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Message from the Editor

A powerful earthquake struck the Sichuan province of China on Saturday, 20th April 2013, killing nearly 200 people and injured thousands in the same region where a 2008 quake took nearly 90,000 lives. The magnitude – 6.6 earthquake toppled buildings, triggered landslides and disrupted phone and power connections when it struck just after 8:00 a.m. local time Saturday in the mountainous Lushan County. The area is located just 53 miles from the 2008 disaster and is also on the seismically active Longmenshan fault line..."

When I was reading the tragic stories about the earthquake in Sichuan, my friend sent me a link with a lovely title – "Woman breastfeeds baby who lost mother in China quake". I feel warmth and touched after watching the video and reading its description. The background story is "A baby who is four-months-old, had not eaten since the quake killed his mother and was crying



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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non-stop. The baby's grandmother was growing more and more worried as there was no milk available. Fortunately, a passing mother, who showed concern for the baby's health, offered to breastfeed the baby."

This lovely scene has been captured by a few volunteers who sending supplies to Lushan. The mother, Yang Junhui, has an 11-month-old child of her own, said "she had just returned from Chengdu and it was something she should do." Please click on http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og_L9W02TIk to view this touching video.

In this issue, the WABA Secretariat would like to thank all the photo contestants from 27 countries who sent in their photos for this WBW Photo Contest. Please check out the WBW 2012 website: <http://worldbreastfeedingweek.org/> for updates on the WBW 2013 Photo Contest results, the WBW 2013 Action Folder and Pledge Form – all of are coming up from between mid-April and May. We encourage you to make your pledges for WBW starting end of April 2013. To participate, just complete this pledge form and send it back to WABA as an attachment by emailing to wbw@waba.org.my.



Happy Reading,
Pei Ching
Editor, e-WABALink



1. Current News

Exclusive, Extended Breastfeeding Lowers Mother-to-Infant HIV Risk

A new study has found that HIV-infected mothers are less likely to transmit the virus to their newborns if they breastfeed their child exclusively for more than four months. The findings have important implications in sub-Saharan Africa, where infants are at greater risk of contracting and dying from diarrheal diseases or pneumonia.

But Louise Kuhn of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in New York says there has always been some controversy about breastfeeding by HIV-infected mothers, since the virus that causes AIDS can also be transmitted through breastmilk.

Babies generally have a 10% to 15% risk of receiving the virus through their HIV-infected mother's breastmilk. However, since infectious diseases are widespread and often potentially fatal in sub-Saharan Africa, breastfeeding is crucial for keeping infants healthy.

Several critical components that help developing immune systems ward off infectious diseases are found in breastmilk.

They studied just over 950 HIV-infected women in Lusaka, Zambia in 2006 – before antiretroviral drugs were given to nursing mothers – and encouraged all of them to exclusively

breastfeed their babies from birth for at least four months. Throughout the study, the newborns were regularly tested for HIV.

Kuhn notes that breastfeeding is actually a very inefficient way to transmit the AIDS virus. She says the risk is minimal among mothers who nurse and take antiretroviral drugs at the same time.

"If antiretroviral drugs are given and an HIV-positive woman is fully adherent with the treatment throughout the duration of breastfeeding, the actual risk of transmitting HIV through breastmilk is exceedingly low. It's probably in the one to two percent [range] if not lower with complete adherence with antiretroviral therapy," she said.

Source: Voice of America

<http://www.voanews.com/content/exclusive-extebded-breastfeeding-lowers-mother-to-infant-hiv-risk/1643748.html>

Medical News Today

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/259332.php>



In conjunction with World AIDS Day, WABA has launched a resource document on HIV and breastfeeding with the title of "Understanding International Policy on HIV and Breastfeeding: a comprehensive resource". This resource aims to clarify the confusion which has arisen during the last decade due to changing HIV and infant feeding guidance. The resource is intended for policy-makers, breastfeeding advocates, national breastfeeding committees, public health advocates, women's health activists and others working in the community. The resource also summarises up-to-date scientific evidence as at the end of 2012. Research emerging between WHO's 2006 and 2010 guidance documents showed conclusively that maternal/infant ARV regimens during pregnancy and breastfeeding greatly reduce vertical transmission of HIV; and that exclusive and continued breastfeeding significantly improves overall HIV-free survival.

