Ban asbestos campaign in Korea 2011

BANKO
Ban Asbestos Network Korea

Asbestos events in Korea, 2011

• Jan, Environmental asbestos victim relief law,
• Jan, asbestos contaminated icicle,
• Jan–Aug, Steel makers (POSCO, HYUNDAI) use asbestos contaminated serpentine,
• June–July, asbestos problems at US military camps (Busan and near Seoul)
• June–Aug, School buildings and asbestos
• July–, School playgrounds and asbestos contaminated olivine soil; 4 elementary, 3 middle, 1 high schools,
• Aug–, Baseball stadium and asbestos contaminated serpentine soil; 3 professional baseball parks (Seoul, Incheon, Busan) and 2 amateur parks etc,
• Sep–, Government’s river project and asbestos problems,

Jan, Environmental asbestos victim relief law,

Relief
• mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis
• Not occupational but environmental cases: Environment ministry,
• Campaign outcome by Victim and social groups including trades unions,
• Around 300 victim cases compensated so far.

Limits
• 3 diseases only, no compensation; other cancers, pleural plaque,
• Very low acceptance rate of Lung cancer
• Low compensation; 10-20% of occupational,
• etc

Jan, asbestos contaminated icicle,

• Icicle hanged at the end of asbestos roof at snowy season,
• 15% chrysotile.
• No touch and eating warning,
• Pressure to remove asbestos roof particularly schools,

National survey of asbestos roof in 2008 by Environment Ministry

Jan–Aug, Steel makers (POSCO, HYUNDAI) use asbestos contaminated serpentine,

• Why; major secondary raw materials, chrysotile contaminated serpentine,
• How; from 3 former asbestos mines,
• A large loophole case of ban country.
• Case of NOA (naturally occurred asbestos)
• Result; stop to use POSCO in Feb, HYUNDAI in Aug after development alternative,
• Survey Suggestion; steer makers in other countries suspiciously have used
June~July, asbestos problems at US military camps (Busan and near Seoul)

• US military camps returned to Korea,
• First case of crocidolite pipe in Korea,
• 25% crocidolite and 20% crysotile,
• No data, comments from US till now.

Victim case of crocidolite pipe

A Belgium family nearby Eternit asbestos cement factory

- Eric's father, ex-worker of Eternit, died of Mesothelioma in 1987
- Eric's mother, no occupational history, died of Mesothelioma in 2000
- Eric, Pleural Plaque
- Eric's 1st younger brother, no occupational history, died of Mesothelioma in 2003
- Eric's 3rd younger brother, no occupational history, died of Mesothelioma in 2009 at his 44 age

July~., School playgrounds and asbestos contaminated olivine soil;

- 8 schools: 4 elementary, 3 middle, 1 high schools,
- Same source to steel maker's issue; former asbestos mines,
- Recommendation by Education ministry,
- Shocking news to public,
- Crysotile; trace~3%
Aug~, Baseball stadium and asbestos contaminated serpentine soil;

- 3 professional baseball parks (Seoul, Incheon, Busan) and 2 amateur parks etc.
- Very shocking to public, 6 million fans,
- Same source to steel maker issue,
- Chrysotile and actinolite,
- Debate around regulation -> new act,

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Is Korea a country banned asbestos use?

Only social and civil interest and movement can save public health and life.