

## WBW 2004 is on!

**Exclusive Breastfeeding:  
the Gold Standard  
Safe, Sound, Sustainable**

This year's WBW aims to stimulate activity worldwide to get more people to understand the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and to think of ways to enable mothers to do it. The context for this is the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. More advocacy materials and action ideas for a successful WBW celebration available at WABA's website <[www.waba.org.my](http://www.waba.org.my)>.

## Directory of experts and organisations

The compilation of the WABA-UNICEF Directory of Experts and Directory of Organisations is in full swing with encouraging response. Those wishing to be included in the Directories may download questionnaires from the WABA website <[www.waba.org.my](http://www.waba.org.my)> and email them to [waba@streamyx.com](mailto:waba@streamyx.com)

## in this issue

Mother Support/Environment/ Women&Work/Health Care Practices/Code news .....	2-3
HIV&Infant Feeding/WBW ...	4-5
Advocacy/Research/News brief.	6
Network news .....	7
Calendar/Secretariat news .....	7
Resources .....	8

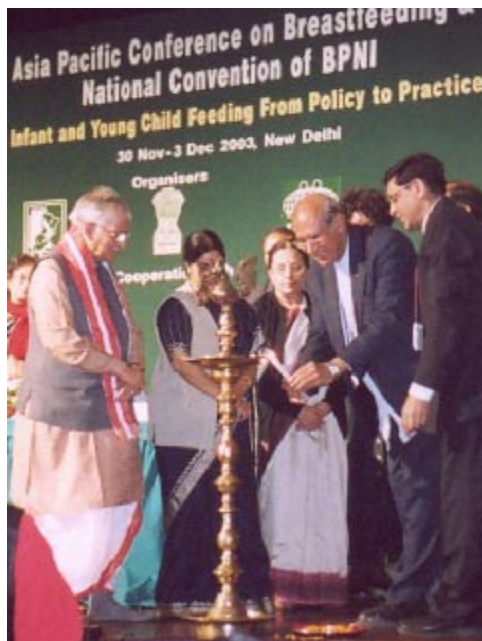
### Enclosures

- WBW2004 Action Folder
- Statement on Junk Food Marketing to Children
- Order Form: *Impact of Birthing Practices on Breastfeeding*

## Towards optimal IYCF in Asia Pacific

The Asia Pacific Conference on Breastfeeding (APCON), held in New Delhi, India, from 30 November to 3 December, 2003, brought together over 500 participants from 38 countries with the common objective to find ways to protect, promote and support optimal infant and young child feeding.

The Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Smt Sushma Swaraj, and Minister of Human Resource, Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi, officiated the Conference with their fiery conviction to protect and support mothers, before, during and after birth. Anwar Fazal, Chairperson Emeritus of WABA, in his keynote said that the synergistic partnerships within the breastfeeding movement



Lighting of oil lamps officiating the Conference

resulted in the renaissance and resurgence of breastfeeding. "The future is going to require commitment, courage, and creativity," he said. The World Breastfeeding Charter and WABA's publication *The Breastfeeding Movement – A Source Book* were also launched.

Many issues and strategies revolving breastfeeding were discussed at the conference. The Maternity Protection Kit was launched by members of the Maternity Protection Coalition. The need to incorporate gender perspective on breastfeeding was introduced in a workshop conducted by

*continue page 4...*

## HIV and Infant Feeding Moving the action agenda forward!

Ever since WABA, together with UNICEF, held the historic Colloquium on HIV and Infant Feeding in Arusha, Tanzania, in 2002, WABA and its partners have been discussing how the breastfeeding movement should react to the tragedies that HIV is wreaking, including in breastfeeding patterns, particularly in Africa. Following the approval of the UN agency Framework for Priority Action (see page 4), WABA and its core partners began to chart subsequent steps to back the Framework up with action.

Eighteen participants from WABA and its core partners, IBFAN, LLLI, ILCA, LINGAKES, Wellstart and the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine

*continue page 4...*



## Mother Support

### MSTF launched inaugural e-newsletter

The WABA Mother Support Task Force launched its quarterly e-newsletter in December 2003 to forge closer communication with breastfeeding advocates around the world who are interested in the issue of mother support. Read the e-newsletter at [www.waba.org.my/gims/mstf/index.htm](http://www.waba.org.my/gims/mstf/index.htm). To subscribe, email to <MSTFNewsletter-request@braesgate.com> with 'subscribe' in the subject field.

