



General Prayut Chan-o-cha
Head of the National Council for Peace and Order
Bangkok, Thailand
Fax: 00 66 2282 5131

July 22, 2014

Subject: Support of National Asbestos Ban

Dear Sir,

The International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS)¹ and the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN) are organizations which have a great deal of expertise on the serious effects of asbestos on human beings and the environment. We are writing to urge you to support efforts by grassroots groups and civil society campaigners in Thailand to protect Thai citizens from the deadly hazards posed by exposure to asbestos.

Asbestos is classified as a class 1 human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. It's toxicity is recognized by international agencies including the World Health Organization, the International Labor Organization, the Collegium Ramazzini, the World Bank, the International Commission on Occupational Health, the Societies of Epidemiology, the Union for International Control of Cancer, the International Maritime Organization, the International Social Security Association and others as well as by regional authorities such as the European Commission, national governments and independent scientists.

We support the decision taken in April 2011 by the Thai Government which agreed to ban the import of asbestos on the grounds of public health. We are aware of the continuing asbestos dialogue in Thailand and of the pressure brought by asbestos industry stakeholders from Russia and elsewhere for Thailand to rescind this decision. The latest global data reveals that in 2012 Thailand imported 58,008 tonnes of raw asbestos fiber; Thailand is the 5th largest asbestos market in Asia. The continued import, use, processing and sale of asbestos and asbestos-containing products will create a tsunami of disease

¹ Asian Ban Asbestos Network: <http://anroev.org/aban/>, 2009aban@gmail.com
International Ban Asbestos Secretariat: www.ibasecretariat.com, lka@btinternet.com

amongst the population in years to come. These cancer and respiratory diseases can be prevented by the implementation of the 2011 decision to ban asbestos.

We are hereby expressing our support for the decision the Thai government took and for the immediate implementation of this decision in order to save the lives of Thai citizens. People in Thailand as elsewhere have a fundamental right to work and live in a healthy environment; this cannot be fulfilled in countries where asbestos use remains legal.

In solidarity,

Sugio Furuya, Chair of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network

Laurie Kazan-Allen, Coordinator of the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat