

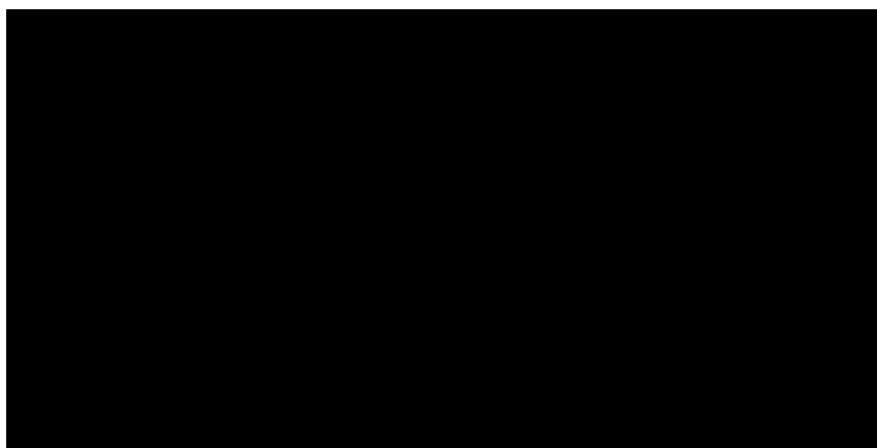
SAVE THE DATES! 25Feb - 10 Mar 2007

**Breastfeeding
Advocacy & Practice:**
A Regional Outreach Course
organised by the
Infant Feeding Consortium (IFC),
from the Institute of Child Health,
London, and
the World Alliance for
Breastfeeding Action (WABA).
For more information, please visit:
www.waba.org.my/bap.htm

- ❑ Breastfeeding Advocacy and Practice Course Brochure
- ❑ Capacity Building Program for Developing National Trainers on Infant and Young Child Feeding Counseling – A Training Course: The '3 in 1 course'
- ❑ Press Release: Arm-twisting in the Philippines - the world breastfeeding movement denounces interference by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- ❑ Joint Statement on Gender, Child Survival and HIV&AIDS: From Evidence to Policy
- ❑ ENAM Youth Report
- ❑ HIV & Golden Bow Pin

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

Partners Meeting shapes WABA's future Strategic Plan...



WABA held its 5th Global Breastfeeding Partners Meeting (GBPM) in Penang, Malaysia, from 14 – 16 September 2006, focusing on jointly developing WABA's future Strategic Plan for 2008-2012, which corresponds with its next funding/project cycle. In total, five organisational partners (ABM, IBFAN, ILCA, LLLI and Wellstart), 30 participants from 15 countries actively participated.

The participatory process led to the identification of priority outputs and activities in five generic programme areas: i) **social mobilisation**, ii) **capacity building/training**, iii) **advocacy and outreach**, iv) **information and networking**, and v) **development/governance**. In addition to the five Core Partners (CPs), several WABA Task Forces (HIV & IF, Women and Work, Health Care Practices, Mother Support and Code) and Regional Focal Points (RFP) (Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, and North America) also contributed to the process to ensure that key issues and concerns are integrated into the future plans.

The CPs reinforced their commitment to work as part of the WABA alliance and highlighted those areas/activities where collaboration in the present and future is evident, for instance, (health worker) training, advocacy, etc. Another highlight of the event included a lot more focus on working with CPs at the regional level and strengthening regional programmes which are part of the RFP coordination, such as the gender and youth initiatives.

The Steering Committee meeting held immediately after GBPM on 17 – 20 September, reviewed and refined the priority outputs & activities for the Strategic Plan as well as worked on WABA's Vision and Mission statements.

The WABA Secretariat also celebrated its 15th anniversary and held a house-warming party during the GBPM V. Overall, a positive and fruitful outcome for both events!

World BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2006 CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

To highlight WBW celebrations around the world this year, WABA set up a new website www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org with a special section for WBW around the world, where we uploaded reports & images received. Some of the highlights were:

Costa Rica: Images of posters at bus stops saying "thanks mother, breastfeeding is the best for babies". **Hong Kong:** Special WBW cookies made by O & G staff of Prince of Wales Hospital. **Malaysia:** Growth monitoring, games, talks & activities at TESCO, organised by



Penang Adventist Hospital
Kenya: CODE Walk, organised by CARE in refugee camps to spot CODE violations and use the time to educate the individuals who have violated the CODE.

Singapore: *BREASTography* - photography exhibition bearing testament that Breastfeeding is an Art, organised by The Breastfeeding Mothers' Support Group (BMSG), Singapore.

