1. Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)

A-BAN was established at the Asian Asbestos Congress (AAC2009) in Hong Kong on April 27, 2009. [http://www.anroav.org/content/blogsection/9/41/]

A-BAN had 1st meeting on September 21, 2009 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, just before ANROAV Conference. This is 2nd A-BAN meeting. A-BAN has co-chairs, coordinators and advisors as the below;

- **Co-chairs**
  - Prof. Domyung Paek, Seoul University, Korea and Ban Asbestos Network Korea (BANKO)
  - Prof. Takehiko Muramaya, Waseda University, Japan
  - Mr. Apo Leong, Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC), Hong Kong
  - Mr. Jagdish Patel, Peoples Training and Research Centre (PTRC), India
  - Mr. Apolinar Tolentino, Building and Wood Workers’ International (BWI) Asia Pacific, Malaysia

- **Coordinator**
  - Mr. Sugio Furuya, Ban Asbestos Network Japan (BANJAN), Japan

- **Vice Coordinators**
  - Mr. Yeyong Choi, BANKO, Korea
  - Mr. Sanjiv Pandita, AMRC, Hong Kong and Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational Accident Victims (ANROAV)
  - Ms. Madhumitta Dutta, Corporate Accountability Desk - The Other Media, India
  - Mr. Anup Srivastava, BWI South Asia Office

- **Advisors**
  - Mrs. Laurie Kazan-Allen,, International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS), UK
  - Dr. Barry Castleman, Environmental Consultant, USA
  - Ms. Fiona Murie, BWI, Switzerland
  - Mr. Pat Preston, UITBB (Trades Union International in the Building, Wood, Building Materials and Allied Industries), Australia

- **Contact Address**
  - E-mail: 2009aban@gmail.com

2. Brief report on A-BAN activities (September 21, 2009 – September 30, 2010)

1) **A-BAN**

- is operating two e-mail groups.
  - [a-ban] 83 member accounts, 509 (total 581) postings
  - If you want subscribe please send e-mail to 2009aban@gmail.com
  - [a-ban-coordinators] 19 member accounts, 96 (total 99) postings

- is offering video clips in 17 languages: [http://www.youtube.com/anroav](http://www.youtube.com/anroav)


- is compiling all available data for Asian countries on banning asbestos and asbestos-related diseases: Ban_asbestos_in_Asia_ver2.ppt (new version)

- hold a skype meeting of coordinators (recently on April 23 and … , 2010)
A-BAN contributed small moneys to:

- Video clips in 2009: http://www.youtube.com/anroav
- Workers Memorial Day - Paint the Town Red Graffiti Project. April 24-28, 2010, Cebu City, Philippines (IOHSAD) http://www.iohsad.org/workers-memorial-day-2010
- Asbestos projects in Mumbai, Maharastra (OSHC) and Ahmedabad, Gujarat (OHSA), India, 2010.
- Sending Yeyong to BWI Jakarta meeting, August, 2010.
- The International Symposium “Environmental Health Problems in Asia” organized by the Asian Citizen’s Center for Environment and Health and BANKO in Seoul, Korea, October 26, 2010.

A-BAN representative(s) joined to:

- India: Medical professionals meeting on December 15, 2009 and another asbestos meeting with civil society including trade unions and NGOs on December 16, 2009 in Ahmadabad organized by PTRC (Domyung and Takehiko).
- India: OEHNI Round table conference on issues related to asbestos use in India, Delhi, December 21, 2009 (Domyung, Takehiko and Sanjiv).
  http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_day_reckon_etermin_trial.php
  http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_asb_on_agenda_taiwan_conf.php
- Malaysia: MTUC and BWI asbestos workshop, Kuala Lumpur, April 28, 2010 (Sanjiv).
  http://www btinvest.org/pdfs/IWMD%202010%20A-P%20Report.pdf
- Indonesia: BWI South East Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Asbestos, Jakarta, August 2-4, 2010 (Sugio and Yeyong).
  http://www bwint.org/default.asp?Index=2884&Language=EN
  http://www congre co jp/imig2010/
- Japan: 10th International Conference of the International Mesothelioma Interest Group (IMIG2010), Kyoto, August 31-September 3, 2010 (Sugio).
  http://www congre co.jp/imig2010/
- European Work Hazards Conference (Leeds, UK, September 10-12, 2010, http://www ewhn eu/) (Yeyong, Sanjiv and Madhu), Belgium (Yeyong and Sanjiv) and Germany (Yeyong).

