



6 December 2017

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honor and privilege for me that during my tenure the 15th World Rural Health Conference of WONCA Rural Health is going to be held in the South Asia Region on 27-29 April 2018 in the City of Delhi. Delegates from the South Asia Region and from other WONCA Regions will join the conference. I am sure you will find this conference a rewarding and enjoyable experience, and that you will make many new friends amongst our family medicine colleagues from around the world attending this conference.

The South Asia Region is consisting of 7 countries – India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives. Amongst the 7,322 million world population, 1,570 million people live in this area which is 21.5% of the whole world population. More than 80% of this population lives in rural areas. Unfortunately the countries are underdeveloped and vast majority of the population are not entitled to minimum basic health services. The main reason is lack of resources and improper distribution of resources. Family medicine, which is the answer to this situation, is not properly developed in the most of the countries. The World Organization of Family Doctors – WONCA has paid special attention for the rural health and created WONCA Rural Health Special Interest Group. The WONCA Rural Health is going on organizing world conferences for a long time in different regions. Organizing world conference in this region will enhance development of the subject and ultimately the people will be benefited.

I congratulate everyone involved in the organization of this conference, including our colleagues from South Asia Region, led by Dr. Raman Kumar-Organizing Chairperson and Dr. Pratyush Kumar-Organizing Secretary of the conference.

I am looking forward to meeting you in Delhi in April 2018.

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