

FROM THE EDITORS

As the world celebrates the conclusion of a millennium, we are grateful that our journal has now completed two years and has beaten the odds of infant mortality. Now, with a bit more experience and a bit more strength, we are more confident in marching toward the next landmark: the 5th year.

Several good things have happened since the last issue: more than twenty distinguished scholars and professionals have joined an equally distinguished group on the Editorial Board; the sponsorship of the *Journal* has moved from the Executive Program in Health and Population for Developing Countries (EPDC) directly to the Department of Health Policy and Administration, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina — the home of EPDC; and a number of thematic issues in collaboration with selected international organizations are in the pipeline. The first of these thematic issues is sponsored by WHO-SEARO and will focus on "Public Health in South-East Asia in the 21st Century". The working titles for other themes are "Making a Difference: Factors Responsible for Success", "Why Programs Fail", and "Corruption and Donors in the Third World: A Need for a New Approach." The thematic approach will allow us to address important issues in some detail, but not all issues will focus on a specific problem. The theme-oriented issues will be interspersed with the general-purpose issues. Ideally, we would like to publish two theme-oriented issues and two general issues each year. If our new initiative for attracting advertisements and other methods of revenue enhancement gain momentum, then the *Journal* could, in fact, become a quarterly.

Another important development is the adoption of a motto: *Promoting Third World Scholarship*. This will serve as our beacon and will remind us that we are a journal with a clear mission, rather than another run-of-the mill journal. Examination of important issues facing the Third World fulfills only a part of this mission. The other part is to make the work of the scholars and professionals from these countries more visible. In fulfillment of this aim, we will give very special attention to papers submitted by authors from developing countries, especially those who have limited experience publishing in scholarly journals. More importantly, technical help will be provided to those authors whose submitted papers do not make the cut in the peer review but show significant promise. This help will be given in the form of detailed comments and suggestions, enabling the paper to reach an acceptable standard. Unfortunately, our limited financial and human resources require us to be highly selective when offering such assistance.

A number of editorial board members and other well-wishers have been very generous with their creative suggestions and other forms of help. We owe them a sincere debt of gratitude, and urge all board members, readers, subscribers, contributors, and advertisers to be proactive in helping us make the *Journal* more relevant, more popular, and more influential.

Season's Greetings from all of us to all of you !