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Developments in midwifery in Asia in 2017

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Developments in midwifery in Asia in 2017

In this final editorial of 2017 for *The Journal of Asian Midwives* we would like to highlight some of the key events of the year. In the past year we have seen some interesting developments in midwifery education, especially in Bangladesh and Nepal. For international midwifery the main highlight was, of course, the three-yearly International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Congress in June in Canada. The ICM represents and strengthens professional midwifery associations throughout the world. The South-Asian midwifery associations of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan are all members of the ICM. As we said in the June editorial, we are very fortunate that *The Journal of Asian Midwives*' editor Professor Rafat Jan is one of the three ICM Board members representing the Asia Pacific Region.

This latest issue includes papers from Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. One paper from Pakistan addresses issues around midwifery education, which lags behind in many low-income countries, including Pakistan. This particular paper discusses the introduction of a new Bachelor of Science in Midwifery (BScM) programme in Pakistan, outlining the progress from the planning to the implementation stage.

A second paper the editors would like to highlight is also from Pakistan. This paper addresses an issue which is receiving more and more attention globally, namely fear in childbirth. This contribution sub-divided such fear into four broader categories: (1) fears related to the onset of labour pain; (2) fear of dying during the delivery; (3) fear of ending up with a Caesarean section; and (4) fear related to the health and gender of the baby.

Mahato and colleagues report on a systematic review on factors affecting the quality of care in BEmONC (Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care) and midwife-led facilities. The systematic review is not focused on Asia, but it is relevant to all low-and-middle-income countries. Their conclusion is that improving the quality of care of birthing facilities requires addressing both facility level and non-facility level determinants in order to increase local uptake of services at such facility. We hope you would agree that this issue, with its variety of articles, offers fascinating reading.

Since this is the final issue of 2017, we like to thank all of you have supported *The Journal of Asian Midwives* over the past year! We are grateful to our authors, the library staff at The Aga Khan University, our peer reviewers, the members of the editorial board and, most importantly you, our readers. We really like to thank Kiran Mubeen, Marina Baig, and Mehtab Jaffer for their hard work

in the editorial office. We are also thankful to Mr. Cameron J. van Teijlingen for proof-reading several papers submitted to the journal.

We wish all readers of *The Journal of Asian Midwives* a Happy, Healthy & Peaceful 2018!

Professors Rafat Jan & Edwin van Teijlingen