### Bed sharing enhances breastfeeding

Recognising that mother-infant bed-sharing appears to be associated with longer and more successful breastfeeding, the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative has been working to help health professionals enable breastfeeding mothers to share a bed with their baby whilst maintaining the safest possible environment.

A recent publication of a study in the *Lancet* on 'Sudden Infant Death among bed-sharing babies' had prompted the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative to issue a statement, besides developing a sample bed-sharing policy and leaflet to assist health workers and parents in promoting safety during bed-sharing while protecting breastfeeding. Most infants sleep better when they are close to their mothers. In addition, mothers who are breastfeeding automatically sleep facing their infants, which helps protect the baby from being covered by bedding or pillows.

Source: [www.babyfriendly.org.uk/mailling/updates/research\\_update\\_20040216.htm](http://www.babyfriendly.org.uk/mailling/updates/research_update_20040216.htm)



## Environment

### Genetically Engineer Women for Milk?

MADGE (Mothers Against Genetic Engineering in Food and the Environment) launched September last year a controversial billboard campaign in Auckland and Wellington to provoke public debate about the social and cultural ethics of genetic engineering in New Zealand. The billboards depict a naked, genetically engineered woman with four breasts being milked by a milking machine, and 'GE' branded on her rump.

Fonterra, New Zealand's largest milk company, purchased patent rights to large amounts of human DNA from an Australian genetics company. Science company AgResearch, on the other hand, is putting human genes into cows in the hope of creating new designer milks. "New Zealanders are allowing a handful of corporate scientists and ill-informed politicians to make decisions on the ethics of GE. How far will we allow them to go?" said Alannah Currie, MADGE founder and billboard designer.

Source: [www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=1546](http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=1546). See billboard at [www.madge.net.nz/news/prel/pr\\_1oct.asp](http://www.madge.net.nz/news/prel/pr_1oct.asp)



## Women and Work

### Maternity protection training in Laos

Members of the WABA Women and Work Task Force and the Lao Women's Union conducted training seminars on 'Maternity Protection for Working Women' in Vientiane, Lao PDR, last December. About 65 health workers and government officers attended the training, fulfilling its aim to improve maternity protection through working with the government and health institutions.



Participants from the women's committee of various government agencies with trainers Ines Fernandez and Norjinah Moin.

### Hurray for UK, Brazil & New Zealand!

*UK increased its paid maternity leave from 18 to 26 weeks and considering one month paternal leave!*

*Brazil now enforces four months of paid maternity leave, compared to three months previously! The city of Florianopolis gives six month of maternity leave to city employees.*

*New Zealand provides 12 weeks of paid parental leave, an increase of six weeks since July 2002, with up to 52 weeks of unpaid leave.*



## Code Compliance

### Right info for food labelling

The proposed Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health tabled at the 113th Session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board in January 2004 emphasises the provision of accurate information to consumers and recognition that food advertising affects food choices and influences dietary habits. It also mentions the important role that breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding plays in preventing non-communicable diseases throughout the whole life cycle. While WHO has made no distinction among so-called "stakeholders" in the Global Strategy, the food industry continues attempting to water down the Strategy.

Source: Interventions by INFAC and IBFAN at the 113th Session of the WHO Executive Board <[www.ibfan.org](http://www.ibfan.org)>. The draft Global Strategy can be found at <[www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/en/](http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/en/)>

## Breastmilk is Big Business

Breastmilk substitutes and pharmaceutical industries are increasingly basing their products on what human milk can do. There are over 600 human milk components patents in the US Patent & Trademark Office, conferring the holders the right to sell, use and exclude others from a share in the profits of these components. With each patent costing at least USD10,000 a piece, that means more than USD6 million was spent on paper alone. Such information should be made public so that parents know that the decision to not breastfeed is a decision that enriches the infant formula and drug companies at the expense of the health and well-being of families and babies.

Source: Valerie McClain, IBCLC, presented at Florida La Leche League Conference, 19 October 2002

## Stronger regulations on infant, children foodstuffs in South Africa

Breastfeeding groups applauded the South African government for developing strong legislation that put infant and children's health above commercial interests, setting a precedent for other countries in the African region. The draft South African Regulations relating to Foodstuffs for Infants and Young Children proposes to restrict unethical advertisements for baby formula, bottles and teats. Some sectors such as the country's Democratic Alliance, however, alleged that the measure 'encroached on the free market' and is a 'serious infringement on freedom of speech', while failing to realize the importance of such regulation for the nation's children and future.

Source: GIFA. See draft regulations at <[www.doh.gov.za/docs/regulations/2003/reg1328.html](http://www.doh.gov.za/docs/regulations/2003/reg1328.html), and [http://www.news24.com/News24/South\\_Africa/Politics/0,,2-7-12\\_1457095,00.html](http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/Politics/0,,2-7-12_1457095,00.html)>

## Research on breastfeeding should benefit national health, not companies

A study on federal funding for breastfeeding research found that research done under the category of infant nutrition/breastfeeding/lactation, only 13.7% was determined to increase the practice of breastfeeding. A total of 7.5% involved the use of human milk composition and technologies to improve artificial milk and develop new pharmaceuticals and therapies. The society should be the ones to truly benefit from knowledge gained on the miracles of human milk.

Source: Brown, Bair, Meier, "Does Federal Funding for Breastfeeding Research Target Our National Health Objectives?" *Pediatrics* 2003; 111 (4):360-364

## Alert on soy-based infant formulas

In UK, the government's Chief Medical Officer issued a Health Policy Advisory to all 13,000 physicians in practice in the country on the long-term risks of soy-based infant formulas to children's reproductive health. According to the 2003 report from the Committee on Toxicity (COT), the risk is due to soy formula's high phytoestrogen content, and that similar advice has been issued in other countries such as New Zealand and Australia.

Source: [www.soyonlineservice.co.nz](http://www.soyonlineservice.co.nz)

## Nestlé targets Hispanic moms

Nestlé is betting on Hispanic mothers to boost its share of the \$3 billion infant-formula market in the United States. Nestlé is focusing on the 38 million Hispanics or 13% of the total population in the U.S. and it is expected to grow to 20% by 2020. Hispanic mothers in the U.S. make a desirable marketing target. With less education, research suggests that they are more likely to bottle-feed. Lacking fluency in English, they may receive inadequate medical advice to make an informed infant feeding choice. For many immigrant women from deprived backgrounds, bottle-feeding also has a false aura of acculturation and prosperity. Nestlé would "make sure that all advertising stays in the US," said Kathy Mitsukawa, a marketing associate for Nestlé, including radio spots, promotions at baby fairs, and are trying to break into the maternity ward.

"Nestlé is using a vulnerable population for a grab at market share," says Marsha Walker, National Alliance for Breastfeeding Advocacy (NABA).

Source: [www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/business/8113525.htm](http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/business/8113525.htm)



## Awards

### Mimi wins Women of Peace Award

The Women's Peacepower Foundation, Inc. has named Irma (Mimi) de Maza, a member of La Leche League International's Board of Directors, as a recipient of the Women of Peace Award. The award, formerly known as the Amigas Award, honours women involved in cutting-edge society building. Since 1989, Mimi de Maza has facilitated breastfeeding and mother-to-mother support programs in low-income communities near Guatemala City. She is addressing poverty and malnutrition by promoting and supporting exclusive breastfeeding, using mother-to-mother support is an innovative approach in Guatemala as well as in other parts of the developing world. With last year's World Breastfeeding Week theme being *Breastfeeding in a Globalised World - for Peace and Justice*, Mimi de Maza's achievement is a great inspiration that breastfeeding work is recognised as work for peace.

### Lamaze Award for HCP Coordinator

WABA Health Care Practices Task Force Coordinator Mary Kroeger earned the prestigious Lamaze International Outreach Award by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), the oldest women's health care association in the US, in recognition and appreciation of her leadership in promoting safe motherhood practices, development of community midwives, and advocacy for increased rates of breastfeeding throughout the world. The award was presented to Kroeger in October 2003 at the Lamaze International Annual Conference. Kroeger recently authored a book entitled *Impact of Birthing Practices on Breastfeeding: Protecting the Mother and Baby Continuum* and travels extensively promoting women's health care issues.

Source: [www.acnm.org/press/display.cfm?id=346](http://www.acnm.org/press/display.cfm?id=346)





Liew Mun Tip (right), Project Coordinator, answering queries on WABA's publications and activities at the WABA exhibit booth.

...continued page 1 (APCON)

Renu Khanna. The pregnancy-birthing-breastfeeding continuum was also given prominence at a plenary session. In a workshop, Rae Davies, representative of the WABA Health Care Practices Task Force, emphasised respecting a labouring woman and discussed various birthing techniques and their impacts on breastfeeding. To promote a safer environment for our children, an information sheet *Towards Healthy Environments for Children: Frequently asked questions about breastfeeding in a contaminated environment*, jointly developed by environmental and breastfeeding groups including WABA, was distributed to all participants.

The Conference was also visually enriching as posters, banners, and photos decorated the exhibition area. WABA had a well-visited booth with participants exchanging information and getting WABA's latest materials. Dr. Amitava Sen also put up a philately corner with his global collection of breastfeeding stamps. A cultural night was also organised. On the last day, tokens of appreciation and recognition were given to major figures who had spearheaded and contributed relentlessly in their respective expertise and countries. The Conference ended with the sharing of recommendations for action in several areas. The 'Delhi Declaration on Infant and Young Child Feeding' was unanimously adopted by the participants, who pledged to initiate, accelerate and support actions towards better infant and young child feeding.

See recommendations and the Delhi Declaration at Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) website <[www.bpni.org](http://www.bpni.org)>.

## Computerised database to monitor breastfeeding

BPNI is developing the Asia-Pacific Participatory Action Research (APPAR) to facilitate the monitoring of breastfeeding status in the region. In addition to the formulation of the questionnaire itself, BPNI is also developing a software programme to compute the data collected for immediate results and conclusions. This software, developed by a volunteer, Abhunav Kushwaha, could also make comparative analysis of breastfeeding status between countries. It is designed for easy use by grassroots and national groups and is in its final stages of development.

For more information about APPAR and the software, contact BPNI at Email: [bpni@bpni.org](mailto:bpni@bpni.org)

## Going head-on with HIV & IF

HIV and Infant Feeding was given special attention by having two days dedicated to it prior to APCON in a Colloquium on its own. Breastfeeding groups begin to keep an eye on the proliferation of HIV/AIDS in the Asia-Pacific region and take early steps to intervene at both policy and implementation levels to ensure that breastfeeding does not suffer spill over effects from prevention of HIV-transmission programmes, and that HIV-infected parents make informed choices on infant feeding that ensure the overall well-being of mother and child. BPNI took a bold step to head the challenge in the region. Kudos!



### HIV

From the 13<sup>th</sup> ICASA Conference, Nairobi, September 2003

## Infant deaths may link to feeding patterns

Leopold Buhendwa reported on a study funded by MSF (Doctors Without Borders) Luxembourg on PMTCT in Thyolo, Malawi, where 30% of mothers were HIV positive. Support for artificial feeding and exclusive breastfeeding was offered, with 123 choosing the former and 102 the latter. After 18 months, 26 of the artificially fed babies had died (nine from diarrhoea and pneumonia respectively) compared to 10 among those breastfed. When asked about the difference in death rates, Buhendwa said one can draw no conclusion from this because there could be confounders, for example women who were sicker with AIDS might choose to artificially feed.

## Framework for Priority Action

Nine UN agencies launched the Framework for Priority Action for HIV and Infant feeding at the above conference. This lists five key actions for governments:

1. Developing national policies
2. Developing and enforcing the International Code
3. Ensuring the implementation of appropriate infant feeding practices.
4. Support HIV-positive women adequately to select the best feeding option for themselves and their babies.
5. Support research on HIV and infant feeding.

The Framework is accompanied by guides for both national decision-makers, and managers and supervisors.

The Framework can be downloaded from [http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/publications/NUTRITION/HIV\\_IF\\_Framework.htm](http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/publications/NUTRITION/HIV_IF_Framework.htm)

...continued page 1 (HIV & IF)

gathered in Lusaka, Zambia on 2-6 February 2004 to brainstorm and map out the current state of affairs, areas of concern, resources available and finally a holistic action plan for the breastfeeding movement. Participants also visited PMTCT programme sites in Zambia to get first hand information from health workers and members of the community.

A strategy meeting following the visits came up with 126 action ideas, which were clustered into six groups:

research, advocacy, global actions, training and capacity building, information and documentation, and networking. The action plan also includes a list of prioritised action, such as the formation of the WABA HIV and Infant Feeding Task Force, development of a section for resources and discussion on the WABA website, and advocacy approaches. WABA and its core partners invite you to join the Task Force or to be placed on an email list to receive occasional updates and to access to links and online full-text documents on HIV and Infant Feeding. Under the Task Force, three working groups have been formed:

- Advocacy led by Anwar Fazal, WABA, Malaysia
- Research led by Ted Greiner, IMCH, Sweden
- Training led by Arun Gupta, BPNI, India

Please contact the WABA Secretariat <waba@streamyx.com> and Dr. Ted Greiner, Coordinator of WABA HIV & Infant Feeding Task Force <tedgreiner@yahoo.com>.



