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3 20 December 20194  
5 **Revision of National Health Assembly Resolution: Thailand ban asbestos measure**

6 All asbestos types are carcinogens affecting the health of workers coming into contact  
7 with asbestos and affecting the health of the general public. In spite of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Health  
8 Assembly discussion on the Thailand Ban Asbestos Measure and the Cabinet resolution dated 12  
9 April, 2011 endorsing the implementation of the National Health Assembly resolution concerned,  
10 Thai society is still not free of asbestos. It is proposed that the above resolution be revised to  
11 correspond more to the present situation and eventually lead to zero usage of asbestos in Thai  
12 society through the strengthening of the localities and communities, prohibiting the use of  
13 asbestos, promoting the use of safe substitutes, providing knowledge, developing surveillance  
14 and monitoring systems for risk groups, and conducting research.

15 The 12<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly16 Having considered the report on Revision of National Health Assembly Resolution:  
17 Thailand ban asbestos measure,<sup>1</sup>18  
19 *Aware* that all asbestos types are carcinogens not only affecting the health of those  
20 working in establishments using asbestos but also creating health impacts for the general public,  
21 that in the present day there is technology available in many countries including Thailand that  
22 allows the replacement of asbestos with safe substitutes in the production of materials of equal  
23 quality as those containing Chrysotile, and that the government sector has support measures to  
24 ensure that such production costs more or less the same,25 *Concerned* about the quantity of Chrysotile used domestically, its continued importation,  
26 and its presence in many products, and that, according to 2016 data, Thailand ranks fifth in the  
27 world for importing high quantities of asbestos while 66 countries in the world have banned the  
28 use of asbestos,29 *Concerned* that despite the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Health Assembly (Health Assembly 3 Resolution  
30 1) on the Thailand Ban Asbestos Measure, and the Cabinet resolution dated 12 April, 2011  
31 endorsing the implementation of the National Health Assembly resolution, no adequate  
32 implementation of the Cabinet resolution took place to ensure that the problem was solved,  
33 although there were continued attempts to propel the resolution forward,34 *Commending* agencies and partner organizations which have implemented Health  
35 Assembly 3 Resolution 1, namely the Ministry of Labour for issuing the Department of Labour  
36 Protection and Welfare Notification B.E. 2560 (2017) on Concentration Limits for Hazardous  
37 Substances, specifying the limit for Chrysotile asbestos at no more than 0.1 fiber/cm<sup>3</sup>, the Office  
38 of the Consumer Protection Board for issuing the Committee Notification on Labels B.E. 2552  
39 (2009) on Asbestos Containing Products Label Control and the Committee Notification on  
40 Labels No. 29 (B.E. 2553) (2010) on Asbestos Containing Products Label Control (No. 2), and  
41 the Ministry of Industry for its letter reference number Or Gor 0305/2841 dated 19 June 2013 to  
42 the Cabinet on the results of implementation according to Cabinet direction of 12 April, 2011,43 *Concerned* that despite the Ministry of Industry's implementation of Health Assembly 3  
44 Resolution 1, by submitting a proposal to the Cabinet Secretary-General, no evident timeframe  
45 was set for the achievement of practical results,

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1 Health Assembly 12/Main 1

1           *Commending* the efforts of consumer networks and concerned agencies for advocating to  
2 make the Thailand Ban Asbestos Measure a healthy public policy, the private business sector for  
3 using Chrysotile substitutes, the public sector for providing support, and the media for  
4 propagating information,

5           *Informed* that the dismantling of asbestos-containing material entails hazardous waste  
6 disposal and concerns demolition methods which must be safe for the workers and the  
7 environment, for which knowledge has been broadly applied and for which certain local  
8 government agencies have incorporated into their local demolition codes,

9           *Informed* of private sector agencies' concerns about clarity in prescribing products  
10 containing asbestos substitutes in Thailand and concerns that access to such products, their  
11 prices, strength and safety in working with them, and the prohibition of asbestos use in those  
12 products may bring about economic and social impacts for consumers, as well as the Ministry of  
13 Industry's concern of possible impacts on trade and international relations,

14           *Concerned* that if Thailand does not have measures to ban asbestos use, policies and legal  
15 measures to control the diffusion of asbestos dust to the environment, there will be heightened  
16 risks for serious diseases entailing great damage to human resources, economy, society and  
17 environment,

18           *Aware* that efforts to make Thai society safe from asbestos should be integrated and  
19 undertaken in terms of campaigning to create knowledge, awareness, promoting and supporting  
20 the production and use of asbestos-free products, conducting surveillance and monitoring of risk  
21 groups, and developing stringent laws which are fully enforced to eventually achieve zero usage  
22 of asbestos and that such efforts should include such important sectors as the education sector,  
23 agencies in charge of and responsible for law-enforcement, agencies in charge of the health  
24 security system, the business and industrial sectors, the media, the people' sector and civil  
25 society,

26           Hereby passes the following resolutions:

27           1. Entrusting the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Interior to expeditiously

28           1.1 Revoke the use of Chrysotile as production raw material by 2022 due to the  
29 availability of substitute products or due to the fact that other available materials can  
30 appropriately be used instead of Chrysotile, such products being:

31           (1) flat sheet tiles

32           (2) rubber floor tiles,

33           1.2 Revoke the use of Chrysotile as production raw material by 2025 for the  
34 following products.

