

World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action

Issue 26 & 27 • October 2001

WABA Global Forum 2 is on!

23-27 September 2002 Arusha, Tanzania Nurturing the Future: Challenges to Breastfeeding in the 21st Century

The Forum aims to provide a platform for discussions on methods of research, capacity building and popular mobilisation to improve infant and young child health, nutrition and care.

* * *

Global Breastfeeding Partners Meeting

The Global Breastfeeding Partners Meeting was held in Salvador, Brazil on 23-25 July 2001, involving 36 participants from 21 countries. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the Ten Critical Areas for Action as a way ahead for the breastfeeding movement.

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Celebrating WBW in the Information Age

Breastfeeding, along with many other decisions about parenting and lifestyles, requires the opportunity to make informed decisions. Over the years, our sources of information have radically changed and expanded. For World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) 2001, groups around the world adopted various communication techniques in sending across the message of *Breastfeeding in the Information Age*. Here is the initial report of the celebration.

ASIA and the PACIFIC



In the **Philippines**, the *Pantomime Mums* was ARUGAAN's new medium of portraying breastfeeding issues. They had performances in seven private and public hospitals and in women and health fora. The 10-minute creative presentation, reinforced by pop music and colourful props, drew the crowd's attention. It was proved to be an effective and entertaining way to communicate the breastfeeding agenda.

WBW in **Malaysia** was launched in its capital Kuala Lumpur by the Deputy Minister of Health on 3 August. Several national forums on breastfeeding were conducted during the week by government departments, hospitals as well as the Breastfeeding Advisory and Lactation Consultant Association of Malaysia (PPPLM). Talks, quizzes, debates, exhibitions and information counters were also carried out in hospitals, schools and factories throughout the country, even beyond the first week of August. News were covered in mass media. A series of materials in the national language such as the action folder and activity book were also produced.

In Bangkok, **Thailand**, the Infant Feeding Support Group organised a walk rally and a show in a shopping mall. For teenagers, a writing contest on the them*e* was carried out. They also provided information to the mass media.

continued on page 4...



Women & Work

A milestone for Bangladesh!

The Government of Bangladesh has approved 4 months paid maternity leave. Congratulations! However, they did not grant other demands for creches, breastfeeding breaks and privacy for expressing breastmilk at the workplace.

Malaysia call to support breastfeeding at workplaces

The Human Resources Ministry will discuss with the Women and Family Development Ministry and Finance Ministry to introduce incentives to encourage the private sector to set up childcare centres. The National Unity and Social Development Ministry is also studying the Creche Act 1984 to make creches a compulsory feature at workplaces.

The Malaysian Trades Union Congress urged the Government and employers to recognise the ILO Convention No. 183, allowing women workers to breastfeed during working hours. This was said at the launching of two books in Malay language aimed to provide guidelines to help working mothers to breastfeed, organised by the Breastfeeding Advisory and Lactation Consultant Association of Malaysia in September.

ARUGAAN ties with trade union

In the Philippines, fourteen representives from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions - Asia-

Pacific, visited ARUGAAN's creche-daycare centre at the workplace in Philippines Information Agency as part of a follow-up to the ILO Convention 183 Seminar for Southeast Asia held in June. Ines Fernandez of ARUGAAN orientated the delegates on the Maternity Protection Coalition C-183. She later presented the global Maternity Protection Campaign to the representatives. Ines (left) with union members



Australian university breaks conventional maternity leave

The Australian Catholic University's (ACU) bold decision to give new mothers 12 weeks off at full pay followed by 40 weeks' leave on 60 percent pay has created some positive responses in Australia. The deal also takes in the primary carer of newly adopted children and gives fathers who are not primary carers three weeks paid leave.

The National Tertiary Education Union in Australia has signalled it will push beyond the standard maternity entitlement of 12 weeks' paid leave and particularly trying to firm up greater entitlements to paternity leave. Hailing it as an unexpected breakthrough, the Australian

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Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) said the terms were way beyond any condition set in Australia. "If we could achieve the 14 weeks' paid maternity leave over the next couple of years for all working women, that in itself would be significant," said its president Sharan Burrow. Australian Employers' Federation director Garry Brack said, "The agreement was magnificent but beyond the capacity of most other employers." The community needed to examine whether maternity leave should be paid for by the nation rather than employers, he added.

