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Old Persons: The Untapped Resource of Expertise and Talents

Thanks to the availability of improved medicare facilities and health consciousness leading to longevity, the demographic trends the world over indicate gradual increase in elderly population. By the year 2050, a fifth of population will be 60 years or older. In some countries the elderly populations are set to overtake the other age groups. Since significant number of oldsters stay fit and kicking despite age, with high level of maturity, managerial skills, specialised knowhow and ability to foresee, all of which can be utilised for community benefit. However, in many communities, the old persons continue to be sidelined and humiliated. Proper attention needs to be paid to the various essential and psychological needs of the elderly. It is to acknowledge the elderly for their valuable contribution to the society and the world in the prime of their life that UN celebrates every year **1 October** as **International Day for Older Persons** (IDOP), the theme for 2017 is, *Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society*. It is by seeking participation of the elderly populations that the societies and nations can progress faster.

World Mental Health Day, observed annually on **10 October** every year, endeavours to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilise activities to overcome the problems of mental health. As more and more persons especially the women folks are taking to employment, the 2017 theme of World Mental Health Day is, *Mental Health in Workplace*. It is estimated that a fourth of world population will experience a mental illness. The WHO upholds that mental health is a state of well-being in which people realize their potential. Better mental health implies ability to better cope with routine life stresses so as to enhance productivity at work place.

Admittedly, events like conferences, meetings, workshops, etc. that bring people from diverse locations together serve as excellent forum to exchange ideas, experiences and know-how, thus professionally enriching the participants. For TNAI, the biennial SNA conference is always a long awaited mega event.

I understand, you have made all necessary preparations to attend the XXVII SNA Biennial Conference being held during 29 November to 3 December at Guntur. The venue is, GMCANA Auditorium of Guntur Medical College and it shall be hosted by TNAI Andhra Pradesh Branch, and this time the theme is, Empowering Nurses through Advanced Technology. In case for any reason you have not been able to get registered so far, kindly do it without loss of time to avoid late fee charges and last minute hustle. The procedure for registration in conference and other activities has been outlined in this issue as well. I look forward to your just not attending the conference but deriving maximum mileage from it, which is possible by actively partaking in its various activities.

Evelyn P Kannan
Chief Editor & Secretary-General, TNAI

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