

ANROEV Secretariat

OSH Rights is a newsletter on occupational safety and health in Asia. It prepares by the ANROEV Secretariat.

Apart from the newsletter, the ANROEV Secretariat will look after regular research on OSH issues, ANROEV's presence in social media, events, campaigns, information sharing and regular interactions with the members. We look forward to your support and cooperation.

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BANGLADESH

Workers' health and safety must come first



On January 1, 2017, an editorial in The Daily Star titled “Lack of occupational safety” cited a study by the Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environmental Foundation (OSHE) that provided some astounding figures revealing the current state of workers safety. The study revealed that at least 1,240 workers were killed and 544 others injured at workplaces nationwide. This figure was 289 casualties (almost 23.31 percent) higher than in 2015. The Safety and Rights Society revealed that construction is one of the deadliest sectors, with 426 reported deaths in 2017. The Bangladesh OSHE reported that boiler explosions and the lukewarm response from the government to the various inspectors who conducted safety inspections are two of the reasons behind the increase in this death toll.

Articles with titles such as “Illegal stone extraction must be stopped”, “Least bothered about workers' safety”, “Treat labourers with dignity”, and “Workers' safety must come first” were published in The Daily Star on the 5th, 6th, 26th, and 31st January 2018, respectively. OSH failures have turned into distress in all sectors—most importantly in transport, construction, ship-breaking yards and the chemical- and leather-processing industries. This has happened all over the country, but most frequently in the districts of Dhaka, Chittagong, Gazipur, Sylhet, and Narayanganj. The state of OSH in Bangladesh is seriously disturbing and has had an enormous impact on the economy as well as on individuals, families, communities and the reputation of our country. It has created a barrier to development, as well as raised questions about the sustainability of rising industries like ship-breaking and ship-building.

Read more.....<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/perspective/workers-health-and-safety-must-come-first-1535326>



PAKISTAN

Baldia factory fire victims' families to receive pensions from February



KARACHI: The families of the victims of Ali Enterprises (Baldia) factory fire incident will get monthly pensions as a long-term compensation from the amount provided by the German buyer KIK Textilien with effective from January 2018.

Addressing a joint press conference at Karachi Press Club on Monday Karamat Ali, Executive Director, Pakistan Institute of labour Education and Research (PILER), Nasir Mansoor from National Trade Unions Federation, Ms. Saeeda Khatoon, Chairperson of Ali Enterprises Factory Fire Affectees Association said the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has finalized the pension distribution formula and this pension would be started from February 2018.

More than 250 workers had died in the worst ever factory fire incident in a garments manufacturing industry in SITE industrial area happened on 11th September 2012.

Read more.....Published in Daily Times, January 16th 2018.



BANGLADESH

OSHE accomplishes training for trade union capacity building



OSHE foundation provided capacity building training for national trade unions. As part of 3F and OSHE foundation's capacity building initiative on occupational safety and health, the training program was held at 3F office and OSHE foundation headquarters.

On 9 February, at the last session of the long term course on OHS certificates were awarded among union representatives.

Labour welfare articles of Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 and Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015, safety committee, fire, building, electrical and chemical safety, first aid, ergonomics, psycho-social work hazards, Environmental Pollution at workplace, personal protective equipment, compensation for OHS violation, workplace risk measurement and prevention techniques, factory inspection process and the role of trade unions in workplace safety improvement topics were covered in the training.

Trade union organizers from Bangladesh Garment, Textile and Leather Workers Federation, Bangladesh Textile and Garment Workers League, Bangladesh Independent Garment Workers Union Federation, United Federation of Garment Workers, Bangladesh Revolutionary Garments Workers Federation and Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers took part in the training.



Update from Partners

Training on gender equality and prevention of violence against women



OSHE foundation organised a training on gender equality and prevention of violence against women for the ready-made garments workers in Dhaka on 9 February.

Training of trainers on labour law for shipbreaking workers



Training of Trainers (ToT) on Labour Law for Shipbreaking workers has been held on 16 and 17 February at OSHE Bhatiary office In Chittagong. OSHE Program Officer Shazzad Kabir Bhuiyan conducted the training. Bangladesh Shipbreaking workers federation vice president Abdur Rahim Master were present as resource person. Introduction to Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 and Labour Rules 2015, introduction to safety committee, curriculum design and session conduction method were discussed in the training.



CHINA

Low workers' wages undercut and limit living expenses in Guangdong province



Worker Empowerment (WE) has concern for the minimum wage adjustment policy in China and conducted an investigation into wages and workers' expenses in Guangdong Province. These surveys repeatedly show that the minimum wage policy is influential in adjusting workers' basic wage, and is of vital importance to ensuring the grassroots workers' livelihood. In April 2017, we noticed that Guangdong province plans to freeze the minimum wage for three consecutive years. After a few months, a total of 22 districts announced an increase in the minimum wage in 2017. Today, the minimum wage in Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin and Zhejiang provinces has exceeded 2,000 yuan, leading wage growth in the whole country.

Read more... <https://goodelectronics.org/workers-wage-living-expenses-report-covering-four-tier-cities-guangdong-province-china/>



HONG KONG

Broadcasting program producing

From Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims

ARIAV produced broadcasting program from February, to promote safety society message to the public. This program focus on working safety. Also, spotlight on children, elderly, sporty, traveling safety etc.

Return to work seminar

ARIAV invited companies to join the Return to Work seminar in January. Participants received information on injury workers and benefit to recruit injury workers for the employer.



Working Safety Exhibition

Exhibition organized one to three times per week to promote working safety to public. Exhibition presented PPE and related safety information. The construction workers were learnt information which would benefit them to work at the workplace.



INDIA

Mapping 'invisible' shoemakers in south India: RMIT Round-Table in Vellore



In December 2017, the RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) Round-Table facilitated by Cividep India in Vellore, brought together women workers, manufacturers, charities and brands face-to-face for the first time in a bid to map the role of homeworkers – an “invisible workforce” in a global supply chain making high-end shoes – and improve conditions. Vellore district in Tamil Nadu is the hub of a growing industry in India producing leather footwear for export. In 2016, India exported 236 million pairs of shoes up from 206 million in 2015, according to the World Footwear Yearbook. It also has one of the highest concentrations of homeworkers in India – largely women handstitching uppers of leather shoes. There are hundreds of thousands of women from poor, marginalised families who work for cash – stitching, embroidering, and weaving at home to put the finishing touches to products that are sold globally.

<http://www.cividep.org/2018/02/02/mapping-invisible-shoemakers-south-india-rmit-roundtable-vellore/>



NEPAL

LABOUR ACT-2017 HAILED FOR ENSURING WORKERS' WELLBEING IN NEPAL



Jan 2, 2018-The recently endorsed Labour Act-2017, which requires employers to ensure a safe working environment for workers' health and safety, has been applauded by the stakeholders. The guarantee of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) of workers at workplace in the latest labour legislation is the first ever instance of workers' health and safety of workers being secured by the country's law.

"We didn't have any law to guarantee the safety of workers at workplace so far. This is a milestone for Nepal's labour rights," said OSH expert Prof Sunil Kumar Joshi, department head of community medicine at the Kathmandu Medical College.