Source: Asian Women Online <www.asianwomenonline.com>



Research

Breastmilk offers twice the antioxidant protection of formula

Breastmilk, even from mothers who deliver prematurely, contains twice the levels of antioxidants as commercial formula, according to a study presented at the Experimental Biology 2001 meeting in Orlando, USA.

Dr. James Friel of Memorial University in St. John's in Newfoundland compared milk between 28 women who had preterm deliveries and 17 women who delivered at full term at weeks 1, 2, and 12. All milk samples are exposed to high levels of free radicals to test the antioxidant protection potency. He found no difference in the antioxidant protection level from week to week and between the breastmilk of mothers of premature babies and the mothers of full-term babies. In an attempt to enhance breastmilk by fortifying it with more antioxidant enzymes, Dr. Friel found that the antioxidant protection of breastmilk did not increase. He concluded that it is difficult to improve nature.

Source: Reuters Health



HIV/AIDS

The International Conference on Global Strategies for Prevention of Mother-to-Infant HIV Transmission

Held in Kampala, Uganda from 9-13 September 2001, the conference was attended by 700 experts from 52 countries. It was the first time the biennial conference was held in a developing country. Breastfeeding and universal nevirapine treatment of pregnant women were among the issues featured highly in the debates and discussions.

US\$2.5 million enough to reduce HIV infection of world's babies

It would cost just US\$2.5 million worth of drugs to significantly reduce HIV infection of unborn babies across the world, the AIDS conference in Kampala heard. The statement called on governments of developed countries to

negotiate donations and discounts from pharmaceutical companies who make antiretroviral drugs and diagnostics. Steps should be taken to ensure funds designated for health care are utilised for their intended purpose.

Dr. Arthur Ammamm, who is the president of Global Strategies for HIV Prevention, explained this figure was obtained by taking into consideration the number of HIV-positive pregnant women estimated worldwide, the average transmission rate of 20 percent and an estimated discounted price of Nevaripine of 80 cents. "In 1997, many people in developing countries said that it was fantastic news about AZT. But it was unaffordable. We wanted to make the point that the cost of the drugs wasn't the issue," he was quoted as saying.

There were 1.2 million HIV-infected children alive and about 1,800 babies infected with the virus every day - the majority found in sub-Saharan Africa. Around 30 percent of babies born to HIV positive mothers contract the virus, which can be transmitted in breastmilk and in the uterus, but by far the highest number of infections come about during birth, according to the report.

Honour for 4 countries combating HIV

For their courage in moving forward in HIV prevention, four countries were honoured at the opening ceremony of the conference in Kampala. Thailand, Botswana, Brazil and Uganda clearly demonstrated to the world that countrywide implementation of HIV prevention strategies is possible, even in resource poor countries. Accepting on behalf of Botswana, Minister Joy Phumaphi, said of their efforts in establishing PMTCT centres that "...we are only doing what is our responsibility in responding to our children's needs."

To breastfeed, or not to breastfeed

UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said that the choice for HIV-positive women to either breastfeed their babies or use formula milk was the mother's decision. Bellamy acknowledged the issue was "complex", but "I think its critical to understand that breastfeeding is still the most important thing a mother can do for her new born child". She added that only about a third of pregnant women have the possibility of being infected and out of that, only a third will pass on the virus to their babies. "So the issue is not to turn away from breastfeeding - if we were to do that we'd probably be killing more babies - but to understand that in some cases women would choose not to breastfeed," she said.

WABA would add that of the babies who do receive HIV from their mothers, only about 2 is from breastfeeding (This would probably be much less if mothers were informed and supported to breastfeed exclusively). Thus all the negative attention on HIV being transmitted through breastmilk only applies to the less than one persent of African women who currently have access to voluntary counselling and testing for HIV. Of them, even in countries with a relatively high prevalence of HIV, only 2 of 2 of 2 could be helped through counselling on infant feeding alternatives.