For more images & reports of World Breastfeeding Week 2006 celebrations around the world, please visit www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org/worldwide.htm



Hope spreads faster than AIDS XVI INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE (AIDS 2006),

TORONTO, 13-18 AUGUST 2006

Rapporteur Reports & Summaries available at www.aids2006.org

Twenty five years after AIDS was first reported, we have come to gain much scientific knowledge about HIV and AIDS yet still more that we do not know. Equally, the challenge is also to use resources and collective will equitably and effectively. The theme of AIDS 2006 – *Time to Deliver* – underscores the need for accountability and action from us all.

A record of 24,000 participants attended the conference, including political, scientific, community leaders, and many others on the frontlines of the epidemic, with figures such as Bill Clinton, Bill Gates and Richard Gere. AIDS 2006 offered more than 400 sessions, meetings and workshops. Over 4,500 scientific abstracts were presented at this event, which is the largest and most diverse gathering of people engaged in the global response to HIV/AIDS. The Global Village, which was a free venue for all, provided active networking zones for various groups including women, youths, gays, faith-based and regional groups.

WABA and breastfeeding advocates actively participated and distributed popular materials at various sessions and the Global Village, particularly at the Women's Networking Zone. The highlights were:

- WABA worked with our Core Partners, and other women organisations namely the Athena Network,

Blueprint for Action, Voices of Positive Women, and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS to produce and display materials such as banners and flags.

- WABA joined the *Women and Girls' Rally and March* on 14 August, after which Louise Binder, a Canadian woman AIDS activist, mentioned the importance of breastfeeding at the first plenary

- The *Joint Statement on Gender, Child Survival and HIV&AIDS: From Evidence to Policy* was distributed to participants at strategic venues and workshops.

- All 3,500 *Red Ribbon and the Golden Bow*, a pin which carries the message of breastfeeding and HIV, were snapped up at the conference. The pin was presented to Stephen Lewis and was commended. (A complementary pin comes with this issue of WABALink for you to wear and spread the message!)

- There was only one session on HIV and infant feeding per se which was organised by PATH. Obviously, more awareness and interest on this issue need to be generated.

- AnotherLook's poster presentation *Breastfeeding in the context of "HIV/AIDS: where is the evidence base supporting policy recommendations?"*, was accepted and generated interests among viewers.

WABA thanks all volunteers & breastfeeding advocates for their support & presence!



Fury as breastfeeding unit is axed in city budgetcuts

Maryhill Community Health Project has closed its doors after 10 years, sparking fury among parents and politicians.

The move was sparked by Glasgow City Council's decision to cancel half its funding as part of a programme of budget cuts. The withdrawal of funding flies in the face of an executive push to increase the number of mothers breastfeeding.

Despite a huge awareness campaign, figures show less than 40% of Scots mums breastfeed after six weeks.

Source : <http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk> - August 2006

Breastfeeding 'kills baby's pain'

A review of research found that breastfeeding newborns helps relieve the pain from a needle prick used to screen their blood for disease.

Breastfed babies appeared to experience less pain than those who were swaddled, given a dummy, or a placebo. Comfort from a mother's presence may be key.

The Cochrane Library review, by Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital, was based on data from over 1,000 babies. The researchers say that breastfeeding could possibly help relieve pain for premature babies who need to undergo many painful intensive care procedures.

The researchers say that the key to the effect of breastfeeding may be that an infant simply draws comfort from the close proximity of its mother.

Alternatively, breastfeeding may help to divert attention away from the pain of a needle prick. They also suggest that the sweetness of breastmilk may be a factor.

Another theory is that breastmilk contains a high concentration of a chemical which could ultimately trigger the production of natural painkillers called endorphins.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk> - July 2006



Mothers demand 'more breastfeeding support'

Mothers need more breastfeeding support, campaigners have announced. They will lobby Westminster and have support from both MPs and actress Emma Thompson.

The group, Best Beginnings, will call on the Government to set up a national breastfeeding strategy, headed by a national infant feeding co-ordinator, and to protect a woman's right to breastfeed in public in England. This law is already in place in Scotland, which also has a breastfeeding co-ordinator.

The actor Emma Thompson, who is a mother of one, has also lent her support. "So many women are given conflicting information. It's time to get the message across - not only is breastfeeding the perfect beginning for mother and child but, it should be allowed whenever, and wherever a mother happens to be."

Source : <http://www.dailymail.co.uk> - July 2006

Overweight women tend to give up breastfeeding early

A study in Australia reveals that overweight and obese women tend to give up breastfeeding earlier than normal-weight women.

1,803 kids and their mothers participated in a large pregnancy study conducted by Dr. Wendy Hazel Oddy of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Perth and colleagues. Prior to pregnancy, 18% of the women were overweight or obese.

The study, after taking into account, several factors like socioeconomic status, years of education, revealed that overweight and obese women were less likely to make an attempt at breastfeeding and those who did, did not continue for long.

