

T-BAN's STATEMENT

Opposition to MOPH's resolution: "Chrysotile still [can] be used in Thailand."

Nothing happened after the cabinet's resolution on April-12, 2011 which categorically stated that: "Thailand will be free from asbestos, chrysotile import and chrysotile product manufacturing will not be allowed". The Ministry of Industry did nothing except promise to ban asbestos step by step without worrying about the health impact on Thai people; the human health risks of asbestos exposures include mesothelioma, lung cancer and other asbestos related diseases.

On November-28, 2013 in an executive meeting of the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) chaired by the Public Health Minister Doctor Pradit Sintawanarong, one of the resolutions, proposed by Doctor Charnwit Taratep, a vice permanent secretary to MOPH, was "chrysotile product [can] still be available in Thailand". This resolution is contrary to the situation in dozens of countries which have banned asbestos and others which will ban it soon. It also ignores the stated positions of the WHO, ILO, IARC, ICOH, Thai National Health Commission, Thai National Economics and Social Advisory Council, and Thai Senate Standing Committee on Public Health. Moreover, the members of the working group

appointed by the MOPH to study the health impacts of asbestos had notified Dr. Charnwit Taratep, chairman of the working group, that there was no resolution from the group supporting the continued use of chrysotile in Thailand. Furthermore, as the MOPH working group had documented evidence regarding the link between human exposure to asbestos and cancer, Dr. Taratep's presentation to the executive meeting did not accurately reflect the working group's conclusions.

T-BAN needs to make it known that:-

1. T-BAN opposes the MOPH's resolution which allows the use of chrysotile in Thailand to continue unabated.
2. T-BAN requests Dr. Pradit Sintawanarong (acting for the MOPH minister) to promise that he will not propose this ill-founded resolution to the cabinet in his capacity as stand-in for the Minister.
3. T-BAN requests the MOPH to disclose the minutes of the working group meeting chaired by Dr. Charnwit Taratep in order to compare his presentation with the resolution of the working group.

If, yet again, we fail to receive the cooperation we seek on these urgent matters, T-BAN will organize a campaign to dismiss Dr. Pradit Sintawanarong and Dr. Charnwit Taratep from their positions

T-BAN

December 24, 2013