Campaign against Canada Quebecs asbestos export to Asia

Indian colleagues (OHENI, BWI, BANI and others) organized protests against Quebec trade mission lead by Premier Jean Charest in Mumbai and Delhi in February 2010.
On June 24 – Quebec national day and July 1 – Canada day, protest actions were organized in 10 countries including Korea (Seoul and Busan), China (Hong Kong). India, Indonesia, Philippines and Japan.

(5) Supports to launching Indonesia Ban Asbestos Network (Ina-BAN)

(6) Others

3. Recent developments / topics (incomplete - will be updated at this meeting)

(1) International

• **Parma Declaration on Environment and Health**, 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, European Region, 11 March 2010, Parma, Italy
  Ministers on Environment and Health from more than 50 European countries including Russia declared to develop by 2015 national programmes for elimination of asbestos-related diseases in collaboration with WHO and ILO.

• **MERCOSUR Declaration on Asbestos**, XXVIII Meeting of Health Ministers of the State Parties and Associated States of MERCOSUR, 9 June 2010, Buenos Aires, Argentina
  Health Ministers from 9 South American countries declared to develop and effectively implement national policies that advance the prohibition of the import, mining, production and trade of asbestos and products containing asbestos.

• 2nd Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries, 15 July 2010, Jeju, Korea
  Jeju Declaration has no mention on asbestos. But “Environment Forum on Asbestos” was organized by Korean Ministry of the Environment as a side event.

• **WHO new factsheets on asbestos**, July, 2010
  Asbestos : elimination of asbestos-related diseases
  Asbestos : asbestos-related diseases
  Asbestos - hazards and safe practice for clear-up after tsunami
  [http://www.searo.who.int/en/Section1257/Section2263/Section2310/Section2320_12504.htm](http://www.searo.who.int/en/Section1257/Section2263/Section2310/Section2320_12504.htm)
  Asbestos: hazards and safe practices for cleaning up after the earthquake

• **ILO position on safety in the use of asbestos**, September 6, 2010

• ASEAN-OSHNET, Bandung, Indonesia, September 29 - , 2010

• WHO Regional Framework for OSH: 2011-2015 will be available soon.
• **Dangers in the dust website** starting from July 20, 2010
  
  [http://www.wpro.who.int/health_topics/occupational_health/](http://www.wpro.who.int/health_topics/occupational_health/)
  
  [http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/asbestos/](http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/asbestos/)
  
  

(2) **Indonesia**

- Indonesia Ban Asbestos Network (Ina-BAN) is being established at this meeting.

(3) **Japan**

- First court ruling to hold the government responsible for failing to take measures against asbestos exposure ordering it to pay JPY 435 million in damages to 26 people on April 19, 2010.
- Asbestosis and diffuse pleural thickening are covered by (non-employee) asbestos victims relief scheme since July 1, 2010.
- Asbestos sub-committee of the Central Environment Council (under the Minister of the Environment) is reviewing asbestos relief scheme.
- Japan's Asbestos Analytical Method Fails to Meet ISO Requirements
  

(4) **Korea**

- (Non-employee) asbestos victims relief act (under the Ministry of the Environment) was passed on February 26, 2010 and will come into force on January 1, 2011.
- Safe asbestos management bill (under the Ministry of the Environment) is being under consultation.
- Civil lawsuits against Korean and Japanese companies and Korean government are under examinations.
- Other many things

(5) **Hong Kong**

- No More Asbestos in Hong Kong Alliance was formed in June, 2009 by ARIAV, CSWGU (BWI affiliate), Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs, Neighbourhood and Worker’s Service Centre.
- One of its activities: [http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_china_asb_chall.php](http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_china_asb_chall.php)

(6) **China**

- China OSH Network is surveying the real situation in mainland China.
- One example is [http://ohrc.net.cn/](http://ohrc.net.cn/) has a page of “Asbestos and Health” (Chinese)

(7) **Taiwan**

- Asbestos was banned from adding to synthetic resin (thickening agent), waterproof glue, seam filler; fireproof, insulating, or heat-preserving materials (such as calcium silicate board); belts, fabric, cords, or washers; or as filters and asphalt since January 1, 2010.
- EPA announced its 10 years phase out plan on July 26, 2010. Asbestos will be banned from adding to sealing material in construction in 2015 and from adding to tiles, break linings or extruded cement panels in 2020.
• Former asbestos mine is now being converted into a touristic location!

