YOUth for Breastfeeding

WABA convened nine youth leaders from Asia, Africa and Latin America and Caribbean, for a five-day workshop in Penang, Malaysia, from 9 – 13 October 2006, to kick start a youth initiative and frame a global youth action plan. WABA believes for the success of any movement, it is necessary to involve youths. Even in the history of breastfeeding movements, youths were actively involved and took leading roles.

The main objective of the WABA Youth Initiative, an international programme to initiate the movement in various countries is to get youths interested in breastfeeding and to develop and sustain young advocates to promote and protect breastfeeding through the perspectives of human rights, reproductive health and gender equality.

Gender sensitisation touching more advocates..

WABA held another dynamic gender training workshop from 15 - 18 October 2006, the third in Penang since 2004. A total of 29 participants from 18 countries from four continents participated, predominantly from Asia. The focus of this training was the sensitisation of men, hence there were 60% male participants as well as representatives from about seven men/father support groups. In addition, we had the participation of six youths, which gave new spirit and dynamism to the gender training, following the latter’s youth training workshop (see above).

Besides meeting the basic objectives of learning gender concepts and gender analysis tools, participants also learnt to better understand how they themselves are gendered persons by going through various participatory exercises, role plays and interpersonal sharing. During the training, the Men’s Working Group (MWG), an arm of the Gender WG, also met regularly to reconstruct themselves, refining their vision, mission, goals and action plan. WABA’s vision requires both women and men to work together respectfully, with a common interest and purpose to protect, promote and support breastfeeding for the best interest of women, children and families.
Announcements

- Theme for World Breastfeeding Week 2007
  Breastfeeding : the 1st Hour
  Save ONE million babies
  www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org

- Birth of WABA’s newest Initiatives
  1. WABA Youth Initiative  For more information, please visit www.waba.org.my/youth/
  2. WABA Men’s Initiative  For more information, please visit www.waba.org.my/men/

Stay-at-home Dad wins breastfeeding symbol design contest

Matt Daigle, a stay-at-home dad of 1 year old Hayden, freelance photographer and cartoonist has won a breastfeeding symbol design contest organised by Mothering Magazine.

Out of a field of 500 entrants, Daigle’s design has been selected to increase public awareness of breastfeeding. The design which is representative of a child nursing, is to be used to indicate designated baby-friendly areas in public and to mark breastfeeding friendly facilities. The blue and white icon is easily recognisable and was designed to match other international icons for baggage claim, bathrooms, telephone booths and information desks.

"My wife and son inspired me and as a profoundly deaf individual, I know how important it is to communicate through visual means." said Daigle. He hopes that the symbol will be used in all public places to clearly communicate that breastfeeding is natural and healthy and that as a society we support it.

"I hope this symbol is used in all public places to clearly communicate to the public that breastfeeding is natural and healthy and as a society we support it”.

Mothering Magazine purpose of organising the contest was to provide an alternative of a baby bottle image to designate baby-friendly areas in public.

To download a PDF of the winning symbol for free, visit www.mothering.com

Source: www.mothering.com - December 2006

The Stars Breastfeed Too!!!!

Gwyneth Paltrow  breastfed her two year old daughter Apple and is repeating her experience with her baby son Moses.

Rachel Weisz  breastfed her son Henry. "I have respect for all working moms out there because it is a complicated balancing act. I am part of that club now."

Jennifer Garner  insists breastfeeding played an important part in helping her get back into shape after the birth of her daughter Violet.

Geri Halliwell  has revealed that she loved breastfeeding her baby daughter Bluebell. "Breastfeeding really helped me get back in shape."

Gwen Stefani  says she loves breastfeeding her son Kingston. "I am still nursing, I think it gives you superhuman powers."
Study shows that epidural during birth may negatively affect breastfeeding

Epidurals given during labour and birth are associated with decreased rates of breastfeeding, both in the short term and long term. A large study of Australian women, published in the open access journal International Breastfeeding Journal, found that women who had epidurals during childbirth were more likely to have breastfeeding problems in the first week and to give up breastfeeding before six months, compared with women who had no analgesia.

The study by scientists from the University of Sydney and other Australian associations showed that a significant correlation exists between the two practices.

The authors concluded that "although this relationship may not be causal, it is important that women at higher risk of breastfeeding cessation are provided with adequate breastfeeding assistance and support."

Source : http://www.inthenews.co.uk - December 2006

Australian Parliament launches breastfeeding inquiry

The Australian Federal Parliament is launching an inquiry into the health benefits of breastfeeding. House of Representatives health committee chairman, Alex Somlyay said the inquiry will investigate ways the Australian Government can improve the health of the population through support for breastfeeding.

Public submissions are being invited for the inquiry by February 28, 2007.

The inquiry wants submissions on:
• The extent of the health benefits of breastfeeding;
• The impact of marketing of breastmilk substitutes on breastfeeding rate, in particular, in disadvantaged, indigenous and remote communities;
• The potential short and long term impact on the health of Australians of increasing the rate of breastfeeding
• Initiatives to encourage breastfeeding
• The effectiveness of current measures to promote breastfeeding and the impact of breastfeeding on the long term sustainability of Australia’s health system.

