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## Asian Midwifery in 2019

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## Asian Midwifery in 2019

We welcome you to the latest issue of *Journal of Asian Midwives*. In April this year World Health Organization (WHO) released new recommendations on ten ways that countries can use digital health technology, accessible via mobile phones, tablets and computers, to improve people's health and essential services [1]. In parts of Asia we have seen the introduction of digital interventions maternal and child health, for example projects where health workers send text messages to pregnant women to remind them of antenatal care appointments and/or advise them to have their children vaccinated. In remote and rural areas digital technology supports service users/pregnant women and health workers to communicate on maternity and general health issues over great distances. These WHO recommendations are important to make sure we set minimum standards and keep that quality of e-health in maternity care. Moreover, these recommendations can help ensure women and their families using that technology that their own data are safe and kept confidential, something of great importance in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

We would like to take the opportunity to highlight one particular element of the website of the *Journal of Asian Midwives*, namely a feature called 'Most Popular Papers' (see: <https://ecommons.aku.edu/jam/topdownloads.html>). At the time of writing this Editorial in early June 2019 our top down-loaded article was based in Bangladesh, followed by one from Nepal, then Pakistan with an article focusing on India in fifth place.

Also something to look forward! The WHO has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife! Also next year will be the tri-annual ICM Congress in Bali, Indonesia.

Enjoy reading!

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### References:

1. WHO (2019) WHO releases first guideline on digital health interventions, Geneva, WHO online news: <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/17-04-2019-who-releases-first-guideline-on-digital-health-interventions>