



ANROEV Secretariat

OSH Rights is a newsletter on occupational safety and health in Asia. It prepares by the ANROEV Secretariat.

Apart from the newsletter, the ANROEV Secretariat will look after regular research on OSH issues, ANROEV's presence in social media, events, campaigns, information sharing and regular interactions with the members. We look forward to your support and cooperation.

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Strategy meeting

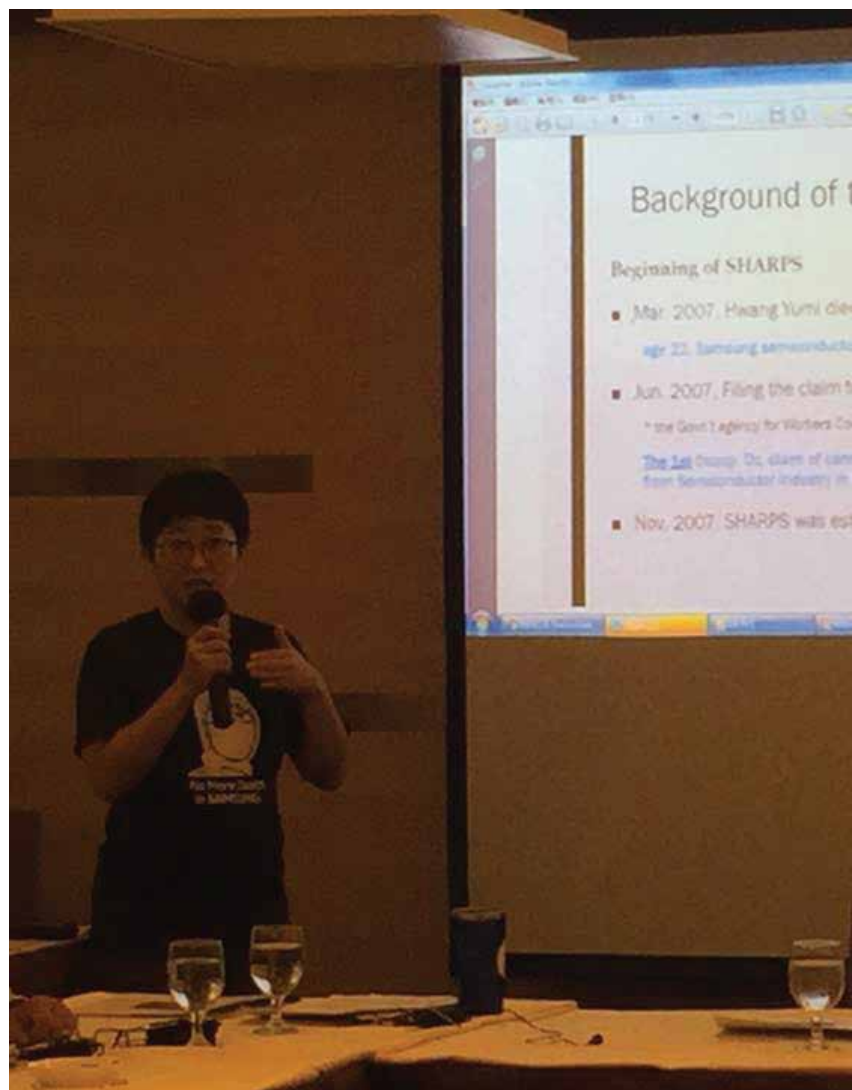
East Asia OSH Strategy Meeting held in Hong Kong



ANROEV along with the AMRC and ABAN network hosted the East Asia OSH Strategy/Asbestos Meeting in Hong Kong on Sept 18-20.

The meetings brought together victims, activists and groups from across the sub region to share, learn and develop further interventions/strategies for the sub- region.

Victims/ family members of victims from Hong Kong and Korea shared their testimonies during the meetings of their fight for recognition and justice.