To read the full resource document, please visit
<http://www.waba.org.my/whatwedo/hcp/ihiv.htm#kit>

Understanding International Policy on HIV and Breastfeeding: a comprehensive resource

This DVD contains a HIV Kit that provides an overview of infant feeding in the context of HIV. There are six sections, with information, issues to think about and to discuss, actions to take, and contacts for further resources.

- SECTION 1 Introduction
- SECTION 2 The global HIV pandemic and how it affects women and children
- SECTION 3 Interventions to maximise mother and child health and survival
- SECTION 4 Counselling HIV-positive mothers about how to feed their babies using current HIV and infant feeding recommendations
- SECTION 5 Chronology and evolution of HIV & IF policy
- SECTION 6 Glossary, definitions and further resources



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I. Current News

DHA starts 2nd Breastfeeding Programme

The Dubai Health Authority (DHA) has begun its second intensive training programme to encourage healthcare physicians and nurses to engage in breastfeeding promotion and protection, to encourage new mothers to breastfeed their babies.

Dr. Fatima Olama, head of child health unit, primary healthcare sector at the DHA said the programme, which began this month, will go on for one year and will be conducted for two days, every month.

She said that the aim of the programme is for medical staff to be well trained so that they can inform all pregnant women about the benefits and management of breastfeeding, support mothers to maintain breastfeeding and encourage exclusive and continued breastfeeding as well as guide mothers with appropriately timed introduction of complimentary foods.

"There are several proven health benefits of breastfeeding to the mother and child. But in order to ensure that more women breastfeed, we need to provide them with support right from the pregnancy stage. Physicians and nurses have an opportunity to emphasise breastfeeding education beginning with preconception visits and continuing through prenatal care, delivery and postpartum care."

The first breastfeeding training programme took place last year and was attended by 50 physicians and nurses from Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Source: Trade Arabia
http://www.tradearabia.com/news/HEAL_228568.html

Celebrities Back Save the Children's Breastfeeding Campaign

Model Penny Lancaster and TV Actress Zoe Lucker have both declared their support for Save the Children's No Child Born to Die campaign.

It aims to get more health workers trained up in poorer countries around the world so that more mums have the support they need to help them breastfeed.

The campaign brings to the attention Save the Children's Superfood for Babies report which reveals that 95 babies an hour – 830,000 a year – could be saved if new mums around the world breastfeed in the first hour after birth.

Zoe Lucker said: "I strongly support Save the Children's campaign because I understand how important breastfeeding is for your child's health."

Penny Lancaster said: "I'm a big supporter of breastfeeding. I think every mum should give their baby the very best start in life that they possibly can. That's why I'm supporting Save the Children's No Child Born to Die campaign which aims to get more health workers trained up in poorer countries around the world so that more mums have the support they need to help them breastfeed."

Save the Children Chief Executive Justin Forsyth said: "Despite the benefits of breastfeeding being widely known in the developed world, and it being a free, natural way to protect a newborn baby, too little attention is being paid to help mums breastfeed in poorer countries."

Source: Female First

<http://www.femalefirst.co.uk/health/breastfeeding-285511.html>

Memorial Bench Honours Local Breastfeeding Advocate

On Feb. 24, a group of people surrounded a bench in San Mateo.

They were there for a very special reason - to honour one of their own, a local mother, activist and volunteer who recently passed away.

Anne Garrett passed away this past July 6. Garrett was an integral part of the Nursing Mothers Counsel (NMC), which helps provide free breastfeeding help and education to San Francisco Bay Area mothers.

Lori McBride of Redwood City said, Anne was head of the San Mateo County WIC Breastfeeding Programme, head of the San Mateo County Breastfeeding Advisory Committee, and founder of the Bay Area Lactation Associates.



1. Current News

Continued from page 3

"Anne was passionate about promoting breastfeeding at the county, state, and national levels," McBride said. "She served as a mentor to breastfeeding mothers, WIC peer counsellors, NMC counsellors, and any who turned to her for advice."

As a tribute to Garrett, the local Nursing Mothers Counsel erected the Anne Garrett Memorial Bench at Central Park in San Mateo, and held a dedication ceremony for the bench on Feb. 24.

"The bench faces the young children's playground, and we hope that many nursing moms will use it," McBride said.

The plaque, with Anne's favourite saying, says: "Anne Garrett, 1950-2012: Healthy habits for life begin at birth. Breastfeed! You can do it!"



Source: RedwoodCity-WoodsidePatch
<http://redwoodcity-woodside.patch.com/articles/memorial-bench-honors-local-breastfeeding-advocate#c>

Facebook Actually Sorry For Banning Breastfeeding Picture

Facebook and those mothers who wish to post breastfeeding pictures have had a long battle. In the case of one activist, she actually gets an apology for having breastfeeding pictures removed.

Kristy Kemp runs the support site Breastfeeding Mama Talk, which has drawn more than 4,300 fans, one of whom uploaded nursing images.

Facebook reportedly responded by blocking Kemp, locking her out of the page she created and removing the image, which it said "violated" company policy.

But a closer reading of the Facebook community standards makes this action seem dubious, and sparked backlash. Facebook rules for photos read:

"Facebook has a strict policy against the sharing of pornographic content and any explicit sexual content where a minor is involved. We also impose limitations on the display of nudity. We aspire to respect people's right to share content of personal importance, whether those are photos of a sculpture like Michelangelo's David or family photos of a child breastfeeding."



Yes, breastfeeding is specifically mentioned in the policy.

As such, Kristy Kemp pressed the issue. After her 24-hour lockout ended, she immediately uploaded a photo of another mom breastfeeding her baby. It was also taken down in short order.

After being bemused for days at her treatment by Facebook, the company finally sent her an apology. It read, in part: "A member of our team accidentally removed something you posted on Facebook. This was mistake, and we sincerely apologize for this error."

Source: CNET News

http://news.cnet.com/8301-17852_3-57578305-71/facebook-actually-sorry-for-banning-breastfeeding-pic/

The Hollywood Gossip

<http://www.thehollywoodgossip.com/2013/04/facebook-mom-blocked-over-breastfeeding-photos-company-apologize/>

2. News from Core Partners

News from International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA)

**2013 Conference & Annual Meeting – Born to Breastfeed:
A Global Public Health Imperative
July 25-28, 2013 in Melbourne, Australia**



The ILCA™ Annual Conference is the premier lactation education and professional development event of the year. To view brochure, please click on http://www.ilca.org/files/events/ilca_conference/2013_Conference/Registration_Brochure.pdf

This four day conference provides a rich learning environment for lactation professionals, midwives, child and family health nurses, general practitioners, physicians, dieticians and nutritionists, breastfeeding counsellors, researchers, pharmacists, nurses, doulas, policy advocates and other advocates who assist mothers and babies with breastfeeding. It offers current and aspiring International Board Certified Lactation Consultants® (IBCLC®) with skill development opportunities and with information on cutting-edge evidence-based practice, and research in optimal breastfeeding care and support for mothers and babies.

2. News from Core Partners

Continued from page 4

Register by May 15, the Early Bird deadline, for considerable cost savings online registration can be found at: <https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=20125088E&OID=50>

ILCA journal

Journal of Human Lactation offers OnlineFirst, by which forthcoming articles are published online before they are scheduled to appear in print. More details, please visit <http://jhl.sagepub.com/content/early/recent>

August edition 2012 is a special issue on the Baby Friendly Initiative

An open article from this journal, "The Expansion of the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding into Neonatal Intensive Care: Expert Group Recommendations for Three Guiding Principles" can be found at: <http://jhl.sagepub.com/site/misc/Index/OpenArticles.xhtml>

Christ Mulford Fellowship

International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA) and the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) are again partnering to facilitate a fellowship programme for an ILCA member who has demonstrate an interest in working in the setting of global breastfeeding advocacy. ILCA/WABA Fellowship candidate for 2013, Eileen Shea from Montreal Quebec, Canada has been awarded the fellowship. Eileen will contribute to WABA on outreach and advocacy projects at the WABA Secretariat in Penang, Malaysia, and to gain new global experience. Her fellowship will begin in May 2013.