(8) Philippines
• Workers Memorial Day-Paint the Town Red Graffiti Project. April 24-28, 2010, Cebu City, Philippines (IOHSAD)
• TUCP / ALU asbestos campaign
  http://www.bwint.org/default.asp?index=2678&Language=EN
• Action for the World Day for Decent Work on October 7, 2010

(9) Thailand
• Pressured by consumer groups and health advocates, the Office of the Consumer Protection Board (OCPB) in March (2010) issued a regulation requiring that materials which include asbestos must display a consumer warning about how it can cause cancer and other serious lung diseases.
  http://www.bangkokpost.com/life/property/185846/asbestos-linked-illness-wave-on-the-way

(10) Malaysia
• MTUC and BWI asbestos workshop on April 28, 2010 called the government to achieve the goal of total banning asbestos by 2015.

(11) Vietnam
• Vietnam Initiative on Asbestos : http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_vietnam_init_asb.php
• National Resource Centre for Asbestos and Asbestos-related Occupational Health (NRCA)
• National Profile on asbestos-related occupational health (-> NPEARD?)

(12) India
• Medical professionals meeting on December 15 and another asbestos meeting with civil society including trade unions and NGOs on December 16, 2009 in Ahmadabad organized by PTRC.
• OEHNI Round table conference on issues related to asbestos use in India, Delhi, December 21, 2009.
• Protests against Quebec trade mission lead by Premier Jean Charest in Mumbai and Delhi in February 2010.
  http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_india Rejects asb premier.php
• Ban Asbestos Mobilization in India :
  http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_ban_asb_mobil_india.php
  http://www.bwint.org/default.asp?index=2725&Language=EN
• PTRC Asbestos meetings in Rajkot on May 23 and in Bhavnagar on July 17, 2010.
  http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_raising_asb_aware_india.php
• South Asia: Realising 10 for 2010
  http://www.bwint.org/default.asp?index=2879&Language=EN
• Why No Asbestos Use at the Commonwealth Games 2010?
  http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_no_asb at cwgames_2010.php
(13) **Bangladesh**
- Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (BOSHEF) has been working on asbestos issues in cooperation with trade unions and others.
  

(14) **Pakistan**
- The Sindh Environmental Protection Tribunal (SEPT) on Thursday (September 23) directed the ‘commission on uses of asbestos’ to submit a comprehensive report of its findings about health affects of asbestos by October 20.
  

(15) **Cambodia**
- Representatives from Building and Wood Workers Federation of Cambodia (BWTU) have attended A-BAN/ANROAV 2009 meetings and BWI South East Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Asbestos in this August.
- Government started to see asbestos issue since ANROAV 2009.

(16) **Iran**
- Launch of Farsi Translation of “Killing the Future”
  

(17) **Others**

3. for the future strategy and action planning of A-BAN  (by sugio)

- **Increase of countries introducing ban on asbestos**
  - Particular emphasis may be on the Philippines, Malaysia and …

- **Coalition / alliance building at national and regional level**
  - BANJAN, BANKO, No More Asbestos in Hong Kong Alliance (2009 June)
  - Ina-BAN (2010 October)
  - India and Philippines
  - Others

- **Detection of/outreach to possible core activists/organization**
  - More inputs from you are needed.

- **Detection and empowerment of asbestos victims and their families**
  - Groups of asbestos victims and their families exist in Japan, Korea and India, and occupational victims groups in Hong Kong and Taiwan are supporting asbestos victims and their families.

- **Joint surveys and campaigns**
  - Nichias meeting will be held soon (Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan …)

- **Global networking**
  - We already have good contact points in Europe, N & S America and how to strengthen?

- **Others**