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2018-01-02/labour-act-2017-hailed-for-ensuring-workers-wellbeing.html>



PAKISTAN

Workers, activists demand ban on Asbestos

Workers and activists have called for a ban on a substance called chrysotile asbestos, which was a leading cause of cancers for workers and anyone else who was exposed to it.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) at its head office on Sunday, health safety experts, union leaders and workers said they had been demanding that the government institute a mechanism for an immediate ban on all forms of asbestos in the country, but the relevant quarters had turned a deaf ear to the issue.

NTUF deputy secretary general Nasir Mansoor, health and safety expert Mirza Shahid Baig, Home-based Women Workers Federation's secretary general Zohra Khan, Gul Rehman and Mushtaq Ali Shan spoke at the seminar.

They said asbestos was chiefly found in the mines in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and it was widely used in construction, manufacturing of pipes and boilers etc.

Besides, they said, the substance was also used in manufacturing of fireproof products, plaster decoration, textiles, garments, cement, automobile and shipping industries.

"This substance is fatal for life, which normally take 15 to 20 years to manifest and in most of cases they inflict cancer to the host human body," said Mr Baig.

Mr Mansoor said some 60 countries had banned asbestos fully or partially, yet Pakistan was among those countries where that material was being rampantly used.

Read more....Published in Dawn, January 9th, 2018

Campaign for health & safety in Pak mines

The campaign aims to ensure a sustainable solution to Pakistan's dependence on coal at the expense of the health, safety and lives of mineworkers. IndustriALL is calling on the government to ratify the ILO convention and commit to implementing the regulatory and legislative framework according to international standards.

The launch of the campaign at a press conference in Islamabad on 13 March, comes just one day after another death at a Baluchistan coal mine, highlighting the safety crisis in the country's mines. Coal miner Afzal Khan died when earth collapsed at a mine in the Sharigh coal field.

According to credible sources, since January 2010, at least 275 miners have been killed, while there is limited data on the number injured.

Speaking at the press conference, IndustriALL assistant general secretary Kemal Özkan, said: We are extremely concerned over continuing fatal accidents in Pakistani mines. Pakistan isn't a major mining country in terms of the volume of production and export, but it is a world champion in death and injury. The government of Pakistan should immediately ratify and implement international conventions and practices on mining.

http://www.industrialunion.org/industrial-launches-campaign-for-health-and-safety-in-pakistan-mines?utm_source=Newsletters+in+english&utm_campaign=78cdbc2c7a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_03_15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_65751b77d5-78cdbc2c7a-19168841



Update from Partners

Capacity Building Workshop



Labour Education Foundation (LEF) organized a capacity building training workshop for two days under the project “Promoting Empowerment and Leadership of Women Workers” on 22-23 February, 2018 in Lahore. Total 23 participants of identified unions of three sectors; brick kiln sector, carpet sector and home based women workers attended this training from different districts of Punjab. The aim of this training was to prepare women trade union members to enhance their role in their respective trade unions specifically and within trade union movement in general. Topics discussed in training included; situation analysis of workers rights in Pakistan, introduction to Constitutional and labour rights of workers, International human and labour rights mechanisms and conventions, situation analysis of Home Based Workers, gender division of labour and impact on women participation in organizing, formation and functioning of women committees and basic concepts of social protection. Training helped participants to realize that women and men workers should have equal access to their rights and to decision-making processes at all levels. For this purpose, the participating three unions formed women committees in their unions to play a leadership role by taking active part in trade union activities, in decision making and in negotiations to represent on behalf of other women workers.



UN experts concerned by threats against factory workers and labour activists

GENEVA (20 March 2018) – UN human rights experts* express their concern about reports that women workers at two Samsung Electronics factories in Viet Nam, as well as labour activists, have been subjected to intimidation and harassment after they raised concerns about working conditions at the plants.

Among their concerns was the possible exposure of workers to toxic chemicals at the factories in Yen Phong Industrial Zone, Bac Ninh province, and Pho Yen Industrial Zone in Thai Nguyen province.

A report published by the Centre for Research on Gender, Family, and Environment in Development (CGFED) and the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) indicated that Samsung factory workers were not adequately informed or trained to protect themselves from toxic chemicals used in the manufacturing of electronic equipment.

Some of the surveyed women reported adverse health consequences associated with unhealthy working conditions including miscarriages, extreme fatigue and fainting. Reportedly, Vietnamese labour authorities are currently investigating the findings of the report.

“We are very disturbed to learn that researchers who authored the report have received demands to present themselves for interviews with Government authorities,” said the experts.

They had been informed that the lead author of the report, Pham Thi Minh Hang, had been asked to present herself to officials on 19 March after returning from a meeting on protection measures for toxic chemicals in Stockholm, Sweden.

“We have also asked Samsung for clarification on the allegations received that workers in the factories were also threatened with lawsuits if they talked to people outside the company about working conditions following the report’s publication last December,” the experts said.

“While an assessment of the findings of the report requires a response by the competent authorities, it is unacceptable that researchers or workers reporting on what they consider to be unhealthy and inadequate working conditions are intimidated by private or public officials.

“Both Government authorities and companies concerned must ensure the space for civil society to verify the adequacy of conditions of the many Vietnamese women working in manufacturing facilities. Intimidating labour advocates and workers not only is a violation of their right to freedom of opinion and expression, but can contribute to impunity of those who abuse and violate the rights of workers. Such actions also undermine the respective obligations and responsibilities of the Government and companies to respect human rights in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

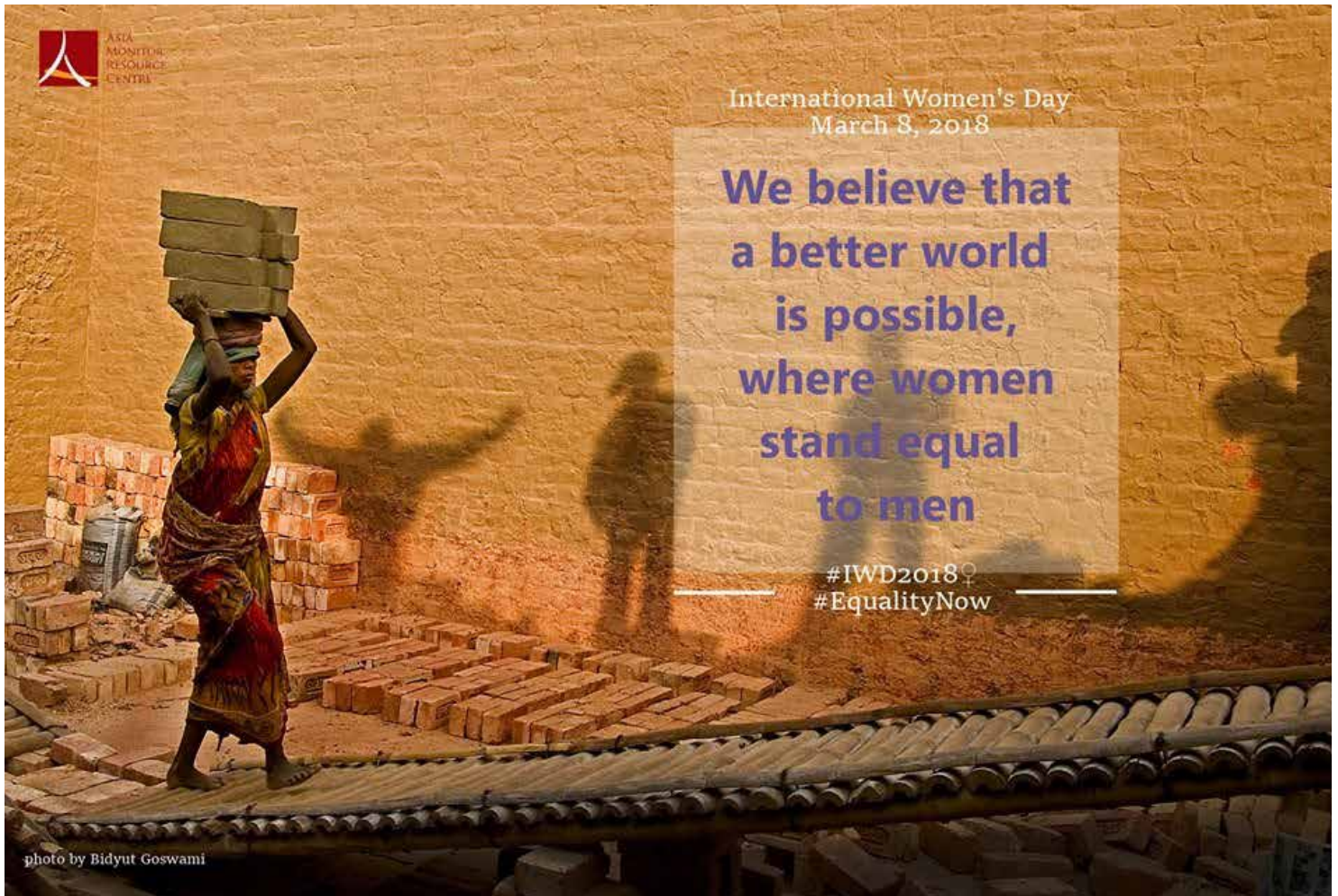
“Vietnam’s rapid economic development over recent years is a notable achievement. Yet, such reports indicating the lack of space for civil society to monitor and challenge abuses committed by companies or authorities are of serious concern. Without transparency and a safe space for public debate, abuses can proliferate and perpetrators will likely remain unaccountable,” said the experts, offering to visit Vietnam to provide assistance and to meet with authorities to discuss the matter.

For further information and media requests, please write to srtoxicwaste@ohchr.org or contact Marcelo Daher (+41 22 917 94 31 / mdaher@ohchr.org) or Alvin Gachie (+41 22 917 99 71 / agachie@ohchr.org).



Women's Day 2018

Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC)



Working women still constitute the majority of the working poor, living in vulnerable and precarious conditions, despite the much-touted economic development in the region. Women workers are facing structural challenges at home, in the organizations, and in the society that exclude them from a meaningful economic and political participation. Women and men workers should have equal access to their rights and to decision-making processes at all levels. AMRC supports the organizing of women workers and capacity building for the women organizers which aims to enhance women's political and economic participation. We believe that a better world is possible, where women stand equal to men.

<https://www.facebook.com/AMRCHK/photos/a.205171739514348.57487.161133747251481/1838280949536744/?type=3&theater>



IndustriAll

International women's day - unions must act to end violence against women at work

As women, men and unions take action around the world to highlight International Women's Day, IndustriALL is calling for support for its campaign to end violence in the workplace.

Trade unions need to take action on violence against women and advocate for a binding international law on gender-based violence.

Violence against women is a core trade union issue. IndustriALL's affiliates around the globe are taking action to prevent this violation of human rights, through measures including education campaigns with their membership, including provisions to protect women from violence in collective bargaining agreements, and providing paid leave for women who have suffered from violence and harassment.

By taking the IndustriALL's pledge, affiliates commit to continue and reinforce their actions to stop violence against women in the workplace and in unions.

IndustriALL urges all its affiliates to take the pledge and promote it through their union structures so it leads to real action.

Concerted union action to highlight the continuing and pervasive violence against women in our sectors will send a strong message to the perpetrators and their employers that all forms of violence against women are unacceptable.

OSHE foundation

Women's day observed

Debates and discussions inevitably ensue each March about women's long journey through the years for breaking the barriers. This year, however, workplace harassment issue has been taken into light by OSHE foundation.

OSHE foundation observed the International Women's Day through discussion on gender sensitivity with the theme: SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN WORKPLACE.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) social protection and gender specialist Dr Rokeya Khatun was the chief discussant at the program while OSHE chairperson Saki Rezwana in the chair.

Discussants said media attention is currently focused on cases of sexual harassment at the workplace, a common problem faced by women in the workplace in addition to gender bias. sexual harassment comes in many forms at the workplace, ranging from unwelcome verbal sexual advances and inappropriate touching to offensive statements posted online. But the culture of harassment and gender bias does not hold women back from reaching the top.

The program was also attended by OSHE's Homebased Workers Project coordinator Mocklasur Rahman, Tasmin Jahan, Nusrat Jahan, Kaniz Rabeya and Nur Alam.



Women's Day 2018

ITUC

It's Our Day – It's Our Time: Rising for Equality

As On 8 March last year, millions of women took to the streets in protest against rising misogyny, racism and xenophobia, all typified by the tolerance of gender-based violence. In late 2017, women in the film industry in the United States began to speak out through social media about their experiences of sexual harassment and sexual assault. #MeToo has become a worldwide phenomenon, with women across all industries and sectors – from domestic workers to textile and garment workers, from journalists to doctors, from migrant women to disabled women –



recounting their personal experiences of gender-based violence at work. All around the world, women are calling time on discrimination, inequality and violence at work and saying, “enough is enough”.

In June 2018, the International Labour Conference will take a huge step towards outlawing gender-based violence by discussing an international labour standard on “violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work”.

Violence – and in particular violence against women – remains one of the most under-reported, yet destructive features of our world of work. It costs lives and livelihoods. It destroys workers and families. It harms the reputation of businesses and costs billions to the economy.

Gender-based violence in the world of work keeps women trapped in poverty, deprives women of their autonomy and collective voice at work and prevents women workers from building power.

The statistics are horrific:

- Over 60 per cent of female garment workers in Bangladesh have been intimidated or threatened with violence at work.
 - More than 90 per cent of women working in tea growing or processing have experienced or witnessed sexual or physical abuse at their workplace.
 - Ninety per cent of women in Uganda report having been sexually harassed by their male supervisors.
 - Sixty per cent of women working in the catering industry in Nordic countries have experienced sexual harassment.
 - Ninety per cent of waitresses in the US have experienced sexual harassment or violence on the job.
- In addition to poverty wages and hazardous working conditions, gender-based violence is common in global supply chains.

