

## Report of the workshop on “Conflicts of Interest in the pediatric and Infant nutrition area

11 th November 2016 , Ulanbatar, Mongolia

### Background

A widely used definition of conflict of interest is: "A conflict of interest is a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgement or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest."<sup>1</sup> *Primary interest* refers to the principal goals of the profession or activity, such as the protection of clients, the health of patients, the integrity of research, and the duties of public office. *Secondary interest* includes personal benefit and is not limited to only financial gain but also such motives as the desire for professional advancement, or the wish to do favours for family and friends. These secondary interests are not treated as wrong in and of themselves, but become objectionable when they are believed to have greater weight than the primary interests.

The International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes was adopted by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in 1981 and the Committee on the Rights of the Child has interpreted Code implementation in terms of governments obligations to protect the right of the child to the highest attainable standard of health and clearly emphasized baby food companies' obligation to comply with the Code.

Government of Mongolia approved National Law of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes based on the adoption International Code.

But still there are a lot of challenges in ensuring effective implementation. Some of the challenges can be directly linked to the issues related with conflict of interest (COI).

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<sup>1</sup> wikipedia

Following the Global capacity building workshop on “Conflicts of interest and the infant and young child feeding arena” held in December 2015, in London, IBFAN Asia granted

Mongolia to organize a “National workshop on Conflict of Interest” to stimulate and raise the COI debate in the medical community the risks in child health and nutrition areas for problematic conflicts of interest.

### **Objectives**

The general objective of the workshop was to raise awareness of health people about conflict of interest and build common understanding about conflict of interest facing in child health and nutrition area.

### **Specific objectives:**

- To assist participants to understand conflict of interest issues
- To introduce findings from survey on implementation of code monitoring and COI cases
- To increase the knowledge on concrete COI cases in the work of health professionals
- Motivate participants to avoid conflict of interest

The objectives were achieved through lectures, introduction of key findings of survey on implementation of Code, related with conflict of interest, and introduction about recently amended National Law of Conflict of Interest.

### **Workshop participation/organization**

Representatives from Ulanbatar City Health Department, Public Health Institute of MOH, Mongolian Pediatric Society, Association of family Medicine, Local inspection Agency, UNICEF, independent researchers, District Health centers, Family Clinics including pediatricians and general practitioners.

Fifty participants were nominated to attend however more than 60 people came to the workshop to attend. List of participants is annexed.

### **Resource people:**

- Dr. D. Ganzorig, Ministry of Health,
- Dr. D. Enkhmaygmar, nutrition researcher, Public Health Institute
- Dr. G. Soyolgerel, Head of Mongolian Pediatric Society
- B. Badamkhand , Senior Health Specialist, UB City Health Department
- L. Dejidma. Lawyer

### **Proceedings of the workshops**

The workshops were organized by the support from the IBFAN Asia. The workshop began with presentation of general introduction of conflict of interest and national regulation of COI, definition of conflict of interest. Dr. G. Soyolgerel , head of the Mongolian Pediatric Society introduced newly amended national regulation of “Conflict of interest” and also concept note of Global capacity building workshop & symposium Conflicts of interest and the infant and young child feeding arena held in 2015 in London.

Workshop was conducted with participatory approach based on cases and discussions on how to solve a problems.

Dr. D. Ganzorig from Ministry of Health introduced presentation namely “Conflicts of Interest in the area of Infant and Young Child Nutrition” adopted from WPRO source .

Dr. D. Enkhmyagmar introduced key findings from survey “ implementation of Code” conducted in 2015. Report of the survey is in the process of printing. Many of the issues related with Conflict of interest were found through the surveys. There is drastically increased import of infant formula however Mongolia has no formula industry.

**Case1:** *Two of the primary health facilities are receiving regular training from the company which is importing infant formula (twice a year) sometimes family clinics requested support from these companies.(interview with health workwer)*

**Case 2:***Nurse came just after my delivery and advised breasfeed if don't want take infant formula at the maternity hospital's pharmacy. My husband bought single use packaged formula at the hospital pharmacy. (Interview with mother).*

The participants were divided into two groups, one taking on the role of company peoples and the other taking on the role of health care professional.

During the discussion session many of participants including health professionals asked details about conflict of interest and said that they learnt a lot about conflict of interest which they never heard before. Three participants mentioned that they were invited to the big conference jointly organized by formula importing company “Monos” and Mongolian National Medical Science University. Some participants general practitioners openly talked about COI examples happened in their facilities .

Participants then did exercise as a group work on below table how to conduct risk assessment for actual COI based on practices of the organization.

At the end of the workshop all participants were aware to avoid contact with representatives of infant formula importing company and accept gifts or free training ..

Report written by G. Soyolgerel

**Table for Risk assessment for actual COI based on practices of the organization**

<b>AREA</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Additional information on company, products and support</b>
Received funding for research in the area of infant and young child feeding/nutrition, from the baby food industry			
Received sponsorships from the baby food industry			
Allowed the promotion of products covered by the International Code in your events, publications, informational materials			
Allowed the promotion of products not covered(by the International Code) in your events, publications, informational materials produced by the baby food industry			
Received informational or advocacy materials from the baby food industry			
Allowed booths, promotional areas, information kiosks of baby food industry			
Received funding for operations, building, staff, maintenance and upgrading from the baby food industry			
Conducted research on infant and young child feeding with funding support from the baby food industry			





**“Preventing Conflict of interest in health care service” workshop**

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia 11 November 2016

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**Agenda for workshop on sensitization on Conflict of Interest in  
child health and nutrition**

*11 November 2016, Bayangol conference room*

- 9.00 - 9.30 Registration
- 9.30-10.00 Opening, introduction, and expectation
- 10.00-10.20 Pre assessment
- 10.20-10.50 Workshop perspective focusing on “Global capacity building symposium and the infant, young child feeding arena” (Dec 2015, London) G. Soyolgerel
- 10.50 -11.10 National Law of Conflict of Interest L. Dejid, lawyer
- 11.10- 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-12.00 Discussion
- 12.00-13.00 Conflicts of Interest in the area of Infant and  
Young Child Nutrition, Dr. D. Ganzorig , MOH
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-14.30 Introduction of findings of survey on implementation of BMS Code  
D. Enkhmyagmar, researcher , Public Health Institute,
- 14.30-15.00 Role play on cases (company representative and health professional.
- 15.00- 15.15 Discussion on role play Facilitator B. Badamkhand
- 15.15-15.30 Coffee break
- 15.30 -16.00 Group work exercise Facilitator D. Ganzorig
- 16.00-17.00 Discussion Facilitator G. Soyolgerel
- 17.00-17.30 Post assessment G. Soyolgerel
- 17.30- 18.00 Closing ,

