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The Breastfeeding Mother - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

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.



WABA MOURNS THE PASSING OF ONE OF ITS FOUNDERS -

Patrice Jelliffe

WABA mourns the loss of Patrice Jelliffe, one of our founders and an icon of the global breastfeeding movement. She died peacefully on March 14th in Encino, California. Along with her husband Derrick Jelliffe, Patrice made enormous contributions to the fields of child health and international nutrition. Patrice became an essential voice in raising global awareness for the infant feeding crisis, basing her research in Africa and the Caribbean. She was an educator, a researcher, an active prosector, a prolific writer, and a leader.

As a pioneer of medical-anthropology and the editor of the *Journal of Tropical Pediatrics*, Patrice made major contributions to the science and to the practice of Mother and Child Health. In 1993, she was awarded the Certificate of Commendation at the White House by President Clinton "for her lifetime work and commitment to the world's children as a public health expert, promoting nutrition education in nursing education, and fostering breastfeeding world wide."

One of the many legacies left behind by Patrice and Derrick is the "WABA Crawl", WABA's Calypso influenced anthem which is still performed at many WABA gatherings. Patrice was an extraordinary person. Wherever she went she radiated wisdom, warmth and willingness to help young professionals, young mothers and young children. She will be greatly missed.

http://www.waba.org/my/pat_jelliffe.htm

Overwhelming response to the Infant Feeding Consortium (IFC) /WABA Breastfeeding: Advocacy and Practice Course

Breastfeeding: Advocacy & Practice, A Regional Outreach Course was successfully carried out from 25th February to 10th March 2007 in Penang, Malaysia. The evidence-based course which was specifically aimed at health professionals in the region, received overwhelming response and many applications had to be turned down due to limited places available.

A total of 27 participants from 6 countries, namely Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines, participated in the 2-week highly intensive and participatory course. The course was mainly comprised of senior health professionals who are involved in national and local infant feeding programmes as clinicians, trainers, advisers, academicians, programme coordinators and advocates for optimal infant feeding. The course was conducted by Dr Felicity Savage and Sandra Lang from IFC and co-facilitated by Prof. Zulkifli Ahmad and Dr Zaharah Sulaiman from Universiti Sains Malaysia.



"What I find most valuable from this course is that it gives us the most updated knowledge on Breastfeeding management, the latest supporting scientific papers and most importantly conducted by the 2 best lecturers, Sandra and Felix, with their worldwide knowledge and excellent teaching techniques" – Dr Napaphan Viriyutsahakul, Paediatrician, Regional Health Promotion Center 1, Thailand



Iraq: 4.5 million children undernourished

According to UNICEF, about one in ten children under five in Iraq are underweight and one in five are short for their age.

"Many Iraqi children may also be suffering from 'hidden hunger' deficiencies in critical vitamins and minerals that are the building blocks of children's physical and intellectual development" said Claire Hajaj, Communication Officer at UNICEF Iraq Support Centre in Aman (ISCA).

Hajaj emphasized the importance of children being properly fed for the first two years of their lives particularly the first six months when breastfeeding is vital. "Iraq's exclusive breastfeeding rates are very low compared to other countries in the region. Only 12 per cent as of the last survey, which took place several years ago".

"Infant formula is still widespread, increasing the risk of illness like diarrhea and pneumonia, which also contribute to undernutrition. Diarrhea is a major risk in the absence of safe water and basic sanitation, a problem now affecting many Iraqi communities," Hajaj said, adding that the first step in preventing undernutrition in children is to ensure proper care for pregnant mothers.

Dr Mayssun Abdel Rahman, a paediatrician at Baghdad's Children Teaching Hospital said that the country's health system is crumbling and it was only UNICEF and WHO that were keeping it afloat. But that much more needs to be done, she said, as hundreds of children are dying from easily cured ailments such as diarrhea and undernutrition.

Nutrition indicators have traditionally been the lowest, three times the national average – in the poor southern of Iraq and generally in rural areas and now because of the violence, these areas suffer greater poverty than ever before.