'A number of factors could help explain the findings. For example, excess weight may change a woman's hormonal profile, making sustained lactation more difficult, or it may be harder for an infant to 'latch on' to breast tissue if the mother is overweight or obese,' the investigators say.

According to the researchers, pregnancy complications and C-sections are more common among overweight or obese women than normal-weight women.

Source : <http://www.medindia.net> - September 2006

The WABA Gender Training workshop is on for the 3rd consecutive year!

From 15 - 18 Oct 2006, , Penang, Malaysia.

For more information, please visit our website: www.waba.org.my



News from the Secretariat, Penang, Malaysia

*Secretariat News, Project Development
and Outreach*

June •TAG meeting • WBW Seedgrant applications were compiled & processed • WBW posters & banners were printed • Lakshmi Menon worked on the Gender Training Kit & Women and Work Seedgrants case study document/book • WBW materials & media kit were distributed • WABA issues a statement of support for World Health Day •

July • Satnam leaves WABA to spend more time with her family • Julianna attends the AMIC media workshop in USM, Penang • Pushpa Panadam worked on the MSTF e-newsletter & Men's working group liaison • Pushpa compiled & processed the GIFS Seedgrant applications • WBW Seedgrant awards were given out • WBW reports from countries were received, processed & uploaded to the new wbw website • Marketing Snapshot campaign, in conjunction with WBW was launched on the website in collaboration with ICDC • Community Support Seedgrants were made available • Julianna responds to print & electronic media requests on WBW • Materials designed & produced for International AIDS Conference •

August • Derchana Devi joins WABA as Admin Assistant • Elections for Steering Committee • Singapore English International radio station interviews Julianna for WBW • The STAR, main English daily features 3 full page story on WBW • Revamp of HIV section of WABA website • International AIDS Conference • WBW in Penang celebrated in Penang at 2 main hypermarkets: Giant & TESCO • WBW celebrated in Perlis with Julianna as speaker • Julianna attends the Bangladesh National Breastfeeding Conference as speaker • Sarah speaks the WBW celebrations in Australia •

September • MP Coalition 5th Strategy Meeting • GBPM 5 & Steering Committee Meetings • WABA's 15th Anniversary, housewarming & birthday celebrations • Chris Mulford (Women & Work co-coordinator) worked on the the Women & Work Seedgrants Case Study document/book • WABA's Women & Work Task Force together with GIFA worked with the Malaysian Breastfeeding Association to organise a 2- day Maternity Protection Training Workshop in Kuala Lumpur from 20-21 September 2006 • Produced Conference report for Gender, Child Survival & HIV/AIDS: *From Evidence to Policy* • Meeting on Doctors Initiative • Felicity Savage works on the Breastfeeding Advocacy & Practice course • Community Seedgrants were compiled & processed • Nomajoni Ntombela, Felicity Savage, Beth Syer & Susan Siew worked on revising the draft Breastfeeding & HIV Action Kit •

Visitors to the Secretariat

• **June** • Lakshmi Menon, India • **July** • Pushpa Panadam, Paraguay • **August** • Andrew Rosenthal, Consumers Union, USA • **September** • Rebecca Magalhaes, LLLI, USA • Jose Gorrin, ABM, Puerto Rico • Pauline Kisanga, IBFAN, Swaziland • Sallie Page, ILCA, USA • Audrey Naylor, Wellstart, USA • Beth Syer, USA • Felicity Savage, ICH, UK • Marta Trejos, CEFEMINA, Costa Rica • Nomajoni Ntombela, LINKAGES, Zambia • Raj Anand, India • Lourdes Fidalgo, Mozambique • Miriam Labbok, USC, USA • Annelies Allain, ICDC, Malaysia • Rae Davies, USA • Ines Fernandez, ARUGAAN, Philippines • Pamela Morrison, UK • Chris Mulford, ILCA, USA • Arun Gupta, BPNI India • Andre Nikiema, IBFAN, Burkina Faso • Michael Latham, Cornell University, USA • Elisabet Helsing, Norway • Elaine Cote, GIFA, Switzerland • Jorge Restrepo, GIFA, Switzerland • Marcos Arana, IBFAN, Mexico • Martha Garrett, Uppsala University, Sweden •

2006

- June 5 ■ World Environment Day*
- June 11-13 ■ CIMS Technical Advisory Group Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
- June 21-23 ■ 14th International Symposium in HIV & Emerging Infections in Toulon, France
- June 21-25 ■ 6th CIVICUS - World Assembly Acting Together for a Just World. Glasgow, Scotland
- July 11 ■ World Population Day
- July 12 - 16 ■ ILCA International Conference; Interdisciplinary Breastfeeding Practice - Integration through Innovation, Philadelphia, USA
ILCA 21st Birthday
- July 24-26 ■ LLLI 34th Physicians Seminar on Breastfeeding; "Breastfeeding Research into Practice". San Diego, USA

