

Asking National Council for Peace and Order for **Fairness** in

Making a Ban to Chrysotile Asbestos

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The Chrysotile Information Centre (CIC) has sent a letter to the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) asking for fairness in making a ban to the use of chrysotile asbestos, used in manufacturing roofing tiles, and claiming that it causes sickness and death without any study findings' support. As a result, consumers have to pay for more expensive products. If the ban is in effect, it can cause damages to the economy as much as 5 trillion baht

Mr. Methi Uttayoparp, Director of Organization Communication Division, Chrysotile Information Center of Thailand (CIC), an organization founded to study the facts of chrysotile revealed that the protest demanding the ban of chrysotile for Thai industrial use has continuously occurred without any supportive findings from studies or medical researches confirming that the nation wide use of chrysotile in Thailand causes sickness and deaths. On the other hand, all concerned sectors should be concerned about the tremendous impact on economy from the ban of chrysotile. The expected damage could be as much as 5 trillion baht.

“The Chrysotile Information Center, therefore, submitted an open letter to Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha, Chief of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) on June 28, 2014, with the objective of asking the relevant authority to carefully and thoroughly consider the matter based on the studies of impacts on all areas, fair to all concerned parties to avoid any unwanted consequences. Any rush in enforcing laws without a true and complete study could create impacts to a wide range of society including agencies, organization and the general public beyond reparation.”

Mr. Methi added that presently more than 50 % of roofing tiles used by consumers contain chrysotile and that involves at least 30 million people. Banning of chrysotile would cost consumers more from the increased price of the tiles. There are many types of asbestos and the only toxic one is amphibol, which has already banned. Thailand only use chrysotile asbestos because of it strength, durability, and hence the product is cheaper. Talking about asbestos without type specifying and clear specification causes damages to the business. The use of chrysotile asbestos in Thailand has already been supported by safety measures.

Asbestos has good hot and cold temperature resistance. In the past, western countries used solely asbestos to coat the wall. As time went by, the dust of decayed asbestos was harmful to health and the use was banned. At present, the manufacture of chrysotile products has been developed for a long time and highly safe because only chrysotile asbestos has been used because it's degradable. If chrysotile happens to pass into the body of living things, the body can get rid of it within 2 weeks. Besides, cement has been mixed to the chrysotile roofing tiles so no dust will be created.

“Presently, there has been no other materials that can substitute the industrial chrysotile. Besides, materials having similar properties as chrysotile, such as silica and polyvinyl

alcohol, have not been studied about their impacts, when used, on safeness and health. The price of substitute fiber or raw materials is more than 10 times the chrysotile's resulting in 50% higher in prices of roofing tiles. Consumers have to unnecessarily pay the higher price and low income consumers are affected. Roofing needs to be changed more often because the shortened product life. Thailand's capability of competition among the ASEAN Economic Community or AEC nations will be decreased because chrysotile asbestos has not been banned in those countries."