

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 of WABA, 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. It is produced and edited by the Secretariat of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA).

Editorial Team: Julianna Lim Abdullah. Advisors: Sarah Amin and Susan Siew. Design and layout by Adrian Cheah, Neo Sentuhan Sdn Bhd

WABA

P.O. Box 1200, 10850 Penang, Malaysia
Tel: 604 6584816 Fax: 604 6572655
Email: waba@waba.org.my
Website: www.waba.org.my
www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org

Message from the Editor

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) 2009 took off with a big bang and at WABA, we were all extremely pleased at the uptake of this year's theme which puts the spotlight on breastfeeding during emergencies and emergency preparedness.

More than 480 groups sent pledges to organise activities during WBW, with an estimate of a whopping 790 thousand participants taking part in the 500 events planned worldwide, and the numbers continue to grow with more and more WBW reports coming in. Apart from the pledged events, a virtual nurse-in was also organised by Mother's International Lactation Campaign (MILC) – the group behind "Hey Facebook, Breastfeeding is not obscene" on 1st August 2009, with 3,814 confirmed mothers taking part.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF and the International Pediatric Association continued to support WBW with letters of support. It was especially encouraging to see the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) and UNICEF TV producing WBW 2009 videos which are made available over the internet.

The success of WBW 2009 must be attributed to the IFE Core Group, especially the Emergencies Nutrition Network (ENN) and IBFAN-GIFA for their support in recommending the Emergencies theme at the Global Breastfeeding Partner's meeting and for being the lead contributors to develop the WBW 2009 resources.

Do visit our WBW website www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org for more stories on WBW. Although WBW is officially celebrated from 1-7 August annually to commemorate the Innocenti Declaration, there are still many countries that will be celebrating it from October up to December.

So for groups who have celebrated WBW and would like to receive a personalised special edition WBW 2009 Certificate, do visit our WBW website to find out more.

A big thank you to everyone for making WBW so special and wishing those who will be celebrating WBW in the last quarter of the year every success.

Julianna Lim Abdullah

Editor, e-WABALink & International WBW Coordinator



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Current News

Peru – overall champion for WABA WBW 2008 Marathon Events

Peru's Health Minister, Oscar Ugarte was given the honours of receiving the WABA WBW 2008 Overall Champion prize on behalf of Peru for his work on promoting breastfeeding in Peru. The WABA WBW 2008 Marathon celebrations event, attracted participation from more than 30 countries and Peru emerged the clear winner, winning 36 medals, 25 of them gold medals ahead of USA and India who were second and third respectively.



"We need all mothers to breastfeed their babies, because children under 2 years old fed with their mother's milk reduced their probabilities of dying of Acute Respiratory Infections by six times" said Ugarte. Peru's strong showing for the WBW Marathon Events was attributed to the strategies developed by the Peruvian Health Ministry along with other public and private institutions to promote breastfeeding.

According to Ugarte, the practice of breastfeeding has reached 73% of all Peruvian babies, which is a significant increase compared to the 25% registered a few years ago, but the goal is that all babies and children under 2 years of age can breastfeed as the best strategy to protect them from malnutrition and illnesses.

Source: <http://www.livinginperu.com>.

Ethiopia celebrates WBW for the first time this year

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) was celebrated in Ethiopia for the first time this year. The Ethiopian Federal Minister of Health, UNICEF, WHO and other partners joined more than 170 countries worldwide to mark the occasion.



"Ethiopia is joining the global commemoration of WBW in recognition of the critical role played by exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life for child survival and ending hunger and poverty," said Minister of Health, Dr Kebede Worku.

While breastfeeding is almost universally practiced in Ethiopia, appropriate breastfeeding practices are not always followed. About one third of babies do not receive breastfeeding within the first hour of birth and only half are exclusively breastfed for 6 months.

At the launching, the cultural misconceptions and malpractices regarding breastfeeding such as giving goats' milk and other traditional herbs before giving breastmilk to the baby were mentioned.

