



WABA Global Forum 2

23-27 September 2002, Arusha, Tanzania

Look out for the Forum 2 summary report in the next issue of Wabalink, April 2003!

The WABA Secretariat is currently producing the report of the WABA-UNICEF Colloquium on HIV and Infant Feeding, 20-21 September, Arusha, Tanzania. Completion of the printed report will be notified through Wabalink. See www.waba.org.my/colloquium/index.html for electronic version of the report.

WBW 2003

Breastfeeding in a Globalised World

With rapid communication, the lives of local people are shaped by events taking place many miles away, and vice versa. This is the impact of a globalising world. Breastfeeding in an increasingly globalised world brings together new challenges and new opportunities for breastfeeding advocates. This year, to celebrate breastfeeding in a globalised world, you can *act locally and think globally!*

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Enclosures

- WBW 2003 Calendar

For mothers and babies

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) was once again celebrated around the globe! The theme for 2002, *Breastfeeding: Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies*, struck a chord with breastfeeding groups as it rightly addressed their concern for the health of both mother and child with equal importance. Here are some activities carried out during WBW 2002:

India: Kerala was declared the first baby-friendly state in the world on 2 August at a ceremony held jointly by UNICEF, the Kerala Health Department, Indian Academy of Paediatrics and other professional bodies*. The Governor, Sikander Bakht, read out a declaration in the presence of the Health Minister, P. Sakaran, and senior UNICEF officials in India. Independent assessors have certified 622 maternity hospitals, constituting over 90 percent of Kerala's maternity hospitals, to be 'baby-friendly', well over the required 80 percent benchmark. Kerala set up a task force to implement the BFHI in 1993, resulting in substantial reduction in infant mortality and infant diseases in the 14-district state. Kochi city itself, where the ceremony was held, was declared the first baby-friendly city in India by UNICEF in May 1995.

The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) adapted the action folder with Indian examples and graphics. BPNI organised many events like workshops and exhibitions for public and media awareness. In Bangalore, the Minister of Women and Child Development inaugurated the WBW celebration. A magic show was staged where the magician made feeding bottles and breastmilk substitutes disappear. Traditional recipes for pregnant and lactating mothers from various parts of the state were also shared. In coal mine areas in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, The Indian Medical Association organised annual Human Lactation Management Training courses for health workers. An essay competition on the theme was held for students and the public.

Continued on page 4...

* Source: *The Hindu*, India.



L to R: Flyers and action folders from Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia and Belgium, and button from Malaysia.



Code Compliance

Pediatric book on breastfeeding stirs controversy with its cover

Some leading members of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) are expressing outrage that the group is allowing the maker of Similac infant formula to print its corporate logo on the cover of a special edition of the academy's book on breastfeeding. Members who helped write the book, *New Mother's Guide to Breastfeeding*, said they were stunned to learn that AAP had agreed to let the Ross Products unit of Abbott Laboratories, which makes Similac, buy the edition of the book with its name and a teddy bear logo on 300,000 copies. Ross, which says it also wants to promote breastfeeding, is considering distributing the books in the promotional packages of free formula but has not made a final decision.

"For those of us who wrote the book, this is thievery. The impression that people have when they see the book is that Ross is a supporter. This corrupts efforts to promote breastfeeding," said Dr. Lawrence M. Gartner, chairman of the academy's executive committee on breastfeeding. Dr. Gartner and other members are asking the academy to develop a policy to ensure that commercial logos will not be placed again on its books and other educational materials, following their increasing concern about the influence that corporations have on the academy.

Dr. Joe M. Sanders, the academy's executive director, however, said Dr. Gartner's request was not feasible because the academy could not pay for all the educational materials it wants to produce without corporate support. Ross has also paid to buy copies of another book, "Your Baby's First Year", which was also imprinted with the Ross name as well as the name of its product, Similac. Apparently, Ross, McNeil and Johnson & Johnson were the top three corporate supporters last year of the academy's \$65 million operating budget, Dr. Sanders said, each giving \$500,000 or more.

