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Message from the Editor

On Friday 11 March 2011, the world was shocked by the 9.0 undersea magnitude earthquake that hit Japan, which then sent 37.9 metre tsunamis ripping through towns and cities across 18 prefectures on the northeast coast of Japan. By Saturday, there was even more bad news, with radiation leaking from the damaged nuclear reactors in Fukushima prefecture.

The earthquake now officially named the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake has claimed more than 14,000 lives, injuring more than 5,000 and 12,000 people still missing. The tsunami resulted in over 300,000 refugees in the Tōhoku region, and shortages of food, water, shelter, medicine and fuel for survivors. Around 4.4 million households in northeastern Japan were left without electricity and 1.5 million without water. Save the Children reports that as many as 100,000 children were uprooted from their homes, some of whom were separated from their families because the earthquake occurred during the school day.

Recently, Japanese officials moved into the no-entry zone within a 20-kilometre radius of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant to start culling dying livestock, reports said.

In the wake of this massive disaster, we all need to ask ourselves, are we really prepared to face disasters, especially disasters of this magnitude? Are our countries ready? During World Breastfeeding Week 2009, this issue of infant feeding in emergencies was brought to the forefront and the World Health Assembly in 2010 adopted resolution 63.23 which urges Member States to “ensure that national and international preparedness plans and emergency responses follow evidence based Operational Guidance for Emergency Relief Staff and programme Managers on Infant and Young Child Feeding in emergencies, which includes the protection, promotion and support for optimal breastfeeding and the need to minimize risks of artificial feeding, by ensuring that any required breastmilk substitutes are purchased, distributed and used according to strict criteria”.

This terrible tragedy in Japan reminds us that we need to continuously advocate to relief agencies, health care providers and rescue workers to include breastfeeding support as a vital part of disaster relief and humanitarian aid efforts. Breastfeeding is a vital emergency response. Are we truly ready?

Our prayers are with the people of Japan. May we all continue to do our best to help and support them in any way we can.

This issue of eWABALink we are also introducing our new Mother Support Task Force team and activities of our Youth from the WABA Youth Initiative.

Julianna Lim Abdullah, IBCLC

Editor, e-WABALink

To keep abreast of events taking place throughout the year, WABA maintains a calendar of events on the WABA website <http://www.waba.org.my/events/calendarofevents.htm>

e-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 and news links however do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of WABA or its Core Partners.

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www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org

www.breastfeedinggateway.org

WBW 2011

Visit our new website totally dedicated to WBW 2011 with new campaign, news, activities, downloadable materials etc.

www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org

2011

YES! Talk to Me about Breastfeeding – WBW Event Pledge for 2011 is starting from 1 May 2011. Please visit the WBW website for information on how to submit your pledges.

*If you are looking for information regarding past WBW themes and events from 1992 to 2010, please visit www.worldbreastfeedingweek.net



I. Current News

Genetically modified cows that produce “human” milk?

In the age of genetic modification, scientists in China, from the China Agricultural University have bred 300 cattle that have been given human genes using cloning technology to make their milk contain the same nutrients and fat content as breast milk.

This development has been condemned by opponents of GM foods, animal protection groups and breastfeeding groups. Patti Rundall of Baby Milk Action said “we need to have rules to safeguard human health. There could be incredible risks with these products that we don’t know about. Cow’s milk is never going to be like breastmilk. It’s never going to be a living product like breastmilk. Breastmilk is species specific”.

According to the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals, “offspring of cloned animals often suffer health and welfare problems, so this is a great concern. Why do we need this milk – what is it giving us that we haven’t already got?



The creation of GM cattle is also bad for animal welfare. In two experiments by the Chinese, out of 42 GM calves born, only 26 survived. Ten dies soon after birth and six died within six months.

Glen Wallace of the watchdog GeneWatch UK, said, “There is a question about whether the milk from these cows is going to be safe for humans, and it is really hard to tell unless you do large clinical trials.

China’s rules on GM foods are more relaxed than those in Europe.

Source: *Mail Online* (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1372836/Scientists-develop-genetically-modified-cow-produces-human-breast-milk.html>).

Size of brain is linked to breastfeeding



Scientists have discovered that there is a direct correlation between the size of a mammal’s brain, including that of humans, with the amount of time they suckle.

The longer the period, the bigger the brain.

“This research finding supports the theory that breastfeeding and brain development are associated with each other” said study author Professor Robert Burton at Durham University.