Strategy meeting

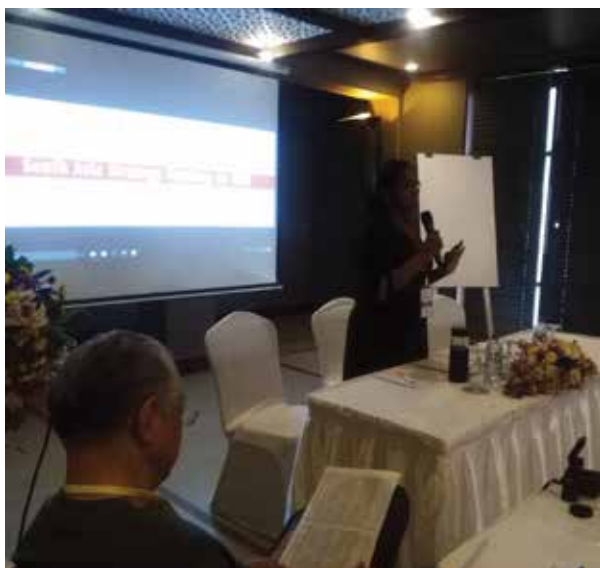
South Asia strategy meeting on OSH held in Sri Lanka



The South Asia sub-regional strategic meeting on OSH took place in Negombo, Sri Lanka on July 12 – 13 2018 just after the South Asia asbestos meeting from 10 – 11 July, 2018. The strategic meeting brought together activists, victims, trade unionists and advocates from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India and Nepal. The two-day meeting had several group efforts to identify future campaigns and strategies for the upcoming year where energy should be focused nationally and regionally. The meeting was organized as a response to the issues identified by the ANROEV network on assistance for member organisations and partners of AMRC on the areas of identification of victims, treatment, litigation, rehabilitation and compensation.

In the South Asian region, following the last sub regional meeting that took place in 2016 and the focused sub regional discussions in ANROEV 2017, advances in the field of OSH have taken place especially in diagnosis, treatment and compensation of victims. In the South Asian region, on the ground work in the asbestos campaign, a lot of momentum has been placed on national stakeholder discussions in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India, activating and strengthening the work of the ban asbestos national networks, lobbying and putting public pressure on government officials and bureaucrats on banning this deadly substance. New areas of work on OESH rights have been focused on in both Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Strategy meeting



The first day meeting started with the update of country wise national OSH situation and this session was moderated by Omana George. Then Mr. Sanjiv Pandita commenced a new session on Factory Inspectorates in South Asia with a view to developing a worker centered approach to tackle the ineffective factory inspectorates in South Asia and in the last spotlight session Rana plaza and Tazreen fashions victims had been given testimony and discussed about current status and challenges of victims organizing, their rehabilitation process and alternative employment.

After tea break, Mr. Jagdish Patel and Mr. Khalid Mahmood moderated a new session on practical obstacles in achieving compensation standard nationally. The session includes country wise compensation presentation in tabular format, list of compensable diseases in each country for comparison, ground- cases and examples silicosis and campaign materials for ratification of ILO compensation convention 121.

In the closing session, it had been asked to develop sub regional and country wise strategies. Almost every country agreed to do the campaigning for ratification of ILO convention 155 country and regional level by Stocktaking workshop with trade unions, ILO, NGOs, awareness raising of Trade Unions on C-155 and developing campaign material. Capacity building of trade unions and informal sector workers on OSH and conducting medical camps for lung diseases were most common country level actions for the next one year.





Strategy meeting

South-East Asia strategy meeting on OSH held in Philippines



Back to back Electronics Training and Strategy Meeting, and Southeast Asia Strategy Meeting on Occupational Safety and Health took place in Pasay City, Philippines on September 3-6. Forty trade unionists and labor rights advocates from 12 countries successfully participated. The meetings were hosted by Asia Monitor Resource Centre, Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV), International Campaign for Responsible Technology (ICRT) and Good Electronics Network, in cooperation with local labor NGOs: the Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development (IOHSAD) and Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research (EILER).

