

- ☞ **Trade Union 2005 Campaign Kick-Off, Switzerland**
http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7b.EN.pdf
- ☞ **Trade Union Country-by-Country Asbestos Profiles**
http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_6b.EN.pdf
- ☞ **Trade Union OHS Country Profiles**
<http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/profiles.php?ID=4&Lang=ENG>
- ☞ **Trade Union Sustainable Development Unit**
<http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/>



3rd Asbestos Update #3 (July-December 2006)

The ‘Ban Asbestos’ Campaign

- **Campaign Newsletter Update** of events over the last six months, to a year.
☞ *For a copy of this document, see:* http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_8Ab.EN.pdf
- **Asbestos Country-Profiles & Workbook¹ Updated**
☞ TU-SusDev Unit: <http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/profiles.php?ID=0&Lang=ENG>¹.

¹ **2005 Asbestos Campaign History:** At a side-event of the 2005 ILO Conference in Geneva: Global Unions kicked off a campaign for a world-wide ban on production and use of asbestos. The launch featured letters to government, employer and trade union representatives of all countries at the Conference requesting that they become involved in the ‘Ban Asbestos’ Campaign.

☞ 2005 Campaign Kickoff: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7b.EN.pdf
 ☞ 2006 June 1st Mid-Year Asbestos Update #1: *See Appendix of this report.*

² **The asbestos workbook** relates to overall ‘Assembly Workbook’, published for the ITUC Founding Congress, November, 2006, Vienna Austria by the Sustainlabour Foundation, which assisted in coordinating the first ‘Trade Union Assembly on Labour and Environment’ with UNEP, out of which was produced “The Assembly Workbook” – a useful tool for integrating asbestos and other issues within target areas of work by trade unions.

☞ The *Assembly Workbook* is available in English, and is now being translated into French and Spanish:
http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpO_6h.EN.pdf
 ☞ TU-SusDev Unit: <http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/profiles.php?ID=5&Lang=ENG>

TU ASB: #3 Update June 2006 – January 2007

The following summaries track asbestos stories that were submitted in the last 6 months by Global Union Federations, national affiliates, and other organizations. Please continue to send in your events for posting to our electronic forums or events catalogue. (*Note publication date before each story*).

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/28APR2007/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 04 January 2007

French CFDT UNION Targets Asbestos-Laden Asbestos Ships



The 'Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail' (CFDT) in France will soon kick off its «Navire en Fin de Vie», campaign.

☛ CFDT Campaign Kickoff Campaign http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewPL_8Aa.EN.pdf

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/28APR2007/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 15 December 2006

Asbestos Culprit Kills Canadian Workers

CANADA: A newly-released study which clearly links a startling rise in work-related fatalities in Canada to asbestos, provides timely support for labour's international campaign leading up to the 28 April 2007 International Commemoration Day.

Five Deaths a Day: Workplace Fatalities in Canada, 1993-2005, was released in December by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards/Centre d'étude des niveaux de vie in Ottawa, Canada. Its findings reinforce the call for an international ban of asbestos.

Data from the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada shows 1,097 workplace fatalities in Canada in 2005, up from 758 in 1993. This represents nearly five work-related deaths for each day of work and one death for every 15,000 workers.

Significantly, this rise was due almost entirely to an increase in occupational disease, which rose from 1.5 to 3.4 per 100,000 workers between 1996 and 2005. The actual number of deaths from occupational disease rose 172 per cent from 95 in 1996 to 258 in 2004 (data for 2005 currently unavailable), accounting for 72 per cent of the rise in workplace deaths. This rise was almost totally driven by the 65 years and over age group, illustrating the effect that long latency periods could have on full and adequate reporting of cases of disease.

Moreover, the Report reveals that asbestos is responsible for the lion's share of the increase in occupational disease, as the fatality rate from asbestos-related disease rose from 0.4 per 100,000 workers in 1996 to 2.1 in 2005. Asbestos-related deaths alone accounted for about 340 deaths in 2005, or 61 per cent of deaths from occupational diseases and 31 per cent of total workplace fatalities.

The study rates Canada poorly in international terms. The ILO Workplace Fatality database shows Canada had the fifth highest incidence of workplace fatalities out of 29 OECD countries, with only Korea, Mexico, Portugal, and Turkey showing worse rates. The United States had a lower rate than Canada with 4.0 per 100,000 workers, but it excludes deaths from occupational diseases in its definition of workplace fatalities.

While the share of the workforce in high-risk industries fell significantly as the relative importance of goods sector employment between 1976 and 1996, the trend

has since reversed due to a current boom in employment in Canada’s construction industry. This development has also contributed to the increase in the workplace fatality rate in Canada between 1996 and 2005.

For more information call: The Centre for Study of Living Standards (613) 233-8891, Fax 613-233-8250, E-mail: csls@csls.ca. Document Reference: *Five deaths a day: Workplace fatalities in Canada, 1993-2005*, CSLS, December 2006 <http://www.csls.ca/reports/csls2006-04.pdf>

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 01 December 2006



Asbestos ‘Workbook’ Country Profiles

A new version of the Asbestos ‘Workbook’ country profiles are available at the TU SusDev Unit: <http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/profiles.php?ID=5&Lang=ENG>.

The workbook contains all the features of previous versions and incorporates the following changes:

- Updates about country ratification of instruments
- New system of categorizing events and reporting on them. New ‘time-clock’ cataloguing..
- Events reported in this newsletter incorporated in the updated country Profiles
- Update of national contact points and initial reports of activity:
- New background information for the Andino countries: Contact Estela Ospina Salinas: Instituto Laboral Andino http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpl_8Ba.EN.pdf
- New means of storing and retrieving information.

