



La Leche League International honours WABA Co-Directors with the prestigious **International Award of Achievement**

in conjunction with LLLI's 50th Anniversary celebrations

The Board of Directors of La Leche League International (LLLI) has decided to honour two outstanding Malaysian activists, Susan Siew and Sarah Amin, Co-Directors of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) with the International Award of Achievement for their actions that have initiated significant change to the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide.

At the Awards Presentation ceremony which was held July 2007 at Chicago Hilton, USA during the LLLI 50th Anniversary and Celebrating the Power of Breastfeeding Conference. The awards ceremony was witnessed by LLLI's seven founding mothers together with more than 300 participants of the conference which drew more than 2000 mothers and 1000 babies to the bi-annual event.

In awarding the International Award to Susan and Sarah, LLLI's Board of Directors member Ms Sharon Vines said " we award Susan and Sarah for their work with WABA which initiated and organizes the annual World Breastfeeding Week (WBW), which is now celebrated in more than 120 countries around the world and has achieved so much in promoting and protecting breastfeeding on a global level, reaching many different populations".



"As Co-Directors of WABA, Sarah and Susan have complemented each other with their different skills and personalities. Sarah has been involved with WBW campaigns and has coordinated WABA's network governance and is involved in women & work and breastfeeding activities. In addition, Sarah is the author of *Nurturing the Future: Our First Five Years* (WABA, 1996) which charts the early history of WABA. Sensitive to problems and needs of women, especially those living in developing countries, Sarah helped establish the WABA Gender Project and initiated gender trainings for breastfeeding advocates. She also facilitated the formation of the Global Initiation for Father Support (GIFS)," said Ms Vines during the awards ceremony.

Continues Ms Vines " as Co-Director, Susan uses her skills in communications and design to coordinate the WABA media and communications programme. She is very actively involved in WABA activities that address advocacy and social mobilization, such as her presence on the United Nations Breastfeeding Advocacy Team. She networks at international meetings and conferences for the furtherance of breastfeeding, such as at the ILO Convention on Maternity Protection and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. She was responsible for the book *Images of Breastfeeding Worldwide: a visual sourcebook for community action*. Susan possesses a high level of meeting planning skills and was very involved in the WABA Global Forum in Thailand in 1996 and the Forum in Tanzania in 2002".

"Susan and Sarah are both extremely talented, committed, hardworking, creative and passionate young women who deserve to be recognized by LLLI for their actions in furthering the promotion and protection of breastfeeding worldwide."

Board of Directors, La Leche League International

Excerpts from Susan and Sarah's acceptance speech

“Thank you very much for this recognition. To us, this award really represents the achievements of WABA – our team in Penang, our supportive Steering Committee, Task Forces, Working Group members – rather than the two of us as individuals.”

- Susan and Sarah

“It has been a privilege to serve the breastfeeding network and to witness, slowly but surely, the results of “investments” made over the years. We see achievements of 16 years of WBW involving mass popular action in over 120 countries, all which would not be possible without the involvement of WABA's core partners like LLLI, International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), International Lactation Consultants Association (ILCA), Wellstart International and the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) and the wider network.”

- Susan Siew

“It has been a privilege and an opportunity to work with a movement of mothers and children, to meet, to learn, to grow as well as to network, nourish and nurture. We see the expansion of the mother support field and through the Global Initiative for Mother Support (GIMS) increasing the spectrum of support to cover women during pregnancy, birth and lactation, as well as involving fathers, family members and other sectors of community”.

- Sarah Amin

“We would like to thank LLLI for this recognition and humbly accept the honour, the privilege and the responsibility to continue working in the best interest of humanity”

- Susan and Sarah
Co-Directors WABA

