



# OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK OF INDIA

## UPCOMING EVENT

### Press Conference - 'Stop Spreading Lies. 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.

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 International Agency for Research on Cancer and the World Health Organization, as well as numerous other scientific organisations, have called for an end to all use of chrysotile asbestos in order to prevent further tragic epidemics of asbestos-related diseases.

In the face of the public health disaster caused by asbestos, 54 industrialized countries have banned any use of asbestos. The asbestos industry, in order to ensure its continued profits, is aggressively targeting Asian countries for sales. Just six Asian countries – China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Sri Lanka – now represent 70% of world asbestos consumption.

Victims and Workers from Ahmedabad and Mumbai will be narrating their stories and hardships they have encountered after suffering from Asbestos related diseases. Activists and experts will be present to answer queries. Mr H Mahadevan, Vice Chairman of National Safety Council will present his views on Asbestos.

### Press Conference

On

**December 2, 2013 from 12.15 PM to 2:15 PM**

**Press Club of India,**

1, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110 001

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