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: December 2006

National Union Bodies Provide activity reports

In Croatia The Croatian trade union centre announced plans at the ILO last June to jointly pressure their government for implementation of its ban. The Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia (UATUC) is now following up.



In Bulgaria, which adopted a national ban last year, has responded with a declaration announcing its implementation. The CITUB is following up.



Romania has more recently joined the list of countries who are committed to banning the use of asbestos. The National Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Romania (CNSLR-FRATIA) is following up.



Contact Svetla Karova in Bulgaria [svkarova@abv.bg] and Corneliu Constantinoia in Romania [social@cnslr-fratia.ro].

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/28APR2007/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 15 December 2006

South Asia Unions Kick off Asbestos Campaign

DHAKA: South Asia unions will be the first to engage in an activity leading up to next year’s 28 April International Commemoration Day (ICD) for Dead and Injured Workers (ICD) with a Workshop this week to discuss a total ban on all forms of asbestos in their region.

Participants from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Japan, UK and Hong Kong will meet tomorrow 15-16 December in Chittagoan, Bangladesh. They will represent national trade union centres, labour, NGOs, OSH institutions, university academic, asbestos researchers, journalist, government officials of the Ministries of health and labour.

The regional workshop entitled ‘Banning Asbestos in South Asia - Strategies and Future Direction’ will be hosted by the Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) and the Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC), Hong Kong.

The spotlight will be on the growing usage of asbestos in the South Asia region, and the need for strategies to bring about a complete ban of the substance in all its forms.

The event is the first to be announced following the kick-off last week of the 28 April Commemoration Day (ICD) for 2007 that will focus on “Cancer, OHS Enforcement and Global Unions’ Asbestos and HIV-AIDS Campaigns.”

In explaining the purposes of the Workshop, organizer A.R. Chowdhury Repon of the Bangladesh OHSE took

aim at the asbestos lobby led by the Canadian Chrysolite Institute. He accuses it of misleading governments in the region with claims that 'white asbestos' is a safe and cheap material when used under 'controlled conditions.

The fact is there are no such 'controlled conditions' in South Asia. "As a result, 100's of thousands of workers and community members are being exposed to this known hazardous and carcinogenic substance," said Repon.

"A sad example of this is in South Asia's flourishing ship breaking industry, where migrant workers tear apart ships packed with deadly asbestos," he said. "These workers usually have no protective equipments or any knowledge of the toxic environment in which they are working. Profits take priority over the lives of workers."

"Even though large quantities of asbestos are being used in South Asian, very few cases of asbestos-related diseases or related compensation claims are surfacing. The problem: few doctors can diagnose asbestosis. They routinely misdiagnose it instead as tuberculosis or something else, and as a result, thousands of exposed workers might be dying quietly in their homes without proper diagnosis."

"The only solution is a full and complete ban on all forms of asbestos in the region including the ban on export of asbestos laden ships for ship breaking in the region. This workshop is intended to yield strategies for a region-wide campaign to achieve this goal."

For more information: A.R. Chowdhry REPON, Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) at oshe@agni.com.

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/28APR2007/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 13 December 2006

28April ICD Focus Announced for 2007

- **OHS & Enviro Cancers**
- **OHS Enforcement &**
- **Ongoing 28April Campaigns (Asbestos, HIV/AIDS)**

In a message about 28 April, 2007 Mr. Guy Ryder, the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has announced the main priorities will be for the 2007 International Commemoration Day (ICD) For Dead and Injured Workers, effectively encouraging trade union affiliates, world-wide to com-

mence their planning NOW. It is suggested that your 28 April, 2007 activities serve to:



- Address the causes of occupational and environmental cancers at the workplace,
- Demand safety and health standards and enforcement, and/or
- **Build on Global Union campaign activities of previous years for OHS (e.g. ban asbestos and HIV/AIDS) by connecting these to one or both of the two first themes.**

Find the following at the TU SusDev Unit:

<http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/profiles.php?ID=5&Lang=ENG> .

- Updated *Asbestos Country Profile Workbook* (contains 2006 28 April ICD Summaries Re Asbestos)

It is up to you to select your own priorities for 28 April. Therefore, our suggestions are offered as guidance to facilitate effective coordination among all trade unions and friendly organization that participate.

As in previous years we would also propose to connect 28 April to trade union rights and to the role of worker and trade union participation in ensuring decent work and workplaces.

Also, A 'Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health' will soon be released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), for eventual adoption by Health Ministers next May in Geneva. We would invite you to consider how your 28 April activities might be made to support or strengthen this report vis a vis your own national government. You will receive this as soon as something becomes available.

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: December 2006

EU asbestos guide 'risks in work' for employers, workers & labour inspectors

EU GUIDE ON ASBESTOS RISKS in work for employers, workers and the labour inspectors. This "Practical Guide on Best Practice to Minimise Asbestos-Risks in Work that Involves (or May Involve) Asbestos" is the result of the joint activity of the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee and employers' and employees' representatives in the EU Commission's Advi-

sory Committee for Safety and Health taking a further step to dispose of asbestos from European work places. http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/health_safety/docs/final_guide_en.pdf

The main target groups are the employers, the employees and the labour inspectors.

For the employer, the guide provides information on the state of the art technical, organisational, and personal safety and health protection measures which he is obliged to apply.

For the employee, the guide gives information about protective measures, focuses on key points that the worker should be trained on, and motivates to actively contribute to safe and healthy working conditions.

For the inspector, the guide describes the key aspects which should be examined during an inspection visit.



The guide is supplemented by a special website of the European Agency for Occupational Safety and Health at Work where you will find additional information and special links to national websites

on health and safety related to the risks of asbestos exposure.

