



Asbestos issue in Lao PDR

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Current Asbestos using in Lao PDR

- Lao P.D.R imported Asbestos over 9,000 Tones per (2013)
- 14 Roof sheet Companies using Asbestos in Laos



- Lao PDR, since 1990 has had a policy to open up to global economy and promote FDI to help develop country quickly
- Recently, the economy has been growing rapidly especially mining and construction [dams].
- Laos transforming to a market economy and aims to reach industrialized status by 2020.
- No OHS laws specifically but covered broadly in the New Labor Law part 8.

Brief information about Asbestos using in Lao PDR



- The LFTU is aware of ten asbestos roof sheet companies established in 8 different provinces.
- Located near local communities
- No specific regulations on asbestos using , but have National Profile-Technical Working Group (7 Ministries)
- Each roof sheet factories have 20-60 workers (women 20%), who have low awareness of the danger of asbestos, often have no PPE and besides LFTU only provided information and training a little

The asbestos issues in Laos



- The inspection department (government) has limited the knowledge and information on asbestos
- The concerned Dept has not been active in fulfilling their inspection role, no testing equipment
- There are no specialist doctors or departments to prove, diagnose and treat occupational diseases



Asbestos issues and challenges



- Low consumer and worker awareness
- There are no specific regulations on use
- Workers and communities are being directly exposed
- Low use of **any** PPE
- Lao in 2012 has passed Hazardous Substances Regulation. Blue and Brown banned. White restricted import.



What are LFTU and APHEDA doing with Asbestos Disease Prevention Program?

- Educating the directors, managers, and workers on the impacts of asbestos and find way to protect workers from asbestos hazard by providing appropriate PPE for workers.
- Now advocating for phase out the asbestos and immediate reduction in exposure for workers and communities



Continue

- Mapping/survey and interview the workers of ten roof sheet factories
- Giving Information and training for the workers;
- now raising issue strongly to the government, employers and in National assembly .

Continue

- Linking LFTU with ban asbestos groups and OHS institutes in the region
- APHEDA also partnering with Ministry of Industry to promote dangers of asbestos, regulation and urgent phase out
- Funding from some Australian unions, APHEDA (Total \$ 17,750 in 2012)
- LFTU seeking funds to expand program



National campaign

- Organized the mobile training for W and E in roof sheet factories for improving the working condition in the workplaces.
- Cooperated with concerned Ministries such as Ministry of industry and commerce, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor social and welfare.
- Sharing information with concerning Ministries and sectors.

Continue

- Developing the First National Asbestos Profile
- Established the National Asbestos Technical Working Group;
- To continue distributing the Asbestos posters and brochures for 10 factories and villages near by the factories.
- Advertising the asbestos dangerous on the LFTU TV program/radio programs

Regional and global campaign

- Exchanged experience with Thailand, Vietnam and neighboring countries. With the countries ,who Banned Asbestos such as Australia, Korea , Japan and others
- Try to Ban Asbestos with ASEAN countries
- Cooperate and sharing information with ASEAN countries and another countries in the region.

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Thank you

