

# Overview of Chrysotile Asbestos in Kazakhstan



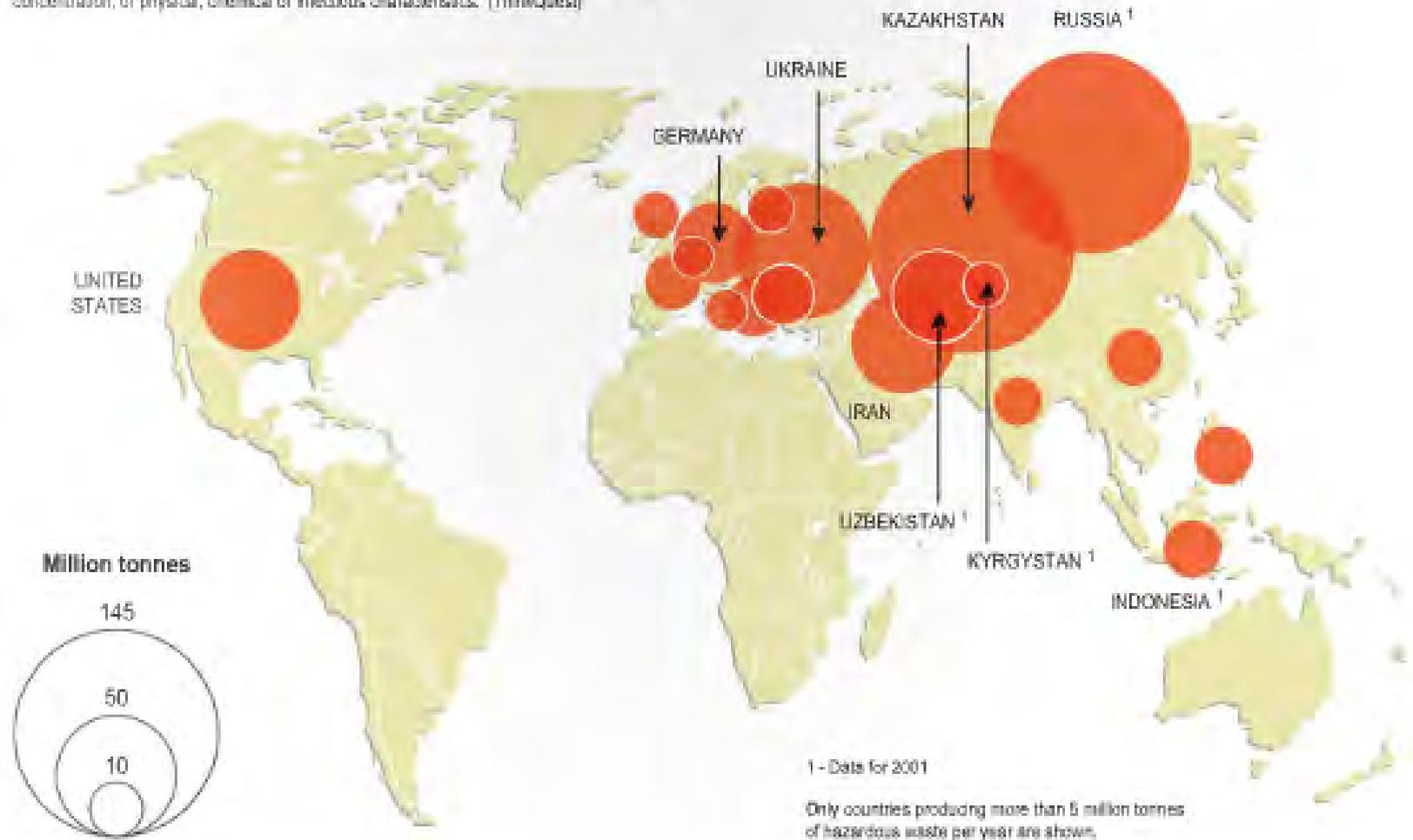
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## Major hazardous waste producers (countries for which data are available)

Please be careful when interpreting this map: wastes that can be considered as hazardous differ from one country to the next.

"Hazardous waste is solid waste which may pose a substantial hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored or disposed of because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics." (ThinkQuest)



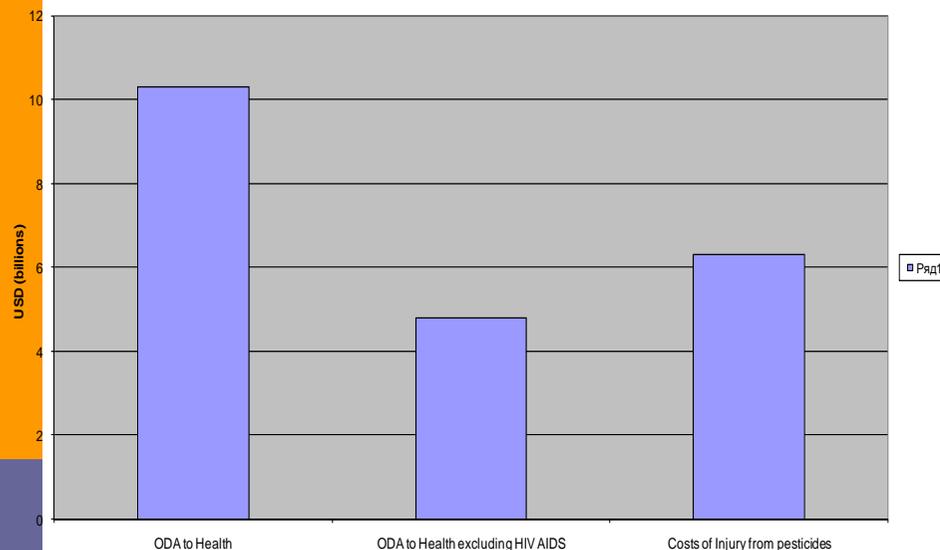
Sources: Basel Convention, 2011 (data for 2007 or latest year available); Environmental Indicators, United Nations Statistics Division, 2008; Eurostat 2011 (data for 2008 or latest year available); Philippe Chalmrin, Catherine Gallochet, *Du rare à l'extrême. Panorama mondial des déchets 2009*.