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/AIDS/28APR2007/-----
New Year 2007 Report: December 2006

Unions to Petition Business For Asbestos & AIDS Actions

Paris: Industry associations meeting in Paris last Friday were told they would be invited to engage with trade unions to fight two of the worst causes of disease and death amongst the world's workers: asbestos and HIV-AIDS.

The notice was delivered by Winston Gereluk at the 23rd Consultative Meeting on Business & Industry in Paris, an annual event sponsored by the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP), Department of Trade Industry & Environment (DTIE) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Gereluk, who is Academic Coordinator of Industrial Relations and Human Resources at Athabasca University in Canada was speaking for the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

He spoke at a Roundtable about strategies for building on the Environmental Reporting Process that UNEP commenced with industry associations in 1984. The Roundtable also included the World Business Council for Sustainable Development; the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the Brazilian Chemical Industry Association, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Other themes discussed during the two-day meeting were 'Resource efficiency: Responding to energy and climate change' and 'Corporate responsibility in the value chain: Supply chain management and capacity building'.

Gereluk said that trade unions wanted to extend their involvement with industry associations beyond the usual one-day reporting of events by engaging in a long-term process of joint research, planning and action that would lead to changes towards sustainable development in the workplace. He told industry representatives they would receive a formal invitation from trade unions to join a process of dialogue for exploring how their member companies could address some key health issues of concern to workers.

He explained that trade unions are working toward a global ban on asbestos and encouraged industry representatives to join union efforts in strengthening workplace-based approaches for action. He later confirmed that the trade unions would focus on asbestos and HIV/AIDS with industry as the worst causes of work related diseases.

Industry associations from the following sectors were represented at the meeting: energy, mining & extraction, manufacturing, services, transportation and water.

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/28APR2007/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 25 October 2006

Civil Society May Petition UNEP For Global Asbestos Ban

A call for a global asbestos ban will be debated in the next UNEP Civil Society Forum, 3-4 February in Nairobi. The call appears in the current draft of a Civil Society Statement that will be debated prior to UNEP's annual Governing Body, which will take place the week afterward.

More information will follow.

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 19 October 2006

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization Launches Online Awareness Campaign

The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), an organization dedicated to serving as the voice of asbestos victims, today announced an online awareness campaign designed to spread the word about the dangers of asbestos. The effort centers on a powerful educational video that can be easily forwarded through e-mail.

Through a “viral marketing” effect, the e-mail ad aims to save lives by raising awareness about the widespread use of asbestos, which takes 10,000 lives annually in the United States alone.

“Many people do not realize that asbestos continues to permeate our lives and that it is not banned in the United States, making this kind of educational e-mail-driven campaign more important than ever,” stated ADAO Executive Director Linda Reinstein. “Paul Zygielbaum, who is featured in the video, is fighting asbestos disease and reminds us all that there is hope and strength in unity. We must continue to work together to ban its use and fuel critical research and education efforts that can save lives.”

“I think of myself as a survivor,” stated Paul Zygielbaum. “However, it’s a very difficult diagnosis and it never goes away. I am committed to working with ADAO to help educate others and hopefully, ultimately find a cure - so that no one else has to go through what I and my family continue to endure.”

NOTE: The ADAO “Survivor” video can be viewed at <http://avimailer.com/adao1/index.htm>

The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) was founded by asbestos victims and their families. ADAO seeks to give asbestos victims a united voice to help ensure that their rights are fairly represented and protected, and raise public awareness about the dangers of asbestos exposure and the often deadly asbestos related diseases. ADAO is funded through voluntary contributions and staffed by volunteers.

For information www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org. Contact: Doug Larkin [doug@asbestosdiseaseawareness.org] Linda Reinstein [Linda@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org] or see www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 01 October 2006

Asbestos Events Planned, July 2007 South Korea XVIII World Congress

Suggestions welcome & information to follow.

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 01 October 2006



Laotian Unions to Petition National Govt For Asbestos Audit

LFTU: The National Trade Union Organisation of the LAO Democratic Republic has commenced proceedings with its national government to obtain an asbestos inventory of their country. Contact: Khamtanh Sophimavong.

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 30 September 2006

Les syndicats français dans la rue pour appeler à l’interdiction mondiale de l’Amiante

Samedi 30 septembre après-midi, les syndicats français et l’Association Nationale des Victimes de l’Amiante appellent à une marche silencieuse dans la ville de Paris.

Les membres de la Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT), la Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail (CFDT) et l’Association Nationale de Défense des Victimes de l’Amiante (ANDEVA) manifesteront pour demander l’interdiction mondiale de l’amiante, l’indemnisation des victimes et une reconversion vers des emplois décents et respectueux de l’interdiction.

La CGT affirme que le combat pour l’indemnisation des victimes de l’amiante est le combat de tous. Pour la déclaration de la CGT, cliquez ci-contre:

http://www.cgt.fr/internet/html/lire/?id_doc=4422

Et la CFDT souligne que ce combat s’inscrit dans la demande plus générale de prévention et de justice:

Pour la déclaration de la CFDT, cliquez ci-dessous:

http://www.cfdt.fr/actualite/vie_au_travail/sante_au_travail/sante_au_travail_0035.htm

La France interdit l'amiante depuis quelques années, mais l'appel à la manifestation de Samedi souligne la nécessité d'une interdiction au niveau mondial; une interdiction mondiale souhaitée par le gouvernement français, et exprimée à la Conférence Internationale du Travail du BIT, en juin dernier.

