

2008 Pusan Declaration

'For asbestos Ban in Asia and the World'

International Symposium on Removal & Transfer of Asbestos in Asia

In 2008 July 3-5, 200 delegates from 12 countries have gathered to attend the Symposium, "For Asbestos Ban in Asia", and agreed upon the following 8 resolutions.

1. The use, manufacture and all trade of products containing all types of asbestos including chrysotile should be immediately banned throughout Asia and the World.
2. All Asian countries should adopt policies encouraging the use of asbestos substitutes including favorable import tax schedules, subsidies for competitive technologies.
3. To achieve a global asbestos ban, victims and their families, environmental activists, trade unionists, health and safety specialists should work together.
4. Corporations based in countries that have banned asbestos should not use asbestos in their operations in other countries.
5. With participation of affected groups, all Asian countries should improve national capacities (including education and research) of early diagnosis, treatment, social and medical rehabilitation of asbestos related diseases as well as surveillance and reporting system, and establish registries of people with past and/or current exposures to asbestos.
6. International agencies such as the WHO, the ILO, and other UN organizations and regional organizations such as APOSHO must prioritize the needs to eliminate asbestos-related diseases.
7. All victims who have been exposed to asbestos should be entitled to medical check-ups using safe diagnostic procedures, and the damages to ethical integrity stemming from the infringement of dignity and pride of independent human beings should be acknowledged in addition to compensation for economic losses.
8. The creation of "Ban Asbestos Network of Asia (BANA)" is needed now to solve increasing asbestos problems in Asia together. Working committee will be formed to create BANA in time for the Asian Asbestos Congress in April 2009.

2008 July 5th

Participants of 2008 International Symposium 'For asbestos Ban in Asia' from

Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, India, China, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Iran,
UK, US, and Canada

2008 국제석면심포지엄 부산선언문

‘아시아 석면추방 네트워크’ 결성을 제안한다!

2008년 7월 3-5일 서울과 부산에서 열린 석면국제심포지엄석면 ‘아시아 석면추방을 위하여’에 12개국으로부터 200여명이 참가하였다. 참가자들은 다음 8가지 사항에 동의하고 이의 실천을 결의한다.

하나, 백석면을 비롯한 모든 종류의 석면이 포함된 제품의 제조와 사용이 아시아 및 세계에서 즉각 금지되어야 한다.

둘, 석면사용금지 조치를 확산하기 위한 노력으로 석면대체물질 사용이 적극 장려되어야 하며, 모든 아시아 국가에서는 이를 위해 기술지원, 세금보조 및 보조금지급 등의 정책들이 적극 도입되어야 한다.

셋, 지구적 차원의 석면추방을 이루기 위해 피해자와 가족, 환경운동가, 노동운동가, 안전보건 전문가 등이 함께 협력해야 한다.

넷, 석면사용을 금지하는 나라의 기업들은 아직 석면사용이 금지되지 않고 있는 나라에서 석면생산과 사용을 해서는 안되며 작업환경과 주변환경보호를 위해 자국과 같은 기준과 잣대를 가져야 하고 차별된 입장을 가져서는 안 된다.

다섯, 관련 주체들의 참여를 보장하면서, 모든 아시아국가의 정부는 석면관련 교육 및 조사능력을 포함하여 석면관련질환의 조기진단, 치료 및 사회적 의학적 재활을 위한 국가의 제반 능력을 향상시키기 위해 노력해야 한다. 또한 관련질환의 감시체계, 보고체계 그리고 현재는 물론 과거 석면에 노출된 사람들을 파악하여 건강 검사하는 체계를 갖추어야 한다.

여섯, 세계보건기구(WHO), 국제노동기구(ILO) 그리고 여러 유엔기구 및 아시아태평양산업안전보건기구(APOSHO)와 같은 지역기구는 석면질환의 발생을 막기 위해 우선적인 노력을 기울여야 한다.

일곱, 모든 석면희생자들은 안전한 진단방식으로 의학적 검진을 받을 수 있어야 하며 경제적 손실에 대한 보상과 함께, 자신의 건강을 스스로 지키는 주체로서 윤리적이고 인격적 차원의 배려를 받을 수 있어야 한다.