Prof Burton and his team studied 128 mammal species, including humans to see if there was a link between how much time was “invested” in their upbringing and the size of their brain. They found the longer gestation period and the longer the suckling directly affected the size of the brain.

The research appears in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Source: *The Telegraph* (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8411344/Breastfeeding-is-linked-to-the-size-of-the-brain.html>)

I. Current News

Michelle Obama urges women to breastfeed



Michelle Obama is extending her campaign against childhood obesity by urging women to breastfeed and calling for the removal of barriers to nursing at work.

The Obama Administration in the United States of America has already introduced more flexible work rules and tax breaks on nursing equipment in order to encourage American women to breastfeed.

Mrs Obama said she wanted “to focus on the important touch points” in a child’s life. “And what we are learning now is that early intervention is key. Breastfeeding. Kids who are breastfed longer have a lower tendency to be obese”

Breastfeeding rates are low among African-American mothers compared to other racial and ethnic groups, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and Mrs Obama took notice of this when she addressed the Congressional Black Conference in 2010. She said, “and because it is important to prevent obesity early, we are also working to promote breastfeeding, especially the black community – where 40% of our babies never get breastfed at all, even in the first weeks of life, and we know that babies that are breastfed are less likely to be obese as children,” she said.

She is also going to push for more hospitals to be certified as “Baby-Friendly” in order to change hospital practices so after a baby is born, the baby is roomed in with the mother, which makes breastfeeding much easier. Currently only 3% of births occur in US hospitals with the Baby-Friendly designation.

White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett has noted that workplace rules have a major impact on a woman’s decision whether or not to nurse.

“While 75% of women initially breastfeed their baby, after six months only 43% are still breastfeeding,” according to Jarrett. “One of the most common reasons mothers cite for discontinuing breastfeeding is returning to work and not having break time or private space to express milk. Many studies have shown these types of worksite supports help women to continue to breastfeed after returning to work”.

Source: Daily Flotus (<http://www.politicsdaily.com/2011/02/14/michelle-obama-to-promote-breast-feeding-as-irs-gives-tax-breaks/>)

The Telegraph (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/michelle-obama/8326566/Michelle-Obama-urges-women-to-breastfeed.html>)

A tale of 119 wet nurses in a village in rural China

In a little rural village in China, with no more than 150 families, the women in this small village have been doing something extraordinary for more than half a century. They have been wet nursing and raising more than 1,300 orphans since 1968.

These women, currently 119 of them, have provided wet nursing for free but they receive a monthly allowance to cover the cost of living expenses of the children they raised. Sixty years ago, they were given 9 yuan per month for each child and now they are given 600 yuan which is just enough to raise a child.

In order to be a wet nurse, a woman needs to be healthy, to care for children, be educated, financially stable, married and has the experience of looking after children.

“It is all about love,” said Zhao Yin Mei, a wet nurse. “The villages all want to raise orphans”.

Here are some of the children who have benefited from wet nursing.

Jia Mei Lan, the 31 year old wet nurse, playing with Dang Guo Han, who was born with a cleft palate and Dang Guotao who had brain paralysis.



A child is waiting for his wet nurse to pick him up. Everyday, the charity house will pick up the foster children from the village for exercise and training before sending them back in the afternoon.



Love has supported this village to pass on this good cause for more than half a century but with the economy developing, there will be less women who are willing to carry on this wonderful tradition of fostering orphans through wet nursing.

Source: <http://www.chinahush.com/2011/03/27/extraordinary-love-story-village-of-119-wet-nurses-in-rural-china/>

Source: UN News Centre (www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37137&Cr=unicef&Cr1=)

1. Current News

BPA Feeding Bottle Ban catches momentum

The Malaysian government has decided to ban the polycarbonate feeding bottle containing the Bisphenol A or BPA from 1 March 2012.

The Malaysian Health Minister made the announcement to adopt the precautionary measure as there was no sound scientific proof that the feeding bottle was safe for use by infants and children.

He said that the ban was consistent with that imposed by Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany and New Zealand. The latest development is the announcement of a ban on the feeding bottle by the European Union in March 2011.

In a related development, China also announced a ban on the production and import of infant feeding containers containing BPA including feeding bottles from 1 June 2011.

The sales of such products will be banned from September 2011 according to China's Ministry of Health.