La manifestation sert aussi à rappeler aux autres pays que l'interdiction de l'amiante au niveau national n'est qu'un premier pas dans le long combat contre les dommages causés par l'amiante, qui continuent de miner les travailleurs et les communautés longtemps après l'exposition.

Des informations sur la manifestation vont suivre bientôt. Pour plus d'informations, contactez:

CFDT: Laurence Thery (331) 42 03 80 39 -
lthery@cfdt.fr AND CGT: Denis Meynent -
d.meynent@cft.fr.

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 14 September 2006

Building and Woodworkers International Step Up Asbestos Campaign



The Building & Woodworkers International (IBW) has long campaigned on asbestos and last June

pushed for the passage of an ILO resolution on asbestos, rejecting "safe asbestos use" propaganda. BWI has planned a wide range of activities into 2007:

The BWI is twinning National union meetings to discuss asbestos action programmes with seminars for the relevant government departments, housing, public works etc, the manufacturers and contractors and the building unions, to develop a national action plans.

In 2006 June: Payerne, Switzerland. Eternit meeting with Swiss, French, Belgian and Italian unions and the victims association representing 400 people dead or dying from asbestos in this town. An Eternit "pilgrimage with intention is to assist local unions and victims in 'eternit' towns.

In 2006 July: a delegation of trade unions from throughout Asia gathered in Thailand for the July Regional asbestos conference, together with the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat.

August 2006: Asian construction unions network meeting on asbestos. South Korea Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan. lobbying, meetings with govern-

ments and articles several meetings e of three day asbestos meetings in key countries such as India.

September 2006 African construction unions network meeting on asbestos. Dar es Salaam Baltic construction unions meeting. Riga European Work Hazards Conference workshop on asbestos in Riga

October 2006 Indian construction unions meeting on asbestos. Chennai. Rotterdam Convention lobbying USA construction unions meeting. New York Latin America regional conference. Mexico Argentina, construction unions and victims association.

November: 2006: Chile construction unions December 2006: BWI World Board meeting, reporting from global Asbestos Network.

Other Aspects of the Campaign:

- correspondence with ILO, WHO and the World Bank in the light of June's policy developments. IBW comments on the WHO consultation on our website.
- Campaign with model letters and resources: directed at national governments to discuss national asbestos action plans. www.bwint.org
- Lobbying for the COP3 Rotterdam Convention meeting in October, together with the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat.
- A global email network on asbestos for our affiliated trade unions.
- 350 affiliated unions.

Contact Fione Murie [fiona.murie@bwint.org].

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 29 September 2006

ICFTU says SAICM Lacks Open, Transparent Discussion With Stakeholders

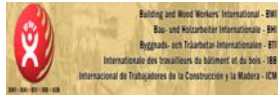
ICFTU told SAICM and ICCM they lack the facility for open, transparent discussion involving all stakeholders, and warned against a premature decision on issues. The ICFTU also argued for the inclusion of asbestos within an overarching policy strategy, through the acceptance of "Plan C" previously discussed in Dubai last February, 2006.

At IFCS the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety Fifth Session - Forum V, 2006 Budapest,

A trade union Asbestos Ban side event: 25 Sept 2006:
http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpl_7g.EN.pdf

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: September 2006

Building Woodworkers Union (BWI)



Rotterdam Treaty killed by asbestos lobby

GENEVA 13 OCTOBER 2006: An international treaty designed to protect developing nations from toxic trade has become the latest casualty of the global asbestos industry.

Failure to list chrysotile asbestos under a global right-to-know scheme has left the Rotterdam Convention "discredited" health campaigners have warned. They are calling on the United Nations to take urgent action to restore the treaty's credibility.

The call came today after efforts to introduce stringent right-to-know controls on the worldwide trade in chrysotile (white) asbestos were blocked by a Canadian-government sponsored campaign.

Together with other asbestos exporting nations, the Canadian-led lobby has again effectively vetoed a widely supported proposal to place chrysotile, an acknowledged and potent carcinogen (cancer causing substance), on the Rotterdam Convention's "Prior Informed Consent" (PIC) list.

This failure of this week's meeting of government representatives in Geneva means export warnings on deadly asbestos shipments will not be required until 2008 at the earliest.

Anita Normark, who is general secretary of global building workers' union BWI, and who has been lobbying for the addition of chrysotile to the PIC list said:

"Asbestos kills one person every five minutes, more than any other industrial toxin. If it can't be listed under the Rotterdam Treaty, then every peddler of hazardous substances will know how simple it is to protect their deadly industrial favourite. The whole process is discredited."

Carl Smith, senior editor for the Foundation for Advancements in Science and Education (FASE), a US NGO that has published reports on hazardous exports since 1990, said: "Governments of the world have spent decades and countless millions cleaning up after toxic industries. It is baffling that they would allow these same industries to dictate that information which could

protect human health and the environment should be withheld."

Laurie Allen, co-ordinator of the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS) said: "A handful of unscrupulous governments have done the bidding of the global asbestos industry and defended the continuing, unfettered sale of a prolific workplace and environmental killer. At least 200,000 workers will be killed by asbestos diseases before the proposal to list asbestos can be tabled again."

BWI believes the Canadian government is guilty of criminal neglect. BWI's Anita Normark said: "Asbestos deaths are predictable. Asbestos deaths are preventable. In the short-term that means strict rules governing exports, in the medium term a global ban. In blocking all attempts to introduce these measures, the Canadian government is condemning thousands of workers to a painful and early death and has fatality damaged the treaty too."

The Rotterdam Convention process is coordinated by two UN agencies, UNEP and FAO. The UNEP/FAO Rotterdam Convention secretariat made a clear recommendation that chrysotile met all the criteria for PIC listing. Other UN agencies, the International Labour Office (ILO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have clear policy positions consistent with the arguments put by those advocating PIC listing of chrysotile.