Forty thousand umbrellas conveying messages on breastfeeding were distributed to spread the word throughout Ethiopia.

Renowned Ethiopian singer and mother of two, Zeritu Kebede, is contributing to public service announcements and billboards promoting breastfeeding.

Throughout the week, the importance of early initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding for six months were promoted via different media advocacy including radio, television, billboards, flyers, SMS messages and televised panel discussion.

Source: http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/ethiopia_50731.html
<http://www.africafirst.com/stories/printable/200908070744.html>

World Breastfeeding Week addressed during United Nations briefing

This statement was attributed to the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon concerning World Breastfeeding Week which was made during the regular scheduled press briefing at the end of July 2009.

World Breastfeeding Week will start tomorrow. This year's theme stresses the importance of breastfeeding as a lifesaving intervention, especially during emergencies.

In a statement, World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Director Margaret Chan says that, in all situations, the best way of preventing malnutrition and mortality among infants and young children is to ensure that they start breastfeeding within one hour of birth. She added that they should breastfeed exclusively until six months of age and continue breastfeeding with complementary foods up to two years and beyond. WHO adds that emergency preparedness plans should include the training of health workers to support mothers during emergencies.

Source: <http://www.examiner.com>

"Breastfeeding saved my daughter from H1N1" says breastfeeding mum

A breastfeeding mother who contracted H1N1 together with her husband and their eldest daughter, believes her youngest child was spared the virus because she was breastfed.

Rosemarie Azzopardi of Malta said that when she got sick and took antiviral drugs she decided to keep breastfeeding her two and a half year old daughter and that way transmitted the immunity to the child.

Speaking at a press conference on H1N1 in Malta, Allen said "people sometimes pass comments because I still breastfeed but this way, I helped my daughter who falls within the vulnerable group of potential H1N1 victims".

Ray Busuttill, the Maltese director general for health said "breastfeeding should not stop if a mother contracts H1N1. Although the child is still at risk, just like everyone else, the breastmilk gives the baby stronger immunity to the H1N1 virus".

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20090718/local/breastfeeding.html>

China lagging behind global breastfeeding targets

China is still lagging behind national and global breastfeeding targets health experts say. Approximately only 20 percent of mothers in China breastfeed their infants for at least 6 months.

According to a recent study, urban mothers are more likely to cease breastfeeding earlier than their rural counterparts. According to Yin Shi'an, a researcher with the Nutrition and Food Safety Institute of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a study of 2160 Chinese infants, between 1998 and 2004, showed that breastfeeding could help with the development of the neural system and dramatically lower the rate of infant eczema.

Despite years of effort to raise public awareness and to create "baby-friendly" hospitals, the average rate of breastfeeding in China remains low, Yin said. China's national action plan for children's development issued in 2001 proposed a recommended breastfeeding rate among infants of four months or younger to be at 85 percent or higher.

In recent years, breastfeeding rates have dropped even further in some areas, largely because of women's ignorance and aggressive promotion of baby formula products.

Ren Yuwen, a La Leche League leader says that almost all advertisements in China for baby formula products mislead young mothers, through exaggerations for promotion of products which supposedly make babies "smarter" and "healthier".

Experts say that health education about breastfeeding should be intensified among the public while workplaces should provide friendly environments for new mothers to breastfeed babies.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/content_11848906.htm



New York State Senate passes bill of rights for breastfeeding mothers

New York State Senate has passed the Breastfeeding Mother's Bill of Rights. This good news comes just days after new research from the Women's Health Initiative, a long-term study of 140,000 women, indicated clear health benefits relating to breastfeeding for the mother and the newborn.

This legislation is based on the recognition that many women forego the option of breastfeeding their child, despite health and economic implications of using formula. Often times women who forego breastfeeding are those who can least afford it – low income women, whose child was often placed on formula shortly after birth, without their knowing. Once a newborn has adapted to formula, it is nearly impossible to switch to breastfeeding.