BPA is a synthetic chemical also known as "environmental hormones". When the bottles are heated, the BPA could leach into its contents. BPA could cause disruption to the hormonal system and consequently interrupt bodily functions.

Local consumer groups in Malaysia meanwhile are calling for the ban to be effective immediately and not in a year's time. According to Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association (FOMCA), the Government should not compromise as BPA is harmful and detrimental to the health of high-risk groups, namely infants and children.

Source: *The Star* (<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/3/16/nation/8276892&sec=nation>)

Shanghai Daily.com (<http://www.shanghaidaily.com/nsp/National/2011/04/22/China%2Bannounces%2BBPA%2Bban%2Bdates/>)



2. News from Core Partners

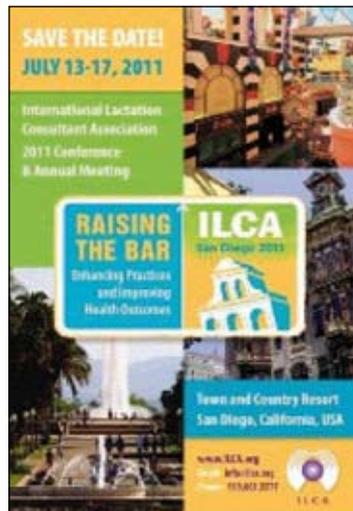
International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA)

- International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA) members celebrated the 10th annual IBCLC Day on 2 March 2011 as a global celebration of the important contribution that International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC) makes to families, and to healthcare teams. This year's theme, "IBCLCs: Shaping the Future" highlighted the importance of breastfeeding to a child's future and the future of a community, as well as the many ways that an IBCLC protects, promotes and supports breastfeeding.

ILCA press release on 11 March 2011 encourages breastfeeding support and the avoidance of infant formula donations in Pacific earthquake and tsunami affected areas. The press release is available from http://www.ilca.org/files/in_the_news/Emergencies/2011-03_PressRelease_JapanEarthquake.pdf

- ILCA annual conference will be held on July 13-17, 2011. The theme this year is Raising the Bar: Enhancing Practices and Improving Health Outcomes. It will be held in San Diego, California, USA. Registration details are available at the ILCA website: www.ilca.org

There will be a Spanish language track for this conference in San Diego. ILCA plans to meet its members' needs by providing translation where English is not the first language. A scholarship fund to assist IBCLCs in Japan and New Zealand to attend the conference is now also available.



La Leche League International (LLLI)

Joint statement with WABA on World Health Day 7 April 2011 on the theme of **Combat Drug Resistance: No Action Today, No Cure Tomorrow.**



The statement aims to promote breastfeeding and shows how it is free, readily available to fight Antimicrobial Resistance, and contributes to the overall health of the world.

To download: <http://www.waba.org.my/pdf/WHD-2011rev1.pdf>

2. News from Core Partners

International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)

► “Breaking the Rules, *Stretching the Rules* 2010 (BTR)” is out

A brand new 208-page report details the latest marketing strategies used by baby food manufacturers and exposes violations of the *International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes* and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions over the three years from 2007 to end 2010.



Independent monitors from over 46 countries contributed evidence showing that breastfeeding still faces multi-million dollar competition from baby feeding companies using new ways to promote their products, such as basing marketing campaigns on added ingredients, even when these have no proven benefit.

The evidence was compiled, checked and legally analysed by the International Code Documentation Centre (ICDC) based in Penang. ICDC is part of the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN).

To sustain ongoing monitoring, IBFAN sells BTR which is especially targeted at the baby food industry, prices range from US\$200 per copy (inclusive of mailing) for public interest groups to US\$900 per soft copy for companies and other for profit groups. For sales enquiries, please email ibfanpg@tm.net.my. BTR can be purchased at www.ibfan.org

► **European Parliament votes to block DHA health claim – but not by a large enough majority to guarantee action by the Commission**

Members of the European Parliament (MEP) voted on 6 April 2011 in favour of a Resolution to block a disputed DHA health claim on follow-on formula labels, but were short of the absolute majority of all MEPs (including 57 not present) required to compel the European Commission to act. The vote was 328 for the resolution and 323 against, but this was insufficient to block the claim “DHA intake contributes to the normal visual development of infants up to 12 months of age”.

Patti Rundall, OBE, Policy Director of Baby Milk Action who was one of the key campaigners of this resolution said, “Authorisation of this claim hands the industry the marketing tool they desire and brings the EU Health Claim regulations into disrepute. There is clearly no proven benefit from DHA in follow-on formulas, and possible risks so the DHA claim. This makes a mockery of the whole process – which is touted as the Gold Standard, and which has for the most part, provided very important safeguards to European consumers throwing out many, many bogus claims. But it has failed parents and babies today”.

MEPs voting for the Resolution were heeding the expert opinion of medical and public health bodies from across Europe, US, Asia, Latin America and from UN bodies, including WHO, UNICEF, Save the Children, UK Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the European Midwives Association, Eurochild, Association of European Cancer Leagues, the European Federation of Dieticians (EFAD), the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE), the European Public Health Association (EPHA), the European Consumers Association (BEUC), the German Midwives Association, the California Women, Infants and Children Association, Sustain Children’s Food Campaign, the National Childbirth Trust, the Baby Feeding Law Group and IBFAN.

If the Resolution had been passed, the claim which is already being used around the world in marketing campaigns, would have been outlawed.

Source: Baby Milk Action (<http://info.babymilkaction.org/pressrelease/pressrelease06apr11>)

3. News from Regional Focal Points, Task Forces and Working Groups

News from the WABA Research Task Force (RTF)



The latest RTF e-newsletter issue Jan 2011 is now available for download at www.waba.org.my/whatwedo/research/pdf/rtnl-jan11.pdf.

To subscribe, please email to peiching.chuah@waba.org.my

News from the WABA Men’s Working Group



The latest Men’s Working Group e-newsletter issue 4 is now available for download at http://www.waba.org.my/whatwedo/mensinitiative/pdf/mi_e_dec2010_eng.pdf

To subscribe, please email to aida.redza@waba.org.my

3. News from Regional Focal Points, Task Forces and Working Groups

News from the WABA Mother Support Task Force (MSTF)

WABA is pleased to welcome our new MSTF Coordinator Anne Batterjee of LLLI (Board of Director) from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Co-coordinator Pushpa Panadam, LLL Leader and Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Administrator in Paraguay who joins Dr. Prashant Gangal, Maharashtra State Co-coordinator of the Breastfeeding & Lactation Committee of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, who continues as Co-Coordinator. This dynamic new team will support the WABA Secretariat to promote and advocate on the Global Initiative for Mother Support (GIMS) and to provide adequate and accurate information, support and health care services to help mothers and baby experience optimal breastfeeding.

WABA wishes to thank our outgoing Coordinator – Paulina Smith and Co-coordinator, Rebecca Magalhães for their outstanding contributions over the years and we look forward to their continued support and guidance.

Anne Schaerer-Batterjee Kingdom of South Arabia



Anne Schaerer-Batterjee is one of the founders of the first Cancer Society in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where she worked on

women's health issues. She is an active advocate for BFHI. Her primary goal is to train hundreds of doctors, nurses, and patient educators every year in the skills needed to support mothers through the implementation of BFHI in both the government and private sector. As an LLLI Leader and LLLI PCP Administrator, she continues to look for means to improve mother support networks. In 2000, she opened and now operates the first and only Women's Health Awareness and Breastfeeding Resource Center in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. She maintains close ties with international organisations such as WABA and IBFAN Arab World by providing important tools to stimulate significant changes in the region.

Pushpa Panadam Paraguay



Pushpa Panadam graduated with a B. Sc. Hons in Chemistry and Diploma in Education from the University of Malaya and an LLB

Hons from the University of London. She is married to Manuel R. Velázquez and is mother to Lisa Gayatri, 17 years and Jiva José, 15. She lives with her family in Asuncion, Paraguay where she is a La Leche League (LLL) Leader, LLL Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Administrator, founding member of Parhupar (Parto Humanizado Paraguay) and Training Specialist. She is one of WABA's E-Newsletter editors. Most of Pushpa's voluntary work is with mothers at the hospitals and marginal communities in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Dr. Prashant Gangal India



Dr. Prashant is a paediatrician and Project Coordinator for the Mother Support Group Project and Traditional Massage Women (TMW) Training Project of Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI). He is also the Maharashtra State Co-coordinator of the Breastfeeding & Lactation Committee of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics. He is the author of a book called Child Care which has been published in 4 languages and also a national trainer for BPNI in Breastfeeding Counseling.

