's right to health*, assesses the status of midwifery services in 73 low- and middle income countries, including e.g. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The State of the World Midwifery Report spurred the debate on the importance of midwives in the delivery of integrated Sexual, Reproductive Maternal and Neonatal Health Services.

We are living in a critical and exciting time (2014-2015) for midwifery worldwide, and for midwifery in Asia in particular. The global health community has been discussing for more than a year what will be our next set of targets for health and development after the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to an end. JAM has a wide range of support including from the national midwifery organisations in the region. We present to you the first issue of *Journal of Asian Midwifery*. This includes six papers, with a mixture of news, case study, original articles and literature reviews on the midwifery front from Afghanistan, Bangladesh India, Nepal and Pakistan.

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