BWI believes the United Nations should have anticipated the actions of the Canadian government and taken measures to stop the Canadian-led lobby once more bringing the treaty into disrepute, the decision not to list chrysotile going against the recommendations of both the UN and the great majority of participating governments.

According to BWI's Anita Normark: "The ILO and WHO both agree the goal is to eliminate the use of asbestos in all member states and to prevent asbestos related diseases. The Rotterdam Convention does not go nearly so far in its objectives - it is not a prohibition on trading deadly materials, such as chrysotile. It is essentially a simple right to know mechanism for export and import of the most hazardous substances. Applying the PIC procedures to chrysotile would provide potentially life saving advice on hazards and how best to control them."

She added: "Of course the commercial interests of the Canadian government are well known, they are determined to protect their asbestos export market at all costs. The UN is well aware of this, so it is surprising that, after this same scenario occurred at the 2004 meet-

ing, that steps were not taken to ensure that the terms of the treaty is respected. Chrysotile meets all the criteria for inclusion, so it is outrageous that this is being blatantly and persistently blocked by Canada. Canada wants to protect and expand their asbestos sales in developing countries by misinformation and deception, and they are with in their rights to do so according to the UN system.

"The question is: Why have such a Convention if the grounds for inclusion are not health based but are driven by commercial interests? It is very clear that there should be an urgent review of the current voting system which allows any country the right to veto a majority decision. In order for the Convention to be credible, there must be a mechanism to prevent this kind of abuse and manipulation.

"We now have to wait another two years before the next meeting. We sincerely hope that, in the meantime, the UN will be so embarrassed by their in-house policy contradictions that they will take steps to resolve this problem."

For further information, contact
Fiona Murie, Director of Health and Safety BWI:
fiona.murie@bwint.org or phone + 41 79 446 12 90
Laurie Kazan-Allen, the IBAS Coordinator by email:
laurie@lkaz.demon.co.uk
or phone: + 44 (0) 208 958 38 87

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 05 September, 2006



Unions in Congo Democratic Republic Petition Gov. for Asbestos Inventory

CDT: The 'Confederation Democratique Du Travail' has petitioned its national government to place Asbestos on the agenda for the next meeting of its National Labour Commission . Contact Lievin Kalubye Tshikali [cdtcongo@yahoo.fr].

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 15 October 2006

ITUC, ICOH & WFPHA Agree to Asbestos Campaign Memorandum of Agreement

The ITUC, the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) have agreed to work toward a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) regarding a joint Asbestos Ban campaign. The agreement will be worked out and announced in 2007. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

ICOH 2005 Asbestos Ban Kickoff – Primary Prevention: http://ftp.global-unions.org/GUpdf/ohsewpl_7d.EN.pdf

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-28APR2007/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 09 October 2006

WHO Takes On Ambitious Plan of Action for Workers' Health

A draft proposal for a decade-long *Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health* has been adopted by health ministries from twenty governments meeting on Friday 6 October with representatives of occupational health organizations, trade unions and business at the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva.

Representatives from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), the International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH), the ILO, and a number of professional bodies collaborated with ministries in a two-day review of a draft *Plan of Action* that will now go before the WHO Annual Assembly in May 2007. A final version is expected to be released in early December.

The meeting also agreed to the terms of reference for a resolution that would ask the world's Health Ministers attending the WHO Assembly to promote implementation of this *Plan of Action* in their own countries.

Asbestos & HIV/AIDS brought into plan of action.

A significant aspect of the Action Plan proposes that Health Ministers adopt a campaign for the elimination of asbestos-related disease, as well as undertake additional programmes to combat occupational cancers, musculoskeletal disorders, occupational injuries and

HIV/AIDS.

The emphasis will be on workers' health through workplace-based approaches to action. A significant outcome of the meeting was to highlight the importance of involvement by worker and employer organizations in the implementation of the *Plan*. In this regard, WHO participants agreed to resolve initial shortcomings in the draft concerning worker rights and participation, trade union involvement, training & education, corporate accountability, as well as linkages to key Instruments and measures from other bodies and processes, such as the ILO, UNEP and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Sustainable development synergies for occupational, public health & environment

The October meeting marked the first time that the WHO explicitly agreed to integrate occupational, public health and environment strategies within a sustainable development framework. The draft proposal highlights the significance of last January's trade union '*Assembly on Labour & Environment*', co-hosted with UNEP & the ILO in Kenya. It also establishes its work within the framework of outcomes of the 2002 *World Summit on Sustainable Development* (WSSD).

Accordingly, the *Action Plan* will ask member countries to include employment factors in their implementation strategies, as well as to promote the use of specific tools such as the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*. It will also call attention to the ILO's OHS Management System, Conventions 155 and 187 regarding occupational health, and WHO Ministers to respect the ILO's *Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*.

Once adopted, the principles contained in the *Global Plan of Action* will commit governments of member countries, and the WHO itself, to wide-ranging programmes and policies that are sure to have an impact on the world's workplaces, even extending to global trading systems. At the same time, the Plan clearly mounts a major challenge to other stakeholders, such trade unions, asking them to redouble efforts to ensure that safe work becomes a central feature for the next decade.

The trade union OHS country profiles.

Last week trade union representatives in Geneva also met with the Secretariats of the SAICM and WHO. As a result the Trade Union Sustainable Development Unit will be asked to consider reviewing its current OHSE 'country by county profiling' to incorporate public and occupational health issues, as well as information on chemicals.