Read more...<https://www.ituc-csi.org/it-s-our-day-it-s-our-time-rising>



Statement/Media Release

Stop the coming cancer epidemic in Asia

Global call for action to scientists, doctors, researchers and groups affected by asbestos

MEDIA
RELEASE

Union Aid Abroad APHEDA
The global justice organisation of the Australian union movement



An influential group of scientists and researchers today launched a global campaign to counter the misinformation from the asbestos industry, particularly in Asia, about the cancer causing product. Latest estimates by respected global epidemiological study Global Burden of Disease (GBD), conducted by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation suggest more than 222,000 people died globally in 2016 from asbestos related diseases such as lung cancer, mesothelioma, laryngeal and ovarian cancer as well as asbestosis. The GBD study is the most comprehensive worldwide observational epidemiological study ever conducted.

The launch of the global campaign today is supported by events occurring simultaneously in Indonesia, Vietnam and India. All three countries are major continuing users of chrysotile asbestos and countries where GBD estimates more than 10,000 combined deaths occurred in 2016.

The Asia Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN) in cooperation with Union Aid Abroad –APHEDA launched the global open letter calling on scientists, researchers and doctors and those representing victims of asbestos related disease to sign on and help stem the future epidemic of avoidable cancers in Asia and counter the lies and misinformation from the asbestos industry. “I urge all caring scientists, researchers and doctors to join with us in signing on to send this crucial message to Asian Governments,” said Professor Ken Takahashi, Director of the Asbestos Disease Research Institute in Sydney, Australia. While chrysotile (white) asbestos is banned in more than 60 countries already and many more no longer use it, more than 1.5 million tons a year are still being used in the world, mostly in Asia. This is despite the World Health Organisations clear recommendation to governments ‘the most efficient way to eliminate asbestos-related diseases is to stop using all types of asbestos’. “Many governments in Asia are being bombarded with misinformation from an asbestos industry desperate to protect its last major market, Asia. We encourage scientists, doctors, researchers who agree with the content of this letter to sign on and help Asian governments be clear on the evidence,” said Kate Lee, Executive Officer of Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA. The global evidence has been for many decades overwhelming, that all types of asbestos cause cancer among those workers, community and consumers exposed. “More countries are introducing bans and recent bans by large asbestos producing and exporting countries such as Canada in 2016 and Brazil in 2017 mean this is a crucial moment of decision for all countries still using this deadly substance. The open letter gives solid scientific endorsement for all those efforts,” said Mr Sugio Furuya, General Secretary, Japan International Centre for Occupational Safety and Health (JICOSH) and Coordinator ABAN. Countries and communities that were major consumers of chrysotile asbestos last century such as USA, Australia, Japan, Korea and the Europe Union are suffering the terrible health, environmental and economic consequences today. A range of eminent international scientists and researchers have endorsed the content in this open letter and strongly urged their peers to also sign. These include: Professor Ken Takahashi, Director, Asbestos Diseases Research Institute, Concord Clinical School, University of Sydney, Professor Richard A. Lemen, Ph.D, MSPH, USA Assistant Surgeon General (Ret.) Rear Admiral, USPHS (Ret.) Professor Yawen Cheng, ScD, Institute of Health Policy and Management, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University, Professor Ignatius Yu , Chairman & Honorary President, Hong Kong Occupational & Environmental Health Academy, Honorary Medical Advisor, Hong Kong Workers’ Health Centre, Honorary Clinical Professor, JC School of Public Health & Primary Care, Dr Jukka Takala (Adjunct Prof), President, International Commission on Occupational Health, ICOH, Professor Tim Driscoll, Professor, Epidemiology and Occupational Medicine; Director, Master of Public Health; Sydney School of Public Health, The University of Sydney. The open letter will be open for signatures until 15 February 2018. The open letter will then be presented to governments across Asia in 2018 to help demonstrate the overwhelming evidence on the harmful impacts for their people, environment and economies of continuing to use chrysotile asbestos when so many alternatives are available.

Details of how to sign on to the letter are available at <http://apheda.org.au/asbestos-open-letter/>

Contact: Kate Lee +61420293083, Sugio Furuya +818030246201, Phillip Hazelton +84917878314



Open letter to Governments & policy makers in Asia Subject: Health Alert on Chrysotile Asbestos



We, as researchers, scientists, doctors, specialists in occupational health and asbestos related diseases (ARDs) from around the world, in conjunction with representatives of asbestos victims' groups and trade unions are supporting this open letter to you to express our sincere and deep concern over the continuing use of chrysotile asbestos in many countries in Asia. This is despite clear and unequivocal evidence of cancer and other disease risks associated with its continued use.

We would like to bring the following to your attention, as you consider the future use of this product in your country.

-Chrysotile asbestos is the leading cause of asbestos related diseases in the world today. Chrysotile asbestos, along with all other types of asbestos, are without any doubt known to cause lung cancer, mesothelioma, asbestosis, laryngeal cancer and ovarian cancer. The international evidence on chrysotile's direct link to a range of cancers is clear and well documented by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) .

- The claims from those that advocate the continued use of chrysotile asbestos that chrysotile fibers dissolve in the body in 14 days and therefore do not cause asbestos disease, are completely false .

- The claims from those that advocate continued use of chrysotile asbestos that 80% of the world still use chrysotile asbestos is false. The majority of countries in the world either have formally banned chrysotile or no longer use it in manufacturing because of its deadly cancer legacy for workers and communities. Only 87 countries reported any consumption in 2015 of raw asbestos and most of these consumed very small amounts. Fewer than 15% of the 195 countries belonging to the UN used more than 1,000 tons of chrysotile asbestos in 2015. In that year, just seven countries in the world used more than 50,000 tons (i.e. China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Russia and Brazil). Asia is now the last major region consuming chrysotile asbestos, with more than 75% of the world's annual consumption .

- At the ILO International Labour Conference of 2006, the ILO Resolution Concerning Asbestos was adopted. This ILO instrument clarifies the ILO position that the elimination of the future use of asbestos as the most effective means to protect workers from asbestos exposure and to prevent future ARDs.

- The WHO has repeatedly stated 'the most efficient way to eliminate asbestos-related diseases is to stop using all types of asbestos'

- There is no 'safe use' of asbestos that can be ensured across the supply chain. Evidence continues to show that national burdens of ARDs are directly proportional to national consumption of asbestos. This is supported by findings that the heavy burden of ARDs in industrialized countries is attributable to their consumption of asbestos several decades earlier, despite all attempts to ensure the "safe use" of asbestos .

- The global burden of deaths attributable to asbestos has been estimated by Global Burden of Disease at over 222,000 persons annually in its latest estimate for 2016 published 2017. Evidence exists that even this large and alarming number is an underestimate.

- The "low cost" of asbestos-containing products is cited as an argument for continuing the use of asbestos, particularly in providing cheap housing material for the poor. The purported "low cost" to be a fair comparison, fails to consider the compensation and health care costs for future ARD sufferers, the exposure risks for those living in houses with degrading toxic roofing as well as the future costs of removing and safely disposing of asbestos-containing materials from buildings and other products.

- There are safe and economically viable substitutes for asbestos containing products, that are already used in Asia and all countries that have banned asbestos .

- Asbestos-free technology developed in Asia, is an opportunity to generate local jobs and new greener industries in the region.

- Several industrialized countries have experienced public unrest and litigation against Governments due to the Governments' perceived failure to protect public health by failing to act in a timely and appropriate manner on asbestos hazards.

