

Pressure NCPO to ban asbestos products immediately

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August 8, 2014 Thai-Ban Asbestos Network (T-BAN) issued the statement asking for asbestos banning immediately, both import and using, the details are as follows:

T-BAN's statement: Banning all asbestos products immediately

Since the cabinet decided to ban asbestos on April-12, 2011, Thai-Ban Asbestos Network (T-BAN) has monitored the progression of asbestos banning process continuously. T-BAN also asked the Ministry of Industry (MOI) about its planning which it used to claim about 2 years or 5 years plan for absolute banning but nothing happened through the past 3 years.

At this time, T-BAN has got the evidence from the Permanent Secretary for Public Health together with confirmation from Dr. Nopporn Cheunklin, the deputy director-general of the Disease Control Department, at the preparedness meeting for implementing the cabinet's resolution regarding the measure to make Thai society free from asbestos, on August-3, 2014, at K.U. Home, Kasetsart University, that MOPH had summarized the studying of asbestos impacts on Thai people's health already, this summary indicates that asbestos is carcinogenic agent relating to the announcement of WHO and ILO. The letter from the Permanent Secretary for Public Health to MOI suggests to ban asbestos immediately, both importation and using all kinds of asbestos in all products. We want to know that MOI still want to wait for more 5 years? Please stop buying some more time for the business sector, 70 years is long enough for Thai people's death from asbestos-related cancer. The Permanent Secretary for Industry should think of Thai people's health, please don't let this issue destroy MOI's trustworthiness.

The Permanent Secretary for Industry should propose the plan of banning asbestos suddenly, both importation and using all kinds of asbestos in every product, to the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) and to the National Legislative Assembly (NLA), for issuing and enforcing the law in urgent according to the cabinet's resolution on April-12, 2011. It's the responsibility of MOI to protect people's life in the same way as MOPH's summary which conform to the World Health Organization's suggestion. The WHO suggests that the only one way to eradicate asbestos-related diseases is banning all kinds of asbestos. In addition, the Hazardous Substances Control Bureau under the Department of Industrial Works should reclassify asbestos to type 4 hazardous substances together with reducing 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.

Through media, we like to ask for the NCPO and the NLA: (1) to enforce the law for banning all asbestos suddenly, (2) to support technology for replacing asbestos by safer material, (3) to issue measure for preventing asbestos exposure, (4) to improve diagnosis system and (5) to initiate fund for asbestos victims.

With kind regards,

T-BAN

August-8, 2014

At the Ministry of Industry