

# Thailand efforts toward asbestos free society: scientific and social movement

Prof. Surasak Buranatrevedh, MD, DrPH

Faculty of Medicine, Thammasat University

Association of Occupational and Environmental Diseases of Thailand  
(AOED)

[sburana@yahoo.com](mailto:sburana@yahoo.com)

# AOED Movement after Cabinet resolution April 12, 2011

- ▶ Ministry of Public Health committee on health effects of asbestos
- ▶ Meeting on diagnosis of asbestos related cancers among 4 medical organizations
- ▶ Activities with TBAN

# Ministry of Public Health committee on health effects of asbestos

- ▶ 5 committee meetings from December 2012 to January 2014
- ▶ Conclusion based on World Health Assembly Resolution 60.26:
  - ▶ Stopping the use of all types of asbestos
  - ▶ Providing information about solutions for replacing asbestos with safer substitutes
  - ▶ Taking measures to prevent exposure to asbestos in place and during asbestos removal
  - ▶ Improving early diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation services for asbestos-related diseases
  - ▶ Establishing registries of people with past and/or current exposures to asbestos and developing funds for helping people with asbestos-related diseases

# Meeting on diagnosis of asbestos related cancers among 4 medical organizations

- ▶ 4 medical organizations:
  - ▶ Thoracic Society of Thailand
  - ▶ Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand
  - ▶ Royal College of Pathologists of Thailand
  - ▶ Association of Occupational and Environmental Diseases of Thailand
- ▶ Meeting on October 2013

# Reasons for small numbers of asbestos related cancer diagnosed

- Lack of using diagnosis guideline for mesothelioma
- Lack of systematic collaboration among chest physicians, radiologists, pathologists, and occupational physician for diagnosis and management of asbestos related cancer
- Difficult to diagnose asbestos related lung cancer in Thailand
- Immunohistochemistry for diagnosis of mesothelioma is not used in general and not supported under Universal Health Scheme.
- Missing occupational history of asbestos exposure among patients

# Suggestion for development

- Dissemination criteria for diagnosis of mesothelioma based on Helsinki's criteria
- Set up collaboration system among chest physicians, radiologists, pathologists, and occupational physicians
- Organize scientific meeting between 4 medical organizations
- Train general practitioners for history taking, diagnosis, and refer asbestos related cancer patients
- Coordinate with Ministry of Public Health to set up surveillance system for all levels of medical care

# Activities with TBAN



- ▶ AOED has joined TBAN to urge Ministry of Industry to ban import of chrysotile

# Activities with TBAN



- ▶ AOED has joined several seminars with TBAN to urge government to ban chrysotile based on cabinet resolution



# Activities with TBAN



- ▶ AOED has trained workers of the Council of Work and Environment Related Patient's Network of Thailand about health hazards of chrysotile

# Activities with TBAN



- ▶ AOED has joined TBAN to disseminate knowledge about chrysotile health hazard to general public through medias

# Activities with TBAN

- ▶ AOED together with Federation of Occupational Health, Safety and Environment at Work and Association of Occupational nurses of Thailand “Federation of Occupational Safety and Health Association of Thailand” signed asbestos ban statement based on WHA resolution 60.26
- ▶ Federation of Occupational Health, Safety and Environment at Work plans to train trainers for appropriate asbestos removal method



**Thank you**