

6-2016

## News & Events

Follow this and additional works at: <http://ecommons.aku.edu/jam>



Part of the [Nursing Midwifery Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

News & Events. Journal of Asian Midwives. 2016;3(1):2-3.

## **Third Global Midwifery Symposium: Young Midwives in the Lead & the Women Deliver Conference**

**Reported by:** Marina Baig, Instructor, Aga Khan University, School of Nursing & Midwifery;  
Young Midwife Leader, International Confederation of Midwives  
Email: [marina.baig@aku.edu](mailto:marina.baig@aku.edu)

The Third Global Midwifery Symposium was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May followed by Women Deliver Conference on 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2016. The Midwifery symposium was based on the theme “Young Midwives in the Lead” and it was preceded by the young midwife leadership workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2016. In total, 32 midwives from 31 countries around the world received a scholarship to participate in the leadership training, the Global Midwifery Symposium and the Women Deliver Conference. I got the opportunity to be a part of the young midwife group with five other midwives from APRO region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia and Iran). These young midwives shared their experiences in midwifery practice, education, governance and regulation to ensure that every woman, newborn and her family has access to a skilled professional midwife.

**Young Midwife Leadership Workshop (14 May, 2016):** The event was organized in collaboration with multiple agencies including, the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), UNFPA, the World Health Organization (WHO), H4+, JHPIEGO, Johnson and Johnson, Amref Health Africa, and the Leadership, Management, and Governance Project. The purpose of this workshop was to grow competency in young midwives to: a) act as local and system level change agents; b) serve as expert communicators and advocates for high impact evidence based midwifery care and systems; c) solve difficult problems using analytic tools and processes; d) think globally and act locally; and e) take risks and grasp opportunities to improve the performance.

The sessions in the workshop were based on the important leadership competencies such as: self-awareness, leadership roles, striving to make a difference: challenge models, improve analytical skills, stimulate critical appraisal of evidence based literature, and making the case for midwifery through advocacy.

**Global Midwifery Symposium (15-16 May, 2016):** It helped young midwives to enhance their leadership potential to become powerful strategic leaders and advocates, who can be engaged in policy dialogues with stronger evidence based voice. The Symposium highlighted the role of midwives in achieving new SDGs (sustainable development goals) and provided with the knowledge of global commitments, research and midwifery programmes. Most importantly, it built a strong network and provided a platform for young leaders to share their good practices, innovations and success stories with each other, that can be utilized to bring reform in midwifery practices to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes.

**Women Deliver Conference 2016 (16-19 May, 2016):** The conference focused on ‘how to implement Sustainable Development goals (SDGs)’ and specifically, emphasized on maternal, sexual, and reproductive health and rights and on gender equality, education, environment, and economic empowerment. The conference started with the opening remarks by Her Royal Highness, Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, she said, “When we invest in girls and women, society as a whole benefits because girls and women are the world’s greatest untapped resource,” The UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde discussed the major issue of child marriage and he stated, “Everybody has a role to play in protecting girls so that they can reach their full potential.” The keynote speaker Melinda Gates focused on the issue of data gap and highlighted: "We simply don't know enough about the barriers holding women and girls back, nor do we have sufficient information to track progress against the promises made to women and girls. We are committed to changing that by investing in better data, policies and accountability".