

Asian Solidarity Delegation to Quebec, Canada & global campaigns

Report

2010 Dec 6~10

Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)



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Acknowledgment

A-BAN and delegation to Canada appreciate all supporters particularly ADAO (Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization in USA) and IBAS (International Ban Asbestos Secretariat based in UK) for their financial, various support and active involvement.

Kathleen Ruff is another delegation member joining from British Columbia, Canada. She organised all programs for the delegation. She attended the 2010 October annual A-BAN meeting in Bandung, Indonesia. At the Bandung meeting, an agreement was made among all the participants that the Canadian new mine issue should be A-BAN's top priority as the most serious threat to Asian workers and residents. Owing to the October agreement, these activities by the delegation and global campaigns were organized and carried out in December only a little more than one month later. She showed incredible energetic driving force and leadership using her expertise on all kind of Canadian asbestos issues as well as international stories. She is long time human rights activist and expert and presently co-ordinator of the Rotterdam Convention Alliance.

We appreciate all the Canadian supporters whose effort made the delegation's program so powerful, particularly:

In Montreal

- Micheline Beaudry, Quebec Solitaire
- Eric Darier, Greenpeace Quebec
- Flory Doucas, Quebec Public Health Association
- Louise Vandelac, professor, UQAM
- Rae Aston, Social activist
- Dr Fernand Turcotte, Laval University
- Andre Paradin, Amnesty International

In Quebec

- Yv Bonnier Viger, Laval University
- Pierre-L Gosselin, Laval University
- Lorraine Chartier, political candidate
- Amir Khadir, Christian Richard Fecteau, Quebec Solidaire

In Ottawa

- Steve Staples, Lauren Hunter, Rideau Institute
- Nathan Cullen, Pat Martin, Tim Howlett, New Democratic Party



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December 9, 2010

Asia calls on Québec: Stop the New Asbestos Mine

A statement by the Asian Solidarity Delegation to Quebec

We are here today representing asbestos victims, trade unions and health organizations in Asia. We are horrified by the plans of the Government of Québec to provide a \$58 million loan guarantee to develop new asbestos mine. It has been predicted that if this project goes ahead, the new Jeffrey mine will produce over 5 million tonnes of asbestos in the next quarter century.

This asbestos won't be used in Québec or anywhere in Canada – Canadian citizens do not want to risk hazardous exposures to asbestos and they are right not to do so. No human being should be subjected to such dangers. The likely destination for these asbestos shipments is Asian countries, a fact which we view as morally indefensible as well as racist. Is the life of a worker in Mumbai worth less than that of a worker in Québec?

Around the world, asbestos is killing one person every 5 minutes.¹ The International Labor Organization estimates that there are more than 100,000 asbestos-related deaths every year. The World Health Organization believes the death toll is higher and that future fatalities will escalate due to ongoing hazardous exposures. Epidemics of asbestos-related diseases have been documented in countries such as the UK, France, Australia, Italy and the U.S. Similar epidemics are emerging in Japan and Korea; in both countries, the scandal caused by the asbestos deaths of workers and residents who lived near asbestos mines or asbestos-consuming factories has been widely reported.

¹ See Asbestos Policies of International Agencies and Organizations, page 9-11.

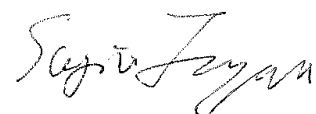
In most asbestos-consuming countries in Asia, the epidemic of asbestos-related diseases remains largely invisible. Asbestosis and cancer victims are dying without proper diagnoses and treatment (their illnesses are often misdiagnosed); in most Asian countries, the injured are unable to obtain financial support or compensation. We know that many asbestos victims in this region worked with asbestos from Québec. In fact, Asian countries remain the most important customers for Québec asbestos exporters. We are in no doubt that the owners of the new Jeffrey asbestos mine intend to ship the majority of annual production to Asian destinations: more money for the anonymous international investors, more pollution and environmental exposure for Québec citizens and more asbestos deaths for Asia.

How many dead Asians are enough for the Québec Government to accept that this indefensible trade has to end? Every human being has the right to work and live in a healthy environment. Are the tragic repercussions of asbestos exposures in Asia and elsewhere of less significance than a few hundred jobs in Québec?

Asbestos industry propagandists assure people in Québec that asbestos can be used safely under controlled conditions. Yet, research in Québec has proved conclusively that such conditions do not exist in Québec workplaces². They most certainly do not exist in India, Thailand, Indonesia or the Philippines. For many years Québec's asbestos lobby has, by means of aggression and deception, prevented the truth about asbestos from being told. This taboo has been broken by Québec's own medical doctors and health professionals, who have challenged the Québec Government to stop the mining and export of asbestos. We thank them for their integrity and courage.

At this critical moment when the asbestos industry wants to launch another generation of asbestos disease, we have come in person to make a direct, human appeal to the citizens of Québec. We are confident that once they are aware of the tragic asbestos reality which exists in Asia, they will put pressure on their Government to STOP THE MINE.

On behalf of the Asian Solidarity Delegation to Québec
Coordinator of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)
Sugio FURUYA (Mr.)



² *Project provincial amiante* <http://www.santepub-mtl.qc.ca/Publication/pdftravail/projetamiante.pdf>

Introducing the Members of the Delegation from Asia

Japan

Sugio Furuya is the Secretary General of the Japan Occupational Safety and Health Resource Center, a founding member of the Ban Asbestos Network of Japan (BANJAN). He has been active in the Japanese campaign to ban asbestos and obtain justice for asbestos victims for over 20 years.

Kazumi Yoshizaki The appalling and unnecessary asbestos death of her beloved father, spurred Ms Yoshizaki to campaign for a worldwide ban on asbestos. She is an active member of the Japan Association of Mesothelioma and Asbestos-related Disease Victims and their Families.

India

Anup Srivasta is the Education Officer for South Asia for the global trade union federation: Building and Woodworkers International. He has worked, in particular, to inform construction workers about the risks of building products that contain asbestos since in many countries, including Canada, construction workers have high levels of asbestos-related disease.

Omana George is a Program Coordinator at the Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC), a well-known civil society organization that has been promoting workers' rights in Asia for over 30 years. She has been involved in campaigns to achieve a ban on asbestos in India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Indonesia

Muchamad Darisman is a community activist from the Local Initiative for Occupational Health & Safety Network (LION) in Bandung, Indonesia. He has been part of a joint Indonesian-Japanese-Korean task force investigating hazardous asbestos exposures to workers and members of the public in Indonesia for 3 years. During this time, he has interviewed scores of at-risk individuals, photographed multiple examples of asbestos contamination and participated in scientific research.

