

# **Thailand Resolution:** ***'Asbestos Free Society'***

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# Outline

- About '*Health Assembly*'
- Asbestos and **National Health Assembly**
- *Downstream actions* and consequences after National Health Assembly
- **Challenges**



# Health Assembly

*“A process in which **all stakeholders** exchange their knowledge and cordially learn from each other through a participatory and systematically organized forum, leading to recommendations on Healthy Public Policies or Public Healthiness.”*

*All stakeholders means government, academia, people/private sectors.*



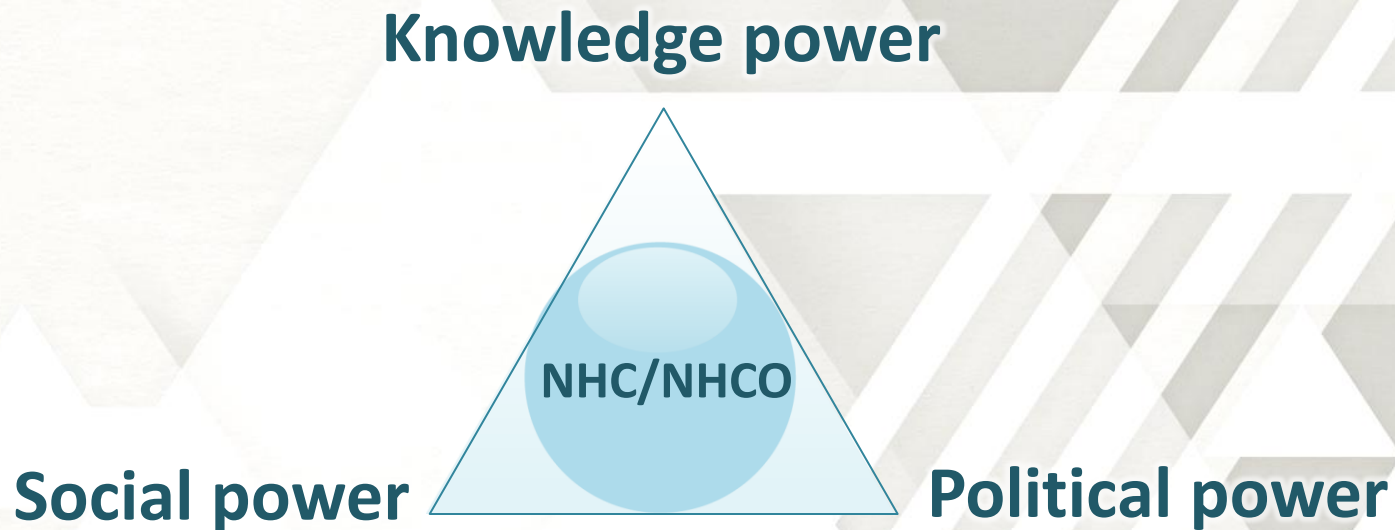


# National Health Assembly (NHA)

*The National Health Assembly* is organized annually composing of participants from all NHA constituencies over the country who represent the government, academia and people/private sectors, using a participatory principle: *'A Triangle that Moves the Mountain'*



# ***‘A Triangle that Moves the Mountain’***



**“People from every sector in the society are all considered an essential element for building healthy public policies and wellbeing of the country.”**



- **Cabinet**
- **Parliament /Political sector**
- **State agencies**
- **Local administrative organization**
- **Local communities**
- **Academic profession organization**
- **Private/ Business/ Other organizations.**



# Asbestos and National Health Assembly

The agenda 'Measure to Make Thai Society Free from Asbestos' was proposed by Health Consumer Protection Program (HCP) and its network to be considered in the NHA 2010.



