ICM 30th Triennial Congress
Prague, Czech Republic
1 – 5 June 2014
Midwives: Improving Women’s Health Globally

February Deadline
The Early Bird registration rate, with a reduction of 110 Euro on the normal rate lasts until 21 February 2014. Make sure you don’t miss the February deadline (www.midwives2014.org). You will be joining over 2,000 midwives who have registered already for the ICM 30th Triennial Congress in Prague 1–5 June. Midwives from 84 countries are registered by now and this is expected to rise to 100 countries by June.

Opening Day
The main plenary hall has 2,700 seats but over 3,500 registrations are expected. To ensure as many delegates as possible will be able to watch the opening ceremony it will also be broadcast live to an adjacent hall.

Because of limited capacity in the main plenary hall there is a ticket price for the opening day and a separate ticket for the four days of the scientific congress. Existing bookings have shown most delegates understand that there is an opening day fee for Sunday 1 June and a separate congress fee for 2–5 June. The original ticket price for Congress was reduced to make up for the opening day charges.

Happy New year
Make 2014 even happier, by booking an early bird registration rate for the Prague ICM Congress
Keynote speakers announced for plenary sessions

Congress plenary sessions are led by international speakers who focus on the day’s theme. In this newsletter we introduce two of the top speakers.

Ngai Fen Cheung
Midwifery: bridging culture and practice
(Thurs 5 June)

Dr Cheung is an Adviser to the Chinese Midwifery Expert Committee, Chinese Maternal and Child Health Association. She is a UK trained midwife and researcher.

Ngai set up the first Midwifery Research Unit and the first Midwife-led Unit in Hangzhou, China. Her main research interest is in childbearing women’s well-being, theorizing the normality of childbirth as an approach to developing midwifery, and midwifery education in higher education in China. She established a teacher-student exchange programme with the University of Edinburgh; prepared and organized in 2012 ‘the Normal Labour & Birth 7th International Research Conference’ in China, and this year set up the ICM-Chinese midwifery gap analysis.

Kate Gilmore
Bridging midwifery and women’s health rights
(Mon 2 June)

Kate Gilmore is Deputy Executive Director (Programme) for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Assistant Secretary-General. Having joined UNFPA in April 2012, Ms. Gilmore – as one of two deputies to the Executive Director – carries overall responsibility for UNFPA programmes at country, regional and global levels.

She has longstanding strategic leadership experience, having worked on human rights issues in government and non-government organizations. From 1986–96, she worked on violence against women, law reform and women’s health more broadly as a senior manager at the Royal Women’s Hospital in Melbourne Australia. From 1992–93, she was seconded to be CEO of Melbourne’s Broadmeadows Community Health Service, then Australia’s largest Community Health Service. In 1996, Ms. Gilmore joined Amnesty International Australia as National Director and in 2000 she was appointed Deputy Secretary General of Amnesty International, based in London.

The next E-newsletter will feature further plenary speakers:

Assoc Prof Lisa Kane Low:
Access – bridging the gap to improving care & outcomes for women and their families.

H.E Toyin Saraki and Prof Cecily Begley:
Education – the bridge to midwifery and women’s autonomy.
Gala Night nearly sold-out

Only a few hundred tickets remain available for the congress GALA NIGHT event on Tuesday 3 June 2014. The ticket-only event, at the Industrial Palace, just outside central Prague, is proving popular with over 1100 places booked within a short time of details being advertised. So book now to avoid disappointment as the remaining seats are unlikely to be available for much longer because the early bird deadline is expected to produce hundreds of additional bookings.

Congress Programme online

The Congress Scientific Programme consisting of 434 oral presentations in 145 sessions, 37 workshops and 36 symposia will be published on the congress web site during the week commencing 20 January. Starting with an amazing job by peer reviewers and followed by a lot of hard work and dedication from the highly skilled members of the Scientific Professional Programme Committee (SPPC), the programme of accepted abstracts has been populated according to the daily themes. The high standard of poster submissions has resulted in nearly 200 being accepted for presentation.

It is inevitable that a few changes will occur to the published programme between now and Congress but the publication online will help delegates plan an outline of their daily schedule well in advance.

BIG HIT:

The congress web site has been visited over 200,000 times by nearly 50,000 visitors from 193 countries. This interest has been reflected in registrations from midwives in 84 countries.

Getting into Plenary sessions: Here is how it works:

- For the Opening Ceremony on Sunday 1 June: This will be held in the Plenary Hall but there are not enough seats for everyone; due to the popularity of the Prague Congress there will be over 3,500 delegates. However, tickets are still currently available to gain entry to the plenary hall for this live Opening Ceremony at 39 Euro. Once the available number of seats is sold there is then the opportunity to view the Opening Ceremony by relay which will be broadcast to the over-flow hall at 20 Euro per ticket. Full details on the Congress web site at registration information www.midwives2014.org. Everyone can take part in the welcome reception that follows in the Exhibition area.

- Daily plenary sessions with keynote speakers Mon 2–Thurs 5 June: Every delegate is entitled to attend these plenary sessions. But, when the plenary hall is full, delegates will be directed to the over-flow Forum Hall where the session will be relayed live.
Live web-access to Prague Congress plenary sessions

With 300,000 midwives globally in ICM Member Organisations, there are many midwives who for one reason or another cannot attend ICM Congress. And now, for the first time ever, there is an opportunity to bring parts of the Congress to local midwives in communities throughout the world. The congress team is currently finalising the details.