The web page for the Trade Union Sustainable Development Unit is located at <http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/>

The current version of the OHSE profilest: <http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/profiles.php?ID=4&Lang=ENG>

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: December 2006

Ship-breaking workers tell Deadly risks and plead for reform

Shipbreaking workers will be explaining – and showing – the horrific and often deadly conditions they work under when they visit London on Monday to ask the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to speed up reform that could save lives across the industry.

The men who, with the assistance of the IMF (International Metalworkers' Federation) and ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) have travelled from India, will speak at a press conference at 11:30 on Monday 9 October 2006 at ITF House, 49-60 Borough Road, London SE1 1DR (travel details and map at www.itfglobal.org/about-us/contactus.cfm) You are invited to attend this.

The press conference will be preceded by a brief ceremony at 10:15 at Victoria Tower Gardens–South, London SW1 (this is the strip of gardens just south of Lambeth Bridge, rather than the main gardens next to Parliament, and is opposite the IMO building) where they will throw flowers into the

Thames in memory of the hundreds who die each year as a result of the injuries, disease and environmental degradation caused by the largely unregulated industry. Photos of this event will be supplied gratis to press. Broadcast quality VNR footage showing unprotected asbestos removal and similar work practices will be shown at the press conference and will also be available (Beta SP PAL format) to broadcast media and as a DVD. Please request this in advance. The workers will then plead their case at the IMO.

Thousands of shipbreaking workers die, are injured or fall ill when recycling old ships in one of the world's most dangerous, dirty and largely unregulated industries. Ninety-five per cent of old ships are broken up and recycled on the beaches of Bangladesh, India, China, Pakistan and Turkey. In the most appalling conditions, earning less than a dollar a day, shipbreaking

workers face hazards such as fire, explosions, falls from great heights and exposure to asbestos, heavy metals and PVCs.

Vidyadhar Rane, one of the delegation and Secretary of the Mumbai Port Trust, Dock and General Employees' Union, will call on IMO members to deliver a mandatory set of regulations that set clear standards and protect the lives of shipbreaking workers immediately.

He explained: "People here don't have goggles, they don't have helmets, masks or safety boots – many don't have any kind of boots. There should be work, but there should be no compromise on safe work. I am appealing to the developed countries who send their ships to Asia to take some responsibility and save lives."

IMF General Secretary Marcello Malentacchi said: "In many countries the state of shipbreaking is an open scandal. The answer is not to shut it down - to call for that is to ignore that it is a vital industry for tens of thousands of people for whom no alternative employment exists. The solution is to reform, train and support.

"Negotiations are underway at the IMO to develop internationally agreed regulations on the recycling of ships. However, adoption of the regulations is not expected until 2009, and proper implementation by 2015 at best, if at all."

ITF General Secretary David Cockroft commented: "We're all behind the IMO in tackling this terrible problem, but 10 years is too long. Many of these workers – men, women and children – aren't going to live that long."

"With UK government estimates of 30 Ministry of Defence vessels due to come out of operation by 2013 and nearly 400 EU flagged ships requiring recycling by 2010, delay is not an option."

Further background is also available on the IMF website at www.imfmetal.org/shipbreaking. Or contact Kristyne Peter, IMF Communications Officer, direct line: +41 (0)22 308 5031. Mobile: +41 (0) 79 205 4458. Email: kpeter@imfmetal.org

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 30 October 2006

Turkish Trade Unions Join Global Asbestos Campaign

The Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TURK-IS) has joined the global campaign to ban asbestos because

of its concern about the import of asbestos in ships sent to Turkey for dismantling.

In a recent letter to the ICFTU the President of TURK-IS, Mr Salih Kilik, warned that his country has been turned into an asbestos dump by foreign countries and he has called for a stop to its importation and that of other dangerous wastes.

"We are against the import of such a dangerous material in our country, disregarding the health of workers and the environment", Kilik said.

Turkey is on the Global Union hot lists of countries for banning asbestos. The country currently imports about 18 million kg. of asbestos per year and exports about 42 million kg. per year. Kilic pointed to the wrecked ships from other countries that are set for dismantling in Turkey, Bangladesh, China and India. He said that TURK-IS was opposed to the dismantling of rejected ships from other countries, such as India.

Kilik also called for the proper implementation of the Basel Convention, which Turkey has ratified and which aims to control the "transboundary" movements of hazardous wastes (see information in Annex below).

"We wish to give more attention to the asbestos issue", Kilic told ICFTU General Secretary, indicating that TURK-IS would join the international organizations in showing their protest for the import of dangerous materials. Contact Salik Kilik at turkis@turkis.org.tk
See Basel Convention: <http://www.basel.int/pub/basics.html>.

Countries ratified the Convention see: [Country Status Table](#).

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
New Year 2007 Report: 30 October 2006



Ukrainian 'Institute' Studies Impact of chrysotile Asbestos

The Institute of Occupational Health in the Ukraine will soon commence two scientific studies to assess the impacts of asbestos on workers. The first will review the effects on workers in asbestos-cement production and recommend preventative measures. The second will study the effects of chrysotile asbestos on worker's bronchial and pulmonary systems. The Institute is a WHO collaborating centre.

Contact Yuriy Kundiiev [p-vitte@iho.kiev.ua].

Appendix: Chrysotile Atomic Structure (on front page of this document): UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/11 – Refer-

ence: UNEP: chemical chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention (PIC).