Asian Asbestos Conference and Bangkok declaration:  
*"Elimination of asbestos and asbestos-related diseases"*

**Campaign for ban on chrysotile:** *MoPH, Association of Occupational and Environmental Diseases, Occupational Health and Safety at work Association, Occupational Health Nursing Association*

**\*\***  
National Health Assembly Resolution:  
*"Measure to Make Thai Society Free from Asbestos"*

Downstream actions after NHA and consequences

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

National Asbestos Workshop:  
*"Movement towards ban on chrysotile asbestos in 2012"*

Office of the Consumer Protection Board's Announcement:  
*"Asbestos-Containing Products are Labeling Controlled Products"* - cover only tiles, water pipes, brake and clutch

Cabinet Resolution:  
*"Measure to Make Thai Society Free from Asbestos"*

**Chronology Timeline**



# NHA Resolution in 2010

*“Thailand aims to stop importation, production and distribution of asbestos and asbestos-containing products in 2012.”*



## Strategy 1:

To abolish the use of asbestos and prevent its dangers through legal measures

## Strategy 2:

To encourage the use of substitute substances that are safe for health, and to control, lessen, and abolish its use

## Strategy 3:

To impart knowledge and engage in public relations/ public education, and to develop a related data system

## Strategy 4:

To develop surveillance and monitoring system of at risk groups in terms of their health and environment, and to develop disease diagnosis capability.



# Cabinet Resolution

- *The Cabinet* has approved the NHA resolution and strategies that on certain cases, *especially any products able to be produced from Chrysotile substitutes, Chrysotile and Chrysotile containing products shall not be allowed using related laws and regulations for the control. (In April 2011)*



# Cabinet Resolution (Cont'd)

- ***Min. of Industry*** was assigned to provide a plan to stop importation, production, and distribution of asbestos and asbestos-containing products with a defined timeframe before submission to the Cabinet for the plan approval later.
- ***Min. of Public Health*** was assigned to study health impacts among workers and consumers who exposed to either asbestos or asbestos-containing products in order to propose an effective standard measure on health protection in the future.
- ***Min. of Finance*** was assigned to check whether importation tax of asbestos substitutes was a cause of higher price in products containing asbestos substitutes  
(*The answer is 'No'. It is probably because of technology*)

**According to the resolutions,  
what have been done?**



### **M. of Industry:**

- 5 pdts (roof tiles, rubber floor tiles, cement water pipes, flat sheet tiles, brake and clutch linings) were focused in its study.
- Proposed a ban in 2 yrs for flat sheet and rubber floor tiles/ a ban in 5 yrs for brake and clutch linings, cement water pipes, and roof tiles.  
(not yet resubmitted to the Cabinet)

### **M. of Public Health:**

- Establishment of Committee for Studies on Health Impacts from Asbestos
- Proposed a ban on asbestos use in all products , as approved by the Cabinet, since there is no safe threshold level, and measure for disease monitoring and surveillance will be developed
- Submitted to the Cabinet already

### **M. of Sc.&Tech:**

- Created *brake linings without asbestos*
- There are some researches on asbestos substitutes at laboratory level



**WHO:** *“All forms of asbestos, including chrysotile, are carcinogens and there is no safe threshold level. The most effective way to eliminate asbestos-related diseases (ARDs) is to stop the use of all types of asbestos.”*

**ILO:** Promote the elimination of the future use of all forms of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials

### **Academic:**

- Safety manual for destruction of asbestos-containing constructions
- Prevention strategies on asbestos-related diseases (ARDs)
- Information related to asbestos to public and conferences

### **TBAN:**

- Submission of a letters to policy makers (e.g. M. of Industry, M. of Public Health) to take a consideration on health impacts of Chrysotile and put into action a ban on Chrysotile use in Thailand

# **Actions by National Health Commission Office (NHCO)**



# Actions by NHCO

**1. Facilitating and organizing meetings among all related stakeholders to follow up on any further movements according to the Cabinet's approved resolution and strategies**

**2. Monitoring roles of related agencies and reporting actions and movements to:**

- *National Health Commission*
- *NHA in 2012*
- *National Commission on International Health Studies*