여덟, 사용량이 증가하고 있는 아시아에서의 석면문제 해결을 위해 ‘아시아석면추방네트워크’의 결성을 제안하고 이를 위한 준비위원회를 구성한다. ‘아시아석면추방네트워크’는 2009년 4월 홍콩에서 열릴 예정인 아시아석면회의에서 결성될 수 있도록 노력한다.

2008년 7월 5일

2008년 국제석면심포지엄 참가자 12개국 200여명 일동

참가국; 아시아 9개국 방글라데시, 인도네시아, 필리핀, 인도, 중국, 태국, 일본, 한국, 이란
유럽 1개국 영국, 북미 2개국 캐나다, 미국 등

Summary of Meeting Conclusions: Backgrounds of Pusan Declaration

Pusan declaration tried to raise issues of asbestos problems across Asia, and to come up with visions and ideas that we can share throughout meetings. The visions and ideas are based on logos and pathos of the meeting activities that were discussed and acted out by each participant. The first two parts of the declaration have to do with banning and substituting asbestos products, and the last two parts are about empowerment of victims and cross-border networking. The rest of the declaration include mandates for each participants and stake holders of asbestos disasters, covering grass-root activists, employers, governments and international bodies. All together, the Pusan declaration consists of 8 items, which are organized as follow.

1. Ban asbestos
2. Substitute asbestos
3. Grass-root activists: Cooperation of occupational and environmental groups
4. Employers and Corporations: do away double standard
5. Governments: Building infrastructures with participation
6. International bodies: Priority settings among international agendas
7. Victim empowerment: Moral empowerment stressed
8. Networking: Cross-border transfer of knowledge and wisdom

Items No 3, 7, and 8 deserve more elaborations, and the following explanations are provided.

1. (Item No 3) Grass-root activists: Occupational versus Environmental perspectives

Asbestos problems are not just confined to factories or mines. Asbestos problems are in our neighborhoods, in our communities, and in all the ways to disposal. Once asbestos is dug from the earth, it can be airborne anywhere, anytime of making, using, removing, and disposing asbestos products. We know that asbestos problems are not just occupational or environmental, but we know that, at present, not all of our societies are on the same term regarding asbestos hazards. As we know that suffering of victims is the same regardless of whether they work and live inside or outside of factory boundary, occupational and environmental health communities should tackle the problems together. Occupational and environmental health communities should stimulate and enhance each other to make the whole society safer. Trade unions and NGOs should work together to totally eliminate the whole asbestos problems from the society.

2. (Item No 7): Victim empowerments: Moral judgment and causal judgment

We know that asbestos hazards have affected the bodies and minds of victims. Health of victims has been damaged and this damage needs to be acknowledged properly. More importantly the dignity and integrity of the victim's self identity has been damaged by the asbestos hazards, and the damage needs to be consoled properly. The consolation should not be limited to just economic redemption but

also include proper recognition of dignity and pride of independent human being. We know that no victims have sold their health for money, and the moral judgment should be delivered to those who have led them to be subjected to these unwanted asbestos health hazards. Moral judgment should also be delivered and make the culprit be responsible for those morally reprimandable act of spreading asbestos.

3. (Item No 8) Networking: Cross-border transfer of knowledge and wisdom

Even though asbestos hazards, especially cancer hazards, have been known since the latter half of 20th century, not all countries or societies are acting on them properly. We know that asbestos hazard is caused by all types of asbestos including chrysotile, but still not all countries are regulating them in total. We know obstacles are there in transferring knowledge and wisdom of protecting and promoting health and safety cross borders. Obstacles we face are not limited but include loss of employment, ranges of available substitutes, lack of infrastructures, and lack of awareness if we name a few. Now we need to share our experiences and feelings to remove these obstacles and get the knowledge tested and cumulated in each country. We need to encourage each society to have a chance to taste the problems through epidemiologic studies, case findings or with any kind of measures available, and we need to help each other in doing these independent fact and soul searching endeavors.