ARABIC: <http://www.pic.int/cops/cop3/k11/Arabic/K0650772.a.pdf>
 CHINESE: <http://www.pic.int/cops/cop3/k11/Chinese/K0650773%20COP-3-11.pdf>
 ENGLISH: <http://www.pic.int/cops/cop3/k11/English/K0650774%20COP-3-11.pdf>
 FRENCH: <http://www.pic.int/cops/cop3/k11/French/K0652161.F.pdf>
 RUSSIAN: <http://www.pic.int/cops/cop3/k11/Russian/K0650776.r.pdf>
 SPANISH: <http://www.pic.int/cops/cop3/k11/Spanish/K0650777s.pdf>

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/28APR2007/-----
 New Year 2007 Report: 01 September 2006

EU launches campaign To help prevent asbestos exposure

Brussels The European Commission is launching a publicity campaign in all 25 Member States to raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos exposure. The campaign, which is set to begin September 1, will be accompanied by information and training activities and a practical guide to best practices.

"Asbestos is deadly serious – prevent exposure". This is the motto of the European Asbestos Campaign 2006, which is being organised in collaboration with the



European Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) – the co-ordinating committee of Member States Labour Inspectorates. And the figures bear this warning out:

Thousands of people still die each year from the consequences of asbestos exposure, even 20 or 30 years after this exposure took place.

To try and prevent asbestos-related hazards, the EU has for some years been following a clear and distinct policy comprising preventive legislation, activities of information and awareness raising, co-operation with all stakeholders, a co-ordinated implementation and enforcement policy with subsequent monitoring. A general ban of the production and marketing of asbestos or asbestos-containing products has been in effect since 2005.

And the handling of asbestos in any form has been prohibited since April 2006; only demolition, maintenance, and removal work are allowed under the strictly regulated conditions. But despite this, the practical problem of preventing exposure to asbestos in the course of removal, demolition, servicing and maintenance activities remains.

And with the increase in globalisation and increasingly close economic ties, the EU has to take extra care not to counteract its efforts by re-importing asbestos-containing materials.

The campaign, which is primarily targeted at employers, employees and labour inspectors, will feature conferences and awareness-raising events aimed at informing people of the risks of exposure to asbestos and helping them develop preventive measures. It will be accompanied by additional information and training activities, which are being organised in association with the European Agency for Occupational Safety and Health at Work (OSHA).

The agency will also have a special website, where you can find more information and special links to national websites on health and safety related to the risks of asbestos exposure: (<http://osha.eu.int/OSHA>). In addition, a "Practical Guide on Best Practice to Minimise Asbestos-Risks" in work that involves (or may involve) asbestos will be available.

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/28APR2007/-----
 New Year 2007 Report: July/Aug 2006

WHO LUNCHES CONSULTATIONS ON ASBESTOS ELIMINATION

Last Summer the WHO launched a public consultations on a draft policy paper for the elimination of asbestos related diseases. To find out what what happened, see: http://www.who.int/occupational_health/publications/asbestos_policy/en/index.html
 Contact [\[ivanovi@who.int\]](mailto:ivanovi@who.int).

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/-----
 New Year 2007 Report: 30 June, 2006

1st half 2006 Overview:



Tightening The 'Ban Asbestos' Noose

Recent events at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have inspired the Global Union 'asbestos ban' campaign that has tightened the noose around producers and users of this dangerous product.

When the French Government announced two weeks ago that it would join the call for a world-wide ban of asbestos, it capped a series of closely-timed events that saw the ILO adopting a key asbestos resolution in Geneva, and two Global Unions, the ICFTU and TUAC, reaching agreement that they would work with a network of 70 WHO Collaborating Centres around the

world to pursue a ten-year plan of action for occupational health that would also include asbestos.

Since the Global Unions kicked off their ‘asbestos ban’ campaign one year ago, they have been conducting an extensive lobby in which they contacted all labour, environment and health ministries of every government with a request to ban asbestos in their own country (if not already banned) and to join the campaign for a global ban. Governments have also been asked to promote employment transition measures to protect workers that would be displaced by such a ban.

This effort was complimented by a process to establish organizing contact points for the campaign, country-by-country, and trade unions mobilized actions in many countries around the 28 April *International Commemoration Day (ICD) for Dead and Injured Workers* to highlight their lobby and emphasize the need for effective government action. Organisers say there is no turning back now, that they will achieve a global ban no matter how long it takes.

GOVERNMENTS & INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES HEED THE CALL

Campaign organizers believe that the French Government’s call for a world ban in the first week of the ILO Conference contributed significantly to international pressure on all governments. A number of national trade union centres are now adding to this momentum by launching campaigns of their own at the national level; e.g., Croatian trade union centres announced plans at the ILO to jointly pressure their government for implementation of its ban, and Bulgaria, which adopted a national ban last year, has responded with a declaration announcing its implementation.

Two weeks prior to the ILO meeting, the movement towards a world-wide ban reached the annual Assembly of the World Health Organisation (WHO), as national health ministries were all approached by trade unions to join the campaign.

Following this, representatives of 45 WHO Collaborating Centres from 32 countries meeting in Stresa, Italy adopted a “Declaration on Worker’s Health” which includes a ten-year plan which designates the elimination of asbestos-related diseases as a major area of action. On the same occasion the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) renewed their pledge to work with Global Unions on the ‘ban asbestos’ campaign.

THE ILO ASBESTOS RESOLUTION: A KEY STEP IN THE CAMPAIGN

Soon afterward the Workers’ Group at the ILO Conference in June introduced an asbestos resolution containing a clear statement that all types of asbestos, including chrysotile, are cancer-causing. The most effective way to protect workers, the resolution says, is to eliminate the substance, laying to rest the argument that some types of asbestos might be safely utilised under so-called “controlled uses”.

Support from a number of governments was crucial to the success of this resolution, as employers refused to recognize its validity and refused to participate in both the discussion or any vote. By the time the resolution appeared on the floor, however, the tide had already turned with governments compared to the situation one year ago and it was adopted.

