



# OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK OF INDIA

## UPCOMING EVENT

Press Conference - [List Chrysotile Asbestos in PIC List](#)  
[Ban Asbestos NOW!](#)

India imports more asbestos than any other country in the world, with imports having risen from 253,382 tons in 2006 to 473,240 tons in 2012, an increase of 186%. These vast amounts of asbestos, being placed in homes and schools across India, are a deadly time bomb that will go on causing suffering and deaths for decades to come.

The Conference of Parties (COP 7) for the Rotterdam Convention to which India is a member, on Prior Informed Consent (PIC Convention) is going to be held from May 3 – 15, 2015 in Geneva. The Convention calls for responsible trade, greater transparency, exchange of information and right of all countries including the smallest nation to have a say in an international treaty through a process of consensus. The Convention's committee of scientific experts has recommended that Chrysotile Asbestos be put on the Convention's list of hazardous substances (Annex III). Listing a chemical or product in this list does not mean that the item cannot be traded but it ensures that the importing country is made aware about the hazards of using the product in their country and can then make an informed and intelligent decision whether to import or not.

At the last COP (held in 2013), India blocked the listing by stating that there is no 'scientific' evidence of 'harm' to Chrysotile asbestos to Indian workers or its population.

Almost all major independent scientific bodies including the ILO and WHO have categorically stated that all forms of asbestos is harmful and the only way to secure and save the workers is by stopping use of it. As a result of increased use of asbestos in Asia, asbestos experts, Dr. G.V. Le and Dr. K. Takahashi have warned: "A surge of ARD in Asia should be anticipated in the coming decades. Asian countries should not only cease asbestos use but also prepare themselves for an impending epidemic of Asbestos Related Diseases."

The industry continues to aggressively market Asbestos product citing 'safe use' but more than 800 victims of asbestos related disorders have been diagnosed by independent doctors across the country from factories and mines.

We invite you for an interaction with the victims of asbestos related diseases from Ahmedabad and Mumbai who will be narrating their stories and hardships which they have encountered after suffering from Asbestos related diseases. Activists and experts will be present to answer queries.

## Press Conference On

April 30, 2015 from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Venue: - Press Club of India, 1, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110 001

For further information, please contact:

Mohit Gupta - 9811369045

Anup Srivastava - 9810238394

