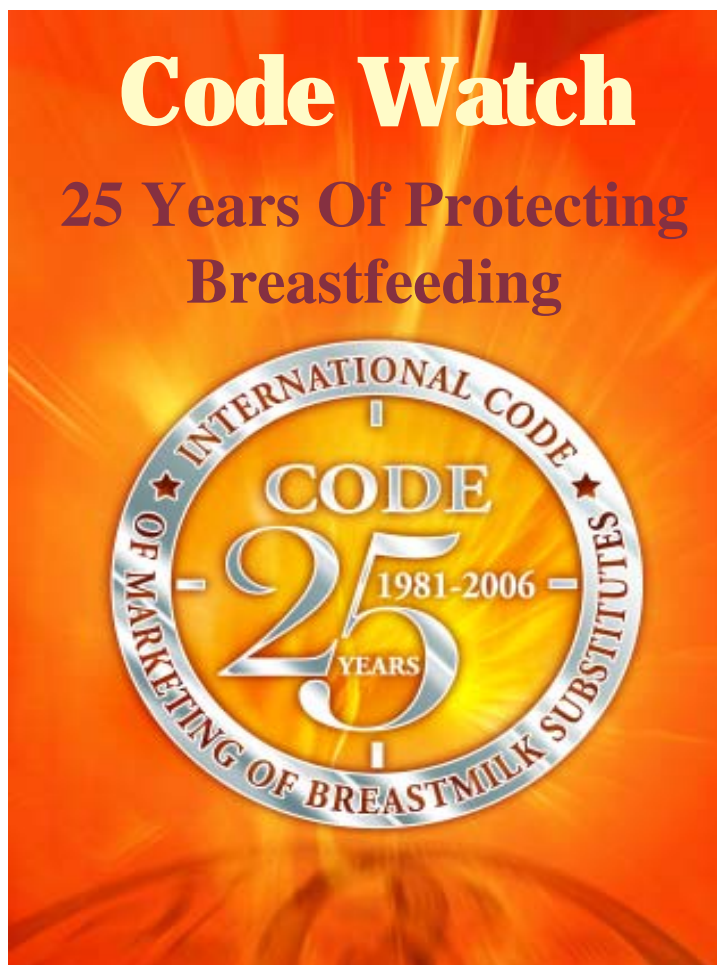


Inserts with this Issue

- ❑ WABA Annual Summary Report for 2005.
Nurturing the Future: Social Mobilisation for Better Infant Health
- ❑ "Status of Maternity Protection by Country" Chart. *Updated 21 May 2006*
- ❑ Attitudes Can Change: Supporting Mothers and Their Babies in Public Nursing.
- ❑ WBW 2006 Action Folder.
Code Watch : 25 Years of Protecting Breastfeeding.
- ❑ **Announcement :**
Breastfeeding Advocacy and Practice Course, Penang, Malaysia
A Regional Outreach Course by the Infant Feeding Consortium from the Institute of Child Health London and WABA
- ❑ Announcement : 3rd WABA Gender Training, Penang, Malaysia 2006
- ❑ From the desk of Ted Greiner, WABA Research Task Force Coordinator
- ❑ WABA Publications on Gender and Breastfeeding
- ❑ Mother & Child Health - Common Sense, Creativity and Care - Publication Flyer

WABALink is a current awareness service, with the mission of sharing news and useful key documents with its global network of supporters. The views expressed in the articles, supplements, and other inserts, etc., however, do not necessarily reflect the views, or policies of WABA or its Core Partners.

CELEBRATING World BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2006



In conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) 2006, WABA has launched a new website:

www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org

To help promote the wonderful work of groups all over the world celebrating World Breastfeeding Week, WABA is allocating a webpage for each group or organisation in this new website. Groups are encouraged to seize this opportunity to highlight the WBW celebration plans and at the same time promote and introduce their group to an international audience.

Sharing your wonderful work will strengthen the links and solidarity with the global WBW campaign. All you need to do is to contact the WABA Secretariat at waba@streamyx.com with the relevant information. We would be happy to hear from you & give you some space for your efforts in promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding!

3738 mothers in Philippines break Guinness breastfeeding record

3738 mothers in Manila, Philippines along with their babies have set a new world record for simultaneous breastfeeding. It easily beats the previous Guinness World Record set by 1,135 women in Berkeley, California.



