Banning Asbestos in Asia

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BWI International Asbestos Conference in Vienna, Austria

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Are Asbestos Victims still Invisible?
India 2012
Asbestos Victims Groups in Asia

Hong Kong

Taiwan

Korea

Japan
Trend of Asbestos Consumption by Continent 1950-2012

Trend of Asbestos Consumption by Continent 1950-2012

## Top 10 Asbestos Consuming Countries in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Asbestos Consumption (tonnes)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>530,834</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>493,086</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>167,602</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>161,824</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>155,476</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>103,608</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>78,909</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>58,008</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>54,704</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>42,000</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Total</td>
<td>1,961,728</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparison of Asbestos Consumption and National Bans for 2000 and 2012

By IBAS

- Red: >10,000 tonnes
- Pink: 2000-10,000 tonnes
- Light pink: 500-2000 tonnes
- Green: Bans
Hong Kong has introduced a ban on April 4th 2014

EPA: “Banning Asbestos” page

Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board and social partners signed a charter on Nov 7, 2013.

ASBESTOS RISK ABATEMENT CHARTER

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

We understand and agree that —

The on-going use of asbestos has caused substantial impacts on the environment, the health of the construction workers and the general public.

A ban on asbestos containing construction materials and compliance with the relevant legislation and codes of practice in removing and disposing of asbestos containing construction materials will be conducive to maintaining a healthy working and living environment, and reducing the incidence of asbestosis and mesothelioma.

We can play an active role in working to abate the hazards of asbestos.

IMPLEMENTATION

To abate the hazards of asbestos, we are committed to —

Discontinuing completely the use of asbestos containing construction materials and supporting a total ban on asbestos in Hong Kong.

Removing and disposing of asbestos containing construction materials according to the relevant legislative requirements and codes of practice, and in particular, adopting effective protective measures to create a healthy working and living environment, thereby reducing cases of asbestosis and mesothelioma.

Working in partnership with stakeholders in the community and setting an example in promoting the awareness of asbestos risks, and widely publicizing preventive messages to practitioners in the construction industry, the management, and the general public.
Hong Kong Government said:

- Banning asbestos to reduce the risk of exposure to asbestos has become an international trend.
- The Amendment Ordinance will further reduce the risk of public exposure to environmental asbestos by imposing a total ban on asbestos.
- Except for goods in transit and registered proprietary Chinese medicine, the import, transshipment, supply and use of all forms of asbestos will be banned to prevent asbestos from entering Hong Kong.
- It also makes related amendments to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Asbestos) Regulation to ban works with all types of asbestos in industrial undertakings.
“No More Asbestos in Hong Kong” Alliance was reactivated by AAC2009
Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN) launched at the Asian Asbestos Conference (AAC2009) April 26-28, 2009, Hong Kong

Objectives:
● facilitate a total asbestos ban in Asia as soon as possible;
● take steps to reveal the hidden epidemic of asbestos-related diseases in Asian countries;
● reveal the widespread asbestos contamination of Asian infrastructures;
● stop the international transfer of the asbestos industry;
● obtain justice for all asbestos victims, family members and affected communities;
● achieve an asbestos-free society in Asia and globally.
A-BAN: Asian Ban Asbestos Network

- **Co-chairs**
  - Prof. Domyung Paek, Seoul National University, Korea and BANKO
  - Prof. Takehiko Muramaya, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
  - Mr. Apo Leong, Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC), Hong Kong
  - Mr. Jagdish Patel, Peoples Training and Research Centre (PTRC), India
  - Mr. Apolinar Tolentino, Building and Wood Workers’ International (BWI) Asia Pacific

- **Coordinator**
  - Mr. Sugio Furuya, Ban Asbestos Network Japan (BANJAN), Japan

- **Vice Coordinators**
  - Mr. Yeyong Choi, Ban Asbestos Network Korea (BANKO), Korea
  - Mr. Sanjiv Pandita, Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC), Hong Kong
  - Ms. Madhumitta Dutta, Corporate Accountability Desk - The Other Media, India
  - Mr. Anup Srivastava, BWI South Asia Office

- **Advisors**
  - Mrs. Laurie Kazan-Allen, International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS), UK
  - Dr. Barry Castleman, Environmental Consultant, USA
  - Ms. Fiona Murie, BWI, Switzerland
  - Mr. Pat Preston, UITBB (Trades Union International in the Building, Wood, Building Materials and Allied Industries), Australia
A-BAN 2010 Meeting
October 17, 2010, Bandung, Indonesia
Indonesia Ban Asbestos Network (Ina-BAN)
Real Asbestos Situation in Asia
Indonesia 2010

Penché au milieu d'un dépotoir, un enfant fouille les déchets à mains nues. Derrière lui, des adultes utilisent de grands sacs pour récupérer du plastique, des planches et des morceaux de ciment. Leurs sacs portent le logo de la Chrysotile, une mine d'amiante située à Thetford Mines au Québec.
2010 Asian Solidarity Delegation to Quebec