The OSH meeting was organized as a response to the issues identified by the ANROEV network on assistance for member organisations and partners of AMRC on the areas of identification of victims, treatment, litigation, rehabilitation and compensation. The first day of OSH meeting started with country wise presentation on national situation on OSH. Each country focused on key changes, incidents, strategies in the past year and also shared positive changes, efforts taken on the ground to address OSH issues. These presentations should be analytical, reflective and based on work that happened post ANROEV 2017.

Strategy meeting



Selected cases might be chosen to highlight issues/ strategies or information that would stimulate discussion/action plans in other organizations/unions/countries. The later session facilitated by Rochelle Porrás from EILER covering the topics that we believe are relevant to building our capacity and understanding of key issues to build and strengthen our work. Afterwards, ANROEV coordinator Md. Taherul Islam synthesized the key issues from the sub region in a after lunch session.

The following day was a skill share for worker activists. The topics covered are - monitoring workplaces, developing a case of work history, and bio monitoring. The whole session facilitated by Sanjiv Pandita from Swiss Solidar addressing that

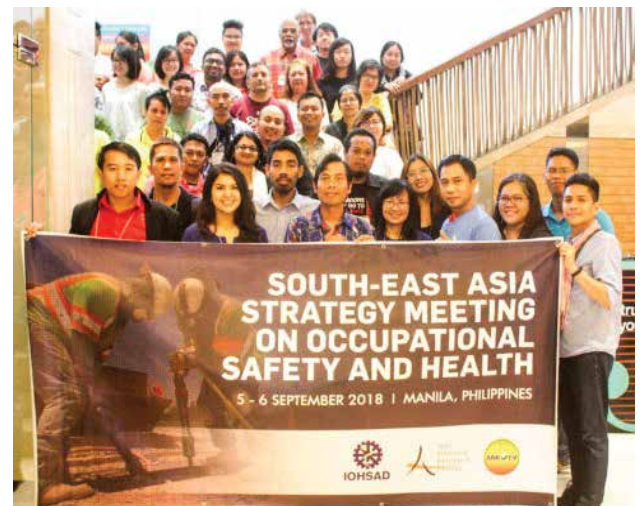
1. baseline data - why is data important, how can this information be collated (newspapers, institutional data compiling);
2. where it exists and can be referred to - Global Burden of Disease, how to collect it? Documenting credible data;
3. structuring and building a campaign;
4. institutionalization; and
5. identifying victims - Diagnosis and Organising of victims.

The last session moderated by ANROEV, AMRC and IOHSAD on building sub regional work strategies. The participants agreed to go with the following regional activities together:

- Campaigning for ratification 170 convention
- Campaigning for ratification 155 convention
- Observing April 28 as workers memorial day



Skill share on chemicals and OSH issues for worker activists by Sanjiv Pandita and Omana George in the second and closing day of South East Asia OSH Strategy Meeting in Manila.



To materialize these regional activities, a volunteer team had been formed comprising IOHSAD, LION and EIEU. The meeting was closed with thanksgiving by IOHSAD, AMRC and ANROEV.



Towards a convention on gender based violence in the workplace



The annual International Labour Conference (ILC) started in Geneva on 28 May, where Director-General Guy Ryder opened the conference calling for strong action to end violence and harassment at the workplace. Delegates from governments, workers and employers from the 187 ILO Member states came together to negotiate the nature and the scope of a future instrument on violence and harassment at work.

IndustriALL spoke to affiliate, Rose Omamo from the Amalgamated Union of Kenya Metalworkers, who is part of the Workers' group pushing for ILC to adopt standards on violence and harassment in the world of work.

"the negotiations were tough but we really got a lot of support from Governments who really supported the workers to have a convention. We are happy because we have a convention supplemented by a recommendation,"

Governments, workers and employers have agreed that the nature of the future instrument on the issue should be a convention supplemented by recommendation.