For more information about the conference, visit www.globalstrategies.org/uganda/index.html and www.reliefweb.int



Code

IBFAN's monitoring used in ethical investment index

Some of the world's largest food and pharmaceutical companies have been excluded from the new FTSE4Good ('footsie for good') ethical investment index launched in July because they continue to violate the 1981 International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent, relevant Resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly. These include household names such as Nestlé, Abbott Ross, American Home Products (Wyeth), Mead-Johnson and NUMICO (Nutricia, Milupa, Cow&Gate), Meiji and Snow Brand. None appear on the lists published on the FTSE4Good website.

The companies were excluded under section eight of the criteria for social issues and stakeholder relations which states: "Companies must not have breached the infant formula manufacturing section of the International Code on Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes according to IBFAN."

FTSE4Good is an index for socially responsible investment designed by FTSE, one of the world's leading global index providers. It aims to facilitate investment in companies with good records of corporate social responsibility. Its selection criteria were developed in association with the Ethical Investment Research Service. UNICEF will receive donations from the profits generated by the index. Some ethical investment firms have already excluded violators of the Code and Resolutions from their portfolios.

Source: Baby Milk Action

Comedians boycott Perrier Awards

Top UK comedy performers and actors are calling for boycott of the 'prestigious' Nestlé Perrier Awards for Comedy at the Edinburgh Festival because of the controversy surrounding Nestlé's sales of powdered baby milk. The boycott began spontaneously following a newspaper interview given by comedian Rob Newman last July. Comedians are now in favour of a new, alternative, corporate-free 'Tap Water Award'. Winners are likely to receive taps and runners-up a glass of water.

Many celebrities including former winners Emma Thompson, Frank Skinner, Steve Coogan and the League of Gentlemen, joined Mr Newman in asking comedians neither to take part nor accept a Perrier award if nominated. Victoria Wood said, "Comedians can manage without the Perrier Award and the world should be able to manage without Perrier. No one has the right to corner the world's drinking supply."

Patti Rundall of Baby Milk Action said, "The boycott started spontaneously with no huge PR budget behind it. It has shown how much can be done with just the simple truth." Nestlé bought Perrier in 1992 and is one of its range of 12,000 products embroiled in disturbing global politics.

Source: Independent and Baby Milk Action

Elsewhere in India, the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) circulated their version of the WBW kit, containing colourful brochures, fact sheets, action ideas as well as sample letters to various authorities. Various Indian publications also carried the message of WBW 2001.

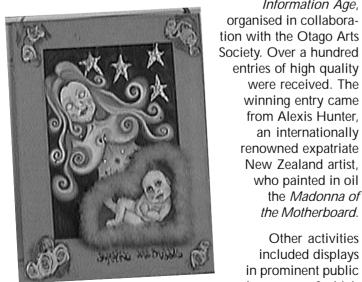
The Vardan Trust had also been active in their own way. Situated in the Dahod district of Gujarat, Vardan Trust arranged group meetings and awareness programmes in 7 villages where literacy rate is low. They also assessed the situation of and obstacles to breastfeeding. Some 60 affiliated local women's groups and school children also participated in WBW through rallies, posters and proverbs recitals.

In neighbouring state, the Rajasthan Breastfeeding Promotion Network covered all 32 districts and 50 million population in the State through its 30 active NGO members, with the support of UNICEF Rajasthan office and the State Government. Workshops, au-

dio-video spot for media, street play, puppet shows and E-magazine are some examples their activities. UNICEF Chief Dr. Satish Kumar released an audio cassette of 8 songs specially composed for WBW, produced by I-India. All major newspapers and media stations in Rajasthan covered the events.

In Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Plan Implementation translated into local language and distributed the Action Folder and other leaflets for WBW. Sarvodaya Women's Movement also had a string of activities during WBW, for example lectures and discussions at the university touching topics from nutrition to Code violations. Local newspapers also ran articles on breastfeeding.

In New Zealand, Dunedin Breastfeeding Network reported numerous events. The biggest excitement was no doubt the art competition themed Breastfeeding in the



Painting by Natasha Apperley called

Mamma, mammary, mammal

entries of high quality were received. The winning entry came from Alexis Hunter, an internationally renowned expatriate New Zealand artist, who painted in oil the Madonna of the Motherboard.