In February 2005, UNICEF Country Representative Dr. Nicholas Alipui overheard Sec. Ignacio Bunye over the radio that the number one consumer commodity in Metro Manila was formula milk. Aware of the deaths and diseases associated with bottle-feeding, he issued a plea to concerned citizens to avert this trend and called the formula milk menace a "death sentence to Filipino children".

Dr Alipuli said " the malnutrition situation in the Philippines is devastating. The situation can be reversed with simple but effective measures. The effort to break the Guinness World record is one such measure".

According to WHO Philippines, annually, 16,000 Filipino children die because of bottle-feeding and many others suffer from allergies and long-term or serious illnesses like juvenile hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, cancer and premature puberty because of the formula milk menace.

The event which required participants to breastfeed their babies for one minute was organised by the City of Manila, Children for Breastfeeding (an organisation that promotes family support for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and the Department of Health with support from UNICEF.

UK's Chancellor supports campaign to outlaw harassment of mothers who breastfeed in public

United Kingdom's Chancellor Gordon Brown is supporting a campaign to outlaw harassment of mothers who breastfeed their babies in public.

Brown has endorsed a petition which is to be presented to Prime Minister, Tony Blair. The campaign petition is to make it an offence for anyone to try to prevent a baby from being breastfed. Similar legislation was introduced in Scotland last year.

The call for change follows reports that up to 50% of breastfeeding women say they are made to feel uncomfortable in public. In some cases, passers-by have called the police.

Brown's wife Sarah, expecting a child in less than two months said she had breastfed their son John until he was six months old and "thoroughly enjoyed" the experience.

Source: Times Online, May 2006.

We have the whole system worked out. It's the "B and B" - she does the breastfeeding and I do the burping and changing the diapers. It's teamwork. It's fun.

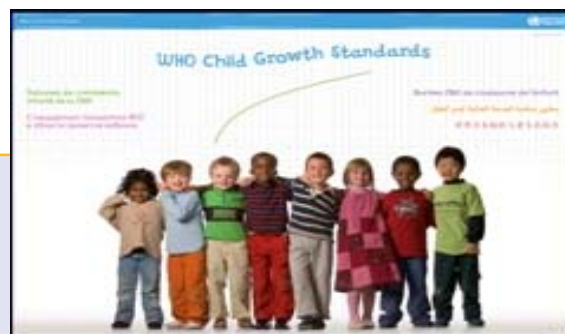
Tom Cruise, actor, on the sharing of parental duties with his wife on the birth of his daughter.

World Health Organisation releases new Child Growth Standards

As a departure from previous growth reference charts used to measure babies and children, the new WHO Child Growth Standards are based on the premise that the breastfed baby is the norm for healthy growth among infants.

The growth of an infant is strongly linked to how he or she is fed. The nutritional, immunological and growth benefits of breastfeeding have been proven and so the breastfed baby is the natural standard for physiological growth. The adequacy of human milk to support not only healthy growth but cognitive development and long term health provided a clear rationale for basing the new Standards on breastfed infants.

Previous growth charts have undermined breastfeeding because they are based on growth patterns of formula fed babies. Growth patterns of formula fed infants will show the breastfed babies to be underweight.



Research has shown that formula babies gain excessive weight.

Because breastfed babies are lean babies, the shape of the curve in the new Growth Standards differs from these earlier references, particularly the first six months of life when growth is rapid.

International Pediatric Association (IPA) has urged all its members from countries and regions throughout the world to adopt and use these standards in the best interest of all children and to advocate that these standards be adopted by their governments.

For more information, visit:

http://http://www.who.int/nutrition/media_page/en/

Cosmetic surgery may harm breastfeeding

Cosmetic surgery may affect women's ability to breastfeed their babies in later years, according to a new research.

Ultrasound technology has revealed that there are far fewer milk ducts in the breast than previously thought. As a result, experts believe the loss of only a few ducts in cosmetic surgery can seriously affect the capacity to breastfeed.

The current model of the breast used by surgeons, obstetricians, doctors and midwives around the world is still based on the anatomical dissections published by Sir Astley Cooper in 1840.

Professor Peter Hartman at the University of Western Australia's Human Lactation Research Group investigated the lactating breast in order to better understand the way they work.

He found the glandular tissue in concentrated nearer the nipple, not evenly distributed in the breast. The findings could change the surgical strategies for women who want their breasts either enhanced or reduced, as tissue is often taken from near the nipple area.