The workers have achieved a lot, we have got the words 'gender based violence' in the preamble, we also got domestic violence in the preamble and scope. The worker definitions have been broadened to the world of work and not just in the workplace," said Omamo. This is a significant achievement as it means that the worker is protected not only in the workplace but outside the workplace as well (eg. at the bus stop or at the worker's home). "We hope to package what we have not been able to tackle for next year. We are happy about this workers really wanted a standard that would be used globally, so for us we are happy with the achievements and we will continue to work on the challenges in the years to come," Omamo concluded.



BANGLADESH

New labour law to have fresh facilities for workers

Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) 2018 Bill passed in parliament



The Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2018 was passed in Parliament on 24 October aiming to give more facilities to workers and reducing the workers' threshold to 20 percent from the existing 30 percent for forming trade unions.

State Minister for Labour and Employment (Independent Charge) Md Mujibul Haque Chunnu moved the Bill in the House and it was passed by voice vote. Under the new law, the percentage of workers' participation required for forming trade unions at factories will be reduced to 20 percent from the existing 30 percent.

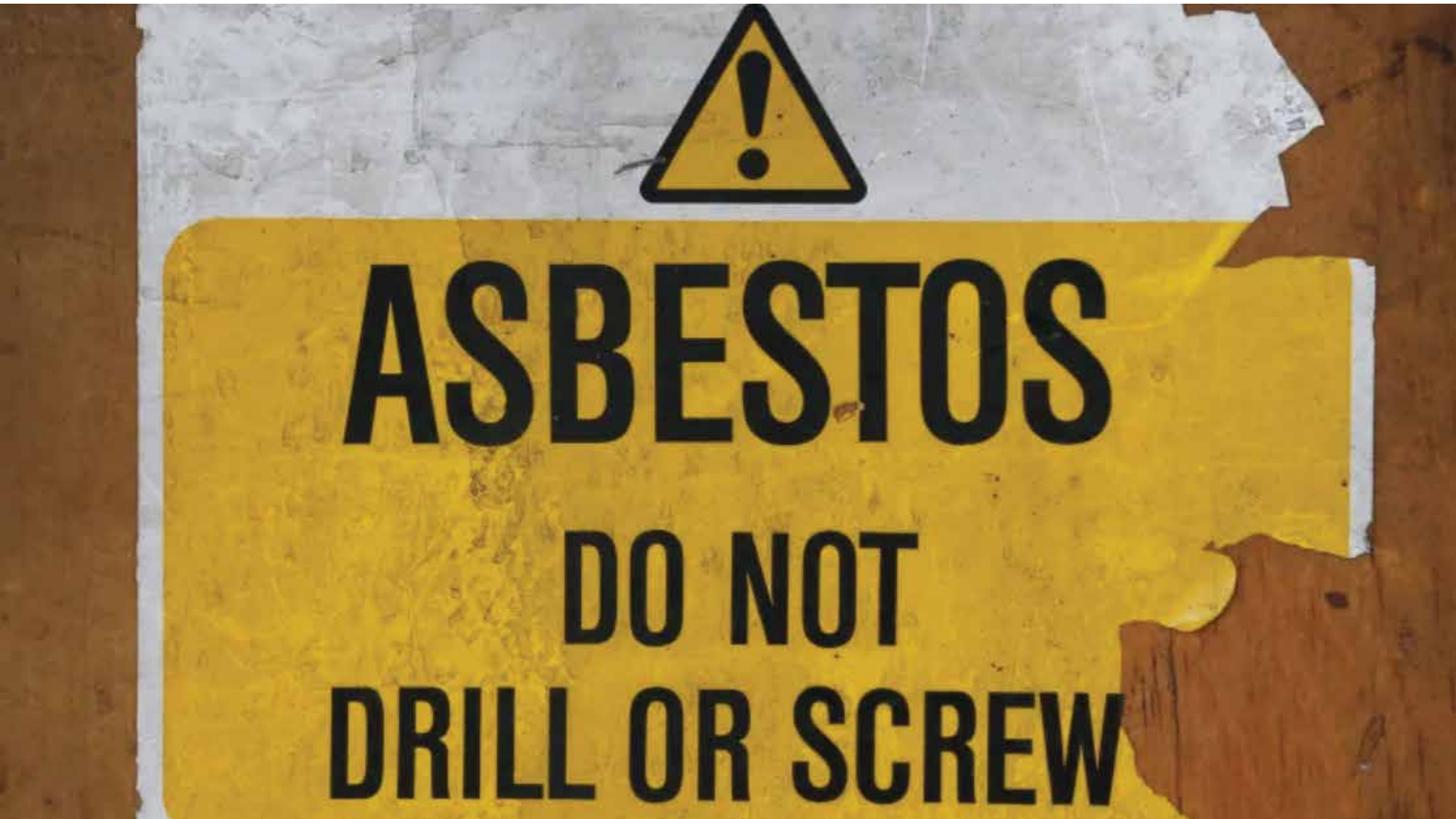
The bill was prepared and updated following the observations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) which will be a labour-friendly one. As per the Bill if anybody employs child workers, then he or she will have to pay a fine of Tk 5,000. In the Bill, the punishment of workers for violating laws has been reduced by 50 percent while new facilities included for them. The Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment has been upgraded to the level of Directorate. Mentally and physically-challenged labourers cannot be employed in any risky works. If any female worker gives birth to a baby before informing the authorities, she will get an eight-week leave within three days after informing the authorities. If the factory authorities do not allow her to go on leave, they will be fined Tk 25,000. If any worker does his or her duty during festival, he or she will get a one-day leave and wage for two days after the festival. Both owners and workers will be sentenced to one-year jail with a fine of Tk 10,000 for misconduct, which was two years in the previous law. In case of natural death, the family of the worker concerned will get Tk 2 lakh as compensation, which was Tk 1 lakh in the previous law, and in the case of injury, they will get Tk 2.50 lakh, which is now Tk 1.25 lakh. The punishment for enforcing strike illegally has been reduced to six months from one year. The support of 51 percent workers is needed against present two-thirds of total workers to call a strike. If anyone is found to be a member of a number of trade unions at the same time, he or she will be sentenced to one month's imprisonment which was six months in the previous law. According to the ILO convention, the draft law has a scope to form a tripartite advisory council consisting of the government, owners and workers.