Source: *New York Times*, 18 September 2002

Brazil comes out against pacifiers

The National Health Control Agency Resolution No. 22 regulated that from February 2003 on, no pictures of children can appear on labels and in advertisements of breastmilk substitutes. Manufacturers of teats, bottles and dummies will be obliged to place the following warning on labels: "The Ministry of Health informs: A breastfed child does not need bottles, teats and dummies. The use of bottles, teats and dummies is detrimental to breastfeeding and prolonged use harm teeth and a child's talk."

The resolution aims at preventing text or images of children on products which mislead mothers and encourage them to replace their breastmilk with other foods. This ban applies to all forms of media – electronic, written, audio or visual. Sales promotion strategies at the retail level such as exhibits, discount coupons, prizes and gifts

will also be banned. The resolution is in compliance with World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health's efforts to protect, promote and support exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life.

The regulation gives manufacturers 180 days from the date of its publication in the Official Journal to adapt to the new standards. Companies that do not abide shall have their products banned and may receive warning and fines of USD750 up to USD560,000.

Source: *Correio Braziliense* and *Agencia Folha*

Say no to UNICEF-McDonald's partnership!

Breastfeeding advocates have reasons to be appalled upon learning in July 2002 that UNICEF and US-based McDonald's fast food giant planned to team up to raise money – it is a partnership with a company known worldwide for its aggressive promotion of foods that contribute to ill health and poor nutrition, contrary to UNICEF's mission. The partnership was announced by Jack Greenberg, McDonald's Chairman and CEO, and Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF. Plans were already underway for UNICEF offices to work directly with McDonald's restaurants in USA, New Zealand, China and Hong Kong.

At the WABA Global Forum 2, September 2002, in Arusha, Tanzania, breastfeeding advocates expressed disappointment over the collaboration. A petition was sent to Carol Bellamy, signed by the Forum 2 participants. After the Forum, participants even took the issue further and forwarded petition to other regional UNICEF offices.

The news of UNICEF and McDonald's partnership was covered in some news agency and newspapers. Panafrican News Agency (PANA) reported on 8 October that UNICEF is reviewing its involvement in the controversial global fundraising campaign with McDonald's, according to Dr. Urban Jonsson, UNICEF's regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa. "Quite a number of UNICEF people are of the opinion that it is really not appropriate to have any string agreement or partnership with McDonald's for obvious reasons. Because we all know that they promote a dietary culture that is very alien to what we call good nutrition," he said.

McDonald's coorganised a fundraising initiative on *World Children's Day* in the burger firm's restaurants in 121 countries on 20 November 2002. The promotion included a pop concert in China that was broadcasted over the Internet, access to which can only be obtained by buying a Big Mac burger. UNICEF will receive a cut of the profits from each Big Mac sold. McDonald's also helped to distribute UNICEF's Halloween 'trick or treat' boxes to collect donations for polio eradication, which would increase the number of boxes used from five million in previous years to 20 million. McDonald's has already tried to cash in on the publicity value of the UNICEF link by running poster advertisements that show a baby sucking a hamburger bun in place of a mother's breast.

Source: WABA, PANA <www.afronets.org/afronets-hma/afronets.200210/msg00034.php>, and *British Medical Journal* <<http://bmj.com>> 26 October 2002.



Women & Work

Audio tapes, presentation to promote mother friendly workplace

As part of the WABA Women and Work Task Force activities, ARUGAAN developed a set of promotional audio tapes targeted at workers and trade unions, as well as a power point presentation for employers. The series of audio tapes, produced in collaboration with the Philippines Trade Union, focussed on the breastfeeding benefits and importance of breastfeeding support at home, work and the community. In assessing on the effectiveness of the tapes, ARUGAAN found that most factory production workers work with their hands and eyes, but were free to listen to breastfeeding messages by hearing piped-in radio transmission.

The 12-minute power point presentation, *Crèche at the Workplace*, is produced for employers, human resource departments and Employers Associations. Compact with illustrations and photos, the power point provides a succinct presentation on the benefits of combining work and breastfeeding for both the employer and employee. It also addresses their common concerns and how crèches and breastfeeding breaks can mutually benefit both parties. Contact the WABA Secretariat for sales information.

Romania ratified C183!

Romania is the fourth country to have ratified ILO Convention 183 on maternity protection at the workplace on 23 October 2002. Maternity leave for the four countries that ratified C183 are: Bulgaria-135 days; Italy-150 days; Romania-126 days; Slovakia-196 days.

... Code Compliance continued from page 2

Regional seminar on IMS Act in India

BPNI Bangalore held a Regional Seminar Report on the Implementation of the Infant Milk Substitute (IMS) Act on 6 November 2002. More than 70 participants, consisting of doctors, lawyers, academicians, writers and activists, attended the seminar which was inaugurated by Justice Venkatachala. Dr. Asha Benakappa, coordinator of the seminar, reported that lawyers inspired at the seminar would incorporate breastfeeding into their agenda by planning for a signature campaign and offered to act as legal counsel for BPNI with regard to IMS Act enforcement.



Environment

Researchers look at contaminants in human milk

An international panel of 30 experts met in Pennsylvania in February 2002 to develop a plan for a nationwide effort to discover what, if any, environmental chemicals transfer from mothers to their babies through human milk. The meeting, Technical Workshop on Human Milk Surveillance and Research for Environmental Chemicals in the United States, was part of an effort to determine which chemicals may pose risks to breastfeeding newborns. The effort is detailed in the November issue of the *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health*.

"The workshop on environmental chemicals in breastmilk was designed to gather data to support the safety of breastfeeding for women in the United States and Canada," said Dr. Cheston Berlin of Penn State College of Medicine, and co-director of the workshop. The symposium also discussed interpreting and communicating the information found. Berlin and the panel experts were quick to point out that women should continue to breastfeed, as there is very little data available that connects environmental chemicals to adverse effects in breastfeeding babies. "We strongly emphasize that the mere presence of an environmental chemical in human milk does not indicate that a health risk exists for breastfed infants," he said.

Source: Environment News Service (ENS) and www.riskworld.com/PressRel/2002/02q4/PR02a033.htm

Anti-GE campaign against Loblaws

Greenpeace and INFAC Canada on 29 October 2002 brought dozens of dolls with funnels in their mouths to a downtown Toronto Loblaws store, where the two groups released the results of a survey on baby food made with genetically modified (GE) ingredients. Loblaws, Canada's largest grocer, manufactures and sells baby food but refuses to have the GE ingredients removed or labelled.

"Parents expect Loblaws to be making and selling baby food that is safe," said Holly Penfound, Greenpeace's GE campaign coordinator, "There should be zero tolerance for GE ingredients in baby food." Protests were also carried outside GE food retailers in over 100 cities across the continent.

Source: Greenpeace Canada

Warnings from the UK Royal Society Working Group on Genetically Modified Food about the safety of genetically modified infant formulas:

"Bottle-fed babies could be undernourished if given genetically modified infant formula because of inadequate regulations and testing regimes for GM goods. Small changes to the nutritional content might have effects on infant bowel function."

Source: *INFAC Canada Newsletter*, Winter 2002



University of Sri Lanka undergraduates depicting realities faced by breastfeeding mothers in a drama for villagers

Sri Lanka: An awareness programme, organised by the Nutrition Society of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, was held in a rural village at Kuliypitiya to celebrate WBW 2002. Undergraduates of the university went to mother-child health clinics in villages to stage a drama performance. Later, they discussed breastfeeding practices among the village mothers.

Taiwan: On 4 August, more than 50 pairs of mothers and babies breastfed at the same time in Taichung County. At the gathering, family games and lectures on infant and young child nutrition were also held. Mothers from support groups demonstrated breastmilk expression for working mothers. Exhibits from various hospitals were also set up. Materials such as the Chinese action folder and breastfeeding madnets were distributed to the participants. The action folder was also disseminated to various Chinese-speaking countries in Asia.