The legislation is designed to be educational, so that every new mother can make a fully informed decision. The Breastfeeding Mother's Bill of Rights requires new mothers to be informed of breastfeeding options before they deliver while in the maternal healthcare facility as well as after leaving the facility. In addition it bans commercial interests (formula providers) from pressuring new mothers while in maternal facilities. Mothers have a right to refuse any product samples or take-home packets of formula.

The Senate says that too many mothers are pressured out of breastfeeding because of information they receive from formula companies – despite the health and economic benefits that breastfeeding provides.

The bill is now awaiting further action by the state's Governor.

Source: <http://www.empirestate.net/News/20090718-8.html>

Image of Angelina Jolie breastfeeding immortalised in bronze



In honour of WBW, sculptor Daniel Edwards unveiled a park bench bronze statue of a breastfeeding Angelina Jolie in Oklahoma, USA, saying he was inspired by breastfeeding photos of her taken by her boyfriend Brad Pitt for the cover of W magazine. Edwards molded a life-size sculpture of Jolie with infants breastfeeding at each of her breasts.

Calling his artwork "Landmark for Breastfeeding", Edwards says he wanted to do a public breastfeeding sculpture and chose the Jolie-Pitt clan because "they manage to represent something that no other celebrity couple represents". According to Edwards, his new work is meant to raise global awareness on breastfeeding and encourage women to breastfeed in public.

The statue is scheduled to go on display in London's West End after its Oklahoma debut.

Source: <http://www.examiner.com>

Current News

The New Right for Food and Nutrition WATCH 2009

WABA is pleased to announce the release of the new issue of the *Right to Food and Nutrition WATCH*. This year's edition focuses on the question of "Who controls the governance of the world food system?" – a burning issue in light of the current World Food Crisis.

The WATCH, available in three languages, is a common endeavour of a Consortium of human rights organizations, social movements and development agencies. The Consortium for the WATCH 2009 is composed by Brot für die Welt, the Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) and FIAN as publishers, and World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), People's Health Movement (PHM), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), DanChurchAid, Rights and Democracy, Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos Democracia y Desarrollo (PIDHDD), and African Right to Food Network as partners.



The WATCH is scheduled to be launched during World Food Week, 12-16 October 2009 and will be available on the FIAN website at <http://www.fian.org/resources/documents/rtnf-watch>

News of Core Partners

WABA is happy to note that all of its Core Partners, namely Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), La Leche League International and Wellstart International have joined us in celebrating this year's WBW. Do visit their respective websites for more news about their WBW celebrations. Or alternatively visit the WBW website www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org and look under WABA's Core Partners Celebrate WBW for the links.



ABM also celebrated WBW by encouraging physicians around the world to sign the ABM/WABA Physician's Pledge to Protect, Promote and Support breastfeeding. To sign the ABM/WABA Physicians Pledge please visit <http://www.bfmed.org/Media/Files/Documents/pdf/WBW%20Physician%20Pledge.pdf>



News of Core Partners



Happy 30th Birthday IBFAN and GIFA!

International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) and the Geneva Infant Feeding Association (GIFA) will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary on 12 October 2009. To mark the occasion, a special celebration entitled **Babies before Business: Challenges Ahead** will be held in Geneva with the launching of the global Breastfeeding Initiative for Child Survival (gBICS).

The WABA family would like convey our heartiest congratulations to IBFAN and GIFA.