Information Age,

organised in collabora-

Other activities included displays in prominent public places, one of which portrayed a nursing mother at a computer.

Flyers were also strategically placed in cafes, supermarkets and doctors' rooms. Thirteen newspaper items were devoted to the week's activities, including an article by a



Adaption of the WBW 2001 Action Folder in Malaysia, India, Saudi Arabia, Canada and Belgium

local Member of Parliament who was breastfeeding her baby. Entitled Free Flowing and Expression, a festival of women's art performances at the gallery marked the end of the WBW celebration.

In New South Wales, Australia, a new world record of 536 mothers breastfeeding their babies simultaneously was created for the Guinness Book of Records. The significant event, one of the many Breastfests carried out nationwide by the Australian Breastfeeding Association, took place on 1 August in a cinema in Central Coast. Just as amazing in Scarborough was a crowd of 438 mothers. Similar Breastfests were also held in towns like Brisbane, Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Tasmania. In total, more than 1400 mothers breastfed across Australia. The celebration also coincided with the launch of the association.

As for the Department of Health in Western Australia (WA), the week was even extended to be the World Breastfeeding Awareness Month, with participation from over 100 hospitals and community groups. The department also convened the WA Breastfeeding Action Group to provide a forum for coordinated strategies for breastfeeding in the state.

LATIN AMERICA

In conjunction with WBW, the National Lottery in Costa Rica promoted breastfeeding by using a picture of a breastfeeding mother on their tickets. The slogan for this year's WBW in Spanish, Lactancia Materna en la Era de la Informacion, and the dates 1-7 August were also noted on the ticket.



e Information Age

WEEK, 1-7 AUGUST 2001

were observed and shared with the clinicians who received these observations positively. Follow-ups on baby-friendly government hospitals were also done.



In Paraguay, La Leche League Paraguay (LLLPy) held a two-day exhibition and talk at a mall in Asuncion where many materials were distributed. They also held a discussion on breastfeeding and religion and a slide show

for nursing students. Besides that, they were interviewed on television and met with the Ministry of Health to gain contacts for future collaboration. In conjunction with Asuncion's annual walk on 12 August, LLLPy operated two stalls to further promote breastfeeding.

MIDDLE EAST

The Lebanese Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (LABA), Lebanon, conducted a month long celebration. These included promotion on breastfeeding support for mothers and publicity in popular morning TV programmes on various days. At least 5 popular radio channels also carried WBW news. LABA, which means colostrum in Arabic, also took the opportunity to launch its organisation under the patronage of the Ministry of Health and UNICEF. Keeping up with the Information Age, they also created a hotline and email account. In Saudi Arabia. Dr. Mohamed Marwan translated and printed the colourful Action Folder into Arabic for various groups in the Middle East.

EUROPE

WBW in Bulgaria is no less colourful. The Women and Mothers Against Violence/IBFAN Bulgaria had events for health workers and mothers in health care facilities utilising tools such as posters, leaflets and translated materials from WABA and IBFAN. A two-day round table discussion of 35 persons and a press conference were also organised.

> The Vereniging Begeleiding en Bevordering van Borstvoeding (VBBB) of Belgium prepared different folders for mothers, health personnel and exhibition. Other materials such as action folders, posters, balloons and stickers were also circulated. VBBB organised a press

conference and news of the events were carried out in the mass media. They also involve the local authorities and other health groups in campaigns such as fairs and marches. In addition, a conference on BFHI was planned on 2 October, involving renowned speakers such as Sandra Lang, Maryse Lehners and Sanny van Ginkel.



VBBB organised a display at the hospital of University of Antwerp during WBW

NORTH AMERICA

Although Canada celebrates WBW in the first week of October, by July INFACT had already prepared its WBW kits and distributed them throughout the country. Reflecting this year's theme, it contains fact sheets, idea actions and advocacy suggestions, among other things.