- A recent WHO study of all countries that have banned asbestos has found no negative effect on GDP of any country that has banned asbestos.

To save lives, reduce the future burden of ARD's, support sustainable economic growth and avoid unnecessary social instability in Asia, we urge immediate action by governments to rapidly phase out the use of asbestos in construction materials and ban all types of asbestos in all products.



Statement/Media Release



**ITUC INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION CSI CONFÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE INTERNATIONALE
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The Honorable Moon Jae-in
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SK/GS/MS

21 March 2018

Samsung Electronics Vietnam

President Moon,

In advance of your visit to Vietnam and meeting with President Tran Dai Quang, the International Trade Union Confederation would like to outline serious concerns relating to human and labour rights in the country, specifically with respect to the operations of Samsung Electronics.

South Korea is bound by the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the ILO MNE Tripartite Declaration and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. I am pleased that in your Presidency you have repeatedly affirmed your commitment for Korea to ratify ILO core Conventions and to follow the recommendation of the National Human Rights Commission. The “New Southern Policy” your government is pursuing should therefore not only target forging economic ties with Southeast Asia, but must also reflect your commitments with respect to human rights, in particular as this pertains to the behaviour of your companies.

Samsung Electronics has committed grave abuses of workers’ rights and is responsible for the deaths of young workers in South Korea because of the use of toxic chemicals in its semiconductor operations. In Vietnam, Samsung Electronics has its largest plant manufacturing 50% of its mobile phones, and the company has become Vietnam’s largest foreign investor employing nearly 137,000 workers.

Recent research into conditions for women workers in Samsung’s factory in Vietnam by the Hanoi-based Research Centre for Gender, Family, Environment and Development (CGFED) and IPEN, a global network of environment and health NGOs working to reduce and eliminate harmful chemicals, found:

- There are no specific regulations on workplace safety in the electronics industry to safeguard the health of its workers, despite Samsung’s reputation for using toxic chemicals.
- Nearly one-third of electronics companies examined by the government violate Vietnamese law governing overtime work. A government investigation of 17 electronics companies found two with more than 100 hours/month overtime in peak months and three others with 50 – 60 hours/month overtime. Vietnamese law limits overtime to 30 hours/month. A



government study noted that “too much overtime is one of the main reasons leading to labour accidents in electronic companies” (MOLISA, 2016).

- ! None of the 45 female workers at Samsung interviewed for that study received a copy of their work contracts. This is a violation of Vietnamese law. All the women said that their work contracts are kept by the company and that they were not given a copy.
- ! The health impact of the electronics industry in Vietnam is unstudied and unknown. However, the government has noted the potential for serious health impacts of the electronics industry: "Problems relating to labour safety in the electronics industry can lead to cancer and heart attacks due to being exposed to chemicals, radiation and electronic waves ... But this is only an inference, without proving statistics, although there are real lead poisoning and occupational diseases" (MOLISA, 2016).
- ! Formation of trade unions and freedom of association is a requirement of ILO Conventions 87 and 98, but Vietnam has not ratified them. The Vietnam National Union of Workers in Industry and Trade (VUIT) is affiliated with IndustriALL and covers workers in the electronics industry. However, Samsung has a no-union policy and claims that it “has a principle of management that does not need trade unions”. An internal Samsung document described company actions to undermine formation of trade unions.

Given these enormous risks to human and labour rights in the operations of Samsung in Vietnam, we urge you to engage Samsung management both in Korea and in Vietnam to address these grievances and to ensure that the company carries out human rights due diligence with respect to Samsung subsidiaries and suppliers in Vietnam. Your leadership and commitment to human and labour rights is critical to ensuring respect for the rights of millions of workers in the region producing goods and providing services to multinational companies.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary

!



Statement/Media Release



SOLIDAR
SUISSE
Hong Kong



3rd January 2018

Media Release

Economic blackmail by Russia against Sri Lanka's asbestos ban decision slammed by international trade unions and health networks

International trade unions led by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and Global Union Building Workers International (BWI) have joined with health networks including victims groups representing those suffering from asbestos related diseases and their families from around the world, in declaring their outrage at the economic blackmail on Sri Lanka by the Russian Government.

On December 18th 2017, Russia abruptly halted imports of tea from Sri Lanka, causing a major threat to the Sri Lankan economy. Just 2 days later the Sri Lankan Government announced its decision to defer banning asbestos imports from Russia.

Sri Lanka had previously announced a phasing out of asbestos starting January 1 2018 with a full ban planned by 2024.

Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), said: "Imposing chrysotile asbestos on an unwilling nation is not fair trade, it is culpable homicide. Unions worldwide abhor this cynical economic blackmail. Russia must not and will not be allowed to blow a hole in fair trade rules."

'This desperate bid to try to force continued markets for Russia's deadly asbestos trade must be condemned and resisted' said Fiona Murie, Global Director, Construction and Health and Safety, Building and Woodworkers International. We are concerned for workers and the community in Sri Lanka who are being exposed to this cancer causing material and urge the Sri Lankan Government to push ahead with its decision to ban chrysotile asbestos as soon as possible' she said.

The National Trade Union Federation of Sri Lanka (NTUF) has strongly urged the government to return to the ban timetable already announced and not bow to the pressure from Russia. 'Being a big country, Russia has resorted to arm twisting its weaker trade partner. It is unfortunate that the Sri Lankan Government has to give in to these pressure tactics and accept hazardous material from Russia. The NTUF appeals to the Government of Sri Lanka not to give into the safe use theory of chrysotile asbestos being propagated by asbestos exporting governments led by Russia...the government should stick to its decision for a total ban by 2024' said NTUF Secretary General, Padmasiri Ranawakaarachchi.

Statement/Media Release



Sugio Furuya, General Secretary, Japan Occupational Safety and Health Resource Center (JOSHRC) and Coordinator of the Asia Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN) rejected claims that chrysotile asbestos does not cause cancer as claimed by the asbestos industry and Russian Ambassador to Sri Lanka.

“Chrysotile asbestos is the leading cause of asbestos related diseases in the world today. Chrysotile asbestos, along with all other types of asbestos, are without any doubt known to cause lung cancer, mesothelioma, asbestosis, laryngeal cancer and ovarian cancer. The international evidence on chrysotile’s direct link to a range of cancers is clear and well documented by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)¹” he said. “We urge the Sri Lankan Government to take a complaint to the WTO on this action by Russia. There is already a WTO precedent from the 2001 test case, Canada vs. the European Communities over the French asbestos ban that declared that countries had the right to ban asbestos “to protect human ... life or health”, within the meaning of Article XX(b) of the GATT 1994” he added.

‘We are dismayed that such blatant economic blackmail will mean more asbestos related deaths in Sri Lanka in coming years that would not have occurred had the phase out occurred in January as scheduled said Kate Lee, Executive Director of Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA. ‘Already estimates from global scientists suggest hundreds of deaths from exposure to chrysotile asbestos in Sri Lanka in 2016 alone. With recent high consumption of asbestos and the increased exposure of the population this is certain to rise sharply in coming decades’ she added.

Both WHO and ILO have clear positions on the deadly nature of chrysotile asbestos. The WHO has issued numerous statements affirming that the most efficient way to eliminate asbestos-related diseases is to stop the use of all forms of asbestos.

¹ <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Classification/>

“We applaud Sri Lankan trade unions and politicians who are resisting the delay in the banning of asbestos and petitioning the Sri Lankan Government to hold firm on the ban. These include Parliamentarian Ven. Athuraliye Rathana Thera and the Sri Lanka trade union NTUF’ said Laurie Kazan-Allen, Coordinator of the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat. ‘This action by Russia, the largest remaining exporter of the deadly fibre must be investigated. We urge WHO and ILO to study this closely and report on their findings. There are so many lives at stake’ she said.

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84 fatal accidents, 114 deaths in three years in textile units in Surat, Gujarat

By Rajiv Shah



While a lot is known about fatal accidents caused in Gujarat's premier shipbreaking yard at Alang because of lack of occupational safety, a yet-to-be-published study "Labour Conditions in Surat Textile Industry", supported by Bonn-based Südwind Institute for Economics and Ecumenism, is all set to create a flutter. It has estimated that, in the last three years, 84 fatal accidents have been reported in registered textile processing units in Surat, in which 114 workers died.

Based on a Right to Information (RTI) replies to a query filed in 2016, the data supplied by the Directorate Industrial Safety and Health, Gujarat, further suggest that as many as 375 workers were seriously injured in accidents in these units.

Authored by Jagdish Patel of the People's Training and Research Centre (PTRC), a Vadodara-based advocacy group focused on occupational health, the study says these data do not provide a complete picture as "a large number of units are not registered."

A scan through the newspaper clippings by PTRC also suggested that "121 workers died and 126 injured in the textile industry in Surat during 2012-15", the study says. "Most news of injury at work does not reach the newspapers and people at large" since a large number of units "are not registered", it adds.

Case study/report



Suggesting that there appears to be little awareness about the need to fight the such high accidents, which have continued over the years, and yet the officialdom has remained indifferent, the study says that during 1991-95 as many as 100 fatal accidents took place in Surat. Then, in 2007 and 2008, the study adds, 46 and 36 accidents respectively were reported in Surat.

“These figures speak of the occupational health and safety situation in the textile factories in Surat”, the study says. An analysis of the reasons behind the accidents by it suggests that between 2012 and 2015, of the 121 fatal accidents, 30 took place because of burns, followed by electrocution (27), and what has been called “crushed between two surfaces” (23).

Other reasons for deaths reported include asphyxiation, fall from height, fire and explosion, mechanical injury, gassed, and so on. Giving the example of how these accidents become fatal because of the very nature of the factories, the study quotes the instance of a power loom unit on Ashvini Kumar Road in Surat located in Suryapur Industrial Estate caught fire on October 3, 2015 at 11:45 am.

During the accident except one worker on the second floor -- Nila Nayaka (45) and a male worker -- Krishna Limja (65) on the third floor, all the others could come out safely. The fire brigade rescued the two, but the woman died of asphyxiation.

The study explains, “The fire started on the second floor and spread to the third floor. Machines had been arranged without leaving much distance between two machines and this congested the walkways. Raw material and finished products were also stored on walkways. There were 20 workers in the unit. Workers on the ground floor could get out but workers on the second and third floors were trapped.”

Pointing out that in most cases those who die or are injured are not adequately compensated, the study quotes the instance of one Ajay Raju Yadav, 18, who met with an accident at work in June 2011.



Yadav was employed in an embroidery unit. His left hand got entangled in the nip of the roll of the press machine while charging the machine with ladies dress material. Three of his fingers got amputated and the fourth is almost dead.

“A medical expert assessed his disability to be 47%. He was not compensated. The unit was covered under the Employees’ State Insurance (ESI) Act but the particular worker was not issued identity card under the Act”, the study says.

It was only after a long drawn out battle, carried out by a textile workers’ association, a local court passed an order in May 2013 to pay Rs.2,88,685 towards compensation with interest at the rate of 9% (Rs 86,605) as penalty, and Rs1,000 as cost of the claim. This made the employer to fire the worker. A hearing on the the case continues till date.

RESEARCH REPORT



PennState
Center for
Global Workers'
Rights (CGWR)

March 22, 2018

Binding Power: The Sourcing Squeeze, Workers' Rights, and Building Safety in Bangladesh Since Rana Plaza

Mark Anner, Center Director, Penn State

Executive Summary

Despite more than two decades of private voluntary approaches to address workers' rights abuses in apparel supply chains, workers in the lower production tiers continue to face poor working conditions and chronic violations of their rights. Bangladesh has been emblematic of low wages, poor working conditions, union-avoidance, and a series of mass fatality disasters in garment factories, culminating in the collapse of Rana Plaza in 2013. With the five-year anniversary of the catastrophe approaching, the question arises as to whether the intervening years have seen meaningful gains for workers.

This report finds that gains have been severely limited in regard to wages, overtime hours, and work intensity in part due to the sourcing practices of the brands and retailers that sit at the top of global supply chains. A partial exception is in the area of associational rights, where, in the aftermath of Rana Plaza, pressure from the European Union, the United States, and international organizations resulted in minor pro-union labor reforms. These reforms, combined with the tenacity of workers and their organizing efforts, resulted in an increase in the number of recognized unions. However, in recent years, union growth has once again stagnated, indicating the need for continued international pressure and for an expansion of the capacity of garment sector unions.

This report finds one area where gains for workers have been dramatic: building safety. This is largely the result of an unprecedented binding agreement, the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh. The Accord, which imposes constraints and obligations on global firms that are absent from traditional voluntary CSR schemes, has overseen a massive program of safety renovations and upgrades. No doubt, the Accord has faced challenges. One area of concern has been substantial delays in the full remediation of all Accord factories, which is compounded by the fact that new factories join the Accord on a regular basis as buyers expand their pool of supplier factories in the country. Yet, the program has delivered an improved margin of safety for more than 2.5 million garment workers and upgrades that have eliminated more than 97,000 identified hazards across more than 1,600 covered factories.

In May 2018, the Accord will end its mandate and be replaced by the '2018 Accord,' which will expand safety committees and safety training to all factories in member networks (no limit on factory tiers), broaden the Accord's scope to related industries, and increase support for freedom of association rights as they relate to occupational safety and health.



Article

Trends and the Economic Effect of Asbestos Bans and Decline in Asbestos Consumption and Production Worldwide

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Abstract: Although some countries have reduced asbestos consumption and instituted bans, other countries continue to produce and consume asbestos even as asbestos-related deaths mount and the associated societal costs are high. Asbestos production and consumption has declined globally; the number of bans has increased; and the speed at which countries have tapered off consumption has increased. Using country-level data, we study the economic impact of historical changes in the production and use of asbestos. We compare changes in gross domestic product (GDP) following the enactment of asbestos bans. We do not find any significant effect on GDP following an asbestos ban. In a regional case study, we compare changes in GDP and employment with changes in asbestos production. Regional-level data revealed a temporary employment decline at the local level that was then reversed.