Source : YubaNet.com 5 March 2007

Breastfeeding may boost social mobility

People who were breastfed as infants climb the social-class ladder more readily as adults than those who were bottle-fed babies, UK researchers report.

Dr Richard M. Martin and colleagues from the University of Bristol found that individuals who had been breastfed were 41 percent more likely to move up at least one social class during their lives.



Breastfeeding has a number of health benefits and may also boost intelligence while reducing the risk of psychiatric problems, Martin and his team note in the Archives of Disease in Childhood. They tested their hypothesis that being breastfed might affect upward social mobility by looking at 1,414 men and women who had participated in a pre-World War II study of diet and health and were followed up 60 years later.

Individuals who had been breastfed were more likely to have completed secondary school, which accounted for some but not all effect of breastfeeding on social mobility.

"The relevance for this finding for contemporary children, therefore is that it provides indirect support for the suggestion that having been breastfed may have long term effects via associations related to social mobility, such as growth, health or IQ," they added. However, given that other, unknown factors may account for the results, they conclude, more study is needed.

Source: www.sciam.com 19 February 2007

Leeds launches breastfeeding guide

Mums in Leeds, England will be able to find the best places to breastfeed their babies when a new guide is published later this year.

The "You CAN Do It Here!" guide contains a list of breastfeeding-friendly establishment in Leeds and will be available in time for National Breastfeeding Awareness Week in May. The campaign, run by the city's branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) and Leeds PCT will start on March 1 to identify restaurants, cafés, shops and other public places where mothers are welcome to breastfeed.

Venues that sign up will be given a "Breastfeeding Welcome" sticker to put on their windows or alternatively (NCT) members will award stickers to venues where they experience a breastfeeding-friendly environment.

"The campaign is to help mums feel more confident that they won't be asked to leave if they choose to breastfeed. It is also to make society more aware of the benefits of

breastfeeding, which is the most natural thing for mums to do," said Kathryn Holme, Leeds NCT chairman.

Source: Yorkshire Evening Post 21 March 2007

Breastfeeding law passed in Chile

Chile's President Michelle Bachelet passed a new law this week giving working mothers the right to breastfeed their child at work.

"We are guaranteeing tools which both mothers and fathers can use to strengthen family ties and to solidify the bond between mother and child," said Bachelet.

"I believe that it will prove to be a very important law. It represents what the government is seeking to do – defend the Chilean family unit," added Bachelet.

Source: The Santiago Times – January 2007



SEEDGRANTS

WABA would like to invite groups to apply for the following seedgrants:

1. **World Breastfeeding Week** – especially for groups who are in need of funds to organize WBW 2007 and/or translate, adapt, produce and promote or conduct activities with WBW materials which cater to local audiences.

- We have about 5-10 seedgrants to be given out, amounting from US\$500.00 – US\$1000.00 per seedgrant
- Application Forms and Guidelines can be downloaded at www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org

2. **Community Support** - The seedgrant project aims to establish or strengthen community support worldwide for breastfeeding protection, promotion and support. It focuses on educating and sensitising communities towards the importance of breastfeeding and encouraging them to be more supportive of breastfeeding families or even directly involved in supporting mothers.

The Community Support for Breastfeeding Seedgrant project should target and enhance existing support measures, groups or activities, or initiate new ones. This project seeks a broad concept of mother support where diverse types of community-based support initiatives can help to bring about an enabling environment for mothers to initiate and sustain exclusive breastfeeding and practice extended breastfeeding after 6 months, with adequate complementary feeding.

- We have 5-10 seedgrants to be given out amounting to US\$1,000 – US\$2,000.00 per seedgrant
- Application forms and Guidelines can be downloaded at www.waba.org.my/csb_seedgrants.htm

All applications should be submitted to waba@streamyx.com by 31 May 2007.

DEADLINE
30 MAY 2007

Britain slaps ban on claims made by baby milk makers

Baby milk manufacturers have been ordered to drop nutrition claims that suggest they are a valid alternative to breastfeeding. Claims such as "closer than ever to breastmilk" and "helps growth and the immune system" are banned.

As a result, the packs and marketing material for leading brands such as SMA, Farleys, Cow & Gate and Aptamil will have to change.

