

One Asia Breastfeeding Partners Forum 9

Luang Prabang, Laos

28-30 October, 2013

Theme: Maternal and Infant and Young Child Feeding and Nutrition

Joint Secretary, MOH – Bangladesh,

Hon'ble Chief Guest, Minister of Health, President, Lao Women's Union, UNICEF, IBFAN Asia, Joint Secretary, MOH – Bangladesh, Palau's UN ambassador.....,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Assalamu Alaikum and very Good Morning.

I am very much delighted and pleased to be invited here for the inauguration ceremony of One Asia Breastfeeding Partners Forum 9. Theme of this forum is **Maternal and Infant and Young Child Feeding and Nutrition.**

The promotion of optimal growth and development of infants and young children point out as a priority goal for global public health and nutrition nowadays. It is recognized that the critical importance of growth from conception to two years of age is a critical window of opportunity (1000 days) to achieve optimal health and mental development for young children. Appropriate breastfeeding and proper complementary feeding is the most effective strategy to sustain growth and development when the burden of malnutrition can be in most countries.

Bangladesh is a developing country with burden of malnutrition. According to BDHS 2011, 11% of the total populations are under five children. In Bangladesh 41% of the under five years children are stunted, 36% are underweight and 16% are wasted. Exclusive Breastfeeding rate was unchanged at around 43% percent from between 1993-94 and 2007 respectively. According to WBTI, Bangladesh

country report 2012, rate of early initiation of breastfeeding is 41%, rate of exclusive breastfeeding is 64% but the rate of appropriate complementary feeding is only 21%. According to BDHS 2011, under five mortality rate is 53 per 1,000 live births which was 65 per 1,000 live births in 2007. According to Bangladesh Maternal mortality survey 2010, maternal mortality rate has declined from 322 per thousand in 2001 to 194 in 2010. I'm very pleased to inform that Bangladesh achieved 107.5 out of 120 in WBTi assessments, 2012.

The government commitment is very high in IYCF in Bangladesh. The Honorable Prime Minister inaugurated World breastfeeding Week in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The Prime Minister has declared to appoint nutritionists in hospitals of Bangladesh which is in process. New law on BMS code has been passed in Bangladesh parliament on September 22, 2013; is probably the strongest law of the world.

It is a great pleasure to recognize that Bangladesh has made significant progress in exclusive breast feeding, reduction of child mortality and maternal mortality rate. The remarkable success achieved by the Bangladesh is a consequence of integrating efforts of govt. and Non government partners. The Government of Bangladesh has given emphasis on nutrition in Health and Population Sector development program with separate identity as HNPSDP. To support promotion of breastfeeding Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh approved paid maternity leave for six months and ordered to establish breastfeeding corner in every government and non government organizations.

Bangladesh received the MDG-4 and South-South awards for its remarkable contribution in reducing the child mortality rate and providing healthcare services using information technology. The country was also given awards for Global Alliance of Vaccination and Immunization in 2009 and 2012 for its outstanding success in the regular immunization programme for children. Honorable Prime

Minister Shiekh Hasina Prime Minister of Bangladesh also received 2011 South-South Awards.

From 2011-12 fiscal year, Bangladesh has rightly set the nutrition program entitled ``National Nutrition Services'' (NNS) and mainstreamed it under Directorate General of Health services (DGHS) had been implemented through IPHN covering the whole country of 160 million population to prevent and reduce the incidence of malnutrition focusing the life cycle such as adolescent girls, newly married couple, pregnant and lactating women who are the vulnerable groups of population in risk of malnutrition. Government of republic of Bangladesh approved a budget of 5 million USD for 2011-2016 for IYCF in the National Nutrition Services (NNS).

Breastfeeding in Bangladesh has been pioneered and spearheaded by the Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation. The Honorable prime minister, Health minister and the MOHFW of Bangladesh is pleased to work with BBF.

However, Maternity leave for six months is not applied in private sectors, provision of crèches and breastfeeding break in working place in public & private sectors is limited. Comprehensive training programme on IYCF for Health and Nutrition Care is being implemented by the health system and stakeholder organizations. Yet the community based mother support system is working only in selected areas and there is a gap of skill training programme for GOB & NGOs community staff. Routine MIS of health is present the IYCF indicators are being included in the system.

I hope that One Asia Breastfeeding Forum will assist the policy makers and planers in adopting effective and sustainable strategies towards promoting IYCF situation

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in Asian countries. I appreciate the role of IBFAN ASIA for outstanding advancing the progress on IYCF in member countries including the government, civil society and the developing partners.

Thank you very much once again for inviting me in this important event.