

Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation, My Hat is off to you! Tujhe Mera Salaam!!

More than five hundred people participating in a historic national conference on breastfeeding and complementary feeding in Dhaka on 19-20 August 2006, what a pleasant scene it was, to look at the expanding movement in Bangladesh, where it all started in 1989 with CPPBF, the campaign for protection, promotion of Breastfeeding. You could call it the "Talukder factor" or something else that is working. People from all over participated spending their own time and money.

BBF, the Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation, the national group organized a national conference on IYCF on 19-20 August 2006. First such conference was held in 1988 that led to the Campaign for Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding (CPPBF) and later to the birth of BBF.

Government of Bangladesh, UNICEF, WHO, Plan International, Save the children, and many more partners were there. BBF has demonstrated successfully their strength to organize and is the key organization for the promotion of breastfeeding in Bangladesh in order to support government action and policy. We are proud of its work!

I was invited to speak at this conference on IYCF strategy, challenges and opportunities, State of the Code in South Asia and also to participate in a BBF staff development session. Ms. Juliana from WABA was invited to speak during the opening ceremony on Global movement and Mr. Joo Kean from ICDC to speak on Code at international level.

The Minister of Food and Disaster Management, Mr. Chowdhary Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Member of Parliament inaugurated the conference. Speaker after speaker supported breastfeeding of which UNICEF, WHO, Government departments, are a few to mention. There were more than 16 symposium sessions and more than 60 papers in parallel sessions. This led to heightened interest in protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding

One session on staff development was particularly interesting. Many questions relating to the movement came up, e.g. how to move policy into practice, role of men in Breastfeeding, how to bring motivation in mothers, how to link hospital work to community, what India did and how India is doing better, stopping imports of formula, mother support groups, establishing Breastfeeding support centers, and preventing ill effects of industry.

Well-done BBF!

And congratulations Bangladesh for having such a wonderful resource the BBF in your country!!

Arun Gupta
19-20 August 2006
Trip report of visit to Bangladesh