The crackdown has been ordered by the British government's Food Standards Agency (FSA) as the government steps up efforts to promote breastfeeding as the best health option. The FSA has told manufacturers to change their packs and marketing or face prosecution, while supermarkets have been ordered not to promote infant formula milk with price cuts.

Typical phrases which will no longer be allowed include:

- "Supports your baby's natural immune system"
- "Prebiotics support natural defences"
- "Beta carotene...to help maintain a healthy immune system"
- "Nucleotides help growth and the immune system"
- "Omega 3 LCs - long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids for development"

The ban on nutrition claims is a major victory for the Baby Milk Action campaign. Campaign coordinator said "we have campaigned for a decade for companies to stop making these illegal health and nutrition claims and for authorities to take action. Baby Milk Action is calling for restrictions to be extended to cover "follow-on" formula for older babies."

Source: The New Straits Times, Malaysia – 13 March 2007

Special Announcement from CIMS International
We proudly announce the birth of the International MotherBaby Childbirth Organization (IMBCO). Its purpose is to promote optimal MotherBaby maternity services in countries throughout the world. For continuity and support, one member of the CIMS Leadership Council will have a permanent position on the Board of the IMBCO. We are pleased that Childbirth Connection has agreed to partner with the IMBCO and act as fiscal agent for our new organization.

News from the Secretariat

January 2007

• Santiago Valore of RUMBA Argentina and Hana Pop of RUMBA Guatemala leave for home after completing their internship at WABA. • Sabrina Sunderra joins WABA as Senior Project Officer. • Internal Workplan Assessment and start of the Strategic Planning exercise. • WBW 2007 Calendar announcement is produced and disseminated. • WABA YOUNG e-newsletter, written and designed by Hana Pop is launched. • WBW 2007 Photo contest is launched.

February 2007

• Michelle Jambu leaves WABA after 16 years of service. • Cheah Ling Ling and Siti Letcheni join WABA as Graphic Designer and Administration & Governance Coordinator respectively. • WABA/IFC Breastfeeding: Advocacy and Practice Course, conducted by Felicity Savage and Sandra Long, is organized and held in Penang. • Elisabet Heising represent WABA at SCN in Rome. • Raj Anand attends the 2nd Meeting of South Asia Regional Network on Maternal and Neonatal Mortality/Morbidity Reduction on behalf of WABA. • Beth Stryer represents WABA at the CSW. • WABA 16th Anniversary celebrated on 14th February 2007. • Penny Van Esterik represents WABA at the International Conference on Actions to Strengthen Linkages between SRH & HIV/AIDS in India. • Chris Mulford arrives to work on the SIDA report.

March 2007

• Brie Abbe from USA joins WABA on an internship programme. • WBW 2007 Action Folder is reviewed. • Rebecca Magalhães (LNU) arrives to plan for the WABA/LLU Mother Support Summit to be held in Chicago, USA. • Anwar & Mahmudah Fozil, Harjeet Dhillon, Derchana Devi and Brie Abbe join the International Women's Day March organized by WCC. WABA Banner was first prize of the March. • WABA's International Women's Day Press Release written by Sabrina Sunderra issued and disseminated. • Kah Kah Ling and Siti Letcheni attend the National Council for Women's Organizations (NCWO) meeting in Kuala Lumpur on recommendations for increase in maternity leave from 60 to 90 days. • Anwar Fozil, WABA's Chairperson Emeritus, attends a meeting with Consumer International's Executive Board. • Special tribute page for Patricia Jelske, one of WABA's beloved founders who passed away, set-up on the WABA website by the IEC team.

Visitors to the Secretariat

January 2007

• Hartha Garnett, Uppsala University, Sweden • Anni Omer-Salin, Women & Work Task Force Co-Coordinator, Sweden.

