

## Declaration of International Conference

### **“Expedite Asia to be Free from Asbestos Hazard: Global Scientific and Social Evidence”**

Global Scientific and Social Evidence derived from our international conference **“Expedite Asia to be Free from Asbestos Hazard”** during November 24-25, 2014 at Asia Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand indicate the serious situation concerning death and suffering caused by asbestos including chrysotile.

Asian countries that ban asbestos have learned this experience through deaths and suffering of people affected and therefore provided measures and legislation to prevent more death from the asbestos hazard.

All countries that ban asbestos in conjunction with international organizations, such as World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), recommend that asbestos must be banned immediately.

Asian community, and the governments should realize that it is necessary to apply the “precautionary principle” to establish policy the at national level **to stop importation and production of all kinds of asbestos and asbestos containing material**. Regulation must be established and enforced immediately to protect health and life of workers, consumers and people in general from asbestos exposure originating from construction, repair, removal, demolition and waste disposal.

A possible direction is to start a discussion on the establishment of ASEAN agency on OSH modeled after EU-OSHA and expanding from the existing ASEAN OSHNET.

Additional measures that must be implemented are; raising public awareness of health risk caused by asbestos, preventing secondary exposure to asbestos such as workers bringing asbestos dust to their homes via their clothes, controlling environmental exposure during renovation or demolition of old buildings, preparing secured landfill areas for asbestos-containing waste, and managing the risk from existing asbestos properly. It is also necessary to helping asbestos victims obtain compensation, empowering customers to refuse asbestos products based on their consumer rights, and most importantly, pressuring to stop asbestos mining and use.

Tuesday, November 25, 2014