In USA too, some breastfeeding advocates celebrated WBW early. With a small grant and tips from the WABA website, the Public Health department in Kandiyohi County used creative ways to send the message across. They provided displays at various places and sent a public service announcement to the local media.

AFRICA

The Breastfeeding Information Group (BIG) of Kenya sent out 5,000 congratulatory cards to mothers who gave birth during WBW in 100 maternity hospitals, highlighting some of the advantages of breastfeeding. Announcement on WBW was also made through radio. It was recorded and sent to Swahili-speaking African countries to be aired. BIG also visited maternity hospitals and lactation clinics for awareness programmes. Simultaneously, Code violations





Advocacy & Representation

Special Session on Children postponed

Due to the 11 September calamity in New York, the UN Special Session of the General Assembly on Children scheduled on 19-21 September in New York has been postponed to the first half of 2002. WABA, in collaboration with ILCA and LLLI, had planned for representation and a workshop on Infant Feeding in Resource Poor Areas in the Face of HIV/AIDS. The workshop will be carried forward to the new date.

The Special Session aims to review achievements following the 1990 World Summit for Children and take forward the Global Agenda for Children outlined in the recommendation document entitled 'A World Fit for Children' which will be the outcome of the session.

UNICEF released State of the World's Children 2001

Although the UNGASS planned in New York has been postponed, UNICEF has released its annual report on the global status of children. The *State of the World's Children* report for 2001 focuses on "leadership". Mostly, said its executive director Carol Bellamy, it is a tale of promises not kept since the 1990 World Summit for Children.

"The children of the 1990s were let down," Bellamy said in a statement accompanying the report. "Given the accumulation of resources and know-how in the world today, we have really fallen short of our collective potential. Some among us have achieved great things, but collectively we have underachieved."

The first goal of the 1990 summit sought a 33 percent reduction in infant mortality. Overall, the rate only dropped 14 percent to 81 per 1,000 live births in 2000. As for maternity mortality which was targeted for a 50 percent drop, there has been no change - with 515,000 women dying every year as a result of pregnancy and childbirth, the report shows. Child malnutrition has dropped since 1990, but the 17 percent reduction trend is far short of the 50 percent goal. Malnourished children in poor countries number some 150 million, according to UNICEF.

WABA supports Say Yes for Children!

In a planning meeting in London in July, Andrew Chetley represented WABA to voice the breastfeeding point of view on the Global Movement for Children (GMfC). The meeting was organised by UNICEF to gather feedback, ideas and commitment from various parties.



See insert of the WABA Say Yes for Children flyer, produced in support of UNICEF's Global Movement for Children. Find out more of the campaigns at www.gmfc.org



Global Initiative for Mother Support (GIMS)

GIMS calling its first conference!

The GIMS Asia Conference is scheduled for 20-23 April 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. GIMS is a global initiative that will focus on women's needs and rights to adequate and accurate information, support and health care services throughout pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. Coordinated by WABA's Mother Support Task Force, GIMS aims to help health care workers, government officials and society in general to understand the importance of supporting mothers through the entire reproductive cycle through a variety of planned steps. GIMS is open to involvement and endorsement by all interested in joining the global effort to create a supportive breastfeeding environment for all women.

For more information on the initiative and/or the GIMS Asia Conference, please contact:

- Breastfeeding Information Bureau (BIB) [Breastfeeding Advisory and Lactation Consultant Association of Malaysia, PPPLM]
 7A Jalan Kolam Air, Kg. Klang Gate Baru, 53100 Kuala Lumpur Tel: 603-4105 3872; Fax: 603-4106 8914
 Email: bibmalaysia@hotmail.com
- WABA Secretariat. Please see contact details on back page.



Network News

NMAA then, Australian Breastfeeding Association now

Australian Breastfeeding Association – that is the new name for Nursing Mothers' Association of Australia as of 1 August 2001. After extensive consultation both within the association and the wider community, the name was chosen to best reflect the organisation and its objectives. The association will continue to offer a unique blend of mother-to-mother support, accurate and up-to-date breastfeeding information and counselling about breastfeeding and its management. It has 12,000 members and 260,000 contacts through their counsellors and the breastfeeding helplines each year. The name NMAA was used since its formation in 1964.