World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi)

World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) is an innovative initiative for the tracking, assessing and monitoring the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding (GSIYCF) in response to the global need for focus on infant nutrition and survival. WBTi is a participatory initiative, which seeks to involve all partners including government and NGOs. The participants together discuss, collect information, analyze the findings, locate gaps, and take action based on the results. In the process, the participants develop networking skills, investigative techniques and monitoring and reporting methods. WBTi is being implemented by IBFAN as an integral part of the project “global Breastfeeding Initiative for Child Survival (gBICS)” partnership with NORAD. This project is also done in partnership with SIDA through a WABA coordinated programme “Global Proposal for Coordinated Action of IBFAN And WABA: Protecting, Promoting and Supporting Breastfeeding through Human Rights and Gender Equality”. IBFAN Asia has taken lead in the development and capacity building of WBTi.

The WBTi uses the methodology and philosophy of Global Participatory Action Research (GLOPAR) developed and promoted by WABA in 1993 to track 4 targets set by the Innocenti Declaration of 1990. The WBTi is an extension of GLOPAR as it also tracks additional targets set by the GSIYCF. The World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2003 provided “Infant and Young Child Feeding: A tool for assessing national practices, policies and programmes”. The WBTi has used the questionnaire and other materials from the WHO’s tool and has been adapted it based on feedback from countries in all regions.

The present phase of the WBTi was launched in July 2008. So far, it has been rolled out in 51 countries across the globe. IBFAN Asia, the global coordinating centre for the initiative, facilitated regional trainings to country representatives in South Asia, South East Asia, East Asia, Africa and Latin and Central America. 31 countries have already submitted the reports after undertaking country assessments. 16 reports have been uploaded on the WBTi website (<http://www.worldbreastfeedingtrends.org/documents.php>). Other reports are at various stages of completion.

In addition to documenting the status of the national programmes and policies on infant and young child feeding, the process has given an opportunity for the stakeholders to come together at national level and forge alliances to enhance their advocacy efforts to protect, promote and support breastfeeding.

Submitted by JP Dadhich,
IBFAN Asia Pacific.



ILCA commends IBLCE decision on CERPs for manufacturers covered by Code

The ILCA Board of Directors commends the IBLCE Board for its decision, announced 25 June 2009, that it will no longer accept for CERPs approval educational programs sponsored by Medela, or any other commercial entity manufacturing products falling under the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. IBLCE is “committed to removing any possible perception of influence by industry on professional education for its certificants”. The conclusions drawn by the IBLCE task force which studied this issue send a prominent message that education for health care providers can be offered without commercial influence. The statement in full may be found at http://www.iblce.org/documentsNEW/CommSponStatement_06.23.09.pdf

ABM/WABA Scholarship Programme

The Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) and WABA have signed a Scholarship Agreement for 5 years from 2009 to 2013. The Scholarship Program was initiated to encourage more physicians from developing countries to join ABM and help further “globalise” the ABM membership, and to increase physicians’ involvement in WABA.

This is part of WABA’s advocacy role to increase core partner relations, as well as to increase the synergy of the organizational activities for the improvement of breastfeeding practices worldwide.

News from Task Forces, Regional Focal Points and Working Groups



News from Mother Support Task Force Global E-Map

The WABA Mother Support Task Force has excellent news to share! The construction of the electronic map on mother support groups and contacts is now up and running on the WABA website <http://www.waba.org.my/whatwedo/gims/emap.htm>. As of August 2009, the Global E-Map consists of 120 contact points from 53 countries and the numbers continue to grow.



This activity was proposed at the 2007 LLLI/WABA Summit on the State of the Art of Mother Support. The Summit goals included:

to expand the awareness of the need for mothers to be supported in breastfeeding; to disseminate updated information about support for breastfeeding mothers, and to develop a global project, collaborative in nature, to promote, expand and address the need for support for the breastfeeding mother. The Summit was held on July 17, 18 and 19, 2007 in Chicago Illinois, USA.

The e-map became a reality, due to the technical ability of Sam Sh'ng Sh'ng, WABA's new webmaster, the constant support of Julianna Lim Abdullah, Senior Coordinator, Mother, Father and Community Support programme in Penang, Malaysia and the Mother Support Task Force Coordinators, Paulina Smith, Rebecca Magalhães and Prashant Gangal for their hard work, dedication and perseverance to see this project through. It is wonderful to see how, as usual, a dream can be turned into reality through encouragement, endurance, and confidence in the end result, good teamwork.