Participants learnt more on the realities of PMTCT programmes during field visits in Zambia.



## World Breastfeeding Week

### WBW celebrations continue!

The last WABALink reported WBW celebrations in more than 20 countries (see [www.waba.org.my/wabalink.htm](http://www.waba.org.my/wabalink.htm)). Here are two more inspiring examples:

In **UAE**, the National Breastfeeding Week was celebrated from 13-19 December 2003. Major activities were observed in Sharjah and Al-Ain (Abu Dhabi) involving government officers, nurses, doctors, students and women's groups, many donning the *Golden Bow* to symbolise gold standard for breastmilk. Information sheets and leaflets were distributed and posted up, and special lactation workshops were conducted during the week. Groups also took the opportunity to promote their Breastfeeding Hotline. The event and also articles on breastfeeding were published in newspapers and highlighted on television. Committed health workers and volunteers were awarded. Two mothers, one who gave birth to a pair of twins and another to a set of quadruplets, were also recognised for their persistence to breastfeed their babies.

In **Bangladesh**, a host of organisations held events in conjunction with WBW in various parts of the country. Seminars, rallies, theatre, contests, discussion and workshops were carried out with vigour and enthusiasm, with participants ranging from children to grandparents. The Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF) also held a seminar for hundreds of members of the public and journalists to discuss the theme, *Breastfeeding in a Globalised World - for Peace and Justice*.

## BFHI does make a difference for quadruplets!

Shaikha delivered a set of quadruplets on 1 October last year in Al-Ain Hospital, a Baby-Friendly Hospital in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The babies were born premature and were admitted in the Special Baby Care Unit. Having just given birth to four babies, Shaikha had mixed feelings for having increased responsibilities physically, psychologically and financially. She was concerned about their safety and her ability to breastfeed all four babies. Moreover, she also has to care for two older children.

However, as Shaikha testifies, delivering in a Baby-Friendly hospital did make a difference. The hospital staff was of great help during their stay and supported her by allaying her anxiety, building up her confidence and assisting her to feed the quadruplets with breastmilk. Initially babies were fed on expressed breastmilk. Later, they were able to suckle well on breasts. Lactation nurses, doctors and nurses of Al-Ain Hospital showed great team spirit by supporting not only Shaikha but also other mothers in the hospital for successful breastfeeding.

The father of the babies was also very supportive, understanding and compliant to help the mother to breastfeed. The quadruplets – three boys: Zayed, Nahyan, Hazaa,

and a girl: Fatma –were exclusively breastfed for four months and continue to breastfeed with local, home-made complementary foods.

Congratulations on your bundles of joy, Shaikha, and well done to the staff of Al-Ain Hospital!

Adapted by report submitted by Dr. Khalid Iqbal Tahir, UAE.



Shaikha (center) with her babies (Zayed, Nahyan, Hazaa and Fatma). Lactation nurses Amani (right) and Nassra (left) played a vital role in helping Shaikha to breastfeed successfully.





## Advocacy & Representation

### Breastfeeding advocacy a success at World Social Forum

Breastfeeding groups made their presence felt at the 4<sup>th</sup> International World Social Forum (WFS) held in Mumbai, India, January 2004. WABA and other breastfeeding organisations reminded 130,000 WFS participants the need to protect, promote and support breastfeeding through posters, banners, leaflets and interpersonal sharings.

Acknowledging breastfeeding as a social issue, WABA joined thousands of people on 16 January to mark the beginning of the six-day marathon of plenaries, conferences, panels, round tables, seminars, workshops, cultural events, exhibitions, sales, solidarity meetings, rallies and marches. More than 12 conferences, 300 seminars and 1,000 side-events were organised per day. With the theme *Another World is Possible* WFS aimed to formulate a blueprint for building a plural, just, responsible and shared world.

WABA, Association for Consumers Action on Safety and Health (ACASH) and Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) shared a common booth that served as a hub for breastfeeding advocates. Breastfeeding publications were distributed freely and widely. Several women also shared their breastfeeding experiences. Jessy George of BPNI was interviewed about breastfeeding promotion in India. INFAC also marched with their massive banner and loads of people towards the opening venue.