Website: www.breastfeeding.asn.au Email: info@breastfeeding.asn.au

PHA's new website

Following the People's Health Assembly (PHA) held in Bangladesh last December, a new website is established <www.phamovement.org>. It includes the People's Charter for Health, newsletters, issues papers and up-dates of follow-up action since the event.

The PHA was attended by 1500 people from 77 countries, coordinated by a network of civil society organisations. For a Critical Analysis of the PHA, and suggestion for follow-up, see the HealthWrights Newsletter from the Sierra Madre #44 on www.healthwrights.org.

Calendar of Events 2001/2

Sept 2-8	MP/IFE Training, Mozambique	
Sept 8-11	Children's Environment Health II: a Global Forum for Action, Washington, USA	
Sept 9-13	Third Conference on Global Strategies to the Prevention of HIV Transmission from Mother to Infants, Kampala, Uganda	
Sept 13-15	 Breastfeeding: Ancient Art, Modern Miracle, ABA International Breastfeeding Conference 	
Oct WABA World Breastfeeding Week (Europe)		
Oct 9-12	 WHO Regional Consultation on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 	
Oct 15-23	 IBFAN ICDC Annual Training Course on Implementing the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, Penang, Malaysia 	
Oct 25-27	IBFAN Asia-Pacific Meeting, Penang	
Nov 4-8	ICDC Int'l Code Training Course, UAE	
Nov 5-8	Asian Codex Training, New Delhi, India	
Nov 5-9	 World Food Summit: Five Years Later, FAO, Rome, Italy 	
Nov 26-30	 Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (23rd Session), Berlin, Germany 	
Dec 7-12	■ IBFAN European Regional Meeting, Latvia	
2002		
Mar	WABA SC Meeting, Penang, Malaysia	
Mar 3-9	IBCoCo, New Delhi, India	
Mar 8-12	 Codex Committee on Milk & Milk Products, Wellington, New Zealand 	
Mar 11-15	■ ACC/SCN 29 th Session, Berlin, Germany	
Apr 20-23	 GIMS Asia Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 	



News from the Secretariat Penang, Malaysia

SECRETARIAT NEWS, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH

Apr • ACC/SCN Meeting, Kenya • WABA Global Forum 2 planning discussions • Forum 2 venue survey in Nairobi, Kenya and Arusha, Tanzania • Fundraising for Forum 2 • Visits to Health Exchange/UK, Baby Milk Action/UK, DGIS/Netherlands • WBW 2001 Posters • Production of WBW 2001 Action Folders

May • Distribution of English & Chinese Action Folders

June • Distribution of French & Spanish Action Folders • WABA Say Yes for Children flyer

July • Healthy Documents • Breastfeeding & the Workplace flyer • Edit WBW 1999 report • Global Breastfeeding Partners Meeting (GBPM), Brazil • 11th Steering Committee Meeting, Brazil

Aug • GBPM Report • WABA folder • Forum 2 banners

Sep • Launching of Say Yes for Children campaign in Malaysia • Sarah Amin gave keynote at launching of books on breastfeeding and working women in Malaysia • Production and distribution of Forum2 announcement via mail and email • Ines Fernandez joins WABA Secretariat to assist on Women & Work projects • Processing of African Women & Work Seedgrant applications

VISITORS

Sep • Claude Alvares, India • Sabrina Ooi, ICLARM • Norjinah Moin, PPPLM • Christine Neoh, Adventist Hospital

Sign the Global Petition for cheaper medicine!

Backed by big business, the USA is blocking proposed changes to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules on drug patents in advance of the vital WTO Summit in November. Current WTO rules on patents keep the price of vital medicines high in developing countries and changes would mean cheaper medicines for poor people. Infectious diseases kill more than 14 million people every year, yet many would live if they could afford medicines which are priced beyond their reach.

Governments, charities, churches and health bodies demand for WTO to change the rulings on patent to allow vital medicines to be produced and sold more cheaply. But the USA opposes this and is pressuring developing countries to apply even more restrictive rules at national level.

The Third World Network, Oxfam International and Health Gap Coalition launched on 1 September 2001 a global online petition which is hoped will demonstrate the strength of global public support for WTO patent rules that put people before the profits of powerful drug companies. The petition will run through the WTO Ministerial in Qatar this November. To sign the petition, go to www.oxfam.org.uk/unclesam.

WBW 2002

will focus on health issues and health care practices in support of breastfeeding for mothers and infants. The theme



will cover women's reproductive health with emphasis on support, education and care on before, during and after childbirth to ensure a successful and rewarding breastfeeding experience for both mother and child.

WABA believes that an expectant or new mother who is well nourished, informed and supported in a caring environment by her family, community, workplace and health care systems, will be enabled to provide the best care, food and nutrition to her new born. The action folder will also re-emphasise the special qualities of breastmilk and breastfeeding and the importance of exclusive breastfeeding especially in emergencies, epidemics and disasters, and for premature babies.



The Goals of WBW 2002 are:

- To reinstate breastfeeding as an integral part of women's reproductive cycle and health
- To create awareness of women's right to humane and dignified birthing practices
- To promote the Global Initiative on Mother Support (GIMS), as a means to strengthen the multitude of ways in supporting breastfeeding.

Healthy Documents

Compiled by Lakshmi Menon

Even as draft, copies of the Healthy Documents launched at the People's Health Assembly in Bangladesh last December were quickly snapped up as people recount the history and experience of work done globally. That speaks of the usefulness and importance of this book especially to health workers, policy makers and advocates.

Healthy Documents is a compilation of important documents on people's health made at international meetings. It also includes international covenants, treaties, programmes and platforms of action which support these declarations and which are ratified by various governments.

These documents are categorised into seven areas: medical ethics, health rights, public health, health and social development, nutrition, children's health and women's health. It also showcases two organisations' advocacy work as an inspiring example of implementing an UN instrument and in realising an international declaration.

Healthy Documents will be an important action tool to promote people's health, with resolutions, declarations, charters and UN instruments on health at your fingertips. It will also make a good reference book in your resource centre.

To order or for more information, contact the WABA Secretariat at the address below. Requests for special rate from developing countries will be considered.

Maternity Protection Kit now online!

Maternity Protection ILO Convention No. 183: A New Standard for the New Century - together we can make Maternity Protection a reality



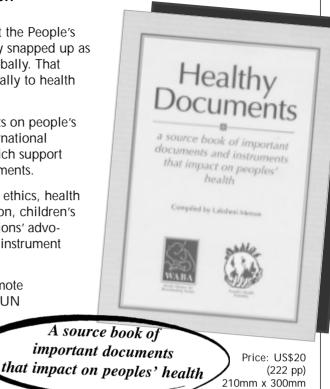
This long awaited-for kit from the trade unions is now available online. Using simple language, this 52-page long document provides good arguments for the rights of working women, sample survey questionnaire and suggestions for training sessions amongst other things. It was produced by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the Public Services International (PSI) and Education International. Log on to www.world-psi.org

now and share this news with your constituencies!

For more information, contact the PSI at 45 Avenue Voltaire, BP 9, F 01211 Ferney Voltaire Cedex, France Tel: 33-45040 6464 Fax: 33-45040 7320 Email: psi@world-psi.org



WABA, PO Box 1200, 10850 Penang, Malaysia Tel: 60-4-6584816 • Fax: 60-4-6572655 Email: secr@waba.po.my Website: www.waba.org.br • www.waba.org.my Editorial and Production: Liew Mun Tip & Susan Siew



Humane Perinatal Care

By Beverly Chalmers and Adik Levin

The experience of having a baby hospitalised in neonatal intensive care units (NICU) is a traumatic one as it is often characterised by the separation of mother and baby. This book challenges the status quo and suggests that humane perinatal care should be the primary consideration to be applicable to the care of pregnancies, mothers and babies. Re-establishing women, their partners and babies as the key players in perinatal care, the authors explained how NICU care may be more beneficial if babies are

cared for predominantly by their mothers, provided with extensive skin-to-skin contact, with as demedicalised an approach as possible and fed with breastmilk.

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