# Cost on National Economy: unrecognized and substantial



**External implications: cost of inaction for human health and environment: large with heavy burden on individual and public budgets**

ODA to Health and Costs of Injury from Pesticides



**US\$ 22 billion: global environmental external costs from mercury emissions**

**Direct Implications: Financial costs to the chemicals and related industries:**

- Higher insurance costs,
- loss of productivity,
- reputation impacts.

Costs incurred due to asbestos and contaminated drywall, for example, total over US\$125 billion worldwide – and the figure is still rising. (these costs are many times bigger of the total GDPs of some countries in CA)



# Kazakhstan: Chrysotile Asbestos mining and production

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- ❑ Kazakhstan takes the 4<sup>th</sup> place in the global distribution of asbestos production in the world, following the countries Russia, China, Brazil.
- ❑ It produces about 214.000 metric tons of chrysotile asbestos per year, which is about 10% of the worldwide output yearly
- ❑ Around 90 % is exported to other countries, rest is used locally
- ❑ There was some decrease in production over the period 1994 through 2010
- ❑ There are 19 mining and processing facilities throughout the country
- ❑ Employs about 50 000 people
- ❑ Chrysotile asbestos produced in Kazakhstan has cancerous nature
- ❑ **No available health statistics and monitoring of chrysotile asbestos impacts in the country**

# ZHETIQARA ASBESTOS MINE IN KAZAKHSTAN

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# NGO projects in Kazakhstan:

- ❑ In 2009-2011 project on “Civil society and rational regulation of hazardous waste in Kazakhstan, realized with the WECF, EcoForum Kazakhstan and GreenWomen analytical environmental agency.
- ❑ Wide awareness raising campaign on harmful effects of chrysotile asbestos and POPs on health, and getting public and political support for national and regional campaigns for controlled and restricted use of Asbestos and POPS, their disposal, clean-up of contaminated areas, and safe storage of toxic waste .
- ❑ Publications issued with information regarding asbestos and POPs in Kazakh and Russian languages, and recommendations on its use by the population.
- ❑ Also, prepared NGO recommendations as result of seminars and round tables and submitted to the government for consideration.



# Key recommendations included:

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- ❑ **Develop a national profile on asbestos in accordance with recommendations of the WHO and ILO, taking into account the specifics of the country**
- ❑ **Analysis and harmonization of national law and norms to international standards to protect health of workers, in mining and processing industries, construction, waste management, and provide realization**
- ❑ **Create a system of monitoring and impact assessment of chrysotile asbestos on workers, vulnerable people in the mining and production sectors, construction, and waste management sector.**
- ❑ **Ensure compliance of legal and other measures to restrict exposure to asbestos in public places, schools, hospitals, kindergartens.**
- ❑ **Recommended other regulatory and legislative procedures for implementation of safety standards, etc.**
- ❑ **Develop measures to proper utilization of asbestos-containing waste;**
- ❑ **Request government funding for scientific research in relation to asbestos-related problems.**

# New National Asbestos Regulation in 2013

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At present Draft State standard on requirements to handle waste containing asbestos - 1<sup>st</sup> regulation doc.

- ❑ Relates to all types of activities with waste containing chrysotile asbestos, and sets safety regulations to protect health of workers
- ❑ Sets safety standards at asbestos-containing waste at stages of collection, use, recycling, transportation, placement and surveillance
- ❑ Applied by state bodies, legal entities and individuals for related activities
- ❑ To support legal base of Kazakhstan in waste management, considering ILO Conventions on protection of labor in using asbestos.
- ❑ **Purpose:** to provide rational, complex and safe management of asbestos-containing waste; prevent environmental pollution of asbestos-containing waste; prevent workers illnesses
- ❑ This regulation is the first regulatory document directly related to chrysotile asbestos management

# NGO role in awareness raising on the risk of chrysotile asbestos Kazakhstan

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**Despite this positive development, in our opinion, we need to ensure an immediate action on raising public awareness to restrict exposure.**

**NGOs need to work together with other stakeholders to raise the awareness with the general population.**

- ❑ CSO organizations can have a key role in raising awareness about harmful effects of chrysotile asbestos
- ❑ The main challenge is that the people are still not aware of the risks
- ❑ Most of the exposure is with the general population
- ❑ The country's key development documents (like the Strategy of Transition To Green Economy) need also to include possible alternatives to asbestos in creating employment opportunities



**Thank you!**

