2011 A-BAN Meeting

14-15 November 2011
Jaipur

Overall Strategy
1. First, a global ban on the use of asbestos, 90% of which is currently used in cement products.
2. Second, safer substitutes exist, such as cellulose, PVA or polypropylene, and there is a need to promote them through information and technology exchange.
3. Third, to promote the protection of workers from exposure to asbestos, which is already in place.
4. Lastly, campaign for the rights of those affected by exposure to asbestos so as to ensure that they have legal / medical advice and that they are properly compensated.

Actions in the field
1. Participated in the Joint Delegation which met with the Quebec Ministerial Mission in February 2011 at Delhi. Demonstrations were organised coinciding with the visit in Delhi.

1. BWII/IMF convened Joint Workshop on Asbestos at Delhi in June 2011. A Joint Trade Union Declaration was adopted. Key points were:
   - Withdraw subsidies accorded to the Asbestos Industry;
   - Undertake and support all measures intended to eliminate asbestos and to replace asbestos with safer alternative materials;
   - Ratify the ILO convention 162 and work towards developing the NPEAD in a timely manner with guidance from the ILO and WHO;
   - The government should review its position vis-à-vis the Rotterdam Convention and the listing of Asbestos on the PIC;
   - Ensure proper compensation to the victims of asbestos related diseases;
   - Establish appropriate diagnostic infrastructure in India so that victims can be correctly diagnosed and receive timely medical treatment and rehabilitation;
   - Gainful employment / transition of the Asbestos industry workers in alternative industry.

1. International Workers Memorial Day (petition submitted to Tamil Nadu Government for banning Asbestos – to start with in public works).
2. Working with Builders Association of India (BAI)- Tamil Nadu chapter for a formal ban
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Letter written to Bihar Chief Minister and submitted urging the state government not to establish and/or allow new Asbestos factories to be set up</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Letter to Prime Minister of India and concerned ministries urging the Government of India to review its stance at the Rotterdam Convention Meeting in June 2011</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>In Nepal, the unions have submitted a memorandum to ban Asbestos to the Prime Minister (April 2011)</td>
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