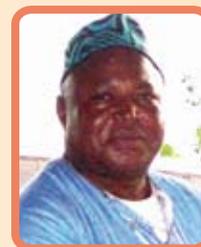
Update from the WABA Gender Working Group

At the last WABA's Steering Committee meeting in Oct 2010, it was recommended that the WABA Men's Working Group be linked to the WABA Gender Working Group to promote more exchange and coordination between the two groups.

To this effect, James Achanyi from Cameroon, the Coordinator of the Men's Working Group has been appointed as Co-coordinator of the Gender WG together with Renu Khanna and Paige Hall Smith, led by Marta Trejos who is overall Coordinator.

This link will give a new dimension and facilitate the expansion of Men's Working Group, while men's issues are well situated within the broader gender agenda as well as in the training modules and materials to be developed.

James Achanyi-Fontem, Cameroon



James Achanyi-Fontem is a Senior Health Journalist and Communication Consultant of the Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver,

Canada and Farm Radio International, Ottawa, Canada. He served as a health journalist and broadcaster for 30 years with Radio Cameroon and Cameroon Radio Television, CRTV, before retiring in 2005 to assume the appointment as Executive Director of Cameroon Link, a registered Charity and Not-for-Profit Organisation involved in the promotion of community health development, mother and child health human rights advocacy. Cameroon Link is the National Focal Point for IBFAN Africa and WABA in Cameroon. James has served as WABA Men's Working Coordinator since March 2008.

4. News from Secretariat

WABA YOUth Initiative Update

Hello everyone! It's been a busy 6 months for youth, taking action in our local communities to support breastfeeding and enhance our knowledge on key breastfeeding issues. Here are some regional stories shared by youth advocates for breastfeeding around the world:

Kathy Houg – WABA Youth Initiative Coordinator



"We just had a very successful program at USM in January (local Penang University). WABA was invited to host a booth at a local NGO fair sponsored by the Right Livelihood College and AIESEC (*Association Internationale des Étudiants en Sciences Économiques et Commerciales*), a global youth organisation. The event, titled Lifting Others through Volunteer Engagement, was an opportunity

to connect action-minded students with worthwhile causes and opportunities for engagement. We were able to speak to many young men and women about breastfeeding, their opinions and suggestions, and get some overall feedback on how we can better reach out to young people. In total we got about 42 volunteers who have offered to help with a variety of breastfeeding outreach activities, including translating materials, assisting in research, and attending mother support groups."



Diogo Mboa – Youth Coordinator, Mozambique

"In Mozambique, we are having sensitisation programs on breastfeeding in schools. We have held debates, discuss how youth think about breastfeeding, what they think when they see somebody breastfeeding a baby, and how young people can support breastfeeding. The strategy is to prepare youth as future parents. We also organise marches during World Breastfeeding Week with other youth organisations and work together with

some universities to involve them in the promotion of breastfeeding, to understand their point of view, and to talk to other universities on national and international levels to influence promotion of breastfeeding in society."



Manami Hongo – Keio University, Japan

"As a university student, I chose to conduct my research on the compliance of WHO International Code in Japanese parenting magazines, and made a presentation at the 5th Annual Congress of Japanese Society for Quality and Safety in Healthcare in November 2010. I had also translated the WABA YOUth brochure into Japanese. These resulted in receiving SFC Student Award 2010 (an award given to students at Keio University). I also attended the UN's 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women as a delegate from an NGO in February 2011. This experience reinforced my opinion that breastfeeding should be acknowledged as an essential part of reproductive rights and gender issue. Currently, in response to Japan earthquakes, I share information about breastfeeding during emergencies on Facebook and emails with young people."

We hope these stories inspire you to reach out to young people in your own communities and engage them in dialogue about breastfeeding. It's crucial that youth stay informed and invested in the well-being of their futures!

In addition, this year's World Breastfeeding Week materials are written by youth! The theme – Talk to Me! Breastfeeding – a 3D Experience aims to enhance traditional communication and outreach methods and engage normally uninvolved parties in the WBW celebrations in August.



Please check out our Facebook Page:
WABA Youth, to get the latest updates!

New appointments to the WABA International Advisory Council from 1 Jan 2011

1. Anna Coutsodis, South Africa
2. Anne Baerug, Norway
3. Elise van Rooyen, South Africa
5. Wendy Oody, Australia
6. Ines Fernandez, Philippines
7. Rufaro Madzima, Zimbabwe
8. Sallie Page, USA

In conjunction with International Women's Day Celebration in March and WABA's 20th Anniversary this year, WABA co-organised a joint event with KANITA (Women's Development Research Centre) at the Universiti Sains Malaysia on the theme of Humanizing Women's Work in the New Economic Model: Reflecting on Decades of Women and Work in Malaysia".