WABA representative Lakshmi Menon said many activists were intrigued and enquired about breastfeeding issues especially with regard to globalisation. Many key faces in the global civil society movement were met, such as Pat Mooney, Wayne Ellwood, Claude Alvares, David Sanders, Kamla Bhasin, Vandana Shiva, Mira Shiva, and friends from the Pesticides Action Network and the International People's Health Forum.

WABA thanks ACASH, BPNI and assistants Roshan, Rosebel and Joseph for making the event a success for the breastfeeding movement.



For more information on the World Social Forum (WFS), visit <[www.wsfindia.org](http://www.wsfindia.org)>.

*Protecting children is one among thousands of themes at WFS*



## News Brief

### Breastfed live on TV!

An Australian talk show host breastfed her child live on national television. Kate Langbroek, a presenter on programme 'The Panel', discreetly nursed her newborn son Lewis on the show in September - her first television appearance since giving birth.

Her actions drew a mixed response, but Langbroek won praise from breastfeeding supporters around the world. Dr Ingrid Tall of Australian Medical Association said people have to get over the embarrassment about breasts being publicly displayed in the context of infant feeding, "We need people who are brave, and to go out there and make a public statement," she said. "They make it easier for the rest of us to follow through, so congratulations to her."

Source: [news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/3119084.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/3119084.stm)

### Welfare food scheme to promote breastfeeding

The UK government is reforming the Healthy Start welfare token scheme to provide equal value tokens for both breast- and bottle feeding mothers, thereby ending the current discrimination against breastfeeding. It is also planning to end to the distribution of free or reduced price infant formula via child health clinics later in 2004. The UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative has welcomed the proposals.

Source: [www.babyfriendly.org.uk/mailling/updates/news\\_update\\_20040217.htm](http://www.babyfriendly.org.uk/mailling/updates/news_update_20040217.htm)



## Research

### Preventable Diseases Claim 11 Million Children Each Year

Nearly 11 million children do not live to see their fifth birthday each year due to a lethal combination of malnutrition and mostly preventable diseases, according to an article in *Lancet*, a catastrophe that experts say is needless. "Every single day, an attack against children occurs that is 10 times greater than the death toll from the World Trade Center," said Prof. Jean-Pierre Habicht, one of the child health researchers. "We have the biological knowledge and tools to stop this public health travesty, but we're not yet doing it," said Habicht.

About 41 percent of child deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, and 34 percent in South Asia, mostly caused by a few diseases such as measles, malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia, which could be prevented or managed. Nutrition plays a key role.

Source: Katherine Stapp, IPS, [othernet@ips.org](mailto:othernet@ips.org)

## Calendar of Events 2004

- May 9-12 ■ 2<sup>nd</sup> African Conference on Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research, Cape Town, South Africa
- May 20-22 ■ Icelandic Midwives Conference, Reykjavik, Iceland <[www.meetingiceland.com](http://www.meetingiceland.com)>
- June 9-11 ■ Normal Labour and Birth: 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Conference, Preston, UK <[www.uclan.ac.uk](http://www.uclan.ac.uk)>
- June 3-4 ■ 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Breastfeeding Seminar, Toronto, Canada
- Jun30-Jul3 ■ Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on the Beijing Platform for Action + 10, Bangkok, Thailand
- July 1-4 ■ Breastfeeding: The Golden Opportunity to Nurture the Nation, South Africa
- July 11-16 ■ XV International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, Thailand <[www.aids2004.org](http://www.aids2004.org)>
- July 15-18 ■ ILCA Conference, Scottsdale, USA
- July 26-28 ■ 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seminar For Physicians On Breastfeeding, Newport, Rhode Island
- Aug 1-7 ■ World Breastfeeding Week 2004
- Sep 20-28 ■ ICDC Training, Penang, Malaysia
- Oct 12 ■ IBFAN silver jubilee
- Oct 13-14 ■ WABA Global Breastfeeding Partners' Meeting 3, Costa Rica



## News from the Secretariat Penang, Malaysia

### SECRETARIAT NEWS, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH

**Oct** • Steering Committee (SC) Meeting • Maternity Protection Kit published • Published *FAQ: Breastfeeding and the Environment* • Lakshmi Menon coordinated the Directory project

