



05 August 2001 1511 hrs (GMT) 2311 hrs (SST)

Singapore has lowest breastfeeding rate among Asean countries

by Fiona Tan

More mothers would breastfeed if they changed their mindset.

A report last year said only 20 percent of Singapore mothers breastfeed their babies up to four months old, the lowest rate among Asean countries.

So the Asia Parents' Group wants to raise the percentage. It held a public breastfeeding event at the Botanic Gardens on Sunday to mark World Breastfeeding Week. Fifteen mothers turned up to encourage others who might be embarrassed to come out of the closet.

Samuelina Wan, Founder of Asia Parents' Group, said: "There will be a lot of mothers out there who might be closeted breastfeeding mothers, so here we are to tell them that 'Hey! You and I, we're the same, we can do it.'"

Samuelina's been breastfeeding for almost five years. Her husband admitted he was initially afraid she would expose herself while breastfeeding. But done discreetly, he said it is alright and he wants other men to feel the same about breastfeeding too.

Nicholas Cheng said: "If they know about the benefits of breastfeeding and don't look at it from a sexual angle, I think they would accept it."