Source : http://www.ibnnews.org - December 2006

1.1 million infants in India die in the first month

With 1.1 million infants dying in India in the first month of life, the country stands a poor sixth among South Asian countries surveyed in terms of preventive measures each country adopts to protect the young ones.

The State of the World’s Breastfeeding: South Asia Report Card-2006, a report carried out by IBFAN-Asia Pacific, states that apart from these deaths, another 500,000 infants die in the country between the second and 12th month of their lives.

The report suggests that if all mothers initiate breastfeeding within one hour of birth, 22 percent of these deaths could be reduced.

The international agency along with the Indian government and NGOs had carried out the study.

Source : http://www.indianews.com - December 2006

Filipino dads back renewed drive on breastfeeding

Three councillors in the Philippines supported the move of the health department to promote breastfeeding as the best infant food and at the same time censured infant milk producing companies for promoting substitute milk to serve their business interests.

The three dads-cum-councillors were reacting over the "misleading claims and come-ons" of those engaged in the selling of infant formula. They said that these business initiatives do not show concern for the future generation of Filipinos because in the midst of this campaign, those involved in the business invoked the execution of the implementation of rules and regulations of the Milk Code of the Philippines.


Breastfeeding mother kicked off plane

About 30 parents and their children in Seattle, sat in front of an airline counter to protest the treatment of a passenger who said she was kicked off a plane for breastfeeding her child.

The mother, Emily Gillete, complained that she was kicked off a Freedom Air Lines plane for nursing her baby.

The airline spokesperson said Gillete was asked to leave the flight after she declined a flight attendant’s offer of a blanket.

Gillete has filed a complaint against the airline.

Source : http://seattletimes.nwsource.com - November 2006
Visitors to the Secretariat

October • Santiago Vallone, Argentina • Mahabub Morshed, Bangladesh • Cristina Amador, Costa Rica • Veronica Gomez, Ghana • Subrata Kumar Dutta, India • Andy Hariandja, Indonesia • Nyoman Pastita, Indonesia • Rulyadi Hadimoto, Indonesia • Utami Roesi, Indonesia • Gani Auyeskanov, Kazakhstan • Min Sang Hee, Korea • Christine Choong, Malaysia • Mohamad Thiayuddin Embi, Malaysia • Sri Norjina Mohin, Malaysia • Mosadeq Sahebdin, Mauritius • Mamata Regmi Pradhan, Nepal • Qamar Naseem, Pakistan • Carmen Solinap, Philippines • Cheryl G. Kho, Philippines • Erwin Cachuela, Philippines • Jenifer de la Cruz (Toto), Philippines • Y.S. Shivananathan, Sri Lanka • Vulinidele Simphiwe Kunene, Swaziland • Per Gunnar Engblom, Sweden • Peter Breie, Sweden • John Musisi, Uganda • Phung Bich Tuy, Vietnam • Lakshmi Menon, India • Paul Sinnapan, Malaysia • Renu Khanna, India • Hanns Pop, Guatemala • December • Hermann Tillman and Maruja, Germany • Sabrina Sunderaj, India • Ahmad Taiff Isak, Malaysia •

2006 & 2007

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 Working Group 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
Nov 5-10 18 FIGO World Congress of Gynecology & Obstetrics, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Nov 9-13 India Social Forum (ISF) 2006, New Delhi, India
Nov 11-17 National Breastfeeding Week (UAE)
Nov 17 International Students Day*
Nov 20 Universal Children’s Day*
Nov 20-22 South Asia Breastfeeding Partners Forum 3, Kabul, Afghanistan
Nov 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (“White Ribbon Day”)
Nov 28-29 UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative 9th Annual Conference 2006
Dec 1 World AIDS Day* (UN) - Focusing on Accountability “Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise”
Dec 3 International Disability Day*
Dec 5 International Volunteer Day*(UN)
Dec 9 UN Anti-Corruption Day*
Dec 9 RUMBA’s 1st Youth Workshop for the Promotion of Breastfeeding and Humanised Childbirth, Guatemala
Dec 10 Human Rights Day*
Dec 10-12 IBFAN Arab World Regional Meeting, Cairo, Egypt

2007

Jan 15-Feb 2 37th Session of CEDAW
Jan 15-28 The 3-in-1 Training Course on IYCF Counselling - (IBFAN Asia-Pacific), New Delhi, India
Jan 20-25 7th World Social Forum, Nairobi, Kenya
Feb 4-8 International Conference on Actions to Strengthen Linkages between SRH & HIV/AIDS, Mumbai, India
Feb 14 WABA’s 16th Anniversary
Feb 23-25 2nd Indian People’s Health Assembly, Bhopal, India
Feb 25-Mar 10 Breastfeeding: Advocacy & Practice, A Regional Outreach Course, Penang, Malaysia
Feb 26-Mar 2 34th SCN Annual Session, Rome, Italy
Feb 27 Wellstart’s 22nd Anniversary
Feb 26-Mar 9 51st Session of CSW, The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, New York, USA
Mar 7-11 CIMS Forum, Atlanta, USA
Mar 8 International Women’s Day
Mar 15 World Consumer Rights Day*
Mar 22 World Water Day*

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