

IPPF welcomes the announcement of Mr. Syed Kamal Shah as the next Regional Director of South Asia



Bangkok, Jan 14, 2019 (Issuewire.com) - Mr. Syed Kamal Shah, the Chief Executive Officer of Rahnuma – Family Planning Association of Pakistan (FPAP) has been named as the next Regional Director of International Planned Parenthood Federation South Asia Region (IPPF SAR). Mr. Shah who will be succeeding Mr. Varun Anand has over 20 years of experience in the government sector and has been serving various international and national NGOs in Pakistan for the last fifteen years. Mr. Shah will take charge of his role at IPPF in the first quarter of 2019 and will be based out of IPPF's South Asia Regional Office in Bangkok.

Mr. Shah has been leading Rahnuma – FPAP, the largest and oldest NGO of Pakistan, as its CEO since 2007. Mr. Shah holds memberships of various international, national and provincial public sector statutory bodies and consultative forums including FP2020, PMNCH and key population and health committees in Pakistan. He has also represented Government of Pakistan as part of delegations in various international summits and sessions like UN Summit to adopt Post 2015 Development Agenda 2014, UN MDGs Review Summit 2013 and UN Summit on ICPD beyond 2014. Among some of the awards won by Mr. Shah, one that stands out is the 'Performance Excellence Award', presented by the Prime Minister of Pakistan in 2009.

Announcing the appointment of Mr. Syed Kamal Shah, IPPF's Director General, Dr. Alvaro Bermejo said, *"With 11 years of experience as CEO of Rahnuma-FPAP, IPPF's member association (MA) in Pakistan, Syed has demonstrated highly relevant leadership, programmatic and policy experience as well as strong involvement with governments, donors, civil society and multilateral forums (e.g. he represented IPPF on the PMNCH Board). Before joining FPAP, he spent many years in government and has a strong understanding of how it operates. I am delighted to have first-hand MA experience on a Director Leadership Team that will be steering us towards a more MA-centric way of working."*

Mr. Syed Kamal Shah holds a Masters degree in Public Policy and Administration (PPA) from Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands and a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Peshawar, Pakistan

Speaking over his appointment, Mr. Shah said, *"It is indeed an honor having been selected as Director, South Asia Region of IPPF. My experience of having worked with IPPF MA at the country level enables me to better understand the country level SRHR dynamics. Together with the South Asia country-level member associations' leadership and the team at South Asia Office, we shall be able to serve our communities even better. So, looking forward to being a part of this existing opportunity."*

About IPPF SARO:

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is an advocate of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for all. IPPF comes with a proud history of 65 years of achievement. It is a Federation of 141 Member Associations working in 152 countries, with another 24 Partners working in 19 countries. In South Asia Region, IPPF works with nine member associations – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Each association is rooted in the culture of its country, providing locally relevant services in a highly challenging context of extreme poverty, gender inequity, restrictive laws, socio-religious barriers, and vulnerability to natural calamities.

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