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3 20 December 20194
5 **Revision of National Health Assembly Resolution: Thailand ban asbestos measure**

6 All asbestos types are carcinogens affecting the health of workers coming into contact
7 with asbestos and affecting the health of the general public. In spite of the 3rd National Health
8 Assembly discussion on the Thailand Ban Asbestos Measure and the Cabinet resolution dated 12
9 April, 2011 endorsing the implementation of the National Health Assembly resolution concerned,
10 Thai society is still not free of asbestos. It is proposed that the above resolution be revised to
11 correspond more to the present situation and eventually lead to zero usage of asbestos in Thai
12 society through the strengthening of the localities and communities, prohibiting the use of
13 asbestos, promoting the use of safe substitutes, providing knowledge, developing surveillance
14 and monitoring systems for risk groups, and conducting research.

15 The 12th National Health Assembly16 Having considered the report on Revision of National Health Assembly Resolution:
17 Thailand ban asbestos measure,¹18
19 *Aware* that all asbestos types are carcinogens not only affecting the health of those
20 working in establishments using asbestos but also creating health impacts for the general public,
21 that in the present day there is technology available in many countries including Thailand that
22 allows the replacement of asbestos with safe substitutes in the production of materials of equal
23 quality as those containing Chrysotile, and that the government sector has support measures to
24 ensure that such production costs more or less the same,25 *Concerned* about the quantity of Chrysotile used domestically, its continued importation,
26 and its presence in many products, and that, according to 2016 data, Thailand ranks fifth in the
27 world for importing high quantities of asbestos while 66 countries in the world have banned the
28 use of asbestos,29 *Concerned* that despite the 3rd National Health Assembly (Health Assembly 3 Resolution
30 1) on the Thailand Ban Asbestos Measure, and the Cabinet resolution dated 12 April, 2011
31 endorsing the implementation of the National Health Assembly resolution, no adequate
32 implementation of the Cabinet resolution took place to ensure that the problem was solved,
33 although there were continued attempts to propel the resolution forward,34 *Commending* agencies and partner organizations which have implemented Health
35 Assembly 3 Resolution 1, namely the Ministry of Labour for issuing the Department of Labour
36 Protection and Welfare Notification B.E. 2560 (2017) on Concentration Limits for Hazardous
37 Substances, specifying the limit for Chrysotile asbestos at no more than 0.1 fiber/cm³, the Office
38 of the Consumer Protection Board for issuing the Committee Notification on Labels B.E. 2552
39 (2009) on Asbestos Containing Products Label Control and the Committee Notification on
40 Labels No. 29 (B.E. 2553) (2010) on Asbestos Containing Products Label Control (No. 2), and
41 the Ministry of Industry for its letter reference number Or Gor 0305/2841 dated 19 June 2013 to
42 the Cabinet on the results of implementation according to Cabinet direction of 12 April, 2011,43 *Concerned* that despite the Ministry of Industry's implementation of Health Assembly 3
44 Resolution 1, by submitting a proposal to the Cabinet Secretary-General, no evident timeframe
45 was set for the achievement of practical results,

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1 *Commending* the efforts of consumer networks and concerned agencies for advocating to
2 make the Thailand Ban Asbestos Measure a healthy public policy, the private business sector for
3 using Chrysotile substitutes, the public sector for providing support, and the media for
4 propagating information,

5 *Informed* that the dismantling of asbestos-containing material entails hazardous waste
6 disposal and concerns demolition methods which must be safe for the workers and the
7 environment, for which knowledge has been broadly applied and for which certain local
8 government agencies have incorporated into their local demolition codes,

9 *Informed* of private sector agencies' concerns about clarity in prescribing products
10 containing asbestos substitutes in Thailand and concerns that access to such products, their
11 prices, strength and safety in working with them, and the prohibition of asbestos use in those
12 products may bring about economic and social impacts for consumers, as well as the Ministry of
13 Industry's concern of possible impacts on trade and international relations,

14 *Concerned* that if Thailand does not have measures to ban asbestos use, policies and legal
15 measures to control the diffusion of asbestos dust to the environment, there will be heightened
16 risks for serious diseases entailing great damage to human resources, economy, society and
17 environment,

18 *Aware* that efforts to make Thai society safe from asbestos should be integrated and
19 undertaken in terms of campaigning to create knowledge, awareness, promoting and supporting
20 the production and use of asbestos-free products, conducting surveillance and monitoring of risk
21 groups, and developing stringent laws which are fully enforced to eventually achieve zero usage
22 of asbestos and that such efforts should include such important sectors as the education sector,
23 agencies in charge of and responsible for law-enforcement, agencies in charge of the health
24 security system, the business and industrial sectors, the media, the people' sector and civil
25 society,

26 Hereby passes the following resolutions:

27 1. Entrusting the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Interior to expeditiously

28 1.1 Revoke the use of Chrysotile as production raw material by 2022 due to the
29 availability of substitute products or due to the fact that other available materials can
30 appropriately be used instead of Chrysotile, such products being:

31 (1) flat sheet tiles

32 (2) rubber floor tiles,

33 1.2 Revoke the use of Chrysotile as production raw material by 2025 for the
34 following products.