The Resolution encourages the elimination of any future use of this product, and the ratification of ILO Conventions 162 on Asbestos and 139 on Occupational Cancer, and contains a clear imperative for all governments of asbestos producing and importing countries to adopt asbestos-free solutions as a matter of urgency. The message delivered by trade unions to governments over the past year, however, makes it clear, that a “Just transition” must be a cornerstone of any action plan, with details to be worked out jointly between workers, employers and their government.

ASBESTOS IS DANGEROUS

Trade unions point out that asbestos is an issue for everyone because it is still used extensively in all industrial sectors throughout the world, especially in building construction and manufacturing. Asbestos remains a threat to children in schools, to young and old in buildings where it is still present, and to whole commun

The ILO estimates that asbestos kills about 100,000 workers every year, and is a source of widespread suffering by many more. It is in building materials, ventilation channels, machinery, railway coaches and ships, and will continue to take a toll in human lives for many years. Alarmingly, it continues to be exported to developing countries where workers can claim little or no protection, and where working conditions are often considerably worse than in countries from where it was originally banned.

Recent events have clearly boosted the enthusiasm of asbestos campaign organisers. The recent ILO resolution, combined with the effects of other factors, has tightened a noose on asbestos users and trade unions and coalition partners everywhere are now in a much better position to rally behind the Global Union “Ban Asbestos” campaign.”

Event Catalogue ASB/CNT/28APR2007----- New Year 2007 Report: June 2006

June 2006

ILO Adopts Resolution on Asbestos

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization: *Considering that all forms of asbestos, including chrysotile, are classified as known human carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a classification restated by the International Programme on Chemical Safety (a joint Programme of the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme),*

Alarmed that an estimated 100,000 workers die every year from diseases caused by exposure to asbestos, Deeply concerned that workers continue to face serious risks from asbestos exposure, particularly in asbestos removal, demolition, building maintenance, ship-breaking and waste handling activities,

Noting that it has taken three decades of efforts and the emergence of suitable alternatives for a comprehensive ban on the manufacturing and use of asbestos and asbestos-containing products to be adopted in a number of countries,

Further noting that the objective of the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Con-

vention 2006 is to prevent occupational injuries, diseases and deaths.

1. Resolves that:

(a) the elimination of the future use of asbestos and the identification and proper management of asbestos currently in place are the most effective means to protect workers from asbestos exposure and to prevent future asbestos-related diseases and deaths; and (b) the Asbestos Convention 1986 (No. 162) should not be used to provide a justification for, or endorsement of, the continued use of asbestos.

2. Requests the Governing Body to direct the International Labour Office to:

(a) continue to encourage member States to ratify and give effect to the provisions of the Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162) and the Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 (No. 139);

(b) promote the elimination of future use of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing materials in all member States;

(c) promote the identification and proper management of all forms of asbestos currently in place;

(d) encourage and assist member States to include measures in their national programmes on occupational safety and health to protect workers from exposure to asbestos; and

(e) transmit this resolution to all member States.



'Ban Asbestos' Campaign Mid-Year June 2006 Progress Report

In June 2005, at an ILO Conference special side-event in Geneva, Global Unions kicked off a campaign for a world-wide ban on the production and use of asbestos. The launch was marked with letters to government, employer and trade union representatives of all countries at the ILO Conference, requesting that they become involved in the ban asbestos campaign. See: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7b.EN.pdf

What has happened since then? Click on the following hyperlinks (where applicable) to access information on each stage of development in our Global Union Ban Asbestos Campaign.

1. First ICFTU progress report, Feb, 2006

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7c.EN.pdf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7c.FR.pdf

Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7c.SP.pdf

2. Agreement on a trade union resolution for a global asbestos ban (adopted Dec 2005)

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7a.EN.pdf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7a.FR.pdf

Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7a.SP.pdf

3. Resolution to foster cooperation between ILO, WHO & UNEP at the World Conference on Labour & Environment last January in Kenya

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpO_6d.EN.pdf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpO_6d.FR.pdf

Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpO_6d.SP.pdf

4. National process to establish campaign contact points between trade unions and coalition partners. Challenge for 2006-07: To build national capacity.

5. Trade Union country-by-country profiles on asbestos updated and maintained

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_6.EN.pdf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_6.FR.pdf

Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_6.SP.pdf

6. 28 April campaign coordination A special focus on asbestos for the 28 April *International Commemoration Day (ICD) for Dead and Injured Workers* becomes the basis for organizing year-round activities on asbestos issues.

7. Asbestos message delivered to governments, either by hand or addressed to every Environment, Labour and Health Ministry at meetings at the ILO, WHO and UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7.EN.pdf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7.FR.pdf

Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_7.SP.pdf

8. Concrete plans for the ILO/WHO, UNEP and other agencies to become involved in the 2006-2007 trade union programme of work for the Global Union Asbestos Campaign.

9. 'Asbestos Campaign WORKBOOK' created to facilitate tracking of activities and contacts at national and organization level. See attached workbook document (in English only).

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpL_6s.EN.pdf

YOU CAN HELP IN 2006-2007

- **Implement** adopted trade union resolutions, #2, above)
- **Provide feedback** on the asbestos campaign in your country for this Workbook
- **Strengthen work & communications** with coalition partners in your country
- **Engage in consultation** with Global Unions to strengthen national level action and to build cooperation between ILO, WHO, UNEP and international agencies
- **Organise workplace and national events** in time to report on activities at ILC in June 2007
- **Identify National Contact Points for the Asbestos Campaign**; Communicate them to