ILCA Sends Strong Message to PAHO and WHO – Don't Engage with Organisations That Violate the WHO Code!

Last October, I learned that the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), which serves as the Regional Office for the Americas for the World Health Organisation (WHO) had accepted a \$150,000 donation from Nestle, an unrepentant violator of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes along with its subsequent relevant resolutions, also known as the WHO Code...



Please click on <http://lactationmatters.org/2013/04/05/ilca-sends-strong-message-to-paho-and-who-dont-engage-with-organizations-that-violate-the-who-code/> to view the full message.

News from Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM)

18th Annual International Meeting November 21-24, 2013, Philadelphia

Although the 18th Annual International Meeting of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine seems far away, it is approaching quickly. Scheduled for November 21-24, 2013 in Philadelphia at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel, this is a must-do event for providers in maternal and child health. Check back soon for our conference brochure and online registration!



The agenda will include world-class speakers who will present up-to-date clinical information on breastfeeding, covering both maternal and child health issues. This is a significant educational opportunity with continuing education credits.

For more details:
<http://www.bfmed.org/Meeting/ConfDetails.aspx>

Recommendations for Breastfeeding-Friendly Physicians' Offices Are Promoted by the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine

New Rochelle, NY, April 16, 2013 – Healthcare providers can greatly influence a mother's decision to begin and continue breastfeeding. Maintaining a "breastfeeding-friendly practice" is one way physicians caring for mothers-to-be and their babies can promote and support breastfeeding. The Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) has released a protocol with specific recommendations to encourage and guide physicians in this effort. The ABM Clinical Protocol is published in Breastfeeding Medicine, the Official Journal of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, from Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers.

"Not only are the guidelines for a breastfeeding-friendly doctor's office clear and simple, they have also been demonstrated to be effective in improving breastfeeding rates," says Arthur Eidelman, MD, President of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine and thus, "the ABM evidence-based guidelines should serve as the standard of care".

To read the full protocol, please click http://www.bfmed.org/Media/Files/Protocols/Protocol_14_revised_2013.pdf

2. News from Core Partners

News from Baby Milk Action – International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)

Press Release: GAIN – industry’s Trojan Horse fails to enter WHO’s policy setting process

The failure of GAIN (the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition) to obtain official relations status with the World Health Organisation (WHO) as an NGO, has been warmly welcomed by health campaigners and the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) the global network working to protect infant health. GAIN is a new type of public private entity which claims to work to tackle malnutrition - but its work seems to focus on opening up markets for its 600 partner companies (including Danone, the world’s second largest baby food company, Mars, Pepsi, and Coca Cola).

On the final day of deliberations of its 132nd meeting, in a briefly worded Resolution, WHO’s Executive Board (EB) called for answers regarding GAIN’s links with food corporations and its lobbying tactics. The EB decided to:

“... postpone consideration of the application for admission into official relations from The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition to the Executive Board’s 134th session, and requested that the following information be provided to the Board through its Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organisations: information concerning the nature and extent of the Alliance’s links with the global food industry, and the position of the Alliance with regard to its support and advocacy of WHO’s nutrition policies, including infant feeding and marketing of complementary foods.”

The decision implies that IBFAN’s concerns about the lack of transparency in the application process, about GAIN’s true nature and purpose in the application process, and its attempts to undermine implementation of key WHA Resolutions on infant and young child feeding, were taken up by members of the Standing Committee on Non-governmental Organisations.

To read more, please click <http://info.babymilkaction.org/pressrelease/pressrelease31jan13>

For other press release:

- IBFAN welcomes Save the Children campaign on infant and young child feeding (<http://info.babymilkaction.org/pressrelease/pressrelease17feb13>)
- Analysis of baby milk company responses to Save the Children’s infant feeding report (<http://info.babymilkaction.org/pressrelease/pressrelease21feb13>)
- GAIN / Gates sponsored Index whitewashes giant food companies (<http://info.babymilkaction.org/pressrelease/pressrelease12mar13>)

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

News from the Code Task Force

More Action Needed on Baby Food Marketing

Marketing malpractice of baby foods continues. As a new report from Save the Children, ‘Superfood for babies: How overcoming barriers to breastfeeding will save children’s lives’, documents, baby food companies continue to push their products in ways that endanger health. The report contains on-the-ground re-search; it is essential to look at what companies actually do, rather than just at what they say they do.

Nestlé claims to abide by World Health Assembly marketing requirements, but Save the Children found in Pakistan, for example, that 20 per cent of health professionals surveyed reported gifts from baby-food companies – over half were Nestlé-branded. Danone, now second in the baby-milk market, is also criticised. The company is an increasing cause for concern as it tries to compete with Nestlé. For more details: <http://newint.org/blog/2013/03/06/baby-milk-action/>

Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative Working Group

News from Miriam Labbok – WABA Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) Working Group

The Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute (CGBI) would like to share with you their official Journal – Breastfeeding Exclusive. To view the Journal, please click <http://cgbi.sph.unc.edu/news/bf-exclusive>

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

News from the Mother Support Task Force

The WABA MSTF is pleased to announce that the WABA MSTF e-newsletter Volume 11 Number 1 April 2013 issue is now available on the MSTF websection: <http://www.waba.org.my/whatwedo/gims/english.htm>

The WABA Mother Support Task Force (MSTF) e-newsletter is produced 2 times a year in 5 languages, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Arab. To subscribe please send email to gims.gifs@yahoo.com and state your language preference



4. WABA Training Courses

Breastfeeding Advocacy and Practice 5th Regional Outreach Course 11th – 23rd November 2013 Penang, Malaysia

SAVE THE DATES!
11th - 23rd November 2013

**Breastfeeding:
Advocacy & Practice**

Fifth regional course for doctors, midwives
and other senior health professionals
in South East Asia

Organised by

IFC
Infant Feeding Consortium
(IFC), United Kingdom

WABA
World Alliance
for Breastfeeding Action
(WABA), Penang

11th to 23rd November 2013
George Town, Penang, Malaysia

www.waba.org.my/bap.htm

WABA and the Infant Feeding Consortium are once again co-organising a 2-week in-depth training course on breastfeeding and related aspects of young child feeding to be made available regionally. The course aims to equip participants with the skills and knowledge needed for such co-ordinated action on breastfeeding.

The course is specially designed for doctors and other senior health professionals from the region who are responsible nationally or locally for:

- Clinical care of mothers and infants
- Teaching short courses
- Pre-service curricula for health professionals
- Advocacy and policy development
- Implementation of programmes such as the BFHI.

The Infant Feeding Consortium directs the 4-week course – Infant Feeding: Practice and Policy Course (IFPP) (Formally called the Breastfeeding: Practice and Policy) from United Kingdom, and they will be responsible for organising the course in collaboration with WABA. Teaching will be conducted mainly in English, with some use of Bahasa Malaysia.

If you or your colleagues might be interested in applying, please fill in our application form at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/embeddedform?formkey=dGlyWTRkZDZkRGIRNWRnbVhGMUR6alE6MA>.

If you like to know more about the course, please contact WABA at info@waba.org.my.

5. News from Secretariat

WABA's involvement World Breastfeeding Conference (WBC), Delhi, Dec 6-9

WABA was part of the organising team for the WBC, organised by BPNI/IBFAN Asia (a core group partner in the Sida Consortium project), where we negotiated the involvement of WABA Core Partners, inputted on the Conference programme, proposed speakers/chairpersons for the sessions; proposed and organised workshops; as well as organised 2 special sessions: 1) Celebrating 20 years of World Breastfeeding Week, and 2) Celebrating Youth in Breastfeeding. WABA's booth was a major attraction, with great promotion of WABA materials and products. WABA Chairperson Emeritus, Dato' Dr Anwar Fazal, was one of the Keynote speakers, and WABA Chairperson, Dr. Felicity Savage, was on the drafting committee of the WBC Delhi Declaration which includes twelve important points. The Conference Declaration and Call to Action is available at

<http://worldbreastfeedingconference.org/declaration.html> in English, Arabic and Russian



YOUTH AT THE WBC

Youth groups contributed to the Conference through artistic expression for breastfeeding promotion and protection. This space complemented the scientific and epidemiological work of experts. RUMBA contributed a video with individual testimonies by WABA Youth, inviting other youth to participate in the movement. Check out WABA Youth – YOUTH ACTION for Breastfeeding video that was presented at the WBC in Delhi last December at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqJjByNsVcs>

WBW 20th Anniversary Celebration at WBC



WABA capitalised on the presence of breastfeeding advocates, groups and celebrants among the participants of the World Breastfeeding Conference, (Dec 6-9th) to organise a special commemoration to celebrate 20 year of World Breastfeeding Week. A special video was organised to reflect on the previous themes, to acknowledge past efforts, and call on more people to take action on breastfeeding via this world recognised campaign. The reception at the WBC was resoundingly successful, with many rushing to the stage to share their involvement in WBW through the years. There was also a feeling of renewed enthusiasm for future WBWs to highlight and take more action on breastfeeding issues via this vibrant campaign.



5. News from Secretariat

WABA's involvement World Breastfeeding Conference (WBC), Delhi, Dec 6-9



The World Breastfeeding Conference was a precious moment for the young advocates who attended it as the discussions were enriching to the efforts we are involved in. The focus of the conference in emerging with a call for new way/ methods of marketing our product, "breastfeeding", was one thing i really went home with in my heart. Currently we are seeing many so called marketeers disguised as professionals in the area of feeding children, but with an interest of only selling their products. For a brighter future, the young people need to take a stand to ensure that "the Best which is Moms" should be the ideal passed on to the next generation. Thank you WBC for letting the world know that "Babies Need Mom Made not Man Made" – John Musisi, Africa



"At the World Breastfeeding Conference I represented the Latin American Youth Movement, RUMBA. It was a unique experience that motivates me to continue working passionately for breastfeeding, especially among vulnerable population and youth."
– Viana Maza, Guatemala.

Core Partners Meeting

All WABA CPs were informed of the development of the new WABA Strategic Plan (SP) 2014-18 in the 2nd half of 2012. Then WABA organised the Core Partners Meeting between 5-6 December in Delhi, India to facilitate greater understanding of the fundamentals of the new SP, to further develop and refine it and to enhance involvement and engagement – focusing on feasible points of collaborative action between the CPs and WABA.

Extra-ordinary SC meeting

Using the presence of WABA SC members and the WABA secretariat management team at the WBC in Delhi, an extra-ordinary SC meeting was held to discuss on various issues on the work at end 2012, and for 2013. The 2013 SC Meeting dates have now been set for 20-23 May 2013.



5. News from Secretariat

WABA Celebrates 22 years with “One Billion Rising” Campaign to End Violence Against Women!

WABA celebrated its 22nd Anniversary on February 14, 2013 by joining the global campaign, ONE BILLION RISING to Stop Violence against Women and Girls around the world. WABA asserts that gender based violence has serious consequences on women’s reproductive health and life – including her right to breastfeed her children – and it must be stopped! Women must have the ability and right to live safe, healthy, meaningful and productive lives at home, at work and in their communities.

“ONE BILLION RISING – Strike, Dance, Rise” was an event initiated by V Day – On February 14, 2013, where women, men and children from 197 countries across the world strike, dance and rise to express their outrage and to demand change to the song “Break the Chain” the ONE BILLION RISING anthem. ONE BILLION RISING began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS.

In Penang, Malaysia, WABA, working in partnership with WCC (Women Centre for Change) joined in this global movement by dancing to the ONE BILLION RISING anthem – Break the Chain on Thursday, February 14 at 9:00am at the WCC grounds.



Aida Redza, WABA Advocacy and Youth Liaison successfully coordinated and taught the dance to about 70 women, men and children where the movements symbolised reclaiming freedom from violence.

To view WABA full statement of support for the “One Billion Rising” campaign in conjunction with WABA 22nd Anniversary, see: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t7HYidFihUfmWRzrZy_4YGJLWC1diwzTDx_0walGLaA/pub

Click on link to watch the video of our Rising with V-Day Feb 14, 2013 www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgTUix7wA3M

WABA Youth supports World Thinking Day 2013 Message from The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has chosen two Millennium Development Goals (MDG) as themes for World Thinking Day 2013 – MDG 4: Reduce child mortality and MDG 5: Improve maternal health. Their messages for 2013 are “together we can save children’s lives” and “every mother’s life and health is precious”. MDG 4 and 5 are closely linked and both are key issues affecting girls and young women around the world.



In conjunction with the World Thinking Day – WABA Youth linked up with the Organising Committee and Girl Guides Association Malaysia to take presence at the GGAM Public Speaking Competition 2013 Event held on April 6th in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The event is organised to provide an opportunity for girls and young women speakers to hone their public speaking skills by exploring issues related to the World Thinking Day theme. To learn and take action on important topics related to the rights of girls and young women and empowering them to make a difference. With the kind arrangement by Joyce Ong, Relationship to Society National Commissioner cum Organising Chairperson of the GGAM event, WABA was invited by Datin Seri Zaliilah Bt Mohd Taib, Chief Commissioner of GGAM to sit in as the Panel of Judges, and agree to volunteer 2 Girl Guide Youth from Penang to represent WABA Youth at the event. Our own Naweed Harooni, Programme Coordinator for Women & Work, Gender and Men Initiative at WABA sat in as one of the Judges at the event. And the Girl Guides representing WABA Youth was present to advocate and promote breastfeeding to the 300 participants and audiences that attended the event.

The event was a huge success and we hope that there would be more opportunities for us to engage and mobilise youth as our allies to promote, protect and support breastfeeding

5. News from Secretariat

2013 International Women's Day : "The Gender Agenda : Gaining Momentum"

In conjunction with International Women's Day, on 8th of March WABA is pleased to present our Statement on the theme **"The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum"**. To view the full Statement please click <http://www.waba.org.my/pdf/st-iwd2013.pdf>.




We are also pleased to share that WABA with WCC (Women Centre for Change Penang) and MMPS (Penang Mother-to-Mother Peer Support) celebrates the Penang State "Penang Women Rising" IWD event on 8 March. Together WABA and WCC dances the BREAK THE CHAIN dance revolution that was performed on 14 February for One Billion Rising.

And together with MMPS, WABA supports the MPBF (Make Penang Breastfeeding Friendly) Campaign at the Penang State IWD celebration. Here is the video of the "BREAK THE CHAIN" dance (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTjLokKjg8Y>) performed on 8th of March at the IWD celebrations at Esplanade, Penang.



World Health Day, April 7, 2013: Hypertension

 In April 7, 2013 La Leche League International (LLLI) and WABA celebrated the World Health Day with a Joint Statement on the theme "Hypertension".

This year's World Health Day theme addresses how hypertension is a global public health issue. It describes how hypertension contributes to the burden of heart disease, stroke and kidney failure and premature death and disability.

The Global brief on hypertension, published on the occasion of World Health Day 2013 by The World Health Organisation explains that hypertension is both preventable and treatable and is calling for governments, health workers, civil society, the private sector, families and individuals to join forces to reduce hypertension and its impact.

Is it possible that breastfeeding might play a role in reducing the risk of hypertension in the mother, or her child, or both? What might be the mechanisms for such a benefit?

That breastfeeding contributes to normal healthy development in children is well established. Does it also contribute to health in later life? Obesity in adults is a risk factor for hypertension. Many studies indicate that breastfeeding is protective against unhealthy weight gain in children, which could also contribute to healthy blood pressure.

To view the full LLLI and WABA Joint Statement, please click <http://www.waba.org.my/pdf/whd2013.pdf>

New WABA International Advisory Council Members Appointed

WABA welcomes Rebecca Magalhaes from USA as the new member to the International Advisory Council (IAC) from 1 April 2013.



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