Korea

Ye-yong Choi is the Executive Director of the Ban Asbestos Network Korea (BANKO), and a Director of the Asian Citizen's Center for Environment and Health, a member group of Friends of the Earth Korea. He has been researching asbestos issues in terms of 'international transfers of asbestos industry' in Asia and Europe for some years.

Jeong-rim LEE was diagnosed with malignant pleural and peritoneal mesothelioma in 2006. She has no asbestos-related work history but had the misfortune to live near Korea's 2nd largest factory producing asbestos-cement material. She is the mother of two children and a member of the Korean Asbestos Victims' Network.



< (from left) Furuya Sugio of Japan, Kathleen Ruff of Canada, Dr Fernand Turcotte of Canada >

Day 1

December 7, in Montreal

10:00 Press conference at Community Centre

The press conference got off to a good start with a room full of journalists, print and radio reporters like – Toronto Star, CBC etc.

We started off with an introduction of our delegation by Dr. Fernand who professor of public health, has been a very courageous leader in challenging the Chrysotile Institute. He spoke about the importance of Asian delegation to Quebec and why it is imperative to say that opening the mine is what we in Asia do not want and have to say NO to the Jeffrey mine!

Kathleen then spoke in French to the media telling them why we are here, what is our concern as people from Asia and why financing the mine is detrimental to the people of Asia.

Sugio Furuya who is the representative of the delegation started the address with

saying the following:

“This has never happened before: that the people from the countries where Québec’s asbestos is sent have asked to be heard by the people of Québec.

We are here because we are gravely concerned about the possibility of a new asbestos mine being built in Québec. The consortium of international investors has asked the Québec government to give a \$58 million loan guarantee in order to open this mine. If this project goes ahead, the new Jeffrey mine will produce over 5 million tonnes of asbestos over the next quarter century.

This asbestos won’t be used in Québec or anywhere in Canada – Canadian citizens do not want to risk hazardous exposures to asbestos and they are right not to do so. No human being should be subjected to such dangers. The likely destination for these asbestos shipments is Asian countries, a fact which we view as morally indefensible as well as racist. Is the life of a worker in Mumbai worth less than that of a worker in Québec? “

He then introduced the delegation members one by one starting with Anup Srivastava from the Building and Woodworkers International who spoke on behalf the international trade union movement, Indian trade union movement and workers all over the world.

“Our venerated leader Mahatma Gandhi listed commerce without morality, science without humanity and politics without principle among the deadly sins. There is no doubt that these sins and others have been committed by people intent on selling deadly asbestos to Indian consumers. We urge the people of Québec, as mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, consumers, citizens and voters, to speak out on this issue. Enough life has been sacrificed in the pursuit of the asbestos dollar. Let it end here.”

The next speaker was Jeong- Rim Lee, Rachel who gave a moving testimony about her life and how she was exposed to asbestos and her sickness.

“Asbestos has destroyed my life.

When I first got sick, I did not know about asbestos. I had a vague idea that it was something used for roofs but that was all I knew.

In the last 5 years, I have learned a lot about asbestos. Most of all, I have learned how it can completely destroy a life and the life of those who love someone with an asbestos disease.”

The next speaker to address the media was Kazumi Yoshizaki. Her father dies of pleural mesothelioma in 2005.



< Rachel Jeong-Rim LEE of Korea >

“I know how horrible asbestos is. Asbestos fibers sneaked into my father’s lungs silently, stayed there for many years and suddenly rampaged. Asbestos caused him physical and mental pain. It took happiness, future, dream, hope, and stable mental state from him.”

Muchamad Darisman spoke about asbestos factory which he had visited in Indonesia and had a sack with him of the Canadian asbestos which is being used in Indonesia. He also showed pictures of the environment around which the asbestos factory is with the community all around the factory including a kindergarden.

The media was very interested in his photographs and knowing more about the conditions about the waste of asbestos sacks and garbage where the community and children are coming into contact with having no idea about how deadly the substance is.

The next speaker was Omana George who spoke about the conditions of workers and victims in India.

“The asbestos industry claim that its mineral is being sold only to companies that handle it securely. This is not the case, argued George, program coordinator at the Asia Monitor Resource Centre. She said many people in India, where much of Quebec’s asbestos ends up, have no idea what it is, let alone how to use it safely. People break it, cut it, therefore releasing the fibers. Afterwards, there isn’t medical expertise to properly diagnose asbestos-related disease, she added.”

Finally Yeyong Choi stressed upon the double standards of Quebec in protecting its people and on Mr. Charest saying that Canada is a leader in sustainable economy and global development.

“Mr. Charest has to see the fact that Québec is the leading exporter of the deadly mineral ‘chrysotile’ asbestos to Asia, exporting over 1.77 million tons during recent 11 years (1999-2009), which is 76% of Québec’s total asbestos export. The ratio of export to Asia is getting higher every year.

He added on to say that should the new mine is allowed, then all the asbestos must be not used in Quebec or Canada, but will all be exported to Asia. Aren’t our dead enough? “

The press conference went on for a much longer period than anticipated , the press were very patient and hung on to every word we spoke and appreciated all the information that we had to share.

Members of our delegation were then interviews by a few of the journalists on a one to one basis and here are a few links of our press conference yesterday that was featured in media reports this morning.

- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation – CBC news both Radio and TV coverage
<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2010/12/08/asia-asbestos-activists-visit-quebec.html#socialcomments-submit>
- Toronto Star
<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/903341--victims-activists-urge-canada-to-stop-asbestos-exports>
- Canada News Wire
<http://www.canadanewswire.ca/en/releases/archive/December2010/07/c3195.html>
- UPI
http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2010/12/08/Canada-urged-to-stop-asbestos-export/UPI-11961291818672/

- Digital Journal
<http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/301166>

- Canadian Mining Journal
<http://www.canadianminingjournal.com/issues/story.aspx?aid=1000395512>



<(from left) Rachel of Korea, Darisman of Indonesia, Kazumi of Japan>

December 7th Afternoon, in Montreal: Public meeting at the University of Quebec

In the afternoon, we went to the University of Quebec to have a public meeting and where there were many interested people from the community and journalists who came to the meeting. This one was a much longer meeting where there was a more interactive discussion in the end.

The meeting started off with an address from Dr. Edward Keyserlink whose brother had died of asbestosis while being exposed to asbestos while he was in the Canadian navy. He spoke about the overwhelming medical evidence that say that the usage of asbestos should be banned and there is no safe usage. Canada is at the point of using no asbestos at all but despite that Canada remains the promoter and the leader in the world pro asbestos crusade. Quebec mines and exports it and the federal government will not ban its export as a hazardous product.