ICM Congress is providing LIVE STREAMING for the following sessions

Voices of Midwives FREE on Saturday 31 May at 13hr30 until 15hr30 Central European Time CET
Help establish the world record for midwives singing together. Join thousands of midwives on the day before congress begins and sing along with a 30-piece orchestra. The event announces that midwives have arrived for the world’s largest midwife event and they are united in their global call for improved care for mothers and their newborn. Join in this event from your own community and take part in the world record.

Plenary session: Bridging midwifery and women’s health rights on Monday 2 June 09hr00 until 10hr30 CET. The fee for this session is 7 Euro.

Plenary session: Access – bridging the gap to improving care & outcomes for women and their families on Tuesday 3 June 11hr00 until 12hr30 CET. Fee is 7 euro.

Plenary session: Education – the bridge to midwifery and women’s autonomy on Wednesday 4 June 11hr00 until 12hr30 CET. Fee is 7 Euro.

Plenary session: Bridging culture and practice plus the closing ceremony on Thursday 5 June at 13hr30 until 15hr45 CET. Fee is 7 Euro.

In March, we will provide a special web page where you can create an account to book your plenary. You will simply select the sessions you want to watch, create an account, pre-pay the sessions, and receive a password. Then, at the time of the session, simply log in and view live or download it later. Participants can also register one minute before the session but as the number of connections is limited due to infrastructure challenges, we advise that advanced booking to prevent disappointment. Payments can be made by VISA, Master Card, Maestro, and PayPal.

The small fee will contribute towards the costs of providing the link and it is suggested that midwives share the cost by organizing the viewing in small groups. Additionally, workplaces and education centres could make plans to show the plenary sessions to larger groups.

A newsletter will be issued in March with final details and also be advertised on the congress web site.
Mluvme trošku Česky!

Let’s speak some Czech!

A few words of Czech will take you a long way when you come to the Prague Congress and it’s amazing how a few words of the local language will make the visit much more enjoyable. In each E-newsletter, Malcolm MacMillan, ICM Congress Manager, has shared some of the essential phrases or words he has learned during visits to Prague. So in this edition it’s back to basics and a quick revision session.

**Good day/morning:** Dobrý den (Do-bree Dehn)
**Good evening:** Dobrý večer (Do-bree veh-cher)
**Nice to meet you:** Těší mě (Tye-shee Mye)
**Hello or goodbye** (informal): Ahoj (A-hoy)
**Thank you:** Děkuji (Dee-koowe)
**How are you?** Jak se máte? (Yak seh mah-te)?
**Very well, thank you:** Velmi dobře, děkuji (velmi-doh-bree, dee-koowe)
**Goodbye:** Na shledanou (Nah skleda-noh)
**Yes:** Ano (Ah-noh)
**No:** Ne (Neh)
**Please; or you’re welcome:** Prosím (Pro-seem)
**I’m sorry:** Promiňte (Prom-min-teh)
**Cheers:** Na zdraví (Nah sdravee)

New Hotels added to approved ICM list

Lots of rooms are being booked on the approved hotels listed on the web site www.midwives2014.org due to increasing numbers of midwives coming to Prague for the ICM 30th Triennial Congress. So we have added two more hotels to the approved list.

The Fusion Hotel

This hotel is around the corner from Wenceslas Square, close to the old town and has all amenities available. The hotel has its own excellent gastro pub/bistro attached and restaurants are in abundance nearby. Free Wi-Fi is available in each room.

This is a modern hotel with every room decorated by young Czech designers (look on the web site for room designs, some a bit quirky). In some rooms they offer 3 or 4 beds. The single beds looked a bit narrow for my ample build, so ask for a double bed. The good thing about this hotel is the range of rooms and prices on offer. Ask about the Fusion White apartment or the Fusion vintage room. Darkish corridors with neon lighting provide uniqueness and add to the fun of the Fusion experience.

Distance from congress centre: 5 minute walk to Museum metro line at top of Wenceslas Square then 6 minutes on metro to Congress centre (2 stops).

Price of room: 85 Euro single; 90 Euro double and 110 Euro triple

**Top Tip Comment:** good value for money and great location; the style is fresh, funky and modern but does not take away from the comfort. Not for those who want a traditional bedroom with drapes and wall to wall carpeting. Good quality themed rooms, simple and tasty breakfast: welcoming and helpful staff. The 360 Bar serves some great cocktails and local beers. Check it out at www.fusionhotels.com and the good reviews on trip advisor to get a flavour of what to expect.
The Green Garden Hotel

is a 10 minute walk to the congress centre; a 4 minute taxi ride will cost about 5/6 euro and is good value if sharing. There is no immediate metro line at hand but a 12 minute walk will take you to Wenceslas Square. This is a very comfortable family run hotel, well known for its helpful and friendly service with an excellent restaurant and has a Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence.

Most of the 60 bedrooms are spacious and decorated to a comfortable standard. Free Wi-Fi and tea making facilities in all rooms. The entire hotel is non smoking and breakfast is included in the price. There are two busy roads on either side of the hotel. Metro and bus are 5 minute walk.

Price of room for advance booking is 95 Euro single and 100 Euro double.

Comment: this is a delightful hotel with some great features such as the restaurant (go on line for a virtual tour) It is graded as a 4* but is more likely a 3* plus but this should not detract from its ‘mostly’ spacious rooms and the spectacular eating area. Most places are 10 or 15 minutes walk including the Old Town in one direction and the congress venue the other way. If traffic noise is a worry ask for rooms on 4th and 5th floors with a castle view.

Corinthia Hotel

This is the headquarters hotel and is a 3/4 minute stroll to the Congress Venue; Rooms are still available at 126 Euro single and 135 Euro double if purchased before the 21 February (the early bird registration deadline).