Mothers or others interested in knowing about mother support or needing information about mother support will be able to look on the map and find mother support organizations or related contacts in the location of their need. They will be able to access an area/province/ state/division in a given country and find the information. With one or two clicks the needed information will be selected and mothers can access the support they need and deserve.

The Mother Support Task Force would like to invite the readers of e-WABALink to share this information with all their contacts and encourage Mother Support groups around the world to join this Global E-Map on Mother Support.

WABA North America (WABA-NA)

As the WABA Regional Focal Point for North America (RFP), and also a Core Partner, La Leche League International (LLLI) initiated, coordinated and facilitated two meetings, one in 2008 and one in 2009 that gathered together representatives from regional organisations and relevant individuals to structure the activities and objectives of the WABA Region of North America. The first meeting was held at the LLLI office in Schaumburg, Illinois, USA, June 27-28, 2008, with 12 individuals attending, representing organisations in Canada, USA and Mexico. The technique of open space was used to guide the identification and selection of regional issues that impact on breastfeeding. Attendees chose an issue and small groups discussed the various aspects of each topic. One group brainstormed various ideas for developing an organisational framework for the North America region, with participants resolving to hold a follow-up meeting to further explore the formation of WABA-North America.

The subsequent, follow up meeting, called the WABA-NA II Meeting, was held in Greensboro, North Carolina, March 27-29, 2009. This meeting was jointly planned by LLLI and the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute, represented by Miriam Labbok. In attendance were 25 persons, representing the 3 countries in North America (Mexico, Canada, and the USA) including Sarah Amin, WABA Co-Director from the WABA Secretariat in Malaysia. Agreement was reached on the name "WABA-NA," to be spelled out officially as WABA North America, WABA Amérique du Nord, WABA Norte América.

Attendees divided into the following working groups for the purpose of planning next action steps:

- 1) Communications Group to set up a WABA-NA electronic communications system;
- 2) Gender Group to examine the intersection of breastfeeding, social justice and feminism;
- 3) Code Group to look for ways of implementing the International Code and subsequent WHA resolutions;
- 4) Milk and Nurture Group to discuss the value of human milk vs. breastfeeding as emotional nurturing.

Attendees also discussed the WABA Global Forum 3, to be held in Quebec City in June 2010, with the hope that this region could be instrumental in not only promoting the event, but contributing to its program and success. It was resolved that the next meeting for WABA-NA would be held in conjunction with the Global Forum 3.

Contributed by: Rebecca Magalhães, WABA Regional Focal Point, North America.

Editors Note: WABA Global Forum 3 is now formally cancelled. Information with regards to the next WABA-NA III meeting will be shared with e-WABALink readers once a decision is taken.

Research Update: Building a place for fathers as an ally for breastfeeding

Building a place for the father as an ally for breast feeding

Cleide M. Pontes, Mônica M. Osório, Aline C. Alexandrino Ph.D
Midwifery, 2009 Apr;25(2):195-202. Epub 2007 Apr 23.

The objective of this qualitative and exploratory study, supported by the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil, was to analyse the opinions of men and women on the father's participation in breastfeeding. Data were collected at three discussion groups (public events) that answered the following questions: which meanings and feelings are related to father's involvement in breastfeeding? Which factors help or obstruct the act of breast feeding? How do fathers participate in breastfeeding? The man as an ally in breastfeeding process: is that the question?. The participants were 11 men and nine women. Of the men, two had more than one child and five had babies who were being breastfed. Among the women, all were mothers and three were breastfeeding. The main findings of this study were four themes that emerged from the performed analysis, which was also based in the historical, social and cultural process of fatherhood:

- 1) involvement in the pregnancy-puerperal cycle;
- 2) feelings and meanings of breastfeeding;
- 3) meanings of breastfeeding in public;
- 4) ways to include father in the breastfeeding process.