He pointed out the responsibility of politicians to protect, not harm those affected 'anywhere' by the policies he supports. He appealed to the people of Quebec and

said that short-sighted political gain, wilful ignorance and negligent disregard of scientific evidence has displaced principle and duty and as a Quebecer and Canadian, he was ashamed of the governments both provincial and federal.

Members of the delegation then addressed the audience one by one and then in the following discussion, one of the questions that came up was that why are countries like Indonesia and India importing the substance and not stopping it? We responded speaking about the propaganda, the strong presence of the chrysotile institute in Asia, the misinformation campaign about asbestos and why Canada should be ashamed of itself in the role it plays for selfish gain.

Rachel and Kazumi's sharing moves the audience as they can really relate to what happened with them and how asbestos has destroyed their lives. It is a moving experience for those listening to them and they really make a connection with people who are listening to them.

After the public meeting- we left to Quebec City.

Day 2

8 December

Early morning interview- CBC – Quebec City

It was a live radio interview at the CBC-Radio studio in downtown Quebec city at 7:30am. Jeong-Rim Rachel Lee and Anup Srivastava were invited and Yeyong followed to support.

The interviewer was very aware of the issue and helped to articulate very clearly the concerns we had. In particular Rachel's story was delivered that this was not just worker's problem but resident's one as well like anybody could be the victim. It was a 10 minute interview but studio interview is a powerful medium to get the message to the listeners. Anup's answer was brilliant with the question about the asbestos miner's job if the mine closed, "We concerned their jobs, the money Quebec government is going to support the mine is their money so the money can be used for other sustainable way for themselves not the asbestos mine." the MC closed the interview "they wanted to end Quebec asbestos mine", which is very strong and clear remark.

CBC radio link

<http://www.cbc.ca/video/news/audioplayer.html?clipid=1688767990>



<Anup of India and Rachel of Korea>

**December 8th, in Quebec City:
Meeting with CSD (Centrale des Syndicats Democratiques, Central of
Democratic Trade Unions)**

Those present from the CSD were - Mr. Francois Vaudreuil, SCD President (CSD has 70,000 members) Mr. Normand Pepin, CSD official of the research department. He translated our English into French so we could not identify what was being said in French. Along with the President were 2 (male and female) secretariats of the National Asbestos Union which organize 270 Jeffery mine workers

Dr. Jacques Dunnigan

*We received two documents – one is a paper presented by CSD to the Regional Conference of Elected Representatives of the Eastern Townships and the Regional Committee on Natural Resource and territory (November 18. 2010) and another one is Dunnigan's personal advice for us! (See pp 47-48)
He said he had already read our press pack.

The meeting began with the President's remark and followed by Sugio's remarks that can be summed up as that the Solidarity delegation have come here in order to call on Quebec government to stop new Jeffery mine and to ask you, the people of Quebec to put pressures on your government to do so. Our opinions may be different but I hope and believe we could have constructive discussion. Followed by statements of the rest of the delegation members.

Dr. Jacques Dunnigan then gave a speech and the same has been scanned for further reference. This was followed by a discussion and in conclusion, the CSD president stated that they supported new Jeffrey mine project.

In conclusion, Sugio made 2 points:

- The CSD still does not have enough understanding about the asbestos reality in Asian countries.
- The argument that Canada is solely exporting chrysotile and cannot

substitute to inspect in your countries - it is the obligation of your own country - is irresponsible manner.

He asked them to reconsider their position again following today's discussion with our delegation.



< (from right) Mr. Normand Pepin, Dr Jacques Dunnigan, Mr. Francois Vaudreuil of the CSD leader >

Notes from Sugio of this meeting

Asbestos-related diseases are due to "bad practice"

*Situation in Quebec has been dramatically improved
landmark points - 1949 strike and 1975 registration*

Amphibole theory

*meso case in Quebec is due to amphibole used for 2 years during WWII
since 1975 there has been no meso*

Bio-persistence theory

Economic interest of substitute manufacturers behind ban asbestos argument

*If Canada stop export it must be replaced by Russia and other countries and
Canada has better practice or is better country.*

This sounded for us that they urged "Canada is better killer".

Long latency period theory

What you see now is the result of the past.

The current good practice doesn't cause danger.

*Infrastructure is not being caught up to rapid economic developments in
countries like India and Canada cannot substitute to national authority in those
countries.*

*Bad practice exists in small shops and major consumer using Quebec chrysotile
is following good practice of safe use approach.*

**December 8th afternoon,
Meeting with Parti Quebecois at the Quebec national assembly:**

The meeting took place mainly in French and it was obvious that they wished to hear what the delegation had to say and therefore to everything we said. Kathleen helped convey our position to them and they of course asked us all the standards questions.

- why are we here in Canada and why not in our countries working to stop import?
- If Canada were to stop mining and exporting asbestos then some other country will take their place
- Jobs that people will lose
- Support in Quebec for the mine and the question of safety not being an issue

The meeting concluded with them telling us that they will take everything we said into account and discuss it in their 52 member group. But refused to take any clear position other than that in spite of Kathleen asking them repeatedly to take a stand.



(left photo; Agnès Maltais, critic for health, and Scott McKay, critic for mines, for the Official Opposition, at the Quebec national assembly)

**December 8th afternoon, Quebec City:
Public meeting at the University of Laval**

The meeting began with an introductory speech by Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger who is the President of the Association of Physicians specialising in Public Health. He spoke about asbestos, the harmful effects of the substance, the diseases it causes, why it has been banned and what is the reason our team was in Quebec and our message and why we had come across the seas with this message.

Sugio then started the meeting with data on Canadian asbestos with using some

slides in PPT-Data. Followed by Kazumi then introduced her experience and conveyed the voice of asbestos victims and their families. Instead of Rachel who didn't attend the meeting Yeyong introduced her story and Canadian asbestos in Korea. Anup introduced campaign by the global trade union movements and showed pictures of February action in India. Darisman showed LAB chrysotile sack and explained his pictures. Finally Omana introduced asbestos reality in India and showed pictures as a testament to the situation.



In the audience there were very obviously 2 camps- people on our side and then those from the industry, town of asbestos and the Jeffrey mine itself. This led to a very direct and outspoken discussion where they kept trying to downplay everything we said about safety, about chrysotile being safe and about banning asbestos.

There was a geologist present in the audience who started talking about the diameter of the fibres and went into a very technical statement on how and why chrysotile is okay. He was completely squashed by a public health doctor who told him that as a geologist he can talk about the mineral and fibre but he has no authority to talk about the health effects of the substance.

The meeting concluded quite amicably after a lot of heated debates and raising of voices and nearly shouting in the room. One of the doctors came to Omana later and said that the trip of the Asian delegation with the message not to fund the mine and ban asbestos export was timely for Quebec and Canada and thank you to all of us for opening their eyes.

Phone interview with the Globe and Mail

The Asian delegation received a request for a phone interview by the Globe and Mail - who asked us about the purpose of our visit, what was our message to Canada and the people of Quebec. Details of the interview with Omana George who spoke on behalf of the delegation can be read here:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/lancet-asian-delegation-urge-canada-to-ban-asbestos-exports/article1830597/>

Day 3

9 December

Press conferences at the National Assembly in Ottawa

The delegation broke into 2 parts. Kazumi and Omana went to Ottawa to do a press conference at the Parliament along with Members of Parliament of the New Democratic Party.

They arrived in Ottawa and went to the Rideau Institute where they had a meeting with the Director Steven Staples and other colleagues present.

The next meeting was with the NGO called working on environmental and health issuescancer.org. The Director of the organisation has come to meet us and share their solidarity with us and our group and with the people of Asia. He expressed sadness with Canada's position in the asbestos lobby and exports. He was really happy to make contacts with us and would like to work with us in the future on asbestos and help us with our campaign. His organisation has a campaign against asbestos and nuclear energy.

Next is was an interview with Ian Austin who is the Ottawa based correspondent for the NY Times. He was quite direct and challenged us on our work and how much of an impact we will have and if the Canadian government will ever listen to us and if they did not what will be our reaction and the next step. We told him about our position and why Canada should not continue to play the role it is when it concerns its people and those in Asia.

Post lunch was the press conference. The speakers were Nathan Cullen who hosted the show and also said that labour groups have issued a press statement in Ottawa in support of the delegation and their position. The speakers were Kazumi first who gave an account of her father's illness and the victims movement in Japan followed by Omana who spoke about why countries in Asia do not want any more asbestos and spoke about the reality in Asian countries. The next speaker was Pat Martin who spoke about his history of working in an

asbestos factory and finally Thomas Mulcair who addresses the journalist in French.



<Omana speaking in front, at the press conference in the House of Commons, Ottawa>

Here is their press release -

New Democrats joined Asian asbestos victims and activists today to demand an end to Canada's deadly asbestos exports.

New Democrats pointed out that despite spending hundreds of millions of dollars removing asbestos from Parliament buildings, the Government of Canada continues to support the mining and export of the world's leading industrial killer.

"It is absolutely disgraceful that Canada now bears the shame of being one of the last places still exporting this deadly stuff," said New Democrat Natural Resources Critic Nathan Cullen (Skeena-Bulkley Valley). "The lives of workers in the developing world should be more important than narrow political posturing by this government."

Cullen has introduced legislation to ban the mining and export of asbestos while assisting communities in transitioning to more sustainable economic activities. "Canada is becoming an international pariah for its asbestos policies," said Pat Martin (Winnipeg Centre). "Without exaggeration, we are exporting human misery on a monumental scale."

"Once again, the Conservative government is showing that it is incapable of

acting responsibly. It is scandalous and shameful that this government is still allowing asbestos to be exported to countries that have no safety standards regarding its use. It is banned here but we export it. This makes no sense,” charged New Democrat Deputy Leader Thomas Mulcair (Outremont).

Joining the New Democrat MPs were Kazumi Yoshizaki of Japan and Omana George of India - part of the Solidarity Delegation from Asia to Quebec consisting of asbestos victims and activists from four Asian countries demanding an end to Canadian asbestos exports.

“We appeal to Prime Minister Harper: You do not promote asbestos as a safe product in Canada. So please stop promoting it as a safe product for developing countries. Please care about our lives. We call on you to support a ban on asbestos.” Sugio Furuya, leader of the Solidarity Delegation from Asia to Canada. After this, the 2 members of the team headed back to Montreal to unite with the rest of the delegation.

December 9th, Press conference at the National Assembly in Quebec City

Meanwhile the rest of the delegation went in the morning to the press conference in the National Assembly. Sugio spoke to the audience about the meetings with CSD and Parti Quebecois, public meeting at universities in Montreal and Quebec Cities. He said that the people are now becoming aware of tragic asbestos reality in Asian countries.



<(from left) Prof. Yv. Bonnier Viger, Furuya Sugio, Mr. Amir Khadir of Quebec Solidaire, Rachel LEE, Yeyong CHOI, Anup Srivastava>

Next step should be an action. He concluded by saying that we the delegation are hoping and believing there will be more support for our demand to stop new Jeffrey mine. The members of the delegation all spoke one by one which was followed by listening the debates at the national assembly.

**December 9th,
Meeting with the Minister Clement Gignac and governmental
officials from the Ministry of Economic Development and CSST
representatives in Quebec City**

The meeting started with the ministers speech followed by Sugio who said the following “ We have come here in order to call on you and your government to stop new Jeffrey mine. We know you has required a confirmation to accept a governmental loan guarantee - Workers protection similar to that in Quebec should be applied to workers in the countries where Quebec's asbestos was sent. As an asbestos victim, persons who have worked on asbestos issue in Asia, we know the real situation. Workers and the public are being exposed to asbestos under unsafe or even more dangerous situation and asbestos is killing more and more people in Asian countries. This is the real situation. Medical and occupational health experts in Quebec and anywhere in Canada confirm our statements. We strongly recommend you to listen to their voice. After our members speech, I would like to hear your clear answer whether you will support our demand or not.”

Rachel then spoke about her life and how asbestos affected her and has made her very ill. The other members of the team were then introduced briefly so that more time was saved for discussion.



<Minister Gignac (middle)>

Points made during the meeting:

The minister said his government has not decided but for us he looked to having fixed position to support the mine.

* Minister said that the situation in 50 years ago was so bad but it has been improved. Now Quebec has "one of best practice" in the world. He used "best practice" instead of "good practice" or "better practice" Then our two our liaison persons (Kathleen and Lorraine) to make comments.

KATHLEEN'S SPEECH AND REPLIES

* When Kathleen's speech became a little longer they started to talk each other talk in whispers. They would not hear and response earnestly and were not polite.

In conclusion the following remarks were made:

You urged that if Canada stop to export it must be replaced by Russia and other countries. But those countries are not only exporting but also using asbestos in their countries. Canada is only one country that is only exporting Quebec's asbestos is not used by people in Quebec and anywhere in Canada. It looks like a death exporter or death merchant.

LAST REMARK (mainly against the ministers opinion that your countries should apply Quebec's "best practice")

We prefer ban on asbestos rather than best practice.

And international organizations agree with us.

We have made efforts for ban asbestos and will continue to do so.

Japan and Korea have already introduced ban on asbestos and more Asian countries will introduce in the near future

It is a time to decide which side are you stand on, ban on asbestos or continued use?

Not only us, the whole world are watching what decision will be made.

Note: Please refer to Kathleen's meeting notes on this meeting for details and the discussions which took place.

Day 4

10 December

Interview with Omana on CBC radio, Montreal aired on 10 December at 6.30 pm

It's a scheme that combines creation and destruction in a very discomfiting way. Quebec has approved a plan by a consortium to re-open an old asbestos mine in the province. The new venture will create about four hundred badly needed jobs.

But a group representing Asian workers is upset about Canada's plans to re-start the Jeffrey Mine. Members of that group traveled all the way to Quebec this week to try to persuade politicians there to change their mind.

Omana George is an occupational health worker from India and part of the Asia delegation. We reached her in Montreal.

The link of the interview can be found on

<http://www.cbc.ca/asithappens/episode/2010/12/10/friday-december-10-2010/>

Listen to the audio link - Part three of the program - its on top of the page

QUEBEC ANTI-ASBESTOS LOBBY

Duration: 00:06:08

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Dec 10, Demonstration outside Charest office in Montreal City

It was a well organised demonstration with Flory and her team preparing flyers, materials and banners. The demonstration was well supported by members of Greenpeace, Quebec Solidaire and other supporters of our campaign.

There were several media and a live radio-interview by Kathleen just after the demo at the right spot.

This was the conclusion of our trip and the delegation left Canada on the 11th and 12th of December 2010.





