**Campaign on asbestos (PHILIPPINES)**

OHS Congress in October 2008 unanimously adopted the resolution to Ban all types of Asbestos in the Philippines, including the allowed but controlled white asbestos.

There is now ongoing efforts from various groups to ban the use of all asbestos.

The Associated Labor Union, part of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines has initiated pushing for a law banning all asbestos.

Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago filed the Senate Bill (No. 89) in 1 July 2010 at the opening of the 15th Congress. The bill was originally filed in the 13th Congress. TUCP Party List Representative Raymond Mendoza filed the House Bill (No. 896) in 6 July 2010. HB896 consolidated three bills filed at the House of Representatives in the 14th Congress.

The bills are in pursuit of the National Program for the Elimination of Asbestos-related Disease (NPEAD).

The NPEAD would protect workers, their families and the public through, among other things:
- Effective system of inspection and enforcement of standards and safety measures;
- Safe demolition of buildings with asbestos;
- Eventual phase out of the use of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials;
- A central registry and medical surveillance of exposed workers for early detection and diagnosis; and
- Establishing a fund for compensation of victims of asbestos-related diseases.

NGO's are also developing campaigns for mainstreaming asbestos. Following the successes of BANKO and BANJAN in making the issue of asbestos go beyond the realm of the workers movement, IOHSAD has tapped graffiti artists to take part in the popularization of the issue.
A massive 3 storey high, 50 feet wide graffiti was created during the celebration of Workers Memorial Day by the collaboration of artists, environmental activists and workers from Cebu, Philippines.

**New Media**

Facebook and Twitter

Groups in the Philippines have started using New Media, particularly Facebook and Twitter. New media is serving as an important tool in mainstreaming the issue. In a recent survey (March 2010), Facebook users in the Philippines is now at 11.6M users (US is No.1) and Twitter users is no. 6 in the world (Indonesia is No. 1).

There is now a Facebook page dedicated for the banning of asbestos.


IOHSAD is also using Twitter to post related news about asbestos. http://www.twitter.com/iohsad and http://www.twitter.com/ohsPhilippines