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## Asian midwifery in 2018

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## **Asian Midwifery in 2018**

We have extremely successful midwifery combined conference for members of Western Pacific, South-East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean regions through ICM in Dubai September, 2018. Conference theme was **Lead the way for quality and equity**. The theme reflected ICMs 2017-2020 Strategy that focuses on **Quality, Equity and Leadership**.

More than 400 participants attended this meeting in Dubai and Princess Muna of Jordan was chief guest; she spent a full day with midwives and she is extremely eager to support midwives.

Several workshops were conducted during the conference for example, first touch-massaging of new-born babies, midwives ambassador, respectful maternity care-a call for action and ICM advocacy. These workshops provided hands-on experiences, very moving with practical approaches that made midwives engaged in these workshops.

All three regions' midwives presented through oral and poster presentations. Three midwives received awards of education, research, and service leadership. The Eastern Mediterranean regional midwives met for the first time in their caucus. All three regions conducted separate meetings with their board members. They expressed a wish to share and exchange new knowledge, working together and moreover networking together. All midwives left with pledge to work towards raising the status of profession as well as supporting each other and seeing each other with new initiatives in Bali 2020.

We are pleased to be able to announce great news: the ICM 2018 Essential Competencies for Midwifery Practice has been updated and uploaded on the ICM website, see

[https://internationalmidwives.org/assets/uploads/documents/Poster%20ICM%20Competencies%20-%20English\\_final\\_Oct%202018.pdf](https://internationalmidwives.org/assets/uploads/documents/Poster%20ICM%20Competencies%20-%20English_final_Oct%202018.pdf)

Please download these competencies and review and use. The competencies has been distributed into four categories: a) General Competencies comprised of relationships with women and other health professionals as well as all midwifery related activities; b) Pre-pregnancy and Antenatal consists of promotion of health and well-being of women and fetus during pregnancy; c) Care during labour and birth contain of physiological

processes during safe birth and immediate care; and d) Ongoing care of women and newborns, covers support for breast feeding, health education, detecting complications and family planning. We encourage all midwives, midwifery faculty members, stake holders to benefits from these essential competencies.

As editors we would like to thank our colleagues at *The Lancet* for their support of evidence-based maternity care and especially midwifery care globally. *The Lancet's* 2014 Series on Midwifery, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was the first overarching critical examination of global midwifery in low-income countries.<sup>1-4</sup> This Series highlighted that many women have inadequate access to maternity care or no access to care at all, and that adequate midwifery care could be a step in solving this enormous problem. It also offered a new framework for maternal and newborn care which describes the characteristics of care that women, newborn infants, and families need from pre-pregnancy, during pregnancy and birth, and beyond.<sup>1</sup>

In October 2018 *The Lancet* added an excellent Maternal Health Series on the global problems of caesarean sections.<sup>5-7</sup> This latest Series highlights that some women are encouraged or forced into unnecessary medical procedures in pregnancy and childbirth (and after) which is referred to as: “too much, too soon”. At the same time, other women who desperately need medical interventions are not getting them, this is referred to as: “too little, too late”. This lack of access to care or under use of medical interventions happens can happen anywhere in the world, not just in low-income countries in Asia. Many of these issues are key to Asian midwives!

We wish you a lovely Autumn!

Dr. Rafat Jan

Dr. Edwin van Teijlingen

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