<photo by Marie-josée roy>

REFERENCES

Asian Solidarity Delegation from Asia to Quebec: Official Press Pack

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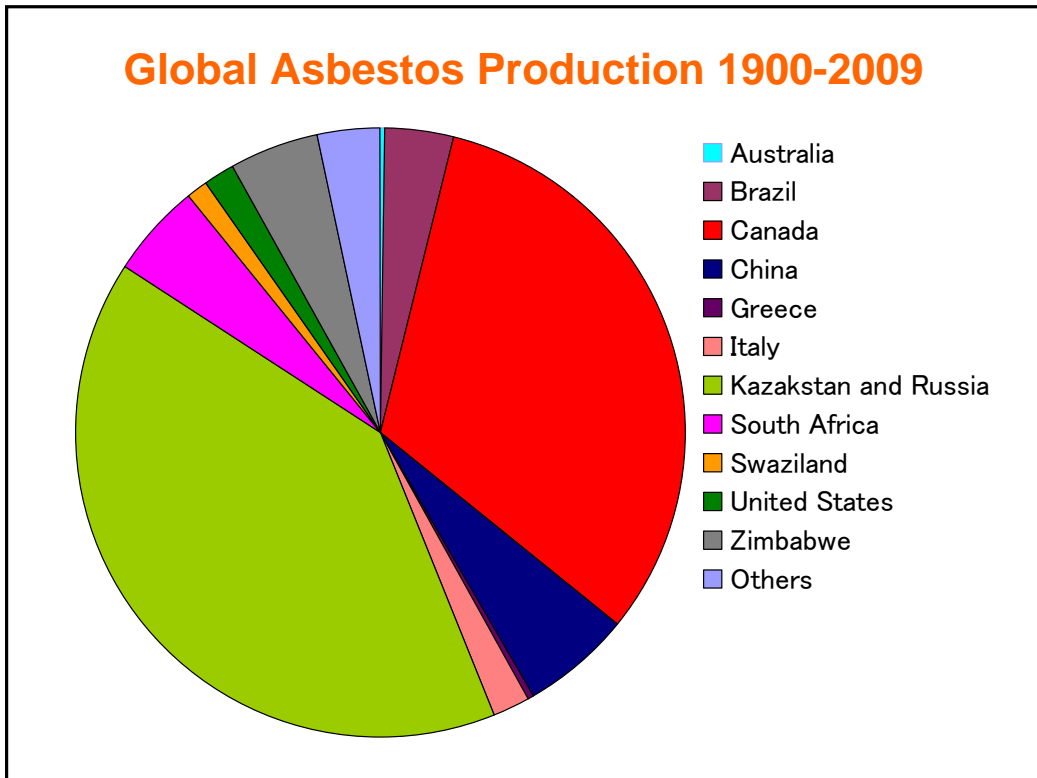
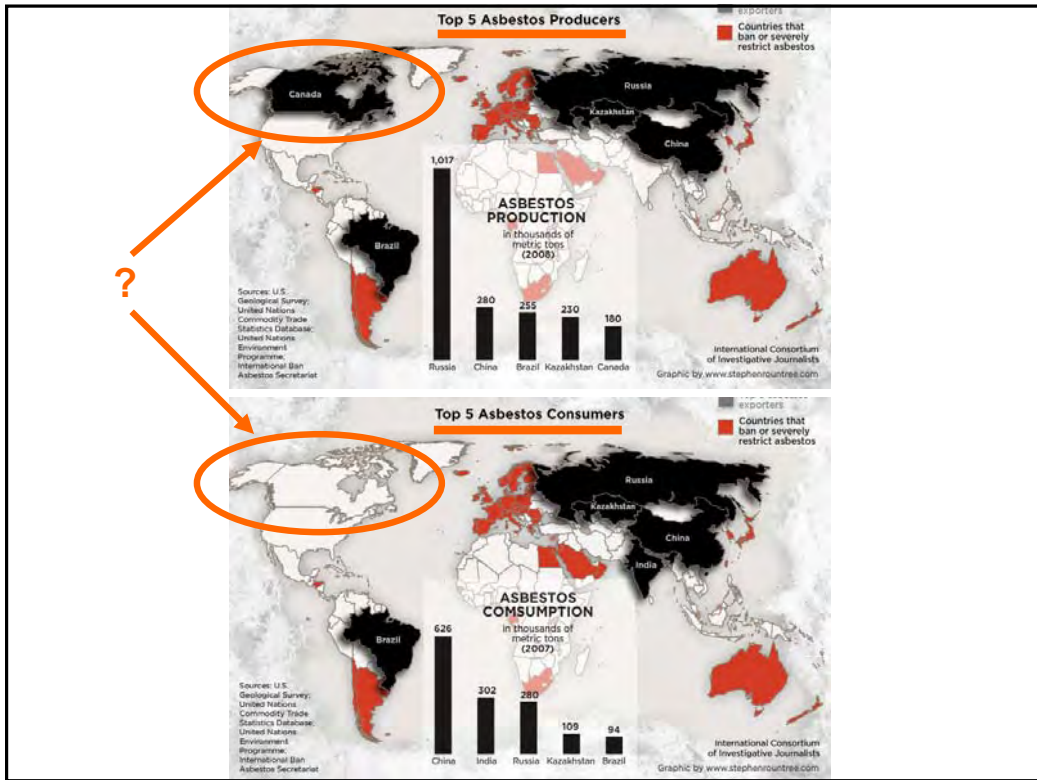
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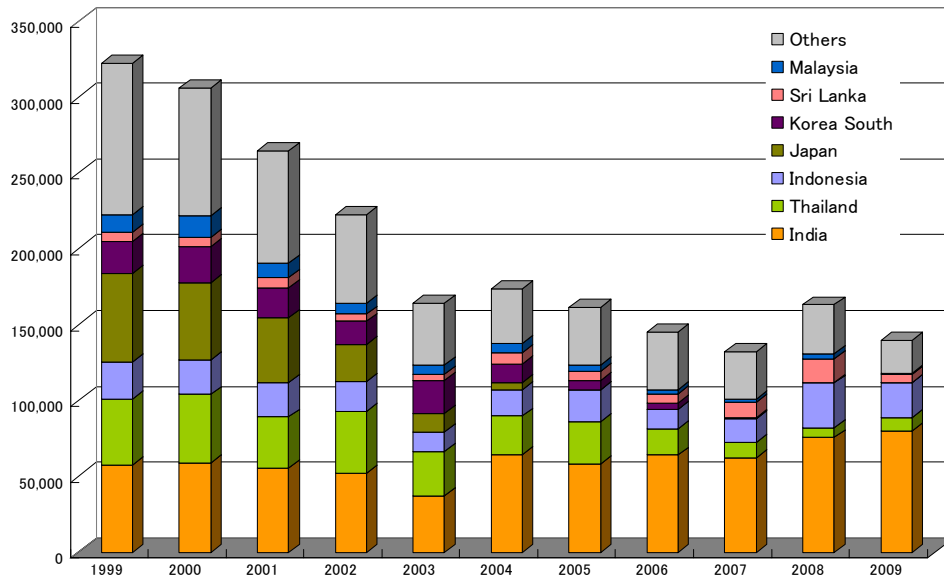
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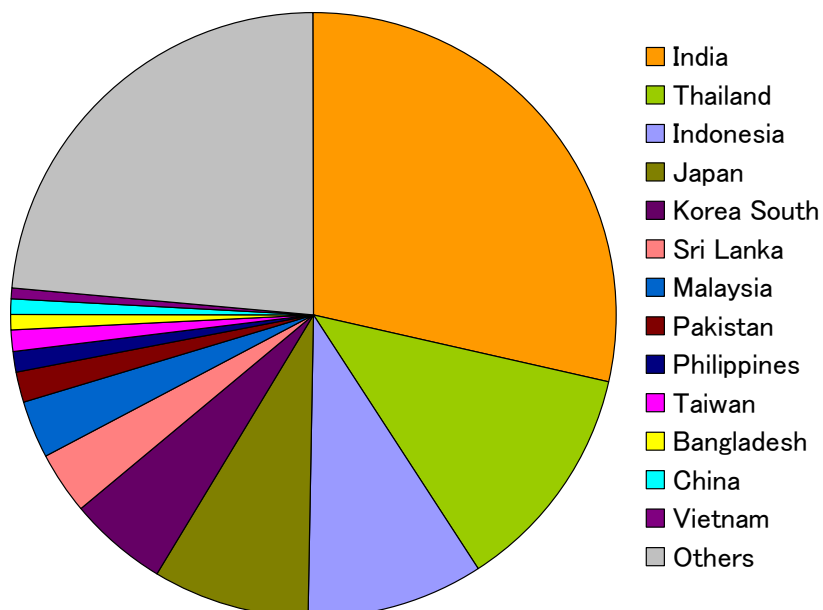
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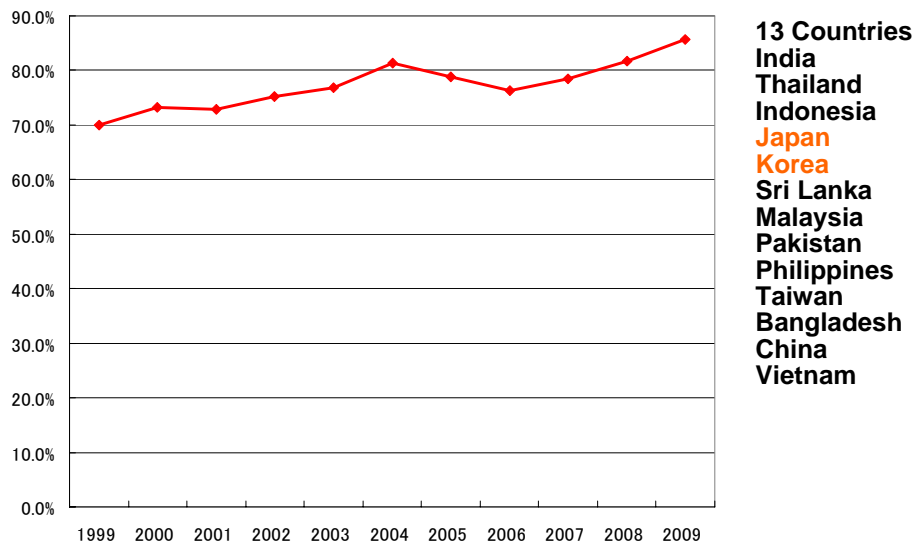
Canadian Asbestos Exports 1999-2009



