

## بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

By permission of, E.H. Dr. Fatimi Minister of Public Health,  
I would like to welcome and thank those who brought this meeting into reality.  
IBFAN south Asia Regional coordinator Dr. A. Gupta, all guest form SAARC countries and our Afghan participants who came from all over Afghanistan to share in this important meeting.

On behalf of Public Nutrition Department of MoPH and ABPP I am proud as any Afghani who has to be proud of organizing this forum-3 in Kabul- Afghanistan.

The achievements of PND on IYCF is already mentioned by E.H. minister of MoPH, I would like to present the challenge and problems on IYCF promotion in our country.

Inappropriate infant and young child feeding, nutritional deficiency and caring practices are causes of maternal and child mortality and morbidity in Afghanistan.  
All pediatricians are their best to treat the sick children and parents as the public thinks that there a pill for each ill.

If early and exclusive BF is started on the first hours of life with out giving any prelactial foods like herbal plants, ghee, water sugar, e.g and continue until 6 months EXB will prevent 13% of deaths, and starting timely complementary feeding practices will prevent 6% deaths, total 19% prevention deaths will be preventing by preventive measures (Exclusive BF and timely compmelmentary feeding practices).

The BFHI initiative is failed in our country, because of over crowd of maternity hospitals and limited delivery bades. And low skills and practices of health professionals to taking care for mothers.

**Our success is the achievement of our labour work law** states that: the working mother has the right to have 12+1 week maternity leave and during work time 2 hours break for breastfeeding there babies and also Nursery in there work place to take care of their babies.

But unfortunately our mother is still not practiced EXB always they are using bottles and BMS for their babies.

This was the problem when PND decided to organize the Afghanistan Breastfeeding Promotion Partners with interested partners from different organizations.

Now what is our request from our leaders, participants and guests, - support the conduct of training courses and workshops, communication, providing update materials, e.g. to encourage them to work and support breastfeeding promotion for our people.

At the end I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for all those who helped by their efforts for the successful organization of this conference.