

Press Release



International Baby Food Action Network
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Nestlé sponsors Homeopaths' Meet and Lunch! Spreading Health or Sickness!!

Look at what **Nestlé** is doing (*the infant formula/infant food markers*)!

Nestlé targets '**Homeopaths**' to endorse their products as its sponsorship crusade in the semblance of *Nestlé Nutrition Services* – 'Spreading Knowledge and Health'.

According to Dr Goutam Ghosh of Jalpaiguri, who was invited to attend this meeting, which underwent two phases. Initially, one doctor began it with a lecture on "Skin Diseases" followed by "Promotion of Nestle Products". Consequently, accompanied by a patronage of Lunch and free distribution of 'Child Health Cards'.

"As one of the newest strategy to get to the community, **Nestlé** now aims at '**Homeopaths**' in Jalpaiguri" believed Dr Arun Gupta. Dr Gupta is the **Regional Coordinator** of "International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) Asia Pacific". This is a violation of the "International Code for Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes" (http://www.who.int/nut/documents/code_english.PDF). Not only this, it violates the **India's national legislation**, "Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (IMS Act) as amended in 2003" (<http://www.bpni.org/cgi1/imsact2003text.asp>). Needless to say, **Nestlé** so does it again and again. The recent **World Health Assembly (WHA)** resolution of May 2005 calls upon Member States to "ensure that financial support and other incentives for programmes and health professionals working in infant and young-child health do not create conflicts of interest" (http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA58/WHA58_32-en.pdf). Regardless of strictest enforcement of laws and its binding prohibiting promotion of infant formulae, it seems irrelevant/unimportant for **Nestlé**.

Nestlé regularly uses doctors and nurses and other health workers to offer their milk products having more scientific-balanced and claim these better than breastmilk for babies. In Jalpaiguri, as its deliberate act, **Nestlé** has exactly done this.

Dr Goutam Ghosh, who succeeded in having these pictures, reported this matter of great concern to us; he is evidently concerned about "breastfeeding situation" in this region. He uncovered the links and unfair intentions

of **Nestlé**, viewing how the MNC in question does anything to undermine breastfeeding in the country and elsewhere. To conduct such workshops/symposium is a regular feature for **Nestlé**.

If you feel such a promotion does not influence breastfeeding negatively, it is worth putting your thinking hat on! Envisage that a company craving to advertise/put up for sale their products, vying with breastfeeding, imagine public who have diminutive knowledge/information about optimal infant feeding practices, see when States fail to provide much needed support to families and communities to optimally feed babies, and visualize a health care system spools under indebtedness of such companies such as **Nestlé**, but is inadequate to support fully breastfeeding mothers – ***In this scenario, do you feel breastfeeding could Succeed!***

“Strictest enforcement of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (IMS Act) should be a must-do, if Government of India wants to discontinue such promotions. Simply having a law seems not enough,” says Dr J.P. Dadhich, Research Coordinator of the *Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)*, a National Organization works for protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding in India since 1991. He calls upon Government of India to punish the guilty with some executive order, and/or banning the sale of **Nestlé** products for a few months.

Please contact following for any information/clarification:

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About IBFAN Asia Pacific

The International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) is the 1998 Right Livelihood Award recipient. It consists of more than 200 public interest groups working around the world to save lives of infants and young children by working together to bring lasting changes in infant feeding practices at all levels. IBFAN aims to promote the health and well being of infants and young children and their mothers through protection, promotion and support of optimal infant and young child feeding practices. IBFAN works for the universal and full implementation of ‘International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes’ and subsequent relevant World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions. IBFAN Asia Pacific consists of 44 countries with 4 sub regions, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific; each sub region being coordinated by the sub regional representative (RR) and overall coordination is done by the regional coordinator in Delhi. IBFAN Asia Pacific Council (IAPC) consists of a Managing committee (MC) constituted by the four RRs, Special Advisors and Issue Leaders.



Date: 9th July 2005

A symposium held at Bandhav Natya Samaj, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal (India) among Homeopathic doctors of the region where about 40 doctor took part. Dr. Partha Sarkar, Secretary HMAI, Jalpaiguri unit is delivering lecture on skin disease. Unit President Dr. Pabitra Sen is seen with grey hair and spectacle who chaired the meeting.

This meeting is followed by a Lunch given by Nestle India.



The summaries of doctors from Homeo world took part in Lunch hosted by Nestle India soon after the symposium was over on 9th July 2005 at Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, India



SHARING KNOWLEDGE
SPREADING HEALTH
INITIATIVE

**cordially invites you to a
Scientific Symposium
on**

Date: 09-7-2005

Time: 12.30 P.M.

Venue: BANDHAV NATYA SAMAJ, JALPAIGURI

RSVP:
Nestlé India Limited
7, Hare Street, Post Box No. 2235,
Kolkata - 700001
Tel.: 22482711

Programme details overleaf

Strictly for invited members of medical profession.