Gathering in a hall for women's activities in Taiwan

Philippines: With assistance from ARUGAAN, the Makati Medical Centre launched a mobile breastfeeding clinic. ARUGAAN's Pantomime Moms also staged a 12-minute hilarious portrayal of situations faced by lactating working women. In addition, ARUGAAN also sought collaboration with the Church. During mass, a video presentation on a 10 year-old boy's perspective and involvement during his mother's pregnancy, birthing and breastfeeding experiences was shown.



Bishop Socrates Villegas blesses the commitments to breastfeeding that were sealed with kisses.

The week culminated on 8 August in a closing ceremony with guests of honour from the church, hospital, and health, education and culture departments pledging support for breastfeeding by sealing their commitments with a kiss on a poster.

The Philippines General Hospital reproduced and distributed the action

folder at the hospital and in community gatherings. It was also utilised at a multidisciplinary symposium organised with the University Hospital and used for an on-spot art contest as well as the hospital's health booths for visitors.

Malaysia: The Breastfeeding Information Bureau (BIB) translated the action folder into Malay language and compiled WBW activities planned by the Health Ministry to be carried out in most government clinics and hospitals around the country. These activities included exhibitions, video presentation, counselling, recitals, quizzes and awards presentations for mothers. BIB also produced several promotional and educational materials such as banners, buttons, books and flip charts for use during WBW.

Thailand: In Bangkok, the Consumer Protection Association, the National Council of Women of Thailand and other voluntary groups supporting breastfeeding held activities to promote WBW. On 6 August, in conjunction with the National Mother Week to celebrate the Queen's birthday, the Public Welfare Council joined them to organise a talk on breastfeeding. The event was also attended by mothers with their babies, some accompanied by fathers, to discuss about breastfeeding.

Lebanon: Lebanese Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (LABA) produced audiovisuals on antenatal preparation, breastfeeding at birth, postnatal follow-up and complementary feeding. Six television networks and two radio stations broadcasted the information for 10-15 minutes for 5-6 days, or a long session for one day. During WBW, LABA also initiated weekly or monthly meetings for parents at various health centres.

Furthermore, four hospitals were awarded the baby friendly status, followed by a meeting of 17 baby-friendly hospitals to discuss the results of the re-evaluation of their BFHI status which was done from December 2001 till March 2002. A meeting is planned for new parents in December for more than 2,000 mothers and would-be-mothers.

Israel: Mothers, babies, children, fathers and grandparents joined La Leche League in Park Ra'anana for a WBW community gathering on 8 August. Activities such as baby massages, a treasure hunt, and a juggling show were held. The organisers also took the opportunity to announce the LLL's New Hebrew website.

Europe: As in previous years, Tessa Martyn wrote an article on *Breastfeeding: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies* in the UK-publication *Midwives Journal*. In Germany, Aktionsgruppe Babynahrung produced information packages on the WBW 2002 theme and GIMS, in cooperation with the German Association of Midwives and a mother support group. These were distributed nationwide to some 130 groups, hospitals and mother-to-mother support networks. In Belgium, Vereniging Begeleiding en Bevordering van Borstvoeding (VBBB) prepared the WBW

kit containing materials such as breastfeeding booklets, notepads, stickers, cards and catalogues. In Romania, a group of parents organised a breastfeeding chat session on the new Romanian parenting website on 14 August.

Sudan: The Sudanese Association for Breastfeeding Action and Early Childhood Development (SABA)

organised some community mobilisation and advocacy programmes which involved local mother support groups. In schools and parks, programmes for children such as talks and games were organised. SABA also took the opportunity to highlight the need for maternity protection in Sudan through discussions with several groups in the country.

Cayman Islands: The Breastfeeding Working Group of Cayman Islands Health Services teamed up with the Breastfeeders Support Group during WBW. The Parentcraft classes at the Cayman Islands Hospital for expectant mothers included a session on breastfeeding during the week. The monthly Mother-to-Mother meeting hosted by the support group also received a large turn out from child health clinics, district health centres and health care providers. The Government Information Services also prepared a press release which was published in local newspapers. Breastfeeding advocates in Cayman Islands found the theme appealing as they could promote breastfeeding under the umbrella of women's health.

