

Thai Permanent Secretary for Public Health reaffirmed banning all kinds of asbestos, Industries begged for more 5 years, T-BAN insisted no more time for business. Academicians disclosed that many countries from all over the world support Thai National Council for Peace & Order (NCPO) to expedite the best decision and ready to share more information.

On the last Sunday (August 3rd, 2014), T-BAN organized the meeting at K.U. Home, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, to get ready for implementing the resolution of the cabinet “issuing measures for free asbestos in Thai society” and to prepare the suggestion to NCPO.

Doctor Nopporn Cheunklin, the deputy director-general of The Disease Control Department, Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) said that MOPH had sent the letter to the Ministry of Industry (MOI) for banning all kinds of asbestos immediately. That letter was signed by the Permanent Secretary for Public Health, Doctor Narong Sahamethapat 2 days ago. The result of the meeting of health impact from asbestos studying committee, chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Public Health, Doctor Narong Sahamethapat, on January-29, 2014, reaffirm banning all kinds of asbestos in every product according to the cabinet’s resolution on April-12, 2011. The committee reflected that MOPH must be responsible for the people in the same way as the World Health Organization (WHO) which announced that the only one way to eradicate asbestos related diseases is banning all asbestos uses. The committee suggested the relevant agency: (1) to support technology for replacing asbestos by safer material, (2) issuing measure for preventing asbestos exposure, (3) improve diagnosis system and (4) to initiate fund for asbestos victims. The committee also asked for the Hazardous Substances Control Bureau, Department of Labor, Ministry of Industry to reclassify asbestos to Type 4 Hazardous Substances and to reduce the standard limitation of asbestos dust in workplace from 5 fibers per 1 ml. of air to 0.1 fiber per 1 ml. of air.

In this meeting, the representative of the Ministry of Industry still insisted to postpone the banning for 5 years without mention for the starting day.

Mrs. Somboon Seekamdokkae, the representative of T-BAN said that she had appreciate MOPH which protect Thai people’s health from asbestos toxicity contrary to MOI which insisted to postpone the banning for 5 years without starting point. She suggested that MOI must ban asbestos urgently because NCPO told her that T-BAN’s stimulating letter had been sent to MOI already. She promised that T-BAN will visit MOI again on August-16, 2014 to ask for the best answer after waiting for too long time, please don’t let the business have time to kill Thai people anymore.

Professor, Doctor Surasak Buranatreeweth, from Faculty of Medicines, Thammasat University said “WHO and International Labour Organization (ILO) including other important international organizations such as 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 suggest to ban all kinds of asbestos because they’re carcinogenic agents. In Thailand, the cabinet’s resolution on April-12, 2011 decided to ban

the importation and the use of all asbestos, but no implementation to that resolution until now. Nevertheless, we appreciate MOPH which takes primacy to health, opposite to MOI. So, the public will pay attention that why MOI propose to postpone more 5 years. We in the name of scientists networks are ready to submit more information to NCPO if it requests and consider that in the present time, many countries all over the world are focusing on Thailand with doubt, why there is no progress on implementing the cabinet's resolution. We will organize the meeting of the international scientists networks to support the asbestos ban in Thailand in this year around November.”