See more at ... <http://www.unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/new-labour-law-to-have-fresh-facilities-for-workers-bill-passed/4964>



CANADA

Canada introduces new asbestos rules



Canada is moving ahead with its promised asbestos ban by proposing the prohibition of the use, sale, import and export of asbestos and products containing the hazardous material.

The federal health and environment departments are both sponsoring the proposed changes aimed at eliminating the market for asbestos products in this country. The government now acknowledges that all forms of asbestos fibres, if inhaled, can cause cancer and other diseases.

According to the proposed regulations, the government estimates asbestos was responsible for approximately 1,900 lung cancer cases and 430 mesothelioma cases in Canada in 2011. A single case of lung cancer or mesothelioma costs Canada's health system more than \$1 million, the government says. "By launching these new, tougher rules to stop the manufacture, import, use and sale of asbestos, we are following through on our promises to protect all Canadians from exposure to this toxic substance," said Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna. Asbestos was declared a human carcinogen by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer more than 30 years ago. But up until 2011, Canada remained a major exporter of asbestos. See more at ...

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/new-asbestos-regulations-proposed-federal-government-2018-1.4479715?fbclid=IwAR2FD7FRKddjSsZDmd6g1DIZIU9LcKNxoFTr7x0zYyUBZ9OjAWByLKtfZYk>



INDIA

The harsh reality of life for India's 5 million sanitation workers



The last decade has seen a massive push for improved sanitation in urban and rural India, and progress has been substantial with several hundred million Indians now having access to toilets. However, while the public eye has been on big campaigns like the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission, the inner workings of sanitation systems and the state of sanitation workers in these systems have often been ignored.