Source : <http://observer.guardian.co.uk> - May 2006

Obesity prevention starts with breastfeeding

Obesity prevention starts with breastfeeding not having to compete with unethical marketing of infant formula.

In New Zealand, companies such as Heinz Wattie's, Nutricia and Wyeth break the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes daily.

A new group, formed to educate the public and urge the New Zealand government to fully implement the International Code will be formally launched in Wellington in May.

The group, Infant Feeding Association of New Zealand (IFANZ) believes the formula industry must be challenged and has done this by publishing an independent report of Code compliance in New Zealand.

"The 11 action points of the New Zealand Ministry of Health's Code Review (2004) are insufficient to guard against unethical marketing practices in this country". IFANZ urges the Government to fully implement the International Code and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions and to legislate for their compliance by all sectors, said Marcia Annandale, Coordinator of IFANZ.

Source : <http://www.scoop.co.nz> - May 2006

Rally for gender equity and child survival in combating pediatric HIV!

WABA and York University jointly organised the conference on Gender, Child Survival and HIV/AIDS: From Evidence to Policy held at Founders College, York University, Toronto, Canada 7-9 May 2006. The Conference brought together about 100 people from 14 countries to share perspectives and experiences. The goals of the conference to create a safe space for discussions and to promote understanding among participants from various interest groups were achieved. Participants comprised of representative from HIV & AIDS, women, children, human rights, faith-based, reproductive health and breastfeeding groups, networks and institutions. As many as 23 NGOs and institutions worked together to find ways towards greater gender equality and child survival in the context of HIV, culminating in the Joint Statement on Gender, Breastfeeding and HIV. Proceedings and other outcomes of the Conference will be posted on the WABA website: www.waba.org.my/hiv/conference2006.htm.

- The **Joint Statement** will be ready for endorsement in June 2006! Look out for it on the website. The Statement will be adopted by Conference participants and other network partners, and used as a basis for advocacy for the upcoming International AIDS Conference in August 2006. If you are planning to attend the conference, do contact us!

Other important documents include:

- **The Barcelona Bill of Rights** aims to advance the recognition, protection, and fulfillment of women's and girls' human rights as a fundamental component of policies and programmes to address HIV/AIDS. Read it on the Athena Network website: www.athenanetwork.org/barcelona_bill_eng.html
- **The Blueprint for Action on Women and Girls and HIV/AIDS** calls for action on areas that fuel this epidemic globally for women including: stigma, discrimination, treatment and research challenges. Read it on the Positive Women's Network website: www.pwn.bc.ca/cms/page_1496.cfm



NEW

Advocacy Tools For Maternity Protection Campaign



1. **"Creche at Workplace"** - a useful presentation on a win-win situation between employers and employees at the workplace. You can download it from <http://www.waba.org.my/womenwork/wwork.html> and adapt it for your country situation.

2. **"Status of Maternity Protection by Country"** - pdf version available at <http://www.waba.org.my/womenwork/mpstatus.html>.

A big thank you for all those who participated in updating the information in this chart.



News from the Secretariat, Penang, Malaysia

Secretariat News, Project Development and Outreach

March • Susan Siew together with WABA IAC Co-Chair Michael Latham and WABA Steering Committee member Audrey Naylor, attended the 33rd Session of the SCN in Geneva, Switzerland • Michael Latham launched the new edition of Dr Cicely William's book entitled *Common Sense, Creativity and Care* at the SCN • A new website specially dedicated to World Breastfeeding Week launched • The Annual report to SIDA submitted • Renovation works conducted at the new WABA Secretariat office premises • WABA's Press Release on International Women's Day, written by Lakshmi Menon, disseminated • WBW Calendar Announcement distributed • WBW Calendar Announcement in French and Spanish produced • WABA Secretariat participated in the Relay for Life - charity cancer run event.