Trinidad and Tobago: The Informative Breastfeeding Service (TIBS) found the theme relevant and used it in conjunction with their 25th anniversary celebration, which included a conference held in November 2002. They reproduced and distributed the action folder widely. TIBS also had the annual TIBS family walk and breakfast, organised health fairs at shopping malls and health clinics/departments, and held the *Best Breastfed Baby* contest.

New Zealand: A poster of actress Lucy Lawless, the persona behind popular international television series *Xena: Warrior Princess*, breastfeeding her then three month-old son, Judah, was launched to promote WBW. The poster was produced by the Women's Health Action Trust with support from the New Zealand government. Lawless had a homebirth and was quoted that she preferred her homebirth experience to a hospital birth.

Canada: In their WBW Action Kit this year, INFACT Canada included a CD recording of four 30-second public service announcements for radio on *Breastfeeding: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies*. It was recorded by Canadian musical group Moxy Fruvous. The CDs were distributed to local radio stations for airplay.

Based on the recording, the WBW Action Committee in Ontario also teamed up with a local television station to produce an audio-visual public service announcement. In the district of Muskoka, breastfeeding advocates met Mayor John Klinck at the construction site of the Muskoka-Parry Sound Health Unit, where breastfeeding support



Attentive...SABA giving a public lecture on breastfeeding

programmes will be running with support from La Leche League (LLL), to kick off WBW in the district. LLL members also conducted presentations on breastfeeding at various hospitals.

Having set the record in the Guinness Book of Records last year, British Columbia province was set for another *Breastfeeding Suck-In* chal-

lenge of getting as many mothers as possible to breastfeed at the same time. The organisers noted that the event resulted in more media attention and breastfeeding promotion than all the other events carried out in the province for the past decade. Elsewhere in Ottawa, the city's Community Service Branch is declaring all recreation facilities in the city to be breastfeeding-friendly, where mothers and babies are welcome to breastfeed where they wish.

USA: *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that about 1,130 lactating moms appeared at the Bekerley Community Theatre on 3 August to wrest away the Guinness World Record from their Australian counterparts. Mothers gathered and nursed their way past the 767 Aussie mothers who had gathered earlier on 1 August in Adelaide.

In West Virginia, staff of the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) programme joined hands with medical professionals, businesses and community groups throughout the state to celebrate WBW. They held activities like the Pink Ribbon Campaign, open houses and local events honouring breastfeeding mothers and individuals who support them.

La Leche League groups in various cities throughout USA also took breastfeeding to the street with their annual WBW walks, followed by other festive activities such as baby contests, family games, vendor booths, raffles, auctions, face paintings and potluck picnics.

A public service announcement that directs mothers to ILCA for breastfeeding help was aired in the US during WBW, featuring happy babies and refers to the healthful benefits of breastfeeding for infants and mothers. The tapes were distributed to television stations in key cities in the US. The voice over tag line is "For help with breastfeeding, ask your healthcare professional, visit ilca.org or call the International Lactation Consultant Association". ■



Breastfeeding Awareness Network brings breastfeeding messages to the streets in Nigeria during WBW



Network News

BPNI planning for Convention on IYCF

Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) is organising the Asia Pacific Conference on Breastfeeding and National Convention of BPNI in New Delhi, India on 30 Nov – 3 Dec 2003. It is themed *Infant and Young Child Feeding: From Policy to Practice*.

The Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2002 recognises that "inappropriate feeding practices and their consequences are major obstacle to sustainable socio-economic and poverty reduction." Many governments have formulated steps but achievements are far from uniform and optimum. Thus, the conference will focus on IYCF issues and stress the urgent need for implementation of the Global Strategy, which guides national governments to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate a comprehensive policy on IYCF. The conference will bring together diverse individuals and organisations to discuss, review present strategies and formulate new strategies for improving IYCF and care practices in the Asia Pacific region. The registration fee for the conference is Rupee 1,500 for Indian nationals and USD150 for foreigners.