Sanitation systems in urban India were designed with one unfortunate assumption, which is that human labour would always be available to service them. This is a fundamental issue, and brings up challenges on many fronts. At various steps across our sanitation value chain—from the toilets to the treatment plants—workers must interact with faecal matter in extremely unsafe ways. They are often offered inadequate safety equipment and training, and are socially and culturally ostracised. An overwhelming majority of them are from the lowest Dalit sub-castes—representational of India's traditional caste hierarchies and the manner in which these function.

Usually engaged through informal contracts, they work for local governments and private operators, or are contracted by households directly. As a result, most have poor financial and health outcomes.



A portrait of India's sanitation workers

While the issues faced by sanitation workers have attracted some attention, the subject at large has been treated as a matter for civil society organisations to tackle. Government efforts tend to take on a singular, narrow point of view, which focuses typically on rehabilitating rural latrine cleaners through self-employment schemes that have had mixed success.

Motivated to fill this gap in understanding, Dalberg, a strategy and policy advisory firm focused on global development, conducted a 12-week study of sanitation workers in India, based on over 100 interviews with sanitation workers, government officials, and experts. The intent behind the study was to create a set of clear, cognisable, and actionable insights, with which stakeholders can act towards improving the working conditions and livelihoods of sanitation workers across the country. Some key takeaways from the report are:

- Though sanitation workers have been a large unorganised category, we identified nine distinct types of sanitation work that demand separate consideration: sewer cleaning, septic tank cleaning, railway (track) cleaning, latrine cleaning, treatment plant work, community/public toilet cleaning, school toilet cleaning, sweeping/drain cleaning, and domestic work
- Only a small fraction of these workers are formally recognised. We estimate that there is a total of 5 million full-time-equivalents of sanitation workers, including domestic workers (who clean toilets in residential and commercial areas)
- Our estimates suggest that about 2.5 million of these workers face high occupational hazards in their work. The absence of formal recognition for these workers results in very poor access to schemes and programmes purportedly designed to help them
- About 1.1 million of them are in urban areas, primarily engaged in sewer cleaning, septic tank cleaning, railway cleaning, and community/public toilet cleaning. More than half a million urban sanitation workers are women, mostly engaged in school toilet and drain cleaning
- From interviews and other existing research on this issue, it is clear that over 90% of the workers belong to the lowest Dalit sub-castes and are historically tied to sanitation work. As these workers migrate from rural to urban areas, they find it difficult to penetrate other job markets due to their caste labels. Women face a specific set of challenges as they are often forced to become primary earners—since spousal income is unreliable—and they are frequently harassed on the job
- Workers often have dependencies on alcohol and other substances and suffer from poor mental health. They not only have low life expectancy and poor physical health outcomes, but many report regular fever, respiratory illnesses, and skin diseases, with an average life expectancy said to be less than 50 years
- A large proportion of these workers are in contracts with the various city corporations' contractors and receive below-minimum wages. Often, what they earn is just one-third of what they would if employed directly by the city. To worsen matters, most do not have provident funds (PF) or health benefits either

Read more...

<https://qz.com/1254258/sanitation-workers-a-five-million-people-large-blind-spot-in-india/>



SRI LANKA

Five die after exposure to ammonia gas at Sri Lankan latex factory



The latex rubber factory in Ballapitiya

Two workers and three local residents died on April 19 when they were exposed to ammonia gas at a latex rubber factory in Ballapitiya village, Horana, 25 kilometres from Colombo. Around 15 others were also hospitalised after inhaling the toxic fumes. Workers and villagers told WSWs reporters that no proper safety measures were in place at the plant. The factory, owned by S and C Latex (Private) Limited, employs about 70 workers. It prepares products for Bettans Kids, a well-known brand in South Asia. W. Ariyapala, a 40-year-old worker who was cleaning waste from a waste tank, lost consciousness after being exposed to ammonia effluent. He fell into the tank at around 1 p.m. Eyewitnesses said Waruna Chandrasekara, a 33-year-old supervisor at the factory who rushed to Ariyapala's aid, also collapsed and fell into the tank. After hearing workers shout for help, Priyanatha Kumara (43), Dilip Lokupathirage (31) and Lal Pushpakumara (28) and others attempted to assist but also fell into the tank.