**3. Organizing press conferences and providing related media releases**

**4. Attending related meetings organized by other agencies**

**5. Submission of a letter to the Cabinet, supporting the conclusion of Ministry of Public Health that asbestos should be ban, in order to accelerate Thailand to be free from asbestos.**



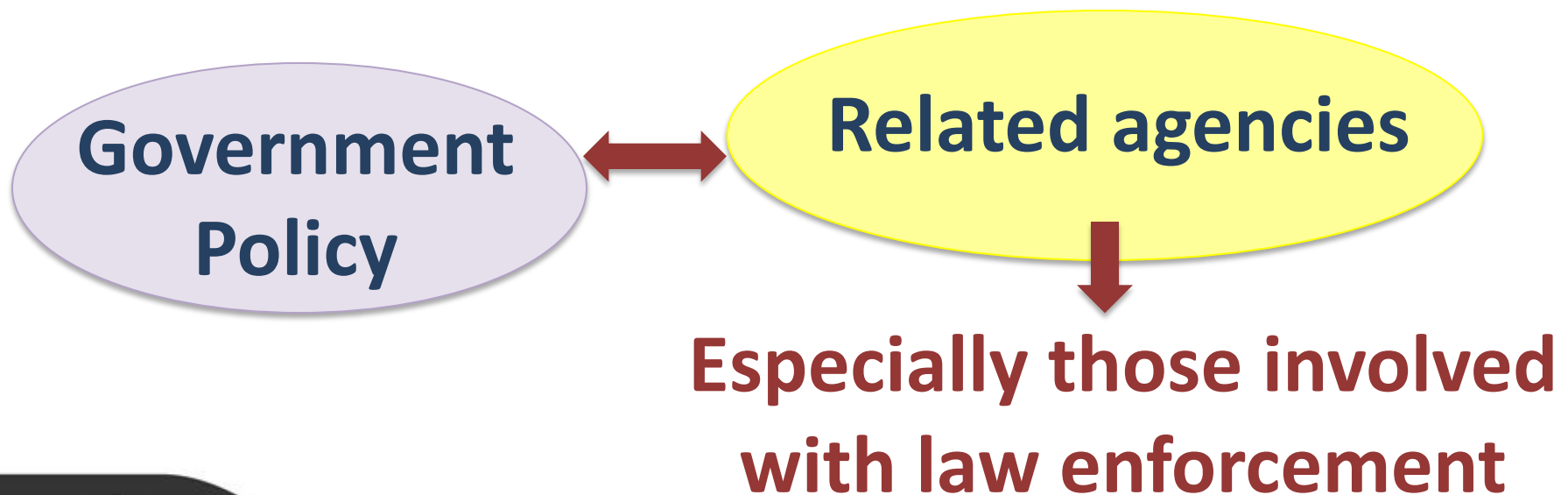
**Concerns raised and challenges**



# Challenges

How to get start the banning process  
as soon as possible?

*Obstructing factors vs supporting factors*



# Health in All Policies (HiAP)

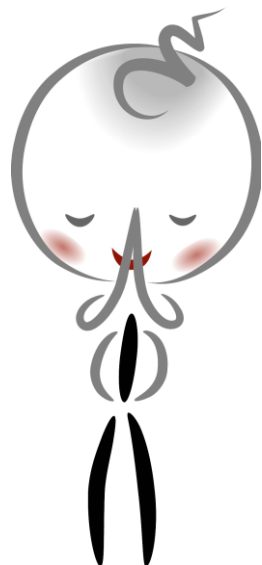
- Health issues are not only related to the Ministry of Public Health.
- All policies need to have concerns on health: *'Health in All Policies'* approach.
- *'Precautionary Principle'* can be applied in this issue.

*"It is a time that all sectors in society need to realize and get involved to make the goal of 'Asbestos Free Society' become real."*





# Thank you for your attention



[www.nationalhealth.or.th](http://www.nationalhealth.or.th)  
[www.samatcha.org](http://www.samatcha.org)