To download: <http://waba.org.my/pdf/pr-iwd-wabakanita.pdf>

WABA Press Release on International Women's Day 2011

on the theme

**'EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION,
TRAINING AND SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY: PATHWAY TO
DECENT WORK FOR WOMEN'**

To download: <http://www.waba.org.my/pdf/iwd2011-waba.pdf>

Breastfeeding and the Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health

Contribution to the General Comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health.

IBFAN and WABA have developed a paper for the attention of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on why breastfeeding is a woman's reproductive right and how this right can be supported. To download: <http://www.waba.org.my/pdf/cescr-paper.pdf>

4. News from Secretariat

Breastfeeding Advocacy and Practice (BAP) – A Regional Outreach Course

Breastfeeding: Advocacy and Practice (BAP) courses are a key component of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) Strategy Plan for Action. The third eleven-day Regional Outreach BAP course for doctors and senior health professionals in South East Asia was held in Penang, Malaysia from 20th February to 5th March 2011, conducted in collaboration with the Infant Feeding Consortium (IFC).

The course was facilitated by Felicity Savage, Sandra Lang and Rukhsana Haider.

24 participants from 9 countries namely Australia, Hong Kong, Laos, Iran, Kiribati, Thailand, Mongolia,



Vanuatu and Malaysia were trained as resource experts for infant feeding programmes in scientific, public health and clinical aspects of the subject. Overall the course was highly successful, and rated “very useful” in well over half of all participants’ evaluations. Clinical practice was considered particularly valuable.

Among the feedback received from the participants:

Sharmini Diana Parampalam – Consultant Obstetrician & Gynecologist, Malaysia

THE BAP Course was indeed good. It has enhanced my knowledge on lactation management. The practical sessions were very useful. Issues on evidence based practice were clarified. This course has helped me make changes in my own unit to improve our lactation practices. I would advise all medical practitioners working with mothers and children to attend this course.

Enneth Ilaisa – Nutrition & Dietetics Coordinator, Vanuatu

The course attended in Malaysia has really helped me in my capacity building now I can organise my own training and hold meetings in relation to BFHI. I am now helping out in facilitating a BFHI training in Vanuatu for the clinical staff. I know what to do and what to teach in theory and practical and I am very excited about it because I know that I am helping those nurses to help save a precious tiny life.

KEEP THE DATES:

The next BAP course is scheduled for 1-13 October 2012. To reserve a place please write to peiching.chuah@waba.org.my

OBITUARIES



WABA's oldest pioneer, Professor Michael Latham, who was among the first persons to serve on the WABA Steering Committee since its inception in 1991, left us on Friday, 1 April, 2011. He also led the WABA Research Task Force as its Coordinator for a number of years, and then co-chaired the WABA International Advisory Council (IAC) with Elisabet Helsing till recently. Michael has been a champion for the breastfeeding movement in so many ways, knowledgeable, courageous, spirited, yet kind, sensitive and loving. WABA is deeply indebted to Michael for his enormous contribution to the work of the network. We will miss him and hope his contributions to the world will live on through all the people he has taught, touched and loved!

Tributes to Michael from around the world can be viewed on the WABA website at <http://www.waba.org.my/news/michael-latham.htm>

The New York Times carried the news of Michael's passing and his wonderful work which can be viewed at http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/14/health/14latham.html?_r=1



When the breastfeeding movement was grieving the lost of its pioneer in Michael Latham, the health action movement also lost one of its pioneers. It is with great sadness that WABA

wishes to inform the passing of Dr. K. Balasubramaniam, the Regional Advisor of Health Action International Asia and the Pacific (HAI AP) on 19 April 2011.

Dr. Bala worked with Action for Rational Drugs in Asia (ARDA) network which was hosted by Consumers International Regional Office for Asia-Pacific in Penang for many years till the network was relocated to Sri Lanka and renamed HAI AP. He has authored numerous books and articles on health and the rational use of medicines with a consumer perspective on quality, pricing, access to drugs etc.

To keep abreast of events taking place throughout the year, WABA maintains a calendar of events on the WABA website <http://www.waba.org.my/events/calendarofevents.htm>



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e-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 Innocenti Declarations, 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, and Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM). 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).

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