August 1-7 ■ World Breastfeeding Week

- August 4-5 ■ New South Wales Lactation College Conference/WBW, Sydney, Australia
- August 4-14 ■ Campaign to value Fatherhood in Brazil :Fatherhood: Enjoy it!" www.aleitamento.com
- August 12 ■ International Youth Day
- August 13-18 ■ 16th International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada www.aids2006.org
- August 21-25 ■ 11th World Congress on Public Health and 8th Brazilian Congress on Collective Health, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
- August 26-3 ■ TUNZA International Children's Conference for the Environment, Putrajaya, Malaysia
- Sept 1-7 ■ Nat'l Bf Conference, Brazil (ENAM)
- Sept 3-6 ■ IX Nat'l Bf Encounter, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Sept 6-8 ■ 59th Annual DPI / NGO Conferen (UNBAT)
- Sept 7-12 ■ IBCOCO meeting, Penang
- Sept 13 ■ MPC 5th Strategy Meeting, Penang
- Sept 14-16 ■ WABA Global Breastfeeding Partners' Meeting (GBPM5)
- Sept 15 ■ WABA House Warming
- Sept 17-20 ■ WABA Steering Committee Meeting, Penang
- Sept 19-20 ■ MP Training, Kuala Lumpur
- Sept 21 ■ International Day of Peace
- Sept 21-22 ■ ABM meeting, Niagara Falls, US
- Sept 23-24 ■ Inter. Research group meeting (ISRHML), Niagara Falls, Canada
- Oct 12 ■ IBFAN's 27th Anniversary
- Oct 16 ■ World Food Day
- Oct 9-13 ■ WABA Youth Action for Breastfeeding Workshop, Penang, Malaysia
- Oct 15-18 ■ WABA Gender Training, Penang, Malaysia
- Oct 19 ■ Men's WG meeting & Youth follow-up meeting
- Oct 16-20 ■ WBW in France
- Oct 26-28 ■ Australian Lactation Consultants Association National Conference, Melbourne, Australia
- Oct 31 ■ ICFTU, 19th World Congress, Vienna

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



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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 Declaration, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the WHO/ UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. Its core partners are International Baby Action Food Network (IBFAN), La Leche League International (LLL), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), Wellstart International, Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) and LINKAGES. WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).



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Press release DFA 16 Sep

Arm-twisting in the Philippines – the world breastfeeding movement denounces interference by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Direct pressure is being exerted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on the President of the Philippines to withdraw newly introduced regulations that protect breastfeeding and infant and young child health.

The President of the US Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Thomas Donohue, warned President Arroyo of “the risk to the reputation of the Philippines as a stable and viable destination for investment” if she did not “re-examine this regulatory decision”. He was particularly concerned about the effect of the marketing restrictions on the pharmaceutical and infant formula companies.

In July 2006, the Philippines Department of Health issued new Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to restrict most marketing practices used to boost infant formula sales. These regulations must be seen in the light of the 1986 “Milk Code”, a law on infant food marketing, based on the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, Breastmilk Supplements and Related Products. The recent World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions, endorsed by all countries including Philippines and the USA, contributed significance to the E.O. 51 (Milk Code) and the IRR.

In protest over the IRR, the Pharmaceutical and Health Care Association of the Philippines (PHAP), representing the three main US formula companies (Abbott Ross, Mead Johnson and Wyeth) and other international pharmaceutical giants, took the Philippines government to court. In July, the Supreme Court declined PHAP’s application for a temporary restraining order to stop the IRR from coming into effect.

Later, the Supreme Court, upon PHAP’s application for a review, overturned its own decision by granting a temporary restraining order in favour of PHAP. While a court case is pending, no one should comment on its merits. The letter by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce can be seen as a direct threat to the independence of the judiciary.

At their 5th meeting, the Global Breastfeeding Partners of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) were amazed by this level of interference by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Global Breastfeeding Partners, comprising worldwide experts in infant and young child feeding and health, wish to support the Department of Health, Philippines. We reaffirm that use of infant formula is indeed a potential hazard to infant and young child health and development, and promotion of such foods undermines breastfeeding, putting their health at risk.

The Global Breastfeeding Partners, therefore, call upon the business sector to exercise restraint and also call upon various arms of the Government of the Philippines – Judiciary, Executive and Legislative – to carry out their duties independently and without any fear or favour to fulfill the right of the children of the Philippines to the best attainable standard of health.

Issued jointly by the Global Breastfeeding Partners of World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) in Penang, Malaysia, on 16 September 2006.

For more information, contact Dr Arun Gupta, MD, FIAP, Regional Coordinator, International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN). Fax: 91-11-734 3606. Email: arun@ibfan-asiapacific.org