February 2007

• Richard Leslie and Trudi Tox, United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), Malaysia • Felicity Savage, ICM, United Kingdom • Chris Mulford, Co-ordinator, Women and Work Task Force, USA

March 2007

• Wendy Wang, Department of Health, Hong Kong • Patricia Li, United Christian Hospital, Hong Kong • Utami Rosli, Indonesian Breastfeeding Centre, Indonesia • Lenggeng Sriwijaya, Indonesian Breastfeeding Centre, Indonesia • Ana Winata, UNICEF, Indonesia • Yoo-Mi Chung, ABA, Korea • Balkees Abdul Mejid, Srigiri Hospital, Malaysia • Nor Shera Yahya Ludin, Hospital Selayang, Malaysia • Sofiqahyati Sofiqulhasmy, Hospital Selayang, Malaysia • Rukana Zuhaili, Hospital Selayang, Malaysia • Zaralifah Mustafa, Hospital Selayang, Malaysia • Ruslita Abu Hassan, Hospital Selayang, Malaysia • Nuryantiana Che Abdul Rohin, Ministry of Health, Malaysia • Rosalinda Ibrahim, Ministry of Health, Malaysia • Aida Azna Abu Hassan, Ministry of Health, Malaysia • Maria Evelyn Roque Locsin, City of Taguig, Philippines • Vicente E. Borja, Department of Health, Philippines • Socorro Alma F. Gammod, Nutrition Office MHD, Philippines • Pamporn Pathumwanna, Sirirajapit Hospital, Thailand • Napophon Viriyutachokul, Regional Health Promotion Center 1, Thailand • Yupanying Hongduangwanth, Chonrenkum Prachabok Hospital, Thailand • Itaree Jeaprayuk, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand • Wathanasri Tantiprobha, Chiang Mai University, Thailand • Pracha Nanthanont, Ramatholbodi Hospital, Thailand • Quah Kim Cheong, Parenting Maternity Hospital, Malaysia • Zaharah Sulaiman, Universiti Sains Malaysia • Zukhrif Bin Ahmad, Universiti Sains Malaysia • Sandra Long, Infant Feeding Consortium, United Kingdom • Rebecca Magalhães, LNU, USA • Brie Abbe, USA.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2007

Jan 15-Feb 2	37th Session of CEDAW
Jan 15-28	The 3-in-1 Training Course on IYCF Counseling - (IBFAN Asia Pacific) New Delhi, India
Jan 20-25	7th World Social Forum, Nairobi, Kenya
Feb 4-8	International Conference on Actions to Strengthen Linkages between SRH & HIV/AIDS, Mumbai, India
Feb 14	WABA's 16th Anniversary
Feb 23-25	2nd Indian People's Health Assembly, Bhopal, India
Feb 25-Mar 10	Breastfeeding: Advocacy & Practice, A Regional Outreach Course, Penang, Malaysia
Feb 26-Mar 2	34th SCN Annual Session, Rome, Italy
Feb 27	Wellstart's 22nd Anniversary
Feb 26-Mar 9	51st Session of CSW, The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, New York, USA
Mar 7-11	CIMS Forum, Atlanta, USA
Mar 8	International Women's Day
Mar 15	World Consumer Rights Day*
Mar 22	World Water Day*
April 7	World Health Day*
April 22	Earth Day*
April 24-May 3	4th African Conference on Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research, Kisumu, Kenya
May 1	International Labour Day*
May 5	International Day of Midwives
May 7-13	World Respected Childbirth Week 2007
May 13	Mothers' Day*
May 15	International Day of Families*
May 15	International AIDS Memorial Day
May 15-18	World Forum on Early Care & Education, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
May 23-27	2007 CIVICUS World Assembly, Glasgow, Scotland
May 24-25	Global Youth Forum, Geneva, Switzerland
May 28	International Day of Action for Women's Health
May 31	World No Tobacco Day
June 5	World Environment Day*
June 7-8	2nd Annual African HIV/AIDS Clinical Update and Leadership Development Conference, Nairobi, Kenya
June 10-12	4th International Conference on Children's Health & the Environment, Vienna, Austria
June 17	Fathers' Day
June 18-July 13	Breastfeeding: Practice and Policy Course, London, United Kingdom
June 25-27	Nutrition & Nurture in Infancy and Childhood: Bio-Cultural Perspectives, United Kingdom

[*] see www.daysofaction.net for links

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WABA