- **Members** – Sugio Furuya and Kazumi Yoshizaki (BANJAN), Yeyong Choi and Jong-rim Lee (BANKO), Mochamad Darisman (Ina-BAN), Anup Srivasta (BWI-India) and Omana George (AMRC)

- **Dec 7** – Press conference at community center and public meeting at the University of Quebec in Montreal

- **Dec 8** – Morning interview by CBC, meeting with CSD (local TU organization), meeting with Parti Quebecois (opposition party) and public meeting at the University of Laval in Quebec City

- **Dec 9** – Press conference at the National Assembly in Ottawa and press conference at the National Assembly and meeting with Ministry of Economic Development in Quebec

- **Dec 10** – Demonstration outside Premier Charest Office in Montreal

2010 Asian Solidarity Delegation to Quebec
International Solidarity Campaign

Tokyo, Japan, Dec 7

Delhi, India, Dec 9

Mumbai, India, Dec 10

Seoul, Korea, Dec 7

Manila, Philippines, Dec 9

Hong Kong, China, Dec 9

London, UK, Dec 9

Paris, France, Dec 9
A-BAN 2011 Meeting
November 14-15, 2011, Jaipur, India
ANROEV 2011, November 16-18
2012 A-BAN/T-BAN Meetings
November 19-20, 2012, Bangkok
2013 A-BAN Meeting
Bangladesh Ban Asbestos Network (B-BAN)
November 22-23, 2013, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Coalition Building and Empowerment of Victims and Their Families

- 1987 Ban Asbestos Network Japan (BANJAN)
- 2002 Ban Asbestos Network India (BANI) / 2006 Occupational and Environmental Health Network India (OEHNI)
- 2008 Ban Asbestos Network Korea (BANKO)
- 2009 No More Asbestos in Hong Kong Alliance
- 2009 Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)
- 2010 Indonesia Ban Asbestos Network (Ina-BAN)
- 2011 Malaysia Ban Asbestos Network (M-BAN) - agreement
- 2012 Thailand Ban Asbestos Network (T-BAN)
- 2013 Bangladesh Ban Asbestos Network (B-BAN)

Groups of asbestos victims exist in Japan, Korea and India. Occupational victims groups in Hong Kong and Taiwan are supporting asbestos victims.
International Instruments as Leading Winds

- 2006 **ILO** “The Resolution Concerning Asbestos”
- 2006 **WHO** Policy Paper on “Elimination of Asbestos-Related Disease”
- 2007 **ILO/WHO** “Outline for the Development of National Programmes for the Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases”
- 2006 **ISSA** “Asbestos: Towards a Worldwide Ban”
  http://www.issa.int/Resources/ISSA-Publications/Asbestos-Towards-a-worldwide-ban/(language)/eng-GB
- 2009 **World Bank Group** “Good Practice Note: Asbestos: Occupational and Community Health Issues”
  good introduction when you think how to safely deal with existing asbestos
International Instruments as Leading Winds -2

- **2010** Parma Declaration on Environment and Health

- **2010** MERCOSUR Declaration on Asbestos


- **2012** JPC-SE Position Statement on Asbestos
  http://www.jpc-se.org/documents/03.JPC-SE-Position_Statement_on_Asbestos-June_4_2012-Full_Statement_and Appendix_A.pdf

- **2012** UICC Position Statement on Asbestos
  http://www.rightoncanada.ca/?p=1549

- **2012/13** ICOH Statement: Global Asbestos Ban and the Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases
  http://www.icohweb.org/site_new/ico_news_detail.asp?id=83

- **2013** Toolkit for the Elimination of ARDs [mainly for Asian countries]
  http://envepi.med.uoeh-u.ac.jp/toolkit/index.html
National Asbestos Profile

- **2007 ILO/WHO** “Outline for the Development of National Programmes for the Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases”
  

- **Vietnam NILP**: National Profile on Asbestos-related Occupational Health

- **2013 Japan**: National Asbestos Profile
  
  [http://envepi.med.uoeh-u.ac.jp/aai/NAPJ/NAPJ.html](http://envepi.med.uoeh-u.ac.jp/aai/NAPJ/NAPJ.html)

- **2013 Philippines**: DOH & UP supported by RC

- **2014 Lao PDR**: relevant ministries and LFTU, June
Conclusion

- Immediate priority is more **national bans** in Asia (and the world) as early as possible.
- Reducing national/global asbestos consumption.
- **Regional** target setting on the deadline for NPEAD development at ministerial level like Europe and MERCOSUR, etc.
- Powerful **international** instrument/initiative to facilitate ban on asbestos
- But the above two should not be used as an excuse for not introducing national ban at this moment.
- Coalition building, detecting and empowerment of asbestos victims and their families.
- Raising awareness and creating/supporting real actions through various ways – role of trade unions is important.