News from Task Forces, Regional Focal Points and Working Groups

WABA MSTF e-newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 2, 2009

WABA Mother Support Task Force (MSTF) e-newsletter is produced 3 times a year in 4 languages – English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

The latest issue is now available at <http://www.waba.org.my/whatwedo/gims/english.htm>

To subscribe: send an email to gims_gifs@yahoo.com and state your language preference.

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The key conclusions and implications for practice are as follows: fathers participating in breastfeeding considered it to be a brief period in the process of fatherhood. Behaviours of ambivalence, conflict, exclusion, insecurity and concern towards breastfeeding were revealed. There was a perception of the nursing mother as a sexless being. However, the participants also suggested ways of including fathers in the process of breastfeeding. According to the participants, they could:

- 1) provide a favourable environment for the mother and baby;
- 2) participate more during pregnancy and birth;
- 3) help with domestic chores;
- 4) develop parenthood; and
- 5) be present during breastfeeding.

These suggestions may function as foundations for health staff to develop programmes, in order to involve fathers in breastfeeding. This could result in a contribution to improve the practice and duration of that process.

Amal Omer-Salim, Coordinator, WABA Research Task Force, comments “an interesting qualitative study that exposes some of the normative perceptions and emotions of fathers vis a vis breastfeeding and reinforces earlier research that breastfeeding is about much more than just nutrition.”

Introducing WABA Health Care Practices Task Force

The WABA Health Care Practices Task Force is now being helmed by Marina Rea as Coordinator, and co-coordinated by Asha Benakappa and Rae Davies.

Dr. Marina Rea

graduated with a medical degree from the University of Sao Paulo in 1972 and subsequently obtained her Masters degree and Ph.D. in Preventive Medicine with a thesis on infant feeding policies and breastfeeding promotion.

She is currently a Senior Researcher with the Institute of Health in Brazil, a position she has held since 1994 and also a Consultant with the Brazilian Ministry of Health (National Breastfeeding Committee), WHO and UNICEF. Dr Marina was a former WHO Medical Officer in Geneva, responsible for breastfeeding implementation. She has been a collaborative professor of the University of Sao Paulo and University of Campinas, responsible for teaching post-graduate students and advises students on thesis related to “breastfeeding and infant feeding”. Marina Rea is a co-founder and member of international coordination and advisor for Brazil, Latin America and Caribbean of IBFAN. She was the Research Task Force Coordinator of WABA from 1994-1998 and since 2009 is coordinator of the WABA Task Force on Health Care Practices.



Dr. Asha Doddamane Benakappa

is presently working as Professor of Pediatrics in Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute Bangalore with twenty five years of teaching experience. Dr Asha has been a founder trustee of the lactation helpline, which is one of its kind in the country. She



has been a life member of Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) since its inception and has received the BPNI World Breastfeeding Week Award nine times.

She is an important member of Government of Karnataka in various capacities; resource person, subject expert, trainer of trainers for Government/NGO and programs of national importance like the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness and programs under the National Rural Health Mission. She is a fellow of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics and is now a co-coordinator of the WABA Health Care Practices Task Force (March 2009 -2010). Her thesis for her postgraduate hospital administration course “*Staffing of labor wards with special emphasis to birthing attendants*” was very much appreciated. She has conducted more than 2000 workshops on breastfeeding across all categories of health care functionaries and mothers. She was responsible for the Bangalore city corporation maternity home being certified as Baby-Friendly by UNICEF. She has written several books, articles, and conducted television shows mainly on breastfeeding. Her areas of interests have been promotion of breastfeeding through traditional art forms and the demystification of medicine to the layperson. Recently she won an award from WABA in the WBW 2009 photo contest.

For over thirty years **Rae Davies**

has worked in health promotion focusing primarily on childbearing families during pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding. She provides training programs for childbirth educators, doulas, nurses, and midwives, and has presented nationally and internationally on mother and baby-friendly care. Rae is the Administrative Director for the International MotherBaby Childbirth Organization (IMBCO). IMBCO created the International MotherBaby Childbirth Initiative that promotes Ten Steps to achieving optimal maternity care.



Cancellation of WABA Global Forum 3, Canada 2010

WABA with regret has to announce that due to funding constraints, it is not able to hold its 3rd Global Forum in Quebec City, Canada. Information on a possible alternative event will be made known later in the year after the WABA Steering Committee Meeting in October 2009. ASPQ will continue to hold its National Congress on perinatalty, with the theme "Birthing the World", in Quebec City, June 2010. Details on the National Congress will be available from ASPQ soon.



Results of the WABA Steering Committee Election 2009

On 29 July 2009, the WABA election vote counting process was officiated and certified by a legal officer and WABA's auditor, and witnessed by WABA Co-Directors at the WABA office

The following (for the Global position and the Asia-Pacific position) received the highest votes and are duly elected to serve from 1st January 2010 for a period of 3 years:

- Global Steering Committee position – Dr Audrey Naylor
- Asia-Pacific Steering Committee position – Dr Arun Gupta

As for the Europe position, Felicity Savage was the only (and uncontested) nominee and therefore elected for the Europe Steering Committee position.

The WABA Secretariat would like to congratulate the elected members and, also thank all those who participated in the process as candidates and nominators.

Protecting, Promoting and Supporting Continued Breastfeeding from 6 - 24 + Months: Issues, Politics, Policies and Action

Joint statement based on a workshop of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) Global Breastfeeding Partners Meeting (GBPM) VII in Penang, Malaysia, October 2008.

The Joint Statement on Continued Breastfeeding was produced following the WABA GBPM in October 2008 in response to shared concerns that breastfeeding after 6 months has slipped off the international policies and programme agenda. Action and investment in improving complementary feeding or providing foods supplements seems to be taking place with little consideration for supporting or improving breastfeeding amongst 6 < 24+ month old children, despite estimates that 20% of deaths in 12 < 24 month age group in developing countries are due to lack of breastfeeding. The Statement calls upon everyone involved in improving the health and development of infants and young children to take steps to ensure that continued breastfeeding 6-24+ months is protected, promoted and supported as the precondition for, and foundation of, appropriate complementary feeding. Steps for action encompassing communication, education and promotion; practical support; breastfeeding as part of complementary feeding; definitions and monitoring; addressing misinformation through marketing and special circumstances are described. The statement is available at the WABA website - http://www.waba.org.my/pdf/gbpm_statement_June09.pdf.



WABA HIV and Infant Feeding Resource Kit

The new WABA "HIV and Infant Feeding Resource Kit" is currently being reviewed by members of the WABA General Assembly and also individuals with experience in the topic. The Kit is written by Genevieve Becker, with assistance from Felicity Savage. It is based on the evidence available at the time of writing, May-June 2009. The Kit is designed to provide the basics of scientific evidence, policy and practice for non-specialist workers and groups who are faced with this very difficult issue, and who need an accessible but authoritative source of the information that they require for community and advocacy work. A draft WABA HIV is written in simple and concise language with the aim of helping breastfeeding activists and advocates and health workers who may not have special training in the subject.

In addition, WHO and UNICEF will be issuing new recommendations in October - November on HIV and Infant Feeding. The new recommendations will also be incorporated accordingly into the final version of the Kit.



Red Ribbon and Golden Bow pins available for sale. Please contact the WABA Secretariat at info@waba.org.my for more information.

Red Ribbon and the Golden Bow

THE RED RIBBON MEANS...
The global response and solidarity with people living with HIV

- Red like love towards those affected
- Red like blood, the sufferings AIDS caused
- Red like the anger that makes us take action
- Red as a warning not to ignore HIV and AIDS

THE GOLDEN BOW MEANS...
Breastfeeding is the gold standard for infant feeding

- One loop is the mother and the other the child
- Knot shows supporting father, family and society
- One bow-end says 6-month exclusive breastfeeding
- The other end is for birth spacing

Together it means responsiveness and support for women, mothers, girls and babies for survival, food security, better reproductive health, gender equity and community support:

- to live with dignity and equality
- to safe sexual and reproductive health services
- to access user-friendly & affordable prevention & treatment
- to safe and healthy motherhood for all

WABA WORLD ALLIANCE FOR BREASTFEEDING ACTION
www.waba.org.my/hiv

ATHENA NETWORK
www.athenainnetwork.org

The WABA-FIAN Joint Gender Training Workshop, India



WABA organised its sixth Gender Training Workshop first time jointly with the Food First Information Action Network (FIAN) in New Delhi on 6-9 July 2009.



The main goal of this workshop was to increase gender awareness and sensitivity among participants involved in breastfeeding promotion and right to food issues, especially men. Another goal was to help participants initiate planning of a gender sensitive project for breastfeeding promotion and right to food. There were 24 participants from 13 countries: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, France, Germany-Brazil, Guatemala, India, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Switzerland, Uganda and Zimbabwe in Africa, Arab world, Asia, Europe, Latin America. There were nine men and 15 women participants, out of which 11 were from FIAN.

The main trainers were Ms Renu Khanna from India and Mr. Paul Sinnappan from Malaysia. Sarah Amin (WABA), Lakshmi Menon (WABA) and Flavio Valente (FIAN) were facilitators and resource persons for selected sessions of the workshop. Participatory training methodologies such as work exercises, games, group discussions and presentations, role plays, case studies and experience sharing by participants were used through out the workshop.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the keynote address entitled "Biodiversity, Gender, First Food, and Food First" from Dr Vandana Shiva of Navdanya. Dr. Shiva pointed out that breastfeeding is considered primitive but it is perennial and as permanent as human life. Breastfeeding is a biological function yet patriarchy and patriarchal feminism is trying to escape biology, which results in denial of living biosphere and life cycle.

It was very fulfilling to note that most participants expressed that their expectations had been met. This workshop provided many useful major learning such as gender concepts, gender analysis and its intersection with food rights and breastfeeding issues. As a closure, the participants committed to see changes in their personal and professional lives with regards to the knowledge gained from this workshop.

Contributed by Revathi Ramachandran,
Coordinator, Gender and Women & Work, WABA

ABRÁZAME

*Abrázame,
Porque tengo frío
Y quiero recordar el abrigo de
tu vientre*

*Abrázame,
Porque tengo hambre
Y quiero saber a qué sabe la
gloria*

*Abrázame,
Porque tengo sueño
Y quiero sentir otra vez la paz
y quietud*

*Abrázame,
Porque quiero mirarte
Y en tus ojos ver al mundo que
me espera*

*Abrázame,
Porque quiero olerte
Y que tu aroma me acompañe
siempre*

*Abrázame
Porque tengo miedo
Y quiero que me enseñes a no
tenerlo*

*Abrázame
Porque pronto yo seré quien
te abraza
Y recordaré que fuiste tú
quien primero me amó*

Dra Linda Arturo Delgado
Quito-Ecuador
Photos: Archivos del Banco de
Leche, HGOIA; Danilo Vallejo



WABA. P.O. Box 1200,
10850 Penang, Malaysia
TEL: +604-658 4816
FAX: +604-657 2655
EMAIL: waba@waba.org.my
WEBSITE: www.waba.org.my
www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org

WABA is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide based on the Innocenti Declarations, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. Its core partners are International Baby Action Food Network (IBFAN), La Leche League International (LLLI), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), Wellstart International, and Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM). WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).