For more information, contact BPNI, BP33 Pitampura, Delhi 110088, India. Fax: 91-11-7315606 Email: bpni@bpni.org Website: www.bpni.org

Latin Americans support GIMS

CEPREN/Red Peruana de Lactancia Materna organised the inaugural Latin American Conference on GIMS on 25-31 August 2002, in Lima, Peru. With the theme *Strengthening Alliances for Support to Mothers*, the conference served as an opportunity for participants to exchange approaches and ideas, and adapt methods used by groups in other regions for application in countries in Latin America. About 150 mothers, health professionals and representatives of breastfeeding organisations from 14 countries attended the event. The Health Minister of Peru was also present to officiate the conference. Participants acknowledged the necessity to act on improving the nutritional status of women and children in the region. At the end of the 6-day conference, Nair Carrasco Sanz of CEPREN was appointed to coordinate the followup of GIMS in the region.

For information on GIMS in Latin America, contact CEPREN at: Av. Pardo 1335 Of. 301-302 Lima 18, Peru. Fax: 51-1-241 6205. Email: cepren@amauta.rcp.net.pe Website: www.lactared.com.pe



IYCF in South East Asia conference

The International Conference on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in the Sub-region of South East Asia was held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 27-29 November, organised and supported by VUSTA, SIDA, UNICEF, IBFAN and WABA. Over 100 participants and international resource persons attended the event, mainly from Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia. Focusing on the subregion, participants were apprised with the current status of maternal and child nutrition and IYCF practices. Also discussed were assessments and implementation of initiatives, such as the BFHI and the monitoring of the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent WHA resolutions. The conference programme contained a good mix of presentations on key issues (e.g. on HIV/AIDS, human rights, maternity protection, Codex, contaminants in bottles, networking issues and local practices in IYCF). In group work sessions, participants did further country analysis of the gaps in the IYCF situation, discussed strategies for dealing with the obstacles and developed workplans to improve IYCF practices and programmes in the region. The conference also sought to build new IBFAN groups and strengthen networking in the subregion.



Courses

Course for health professionals

The Centre for International Child Health (CICH) is conducting its 12th annual course, *Breastfeeding: Practice and Policy*, on 16 June - 11 July 2003. The four-week master's level course is designed for senior health professionals who are in a position to influence policy and practice, train others or act as advocates for optimal infant feeding. It is currently the only advanced level training course on breastfeeding and related topics available. It provides comprehensive scientific, technical and practical training on all aspects of breastfeeding, including complementary feeding, HIV and infant feeding, strategies for training others, and analysis of the international breastfeeding situation. Designed for doctors and senior health professionals involved in breastfeeding programmes, the course can be taken as an accredited double module contributing towards a MSc/Diploma in Mother and Child Health from CICH. Application closes in 1 April 2003.

For more information, please contact: Centre for International Child Health, Institute for Child Health, 30 Guilford St, London WC1N 1EH, UK Tel: +44 (0) 20 7905 2122 Fax: +44 (0) 20 7404 2062 Email: cich@ich.ucl.ac.uk Website: www.ich.ucl.ac.uk/cich