April • WABA Secretariat moved to its new premises. • Annual report to DGIS submitted • WBW Seedgrant announced • WABA's World Health Day Press Release written by Miriam Labbok, disseminated • WBW Banners produced •

May WABA's International Labour Day Press Release, written by Chris Mulford, disseminated • Mother's Love II, art exhibition and postcard series launched. Event is jointly organised together with Galeri Art Point. Julianna Lim Abdullah gave a speech on behalf of WABA • Maternity Protection Chart updated and printed • Liew Mun Tip, Susan Siew and Sarah Amin participated in the Gender, Child Survival & HIV AIDS: From Evidence to Policy conference, Toronto, Canada jointly organised by York University and WABA • Julianna Lim Abdullah & Harjeet Dhillon attended the launching ceremony of Penang Adventist Hospital's BFHI status • Writing, design and production of WABALink by Julianna Lim Abdullah • WBW Action folder is printed • Steering Committee Election nominations process in progress •

Visitors to the Secretariat

• **March** • Chris Mulford, WABA Women and Work, Co-coordinator, USA • Pamela Morrison, WABA HIV Task Force Co-coordinator, UK • **April** • Beth Styer, WABA Chairperson, USA • **May** • Jean-Pierre Allain, WABA IAC, Thailand • Annelies Allain, IBFAN-ICDC, Penang • Francoise Guigne, York University, Canada

2006

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| Jan 15-31 | ■ 1st International Training Course on Infant & Young Child Feeding Counselling - A Training Course, The 3 in 1 Course, New Delhi, India |
| Feb 14 | ■ WABA 15th Anniversary |
| Feb 23-5 | ■ CIMS 2006 Inter Birth Practices Forum, Boston, USA |
| Feb 27 | ■ Wellstart 21st Birthday |
| March 8 | ■ International Women's Day* |
| March 13-17 | ■ 33rd Session of the SCN, Nutrition and the Double Burden of Disease: A Global Challenge, Geneva, Switzerland |
| March 14-18 | ■ Global Summit on HIV/AIDS, Traditional Medicine & Indigenous Knowledge, Accra, Ghana |
| March 15 | ■ World Consumer Rights Day* |
| March 22 | ■ World Water Day* |
| March 24-29 | ■ 6th World Social Forum, Karachi, Pakistan (Asia) (www.wsf2006karachi.org) |
| April 7 | ■ World Health Day - "Working Together For Health" |
| April 22 | ■ Earth Day |
| May 5 | ■ HIV Management 2006: The New York Course, USA |
| May 7-9 | ■ Gender, Child Survival & HIV/AIDS: From Evidence to Policy, York University, Toronto, Canada |
| May 15 | ■ International Day of Families* |
| May 15 | ■ International AIDS Memorial Day* |
| May 21 | ■ 25th Anniversary of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes |
| May 30 | ■ New Standards of Growth for Infants and Young Children - Report findings with UN University Food and Nutrition Program, Ithaca, New York, USA |
| May 31 | ■ World No Tobacco Day* |
| June 5 | ■ World Environment Day* |
| June 11-13 | ■ CIMS Technical Advisory Group Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland |
| June 21-23 | ■ 14th International Symposium in HIV & Emerging Infections in Toulon, France. |
| June 21-25 | ■ 6th CIVICUS - World Assembly Acting Together for a Just World. Glasgow, Scotland |
| July 11 | ■ World Population Day |
| July 12 - 16 | ■ ILCA International Conference; Interdisciplinary Breastfeeding Practice - Integration through Innovation, Philadelphia, USA
ILCA 21st Birthday |
| July 24-26 | ■ LLLI 34th Physicians Seminar on Breastfeeding: "Breastfeeding Research into Practice". San Diego, USA |

August 1-7 ■ World Breastfeeding Week

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|--------------|---|
| August 4-5 | ■ New South Wales Lactation College Conference/ WBW, Sydney, Australia |
| August 4-14 | ■ Campaign to value Fatherhood in Brazil :Fatherhood: Enjoy it!" www.aleitamento.com |
| August 12 | ■ International Youth Day |
| August 13-18 | ■ 16th International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada www.aids2006.org |
| August 21-25 | ■ 11th World Congress on Public Health and 8th Brazilian Congress on Collective Health, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil |
| August 26-30 | ■ TUNZA International Children's Conference for the Environment, Putrajaya, Malaysia. |

[(*) see www.daysofaction.net for links]



WABA, PO Box 1200, 10850 Penang, Malaysia • Tel: 60-4-6584816 • Fax: 60-4-6572655 • Email: waba@streamyx.com • Website: www.waba.org.my

Editor: Julianna Lim Abdullah • Editorial Board: Liew Mun Tip & Lynn Emmanuel • Advisors: Sarah Amin and Susan Siew

WABALink is produced and edited by the Secretariat of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA). WABA is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide based on the Innocent Declaration, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the WHO/ UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. Its core partners are International Baby Action Food Network (IBFAN), La Leche League International (LLL), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), Wellstart International, Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) and LINKAGES. WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).