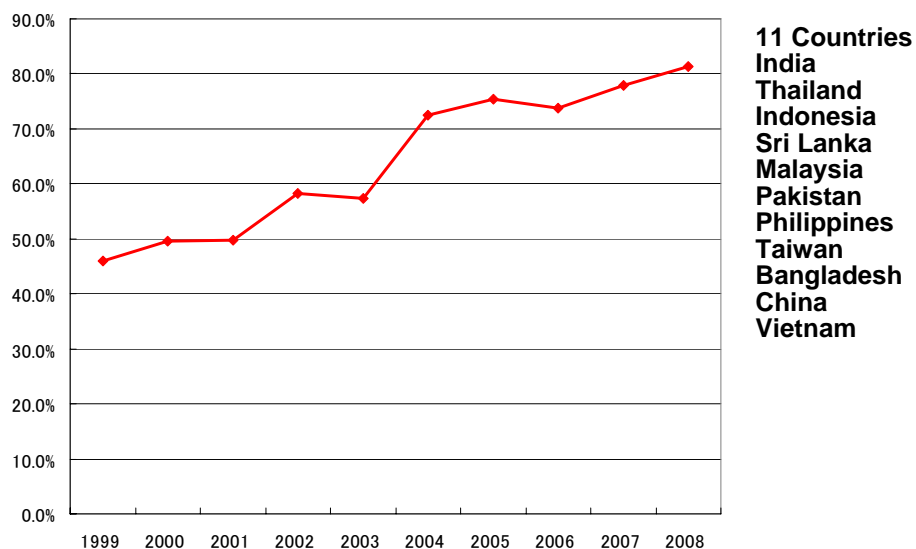
Canadian Asbestos Exports 1999-2009



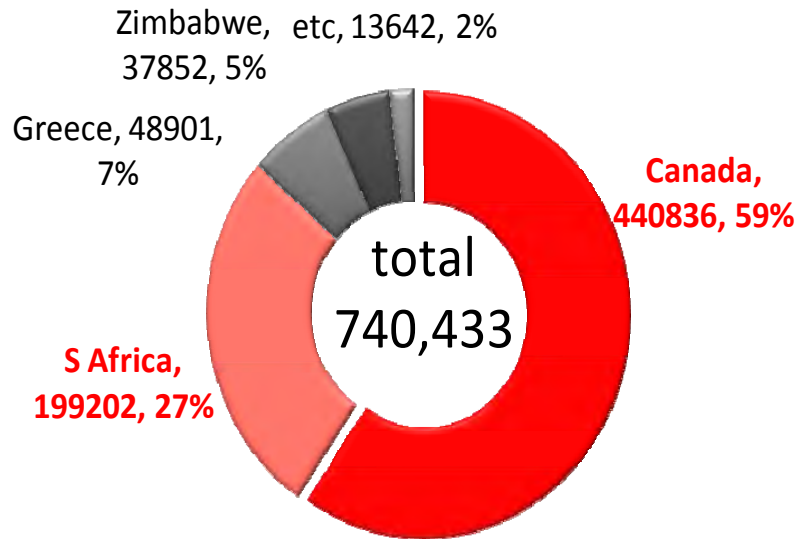
Proportion of 13 Asian countries (including Japan and Korea) among Canadian Asbestos Exports 1999-2009



Proportion of 11 Asian countries (excluding Japan and Korea) among Canadian Asbestos Exports 1999-2009