35 (1) brake pads and clutches

36 (2) asbestos cement pipes

37 (3) roof tiles;

38 2. Requesting the Ministry of Commerce to act as lead agency, together with the
39 Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance and other agencies concerned, to consider approaches
40 and measures to revoke the importation of asbestos and asbestos-containing products, and to
41 support lower-cost substitute materials for asbestos;

42 3. Requesting the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to act as lead agency,
43 together with the Ministry of Interior and other agencies concerned, to take action to bring about
44 measures for the disposal of asbestos-containing waste as well as measures requiring the
45 operators to take responsibility for such disposal of asbestos-containing products;

46 4. Requesting the Ministry of Interior to act as lead agency, together with the Ministry
47 of Interior, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and other agencies concerned, to
48 come up with guidelines and legal measures for the demolition, repair and extension of buildings
49 containing asbestos, and for disposal and elimination of asbestos-containing asbestos waste;

1 5. Requesting the Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior, together
2 with other agencies concerned, to take action to ensure that local government organizations have
3 knowledge and understanding about the impacts of asbestos, and to issue local bylaws on the
4 process of demolition of buildings and disposal of asbestos-containing products;

5 6. Requesting the Ministry of Finance through the Comptroller General's Department,
6 together with the Office of the Prime Minister and other agencies concerned, to issue guidelines
7 directing government agencies to use asbestos-free material and products;

8 7. Requesting the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (Thaihealth) to act as lead agency
9 to support labour networks and the people sector in the monitoring, inspection and campaign for
10 the use of asbestos-free material in the construction, demolition, repair and extension of
11 buildings;

12 8. Requesting the Department of Public Relations to support the Ministry of Public
13 Health, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education,
14 Science, Research and Innovation, and other agencies concerned, to develop and publicize
15 information to students, self-employed operators, employers, workers and the general public on
16 the hazards of asbestos and prevention covering the entire cycle of having, using, dismantling
17 and disposing of asbestos-containing material, including asbestos-substitute material;

18 9. Requesting the Office of the Consumer Protection Board to strictly supervise and
19 monitor the display of information and warnings about asbestos hazards on the labels of
20 asbestos-containing products in a clear and easy-to-understand manner, according to the
21 Committee on Labels Notification B.E. 2552 (2009) titled Asbestos-Containing Products Will Be
22 Label-Controlled and the Committee on Labels Notification Number 29 (B.E. 2553)(2010) titled
23 Asbestos-Containing Products Will Be Label-Controlled (Number 2);

24 10. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, by the Department of Disease Control, to
25 act as lead agency, together with other agencies concerned, to develop a system for diagnosing
26 diseases caused by asbestos and to develop a surveillance and monitoring system for risk groups
27 of asbestos-caused diseases;

28 11. Requesting the Ministry of Labour, by the Department of Labour Protection and
29 Welfare and the Social Security Office, to act as lead agency, in conjunction with the Ministry of
30 Public Health, the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, and
31 other agencies concerned, to establish a registration system for enterprises and workers coming
32 into contact with asbestos, and to support the use of health checkup information according to risk
33 factors of the workers coming into contact with asbestos even after they have left the job so that
34 surveillance of asbestos impacts can continue;

35 12. Requesting the Ministry of Labour, by the Social Security Office, to organize its
36 compensation fund to cover expenses in surveillance, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation and
37 to pay compensation to workers with an asbestos-contact history who become ill of asbestos-
38 caused diseases after leaving work or retirement, including informing the public of the benefits
39 they are entitled to;

40 13. Requesting the Ministry of Labour, by the Department of Labour Protection and
41 Welfare, to supervise, monitor and assess enterprises to ensure that they comply with the
42 Ministerial Regulation on the Establishment of Management Standards and Occupational Safety
43 and Health in Working with Hazardous Chemicals B.E. 2556 (2013), dated 22 October, 2013
44 (published in the Government Gazette on 29 November, 2013), and the Department of Labour
45 Protection and Welfare Notification on Concentration Limit for Hazardous Chemicals in
46 Workplace Atmospheres and in Hazardous Chemical Storage, number 33 asbestos (Chrysotile
47 form) ~~CAS NO 77536-68-6~~, placing a hazardous chemical concentration limit for all normal
48 work periods at 0.1 fiber/cm³;

1 14. Requesting the Science Research and Innovation Promotion Commission to act as
2 lead agency, together with the Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI) and other related
3 agencies, to support research on the impacts of asbestos use prohibition, economic mechanisms
4 and use of legal, social and environmental measures to achieve the reduction and termination of
5 asbestos use as well as development of substitute products which are accessible, affordable,
6 strong and safe;

7 15. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report
8 progress to the 14th National Health Assembly.