Calendar of Events 2003

- Jan 17-19 ■ Asia Pacific Breastfeeding Seminar, Breastfeeding Network of Japan, Tokyo, Japan
- Jan 23-28 ■ World Social Forum 3, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Feb 4-7 ■ African Women Celebrating Our Rights to Healthy Minds, Bodies and Souls, AMANITARE, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Feb ■ ECOSOC 41st Session on Commission on Social Development, New York, USA
- Feb 13-14 ■ WABA Staff Retreat, Penang, Malaysia
- Mar 3-7 ■ ACC/SCN Meeting, Chennai, India
- Mar ■ CSO/NGO Workgroup on the Right to Food and Adequate Nutrition Workshop
- Mar 9-14 ■ Gender Training Course on Women Gender and Development in Southeast Asia, Bangkok, Thailand
- Mar 15-16 ■ International Conference on Gender in Southeast Asia, Bangkok, Thailand
- Mar 3-Apr 4 ■ Land and Food without Poisons, PAN AP, Philippines
- April 4-6 ■ WABA Steering Committee Meeting, Penang, Malaysia
- June 10-13 ■ Empowering Women through Information and Knowledge: from Oral Traditions to ICT, Pune, India
- June 26-27 ■ Executive Committee of Codex (50th Session), Rome Italy
- June 30- Jul 5 ■ Codex (25th Session), Rome, Italy
- July 3-6 ■ LLL International Conference, San Francisco, USA
- July ■ Consultation on BFHI and Humane Birthing Practices, San Francisco, USA
- July ■ Breastfeeding and the Environment, San Francisco, USA
- Aug 1-3 ■ Annual Conference of the International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), Sydney, Australia



News from the Secretariat Penang, Malaysia

SECRETARIAT NEWS, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH

July • Roshia Forman joined WABA Secretariat as volunteer • Produced GIMS Conference donors report

Aug • Produced & printed *Risk, Rights and Regulation: Communicating about Risks and Infant Feeding* • Produced & printed GIMS Asia-Pacific Conference 2002 Report • Preparation for HIV and Infant Feeding Colloquium and WABA Global Forum 2 (GF2) • Developed webpages for GF2

Sep • WABA-UNICEF Colloquium on HIV and Infant Feeding • WABA Global Forum 2 • Global Breastfeeding Partners Meeting 2 • WABA Steering Committee Meeting, Arusha, Tanzania

Oct • Ted Greiner returned to Secretariat for Colloquium and Forum reporting • Updated GF2 webpages and the WABA mirror site • Arranged and filed GIMS Conference and GF2 papers

Nov • Voting of WBW2003 slogan • Lakshmi Menon joined Secretariat to work on the breastfeeding sourcebook project • Sarah Amin attended the International Conference on IYCF, Hanoi, Vietnam • Report to Sida • Outline of 2003 WABA Workplan

Dec • Production of the HIV and Infant Feeding Colloquium report • Colloquium and GF2 website reports

VISITORS

Oct • Ted Greiner **Nov** • Lakshmi Menon, Andrew Chetley (Exchange, UK) **Dec** • Sai Jyothi, India; Khoo Gaik Beng, Malaysia



News Brief

Breastfeeding mum barred by library

A mother was stopped from breastfeeding in the Central Library in Hong Kong because she was told no food or drink were allowed in the building, a news report said yesterday. Clarissa Ng, 39, was breastfeeding her 22-month-old son, Junien, when a security guard at the library informed her of the no food and drink ban and tried to stop her. "I was very angry," Ng told the *South China Post*. "If you don't feed them they will cry and make the library noisy." A library spokesman said the incident would be investigated and insisted there was no rule against breastfeeding in any part of the library.

Source: *The Sun* (Malaysia), 25 October 2002

Bras burnt to push for maternity leave

A crowd of angry Australian mothers burnt their maternity bras on the steps of the state parliament in Melbourne as part of a push for paid maternity leave. Australia and the USA are the only two wealthy countries that do not have government-funded maternity schemes. Calling themselves the Mothers of Intervention, they are calling on women across the country to go on a 'fertility strike' until paid maternity leave is a reality.

Source: *The Sun*, 23 September 2002

Man undertakes breastfeeding duties

A 38 year-old Sri Lankan man, whose wife died in July 2002, appears to have the ability to breastfeed his two infant children. B. Wijeratne from the Walapone town, lost his wife when she died giving birth to their second child. "My eldest daughter refused to be fed on powdered milk liquid," he said according to local daily *Lankadeepa*. "One evening to stop her crying I offered my breast and realised that I was capable of breastfeeding her." Dr. Kamal Jayasinghe, deputy director of a government hospital in Kurunegala town, said it was possible for men to produce breastmilk if the prolactin hormone became hyperactive.

