

The Global Asbestos Struggle in 2010

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Sawing Asbestos-Cement Roofing Sheet

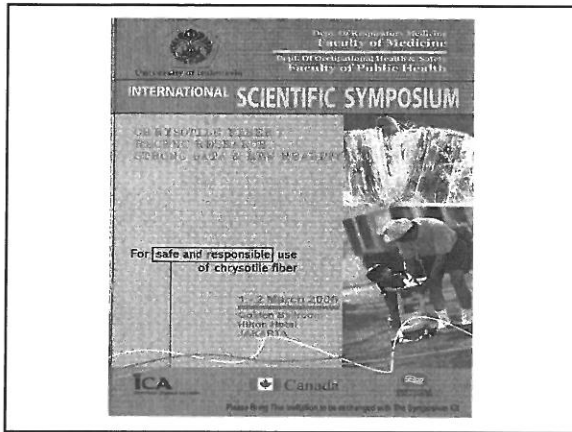


Consensus: Ban Manufacture of Asbestos Products

- WHO 2006
- ILO 2006
- World Bank 2007 and 2009
- Over 50 Country Bans (latest Mozambique, Ecuador)
- No global asbestos corporations (since 1999)
- Global firms have global "no-asbestos" policies (ICI, Dow, Unilever) including rules for renovation of structures with in-place asbestos

The Battle in a Most Important Country, Canada

- CBC Documentary: Canada's Ugly Secret (June 2009)
- Raging Grannies commit Liberal leader, scaring Chinese investors
- Que Premier trade trip to India focus of protests and Canadian media
- Can Cancer Soc, Can Med Assoc, CPHA call for ban in Canada
- Only one mine operating, 340 workers at start of 2010
- Que. Premier floats \$58 million "loan guarantee" to reopen J-M mine
- Demonstrations in DC, NY, Hong Kong, Seoul, Brussels, London, Paris
- Env Health Perspec "Asbestos" issue July 1, 2010
- Int Consortium of Investigative Journalists barrage of reports from journo's in Mexico, Russia, India, Brazil, China
- Que. Premier: conditions for mine financing
- Town of Asbestos pulls out of Can. Cancer Soc. "Relay for Life"
- Unnamed Indian investors offer \$15 mil to own Que-financed J-M mine
- Toe Tag "Killed by Canadian Asbestos" ad blasts PM Harper



Asbestos Activism Spreads

- 2000 – Osasco, Brazil activists conference
- International Ban Asbestos Secretariat links us and holds conferences in Athens, Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong
- Asian asbestos network follows bans in Japan (2004) and So. Korea (2008)
- Indonesian group formed with help of other Asian activists following Korean company to Indonesia, providing exposure monitoring, medical, strategic and organizational support
- ADAO links activists using social networking media
- Activists in Russia challenging the asbestos industry

The Industry Fights Back

- No more global asbestos corporations – only national chapters of Asbestos Mafia -- profits from savings on prevention, compensation
- "Chrysotile" Institute uses Canada embassies and tax dollars to promote "controlled use" of asbestos w/Pr. Min. Harper's support
- Industry groups led by Canada in India, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Russia work to oppose critics in Peru, India...
- Advertorials in Times of India, doctors threatened, politicians and media financial conflicts-of-interest, gov study co-opted by industry
- Product defense articles on biopersistence used to argue that WHO, IARC, ILO, NIOSH, EPA, OSHA are wrong about the carcinogenicity of chrysotile asbestos -- aided by US auto and brake defendants (BC disclosure: in whose cases I testify)
- Raising fears that (non-repairable) asbestos substitutes are dangerous, unstudied (Better-the-Devil-you-know argument)
- Accusing asbestos critics of working for competitive industries
- Asbestos Industry conference in Havana - October 2010