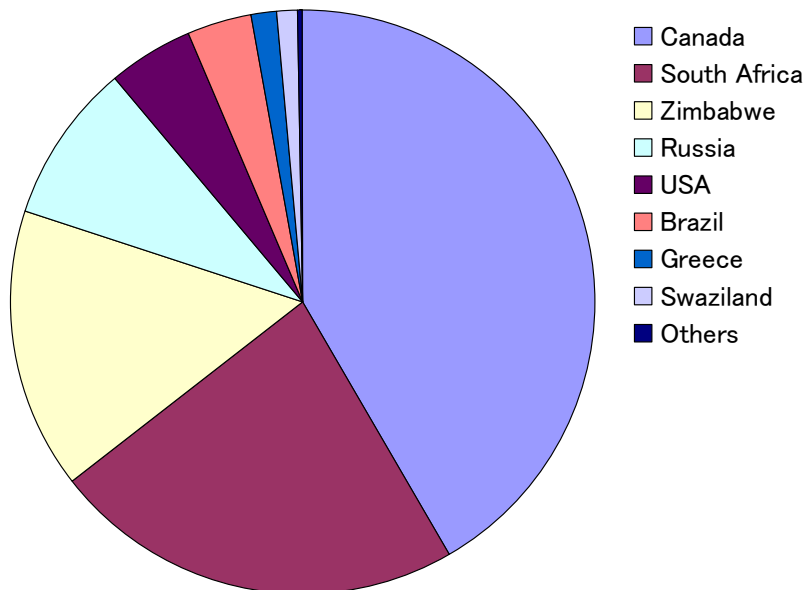


Canadian Asbestos Export to Korea 1991-2007

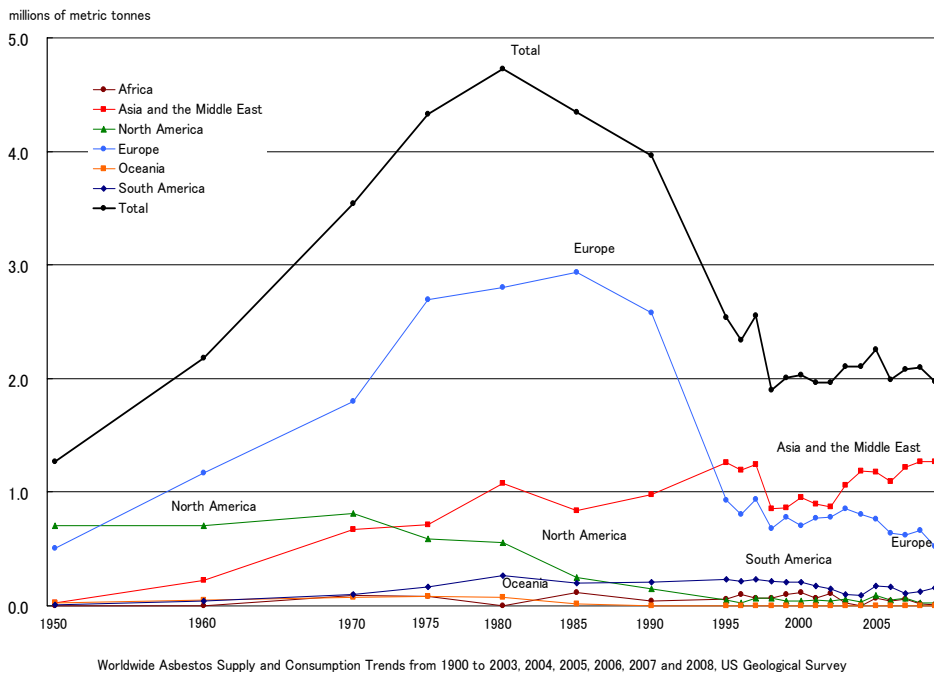


Ban Asbestos Network Korea

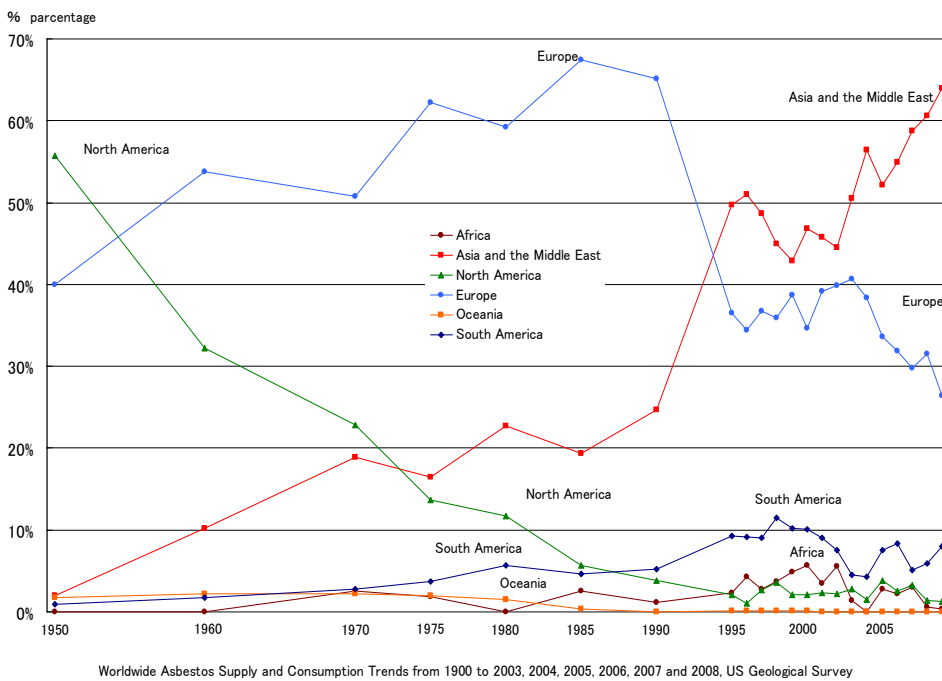
Canadian Asbestos Export to Japan 1998-2005



Trend of Asbestos Consumption by Continent 1950–2009



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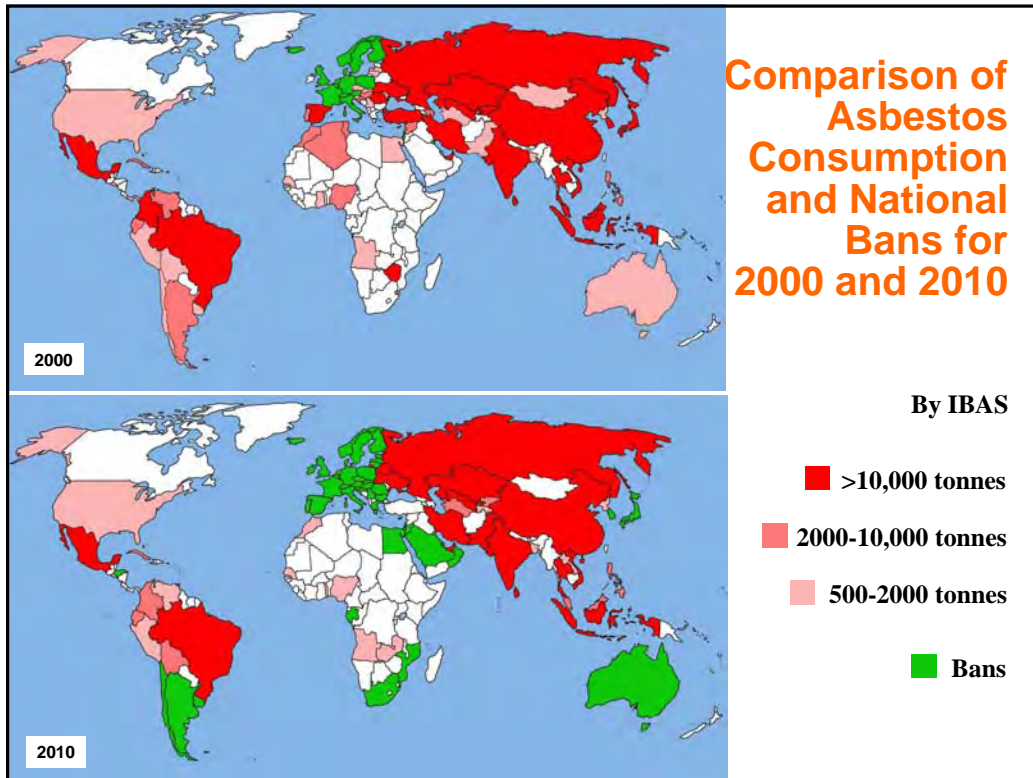


Top 10 Asbestos Consuming Countries in 2008

	Country	Asbestos Consumption (tonnes)	
1	China	554,419	27.0%
2	Russia	359,973	17.2%
3	India	348,538	16.6%
4	Kazakhstan	185,625	8.9%
5	Brazil	98,641	4.7%
6	Indonesia	78,037	3.7%
7	Thailand	69,291	3.3%
8	Ukraine	64,330	3.1%
9	Sri Lanka	58,109	2.8%
10	Vietnam	49,998	2.4%
	World Total	2,095,387	100.0%

Top 10 Asbestos Consuming Countries in 2009

	Country	Asbestos Consumption (tonnes)	
1	China	565,313	28.6%
2	India	340,544	17.2%
3	Russia	276,821	14.0%
4	Brazil	140,272	7.1%
5	Thailand	102,739	5.2%
6	Uzbekistan	98,635	5.0%
7	Indonesia	82,302	4.2%
8	Vietnam	80,875	4.1%
9	Ukraine	63,600	3.2%
10	Kazakhstan	40,217	2.0%
	World Total	1,977,069	100.0%



Summary: Banning Asbestos in Asia

Countries already introducing ban in some way	
Japan	2004 (with few exceptions, Industrial Safety and Health Act)
Korea	2007 (with few exceptions, Industrial Safety and Health Act)
Mongolia	2010 (Governmental Order, its real enforcement remains as a big challenge)
Singapore	1989 (raw asbestos, Environment Protection and Management Act)
Brunei	1994 (administrative rules by the Ministry of Development)
Countries setting goals to achieve ban in some way	
Thailand	By 2012 (voluntary phase-out plan developed in 2007)
Malaysia	By 2015 (voluntary phase-out plan developed in 2009)
Philippines	By 2018 (draft code of practice 2008, will be front loaded by new law?)
Vietnam	By 2020 (NPEARD developed in 2007)
Taiwan	By 2020 (EPA phase-out plan in 2010, legal prohibition)
Lao	By 2020 (drafted regulation?)
Countries starting discussion/consideration	
Cambodia	From 2009
Countries not yet establishing ban policy	