**Nov** • Felicity Savage worked on the WBW 2004 texts • Ines Fernandez assisted with the Women & Work projects • Lynn Emmanuel, Project Officer, and Angeli Namasiwayam, Administrative Officer joined Secretariat staff • Lim Chee Hong conducted 4-day training for staff on Winlisis (database software) and helped design format for resource centre and directory project • World Breastfeeding Charter website launched

**Dec** • Anwar Fazal and Liew Mun Tip participated in the Asia-Pacific Breastfeeding Conference, Delhi, India • Women & Work Task Force Meeting • Chris Mulford worked on report on Women & Work • Revision of the classification system for WABA resource centre • 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Risks, Rights and Regulation: Communicating Contaminants in Breastmilk* published • Thanks to Co-Directors, Sarah Amin and Susan Siew. All the best in your new roles!

**Jan 2004** • Lakshmi Menon participated in World Social Forum • In-house networking system established

**Feb** • WABA HIV & Infant Feeding Field Trip and Planning Meeting • SC Meeting • Formation of HIV & Infant Feeding Task Force • WABA established new email address [waba@streamyx.com](mailto:waba@streamyx.com) • WBW2004 Calendar Announcement and Poster printed

**Mar** • Harjeet Kaur, Administrative Officer, joined Secretariat staff • Farewell and thank you to Angeli Namasiwayam • Strategic meeting on LFA implementation with Amal Omer Salim • Beth Styer attended SCN Meeting and Alliance for Peoples Action On Nutrition (APAN) New York • Workshop for Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation study tour group

**VISITORS Oct** • Lakshmi Menon, India • **Nov** • Ines Fernandez, ARUGAAN, Philippines • **Dec** • Chris Mulford, USA • **Jan 2004** • Troth Wells, New Internationalist, UK • William Seinart, South Africa • Lavan Southisan, Laos • Abdul Malik Hussin, Malaysia  
**Mar** • Daisy Dharmaraj, India • Shaheen Sultana, Bangladesh • Nasira Habib, Pakistan • Sudha Murali, India



## Network News

### Legal draft in practice

*8<sup>th</sup> ICDC Annual Training Course on "Implementing the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes" 20 – 28 September 2004, Penang, Malaysia*

Government officers can learn first-hand drafting of legislation based on the International Code. Course sessions are interactive and consist of lectures, plenary discussions, workshops, role-playing, panel discussions, videos and other audio visual materials.

This 9-day residential course aims to train government officials in drafting laws or other measures to implement the International Code nationally. Interested applicants can register by using the form at <[www.ibfan.org/english/activities/training/icdc01.html](http://www.ibfan.org/english/activities/training/icdc01.html)> or email the International Code Documentation Centre at <[ibfanpg@tm.net.my](mailto:ibfanpg@tm.net.my)>.

### WABA SC welcomes new member

The WABA Steering Committee (SC) welcomed Dr. Audrey Naylor as its latest member, who commenced her post in February 2004. Her appointment was confirmed at the 16<sup>th</sup> WABA SC Meeting last February in Zambia when Dr. Ted Greiner decided to resign to coordinate the newly-formed HIV and Infant Feeding Task Force. The other SC members are Beth Styer (Chairperson), Nomajoni Ntombela, Dr. Raj Anand, Marta Trejos, Dr. Felicity Savage and Anwar Fazal.

### Susan and Sarah shifting roles

Co-Directors Susan Siew and Sarah Amin assume new roles as consultants with WABA with effect from 1 January 2004. Anwar Fazal, Chairperson Emeritus of WABA, is currently also the Director of the WABA Secretariat. WABA thanks Sarah Amin for her 12 years and Susan Siew, nine years of dedication to the breastfeeding movement in their previous roles as Directors and look forward to a new synergistic, creative role as consultants to the WABA Secretariat.

### Condolence on Bibi's demise

Bibi Vogel, an icon for the breastfeeding movement in Latin America, passed away peacefully in April 2004. An actress, singer, video maker, and activist in feminism and human rights for breastfeeding, Bibi helped to establish many mother support groups including Amigas do Peito in Brazil. She was also active in promoting breastfeeding through art, theatre and mass media. One of her legacy is the pregnancy-childbirth-breastfeeding doll, which breastfeeding advocates would refer to it as the 'Bibi Doll' in her memory. Bibi was also member of the WABA International Advisory Council. It was a great pleasure to have her on board with WABA.