35           (1) brake pads and clutches

36           (2) asbestos cement pipes

37           (3) roof tiles;

38           2. Requesting the Ministry of Commerce to act as lead agency, together with the  
39 Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance and other agencies concerned, to consider approaches  
40 and measures to revoke the importation of asbestos and asbestos-containing products, and to  
41 support lower-cost substitute materials for asbestos;

42           3. Requesting the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to act as lead agency,  
43 together with the Ministry of Interior and other agencies concerned, to take action to bring about  
44 measures for the disposal of asbestos-containing waste as well as measures requiring the  
45 operators to take responsibility for such disposal of asbestos-containing products;

46           4. Requesting the Ministry of Interior to act as lead agency, together with the Ministry  
47 of Interior, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and other agencies concerned, to  
48 come up with guidelines and legal measures for the demolition, repair and extension of buildings  
49 containing asbestos, and for disposal and elimination of asbestos-containing asbestos waste;

1           5. Requesting the Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior, together  
2 with other agencies concerned, to take action to ensure that local government organizations have  
3 knowledge and understanding about the impacts of asbestos, and to issue local bylaws on the  
4 process of demolition of buildings and disposal of asbestos-containing products;

5           6. Requesting the Ministry of Finance through the Comptroller General's Department,  
6 together with the Office of the Prime Minister and other agencies concerned, to issue guidelines  
7 directing government agencies to use asbestos-free material and products;

8           7. Requesting the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (Thaihealth) to act as lead agency  
9 to support labour networks and the people sector in the monitoring, inspection and campaign for  
10 the use of asbestos-free material in the construction, demolition, repair and extension of  
11 buildings;

12           8. Requesting the Department of Public Relations to support the Ministry of Public  
13 Health, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education,  
14 Science, Research and Innovation, and other agencies concerned, to develop and publicize  
15 information to students, self-employed operators, employers, workers and the general public on  
16 the hazards of asbestos and prevention covering the entire cycle of having, using, dismantling  
17 and disposing of asbestos-containing material, including asbestos-substitute material;

18           9. Requesting the Office of the Consumer Protection Board to strictly supervise and  
19 monitor the display of information and warnings about asbestos hazards on the labels of  
20 asbestos-containing products in a clear and easy-to-understand manner, according to the  
21 Committee on Labels Notification B.E. 2552 (2009) titled Asbestos-Containing Products Will Be  
22 Label-Controlled and the Committee on Labels Notification Number 29 (B.E. 2553)(2010) titled  
23 Asbestos-Containing Products Will Be Label-Controlled (Number 2);

24           10. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, by the Department of Disease Control, to  
25 act as lead agency, together with other agencies concerned, to develop a system for diagnosing  
26 diseases caused by asbestos and to develop a surveillance and monitoring system for risk groups  
27 of asbestos-caused diseases;

28           11. Requesting the Ministry of Labour, by the Department of Labour Protection and  
29 Welfare and the Social Security Office, to act as lead agency, in conjunction with the Ministry of  
30 Public Health, the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, and  
31 other agencies concerned, to establish a registration system for enterprises and workers coming  
32 into contact with asbestos, and to support the use of health checkup information according to risk  
33 factors of the workers coming into contact with asbestos even after they have left the job so that  
34 surveillance of asbestos impacts can continue;

35           12. Requesting the Ministry of Labour, by the Social Security Office, to organize its  
36 compensation fund to cover expenses in surveillance, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation and  
37 to pay compensation to workers with an asbestos-contact history who become ill of asbestos-  
38 caused diseases after leaving work or retirement, including informing the public of the benefits  
39 they are entitled to;

40           13. Requesting the Ministry of Labour, by the Department of Labour Protection and  
41 Welfare, to supervise, monitor and assess enterprises to ensure that they comply with the  
42 Ministerial Regulation on the Establishment of Management Standards and Occupational Safety  
43 and Health in Working with Hazardous Chemicals B.E. 2556 (2013), dated 22 October, 2013  
44 (published in the Government Gazette on 29 November, 2013), and the Department of Labour  
45 Protection and Welfare Notification on Concentration Limit for Hazardous Chemicals in  
46 Workplace Atmospheres and in Hazardous Chemical Storage, number 33 asbestos (Chrysotile  
47 form) ~~CAS NO 77536-68-6~~, placing a hazardous chemical concentration limit for all normal  
48 work periods at 0.1 fiber/cm<sup>3</sup>;

1           14. Requesting the Science Research and Innovation Promotion Commission to act as  
2 lead agency, together with the Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI) and other related  
3 agencies, to support research on the impacts of asbestos use prohibition, economic mechanisms  
4 and use of legal, social and environmental measures to achieve the reduction and termination of  
5 asbestos use as well as development of substitute products which are accessible, affordable,  
6 strong and safe;

7           15. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report  
8 progress to the 14<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly.