

Personal Note of Dr. JP Dadhich, MBBS,MD(Pediatrics),FNNF,PGDDN

I am presenting myself as a candidate from Asia Pacific region for the WABA steering committee elections 2012. Given a chance to serve in the WABA steering committee, I will strive hard to fulfill the cherished goal of protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding keeping the Innocenti declaration and the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding in centre.

My journey as a breastfeeding advocate

I am a Pediatrician based in Delhi (India). I am part of the breastfeeding movement since 1992, when I joined Breastfeeding Promotion network of India (BPNI) after attending the 1st Human Lactation Management Training course organized by BPNI. Initially, from 1992 till 2003, I participated in BPNI activities as volunteer by contributing in conducting trainings, editing BPNI bulletin and other documents, coordinating research, coordinating World Breastfeeding Week activities and organizing symposiums, seminars and conferences, including the Asia-Pacific Conference on Breastfeeding in the year 2003 (Programme coordinator and a core member of the organizing committee).

In 2004, I started giving dedicated time to the BPNI office looking after research, interventions and HIV and Infant feeding. My association with BPNI gradually increased over the last 7 years. In 2009, I left my pediatric and neonatology practice and joined BPNI full time as the National Coordinator. I am looking after office administration, networking with government agencies and other partners, representing BPNI in national and international forums, coordinating trainings, supervising and conducting research etc. I represent BPNI in The global Breastfeeding Initiative for Child Survival (gBICS) core group and contribute regularly in its discussions, meetings, reporting and activities.

BPNI being the regional coordinating office for IBFAN Asia, I am contributing to IBFAN activities significantly which includes coordinating and implementing the World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) programme including trainings in different regions like Africa, Franco phonic Africa, South Asia, Arab World, Oceania and Timor-Leste and mobilizing countries to undertake the assessment of policies and programmes on IYCF; coordinating organizing and programme development of the One Asia Breastfeeding Partner's Forum in 2005 in Nepal, 2006 in Afghanistan, 2007 in India, 2008 in Bhutan, 2009 in Sri Lanka, 2010 in Indonesia and 2011 in Mongolia (The Forum was titled South Asia Forum till 2008); coordinating IBFAN Asia HIV and breastfeeding programmes which includes dissemination of information, developing position statements, developing resource material etc..

My association with WABA

Presently, I am the Coordinator for the Global Advocacy Taskforce of WABA along with Patti Rundall and also coordinating work in BPNI as the South Asia Regional Focal Point for WABA.

My association with WABA dates back to 1996 when I participated in the first WABA Global Forum in Bangkok, Thailand as a representative of BPNI. Since then, I have been associated with WABA through various activities including

- Participating in the training workshop on "Gender issues in breastfeeding" at Penang, 2004
- Representing WABA in 10th International Women's Health Meet (IWHM), in 2005 in New Delhi and speaking on Meeting the challenge of infant feeding in the context of HIV
- Coordinating research on Rapid Assessment of HIV and Infant Feeding in 5 Asian Countries in 2005
- Participating as a resource person in the conference *Gender, Child Survival and HIV/AIDS: From Evidence to Policy* May 2006 in Toronto
- Coordinating holding of The WABA-BPNI Joint Gender Training Workshop in New Delhi in 2007
- Contributing articles and info in e-WABALink
- Representing WABA in the Asian regional seminar on Millennium Development Goals organized by FIAN and speaking on Campaigns demanding the right to food for infants and children, and women – Breastfeeding in New Delhi in July 2009
- Participating as a resource person in the WABA Global Breastfeeding Partners Forum in October 2010.

JP Dadhich