

**South Asia IBFAN Network Review and Planning Meeting 2004:
The Way Forward
Dhaka, Bangladesh, November 22-24, 2004**

Background

The Strategic Plan of IBFAN Asia Pacific 2003-2008 focuses on strengthening the IBFAN Network of Asia Pacific. As a part of this plan, IBFAN Asia Pacific organized the Asia Pacific Conference on Breastfeeding in November 2003 in Delhi, India. More than 500 participants attended this conference. During the conference participants committed themselves to the promotion of Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding at national level and initiate activities in this direction.

As a follow up of this action, lot of interest has been generated in the region and many new IBFAN contacts have been enrolled. As IBFAN Asia Pacific works in 4 sub regions and each sub region has its own work plan to contribute to overall plan of Asia Pacific

The IBFAN South Asia Council meeting was held in October 2002 took some decisions with regards to action on Infant and Young Child Feeding in the sub region of South Asia. Several activities were planned and shared at the network meeting on 5th Dec.2003. These include prioritizing national level actions particularly assessment of the status of the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding capacity building of network members on Code and other issues, planning skills etc, and strengthening the network

To take the agenda of infant and young child feeding forward, a meeting of IBFAN South Asia is being organized in Dhaka, Bangladesh in November 2004 and Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation will be the Host. This will give us an opportunity to visit BBF and them an opportunity to organize this for the first time. All country focal points will thus be able to organize annual planning meetings.

This review and planning meeting will be organised with the following objectives,

Aim:

Better implementation of the Global Strategy in the region of South Asia

Purpose:

- Sharing country experiences
- Brainstorming for Plans for 2005
- Stimulate national actions

Output:

- Strengthened IBFAN Network in South Asia
- Plans for 2005 are developed

Participants: IBFAN Focal Points and other IBFAN contacts from South Asia i.e. from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives and Bhutan.