## Towards healthy environments for our children

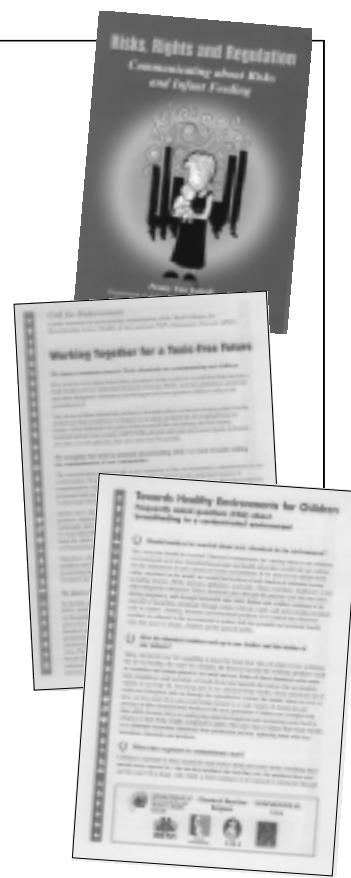
Chemical contaminants are causing harm not only to our immediate surroundings and ourselves, but also to our future generations. With this grave concern, environmental activists, breastfeeding groups and health advocates worldwide are calling for the elimination of toxic chemicals in the environment. WABA and its partners developed several materials to promote public understanding on the issue of environmental contaminations in relevance to breastfeeding.

**Risks, Rights and Regulation: Communicating about Risks and Infant Feeding (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)** by Penny Van Esterik. This 104-page book highlights the difficulties of translating the toxicological evidence into language the public can understand and use, particularly in the face of commercial interests that benefit from casting doubts on breastfeeding. French and Spanish versions are also available in CDs.

**Towards Healthy Environments for Children: Frequently asked questions about breastfeeding in a contaminated environment** emerged out of the combined efforts of breastfeeding and environmental health and justice groups in addressing breastfeeding in a contaminated environment.

**Working Together for a Toxic-Free Future** is a joint statement by WABA and International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN). Join hundreds of concerned organisations and individuals worldwide to endorse this statement to call for a healthier environment.

Materials are available on the WABA website <[www.waba.org.my/environment/index.html](http://www.waba.org.my/environment/index.html)>. For printed materials and for more information, contact the WABA Secretariat at address below.



### Impact of Birthing Practices on Breastfeeding:

#### *Protecting the Mother and Baby Continuum*

by Mary Kroeger with Linda J. Smith

This book examines the spectacular bond between the human mother and her newborn from the perspective of labour, birth and breastfeeding. It continues to stress on the need for breastfeeding supporters to link the impact of different childbirth methods on the readiness of mother or newborn to breastfeed. Readers would also learn about the mechanics of labour, labour interventions and their effects on mother and newborn.

This book is an essential resource for all who work with mothers and newborns. Policy setters would also find it enlightening given its comprehensive analysis of experiences and outcomes in both developed and developing country settings.

Contact: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 40 Tall Pine Drive, Sudbury MA 01776. E-mail: [info@jbpub.com](mailto:info@jbpub.com)

### Alternatives to globalisation

#### *Another World is Possible* by William F. Fisher and Thomas Ponniah

We are constantly informed that globalisation is irresistible. But there are alternatives. This collection brings together the voices of citizens' movements in Porto Alegre, Brazil, where the early World Social Forums were held since 2000. Their power emerges from the very range of disparate activists and organisations that make it up. But this diversity poses a challenge: how to hammer out shared proposals for alternatives to neo-liberal globalisation. This book provides some constructive thinking on this question in various social issues.

Here is a very different human, and humane, future. It is up to us, as active citizens, to think further about what it could be like, and to struggle against the vested interests in order to achieve it.

Contact: Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, UK. Website: [www.zedbooks.demon.co.uk](http://www.zedbooks.demon.co.uk)



WABA, PO Box 1200, 10850 Penang, Malaysia • Tel: 60-4-6584816 • Fax: 60-4-6572655 • Email: [waba@streamyx.com](mailto:waba@streamyx.com) • Website: [www.waba.org.my](http://www.waba.org.my)  
Writing and Production: Liew Mun Tip • Assisted by: Lynn Emmanuel • Editing: Lakshmi Menon and Anwar Fazal

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, support and promotion of breastfeeding. WABA action is based on the Innocenti Declaration, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the Global Strategy for Infant & Young Child Feeding. Its core partners are International Baby Food Action 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).