Source: *The Star* (Malaysia), 31 October 2002

...Courses continued from page 7

Gender training course in Bangkok

WARI is conducting a Gender Training Course in Bangkok, Thailand, on 9-14 March 2003. It aims to enhance participants' gender sensitivity and develop the necessary knowledge and expertise to initiate, implement, formulate and evaluate gender programmes. Following that, the International Conference on Gender and Southeast Asia will be held on 15-16 March, carrying the theme *Emerging Issues and New Challenges: Human and Resource Development in Southeast*. The conference will analyse women's socio-economic roles, their changing contexts, and the efforts made to enhance their contributions.

Contact WARI, Thailand. Email: concourse02@yahoo.com Website: www.geocities.com/wari9/course2003.htm Fax/Tel: 662-9977279

Digital library for massive, low-cost access to information

Human Info NGO (Humanity Information Project) aims to provide all persons involved in development, well-being and basic needs, access to a complete library containing most solutions, know-how and ideas they need to tackle poverty and increase the human potential, accessible at the lowest cost possible. As results, they have been compiling and coordinating the production of hundreds of publications in a single CD-ROM for less than USD2, which are also permissible to be copied on hard-disks of as many computers as needed.

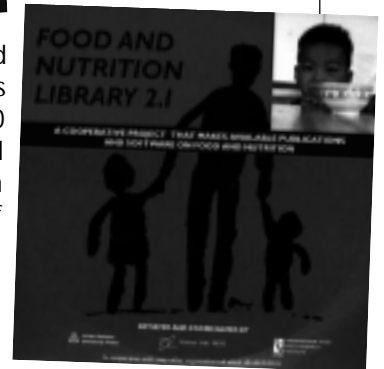
Founded in 1992 by Dr. Michel Loots, the Human Info NGO is a network project in which more than 100 partners in developed and developing countries, and various UN agencies are participating and are managed in cooperation with World Information Transfer. The New Zealand Digital Library Project developed the Greenstone Digital Library software for humanitarian and development libraries. The Human Info NGO offers to share our low-cost production capacity, resources and experiences and invites organizations, universities and governments to copy or adapt the concept to their culture and to their local languages.

Contact: Humanity Libraries Project, Human Info NGO, Oosterveldlaan 196 B-2610 Antwerp, Belgium Tel: 32-3-448.05.54 - Fax: 32-3-449.75.74 E-mail: humanity@humaninfo.org, info@humaninfo.org Website: www.humaninfo.org, www.infocooperation.org



Another CD-ROM, Food and Nutrition Library 2.1, contains 561 publications (50,000 pages) in English, Spanish and French, providing users with a comprehensive library of multidisciplinary insights and solutions to help solve poverty and malnutrition.

Users of the digital libraries can retrieve information by key word search, subject categories, titles of publications, organization and topics. The CD-ROMs focus more on the broad subject of health and development. Nevertheless, there are a few publications and references to breastfeeding.



Out of the Mouths of Babes by the Infant Feeding Action Coalition (INFACT)

INFACT published this report as a result of Code monitoring in Canada. It is a careful examination of the marketing practices of the infant foods industries across the country and how these practices are in violation of the Code and subsequent relevant Resolutions of the World Health Assembly, putting infant health at risk. INFACT Canada's findings indicate that promotions to artificially feed are heavily targeted at pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. *Out of the Mouths of Babes* also puts the responsibility for the protection of breastfeeding squarely into the lap of Health Canada as the Canadian government has the responsibility to ensure that mothers and their babies are fully supported to breastfeed. 48 pages. Contact: INFACT Canada, 6, Trinity Square, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1B1, Canada; Email: infact@ftn.net Website: www.infactcanada.ca



Mama Means Milk by Anne Marie Myers, Illustrated by Christina Renaud

Written from child's perspective, this 15-page children's picture book features women and children from a multi-cultural background engaged in a variety of activities including breastfeeding. Illustrations were colourful and done in a discreet manner. Contact: Anne Marie Myers, Ridgeway, Ontario, N0P 2C0, Canada Email: amlm@mnsi.net; Website: www.mnsi.net/~amlm/Index.html



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