Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of dietary intake of lactating women in China and its potential impact on the health of mothers and infants

Version: 1 Date: 3 April 2012

Reviewer: Bright Nwaru

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Abstract:
1. The primary aim of the study was to compare dietary intake of lactating mothers to a control group and not mainly on comparing the intakes of the two groups to the RNI recommendation. I would expect the authors to pay more attention on this aim both in the Results section and Conclusion of the Abstract by firstly comparing the two groups to each. They only compared the intakes to the RNI recommendations.

Introduction:
1. There should a reference supporting the statements in lines 50-53.
2. The last parts of the Introduction (lines 88-91) should be moved to the conclusion or discussion.

Methods:
1. Lines 113-116: There is no information on whether the lactating and control group women were matched in anyway, and I did not find any information describing the selection criteria for the control group women. The authors should provide these.
2. Lines 113-116: The authors should clarify that the dietary data for the control group were collected once during the study, unlike the repeated collection for the lactating mothers. In addition, it would be helpful for the authors to indicate at what particular time (day, week) during the study that the dietary data for the control group was obtained. This would help to better understand the comparisons made in Tables 2-4.

Discussion:
1. The discussion is extremely to long and should be reduced and made more concise.
2. The authors should not repeat the results and citation of Tables and Figures in the discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In several places, the authors used the term "justified for BMI". Did they mean "adjusted for BMI". If so, then they should use "adjusted".

2. The authors should provide a reference to support their statements in lines 266-273.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'