Keywords: asbestos; bans; gross domestic product; employment; mesothelioma

1. Introduction

Asbestos has been used for centuries because it is inexpensive and durable. Historically, asbestos has had more than 3000 different applications, primarily in construction materials and in a wide range of friction products [1]. However, asbestos has been linked with the development of deadly diseases, such as mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestosis. The health effects of asbestos use have been well-studied, particularly at the individual level, demonstrating a link between incidence of mesothelioma and prior exposure to asbestos [2]. These health effects have also been observed at the country level. Mortality rates of asbestos-related disease in the early 2000s have been correlated to aggregate asbestos use during the 1960s—the more asbestos consumption per capita by a country in the 1960s, the greater the mortality from asbestos-related diseases in that country in the early 2000s [3]. In addition, there is increasing evidence that reductions in asbestos consumption at the country level (often as the result of bans) have been associated with a subsequent decrease of rates in asbestos-related diseases. Countries that imposed asbestos bans reduced their asbestos use more quickly than those without bans, and a change in asbestos use between 1970 and 1985 was a significant predictor of the change in annual mesothelioma mortality rates between 1996 and 2005 [4]. Moreover, the incidence of mesothelioma (when measured at the same age) is lower for groups entering the workforce after a ban than for those who entered prior to a ban [5].



BANGLADESH

Ship-breaking bill passed in parliament

Parliament last night passed “Bangladesh Ship Recycling Bill, 2018”, which has provisions for imprisonment and fines for violation of the law.

According to the bill placed by Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu, a zone would be established in Chittagong for the ship-recycling industry under section 4 of the draft law and the owners would have to run their yards there. The draft law makes it mandatory for yard owners to have the lives of every employee in their yards insured. The yards would also have to abide by the relevant international laws and conventions, the bill said. The bill said if anyone established a yard without permits, the punishment could be up to two years' jail or a fine between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 30 lakh or both.

The punishment for importing a ship without a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the shipping ministry was set at two years' jail or a fine between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 30 lakh.

Recycling a ship without NOC could result in a jail sentence of up to two years or a fine between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 30 lakh. The punishment for producing a fake NOC was set at five years' jail or a fine between Tk 5 lakh and Tk 20 lakh. In the case of setting up yards outside the zone, the punishment would be up to two years' jail or a fine between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 30 lakh, according to the bill.

Under the draft law, a 13-member board, with an additional secretary of the industries ministry as its chairman, would oversee the activities of the ship recycling industry and sit for meetings at least thrice a year. As per the proposed law, the government would set up treatment, storage, and disposal facility within three years after enacting the law for management of wastage produced from ship recycling.

The bill was passed in a voice vote and now awaits the nod of the president. Read more at ...

<http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/ship-breaking-bill-passed-parliament-1524895>

JAPAN

Japanese metalworkers celebrate wage increase

Based on the financial results of 2017 and following a series of negotiations between unions and management of major Japanese metalworking companies, workers will receive a substantial wage increase this year. Smaller and medium size companies often suppliers to the big corporations of the sector will follow. After the traditional spring wage negotiations known in Japan as Shunto, ‘Spring Labor Offensive’, major member unions of the Japan Council of Metalworkers' Unions (JCM), an affiliate of IndustriALL Global Union, received responses to their wage increase demands by 14 March. Most unions are already in the process of concluding new collective agreements.

This year, 52 JCM member unions got a higher wage increase than last year. As of 19 March, workers will enjoy a wage increase 1,541 yen on average on top of the regular pay raise portion. This year hike is about 500 yen higher than that of last year. A broader debate over industrial and corporate survival to deal with industrial structure change took place through labour-management negotiations in each company. Due to this, negotiations on wage increase were tightened up in their final phase. Having agreed on the hike this year, the automotive companies expressed some concerns about the future possible increases because of the growing competition over development of self-driving and electric vehicles. In the electronics industry unions obtained good results with 13 major companies including Panasonic and Hitachi; electronics workers will enjoy a base pay rise of 1,500 yen, which is 500 yen higher than last year. Commenting on the results achieved on 2018 Spring Labor Offensive, JCM President, Akira Takakura said, “We believe this result will contribute to strengthening industrial base as well as motivation and vitality of union members in line with our demand of “investing in people”. We hope the result will also lead up-coming negotiations at small-medium size companies and give positive effect to improve working conditions of non-regular workers.”



TURKEY

2,006 workers killed in workplace accidents in 2017 Turkey: Report

A total of 2,006 workers were killed in workplace accidents in 2017, a report by the Workers' Health and Work Safety Assembly (İSiGM) said on January 6.

The number of deaths has increased since 2016, when 1,970 workers were killed in the country, the same report said.

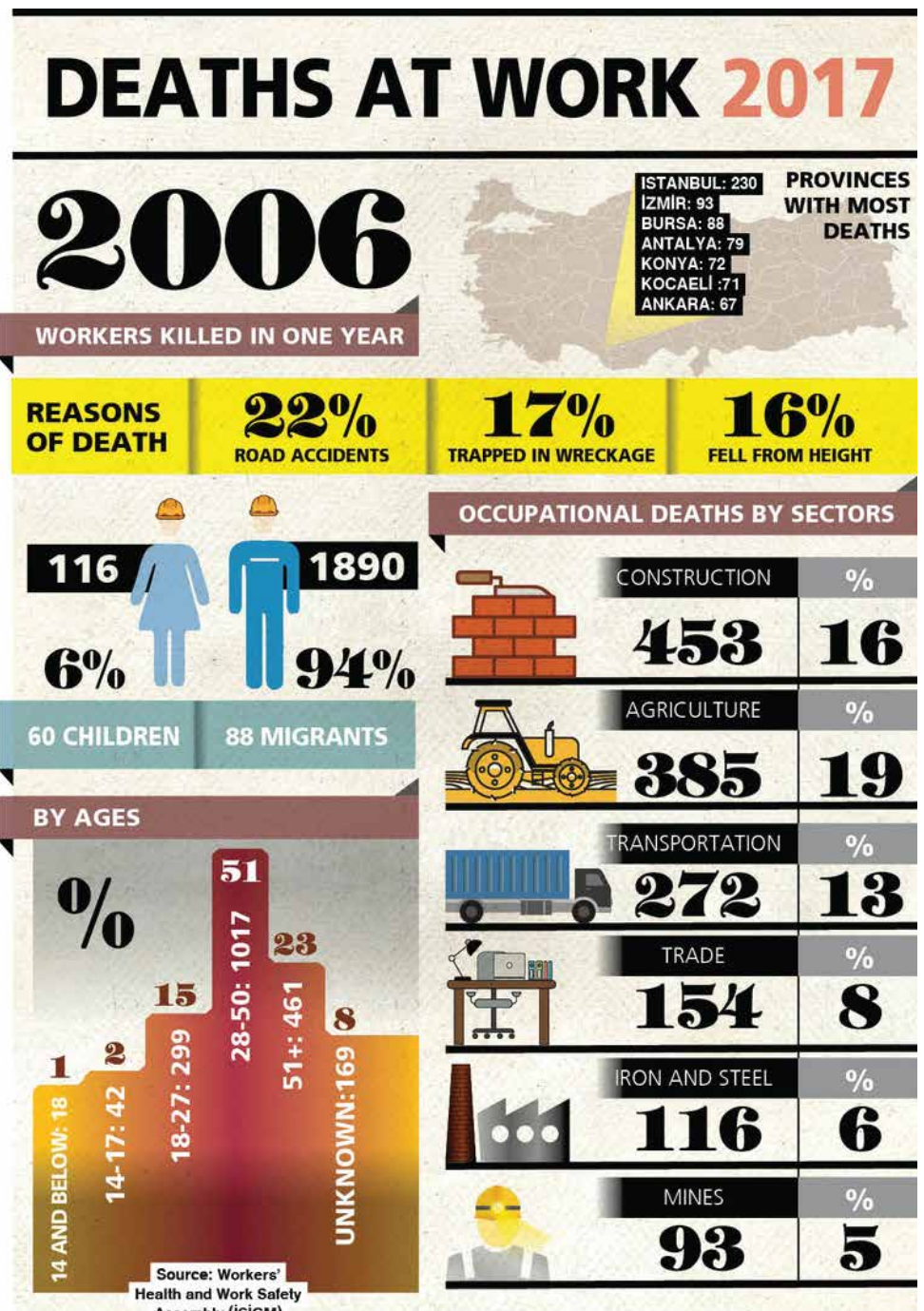
According to the report, which has gathered data from the Turkish media, five workers were killed every 24 hours last year.

Of the 2,006 workers killed that year, 116 were women.

İSiGM is an NGO comprised of workers, workers' relatives, doctors, engineers, academics, journalists and lawyers who deal with labor issues.

Deaths mostly occurred in the construction, agriculture, transport, trade, metal and mining industries.

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/2-006-workers-killed-in-workplace-accidents-in-2017-in-turkey-report-125387>





WORKERS IN ASIA ARE FACING MAJOR CHALLENGES FROM THE CURRENT NEOLIBERAL DEVELOPMENT

There are at least two major challenges for workers and the ways of organizing and resistance in the current Asia neoliberal development: the expansion of China Overseas Investment and the shrinking of democracy. These major challenges were addressed in the Asia Transnational Corporation (ATNC) Monitoring Network 'Biennial Conference' in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 17-21 November 2017. The conference was attended by 45 participants as the delegations from the various organization and individual members of the network. In the last two years, Outward Direct Investment of China has significantly increased. In 2015, China already became the world's second-largest source of outbound foreign direct investment (FDI) with infrastructure network project as the prominent sector. In Southeast Asia for example, Chinese investment has grown rapidly from US\$ 1bn in 2007 to US\$14.6bn in 2015. This expansion has been accelerated by the 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR), a major development strategy proposed by President of China Xi Jinping first unveiled in September and October 2013. Under OBOR, the infrastructure projects funded by China capital are designed to connect Asia, Europe and Africa through six economy corridors. In this regard, Pakistan already integrated within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

First plenary session discussed on the current neoliberal development trends in Asia. Credit: Lennon (SPA)

ATNC members discussed the major issue appears within this development framework. As the evidence already emerged in many cases, the expansion of capital in particular funded for infrastructure project will further damaging the environment. This is true since OBOR will continue the extraction of the fossil fuel. At the same time, this continuation will also follow by the forced eviction of local communities.

Delegations from Southeast Asia shared the country report. Credit: Lennon (SPA)

This capital expansion is also coupled with the shrinking of democracy in many countries in Asia. As the delegations from Southeast Asia reported, there is a growing trend of the rise of militarism and right-wing populism. Some of the countries experience this trend are Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia.

Philippine under Duterte become the biggest number of human rights defender killed in Asia (Front Line Defenders Report, 2017). Most of the killing is related to the land dispute which nearly in the context of mega projects, extractive industry and big business.

While in Cambodia, main opposition party dissolved by Supreme Court only recently. Workers in Cambodia also facing difficulty to organize a resistance and to establish union since the new Trade Union law passed in 2016. These described major challenges workers facing become the priority to be addressed by the ATNC members in the following years. Within this priority, ATNC members will organize interrelated activity: a research to have a better understanding of the capital expansion in Asia and to identify proper leverage to improve labour working condition, educational activity to equip the members with knowledge to resist, and campaign activity to raise the concerned issue.

Share this:

<https://atnc.asia/2018/01/05/workers-in-asia-are-facing-major-challenges-from-the-current-neoliberal-development/>



Bangladesh Shipbreaking Yards

No let-up in deaths

Two shipbreaking workers were killed at two scrap yards in Sitakunda in the early hours of yesterday and Sunday afternoon.

Md Borhan, 48, was killed at Premium Trade Corporation Shipbreaking Yard at Baro Awlia of Chittagong's Sitakunda around 2:00am yesterday after being hit by an iron plate while Abul Hossain, 30, a worker of RA Shipbreaking Yard in the same area, was killed Sunday afternoon inhaling poisonous gas, sources claimed. However, the yards claimed that Borhan was killed as a truck of the yard hit him while Abul died after "cardiac arrest", said Officer-in-Charge Iftekher Hasan of Sitakunda Police Station.

"We are looking into the incidents," he said.

Yard owners often give misleading information about the deaths of workers to hide accidents in their yards, said Mohammad Ali Shahin, Bangladesh Coordinator of Brussels-based NGO-Shipbreaking Platform, an international organisation working for safety at shipbreaking yards.

The two incidents further proved that workers' safety gears were not maintained in the shipbreaking yards, he said.

Md Shahabuddin, a director of Premium Trade Corporation Shipbreaking Yard, said he did not know about the incident and that he was in Dhaka.

When asked, RA Shipbreaking Yard owner Sirajuddowla maintained that the worker died of cardiac arrest. He claimed that it was a lie that the worker died inhaling poisonous gas inside a ship.

Palash Kumar Das, inspector, department of inspection for factories and establishment, said he visited the two yards yesterday.

"I think, the yard workers were not giving the accurate information and so we are waiting for the autopsy reports to be sure about the reason for the deaths."

At least 16 workers were killed and more than a hundred others were injured in accidents in different shipbreaking yards in Sitakunda last year, according to NRO-Shipbreaking Platform.

At least 165 workers were killed in accidents in such yards between 2005 and 2016.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/shipbreaking-yards-no-let-deaths-1526998>

YEAR	WORKERS KILLED
2005	8
2006	10
2007	8
2008	14
2009	25
2010	11
2011	15
2012	22
2013	13
2014	9
2015	13
2016	17
2017	16

TOTAL (12 years) 181

SOURCE: NGO SHIPBREAKING PLATFORM

Upcoming Event



World Day for Safety and Health at Work

28 April workers Memorial Day and World Day for Safety and Health at Work will be observed. On mark of the day different event will be organized to pay homage to the workers and build awareness to ensure workers' rights.

Rana Plaza mourn day

24 April Rana Plaza mourn day will be observed in Bangladesh to pay tribute to the memory of the Rana Plaza victims and to reflect on workers' rights.

Editor

AKM MASUM UL ALAM

Executive Editor

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Coordinator, ANROEV

The newsletter contains information and news about the campaigns of the network in Asia on Mining, Victims Organising, Lung Diseases, Electronics etc.

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