After breaking the cover above the tank and letting the gas disperse, local residents were able to take the victims out. All of them, however, had died. Workers and neighbours said the factory management, including the plant's owner Sarath Wijeratne, were in the premises at the time, but did nothing to rescue the victims. As villagers expressed their anger, Wijeratne fled the scene. Residents said the management did not even provide a vehicle for the victims, instead calling police to protect the factory. Neighbours took the victims to the hospital with the assistance of passing vehicles.

Sriya Hettiarachchi

Sriya Hettiarachchi, a woman from the village, told WSWs reporters that the factory began operations 20 years ago on government land, producing rubber sheets. A shoe plant was later established at the site. "We find it very difficult to live due to this factory," Hettiarachchi said. "There is always a bad smell. Only after it had begun did we know that the smell was due to ammonia. It is just now that we have found out how harmful it is." Hettiarachchi said waste water from the factory was previously released into a nearby stream that flows about a kilometre to the Kalu Ganga River. "Paddy fields of about 50 acres which are cultivated using the water of that stream became infertile because of this," she said. "Even animals died. Then villagers held a protest. Later the factory was stopped from dumping waste water by the Environmental Authority. However, I have heard that unclean water was later released to another area using pipelines."



Roshan Rajapakse

Roshan Rajapakse, a young villager, said Wijeratne is a former army brigadier and had also held a high position in the Central Environmental Authority. "He has direct government backing," he said. "Wijeratne has a close relationship with former President Mahinda Rajapakse and the late Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayake. Yositha Rajapakse, a son of Mahinda Rajapakse, came to religious festivals at the factory."

Roshan Rajapakse continued: "If any person opposed the factory over an environmental issue, Wijeratne would go to court saying he had been threatened with death, or he would concoct another charge. Not only small people like us, but also regional politicians, cannot oppose him."

Workers denounced the slave-labour conditions in the factory. They said three female employees who reported for work on April 19, after traditional New Year holidays, were summarily sacked without any compensation. Their "crime" was not reporting for work on April 17 after the holidays, as the factory had ordered. The three women also have been denied access to their pension fund and employees' provident fund.



Shiromi Kodagoda with her family

Shiromi Kodagoda, one of the sacked workers in the shoe production section, said: "We only take this kind of leave on the Sinhala New Year after working hard all year.

I informed the office that I would be unable to work on April 17. I have two children. We live in very difficult conditions even though we have had my salary and my husband's earnings. The sudden loss of job is a severe problem."

A shoe production worker, Hasitha Dilranga, said: "I work here because I have no other job. My monthly salary is 20,000 rupees [\$US127]. In my section there is unbearable heat. We don't get any extra payment for working in such conditions. There is no safety equipment for this type of accident. We were not even informed that there was toxic gas produced here."

Dilranga said older women were employed for even more labour-intensive work in the rubber production section. "From acid mixing, to cleaning rubber milk and transporting lorries; it's all carried out by women who are old enough to be our mothers. I feel sad and angry when I see them cleaning lorries without gloves," he said.

Dilranga said women workers were employed because they are paid less. "They work under back-breaking conditions due to poverty," he said.

Many workers said there were not even minimal safety measures in the factory. "There was not even a rope to drag out those who fell into the tank," one said. "Nor were there any oxygen tanks. Every place with an ammonia tank should be registered with the fire brigade, but that did not happen here."

All the residents who died lived in the nearby Akkara Thispaha (Thirty Five Acre) village.

People were waiting for their bodies when WSWS reporters visited the village. Residents spoke about pain they felt over the loss of their neighbours and their anger toward the factory management.



Saratha Kumara, who works at the water board, said: “How many times have we written to the authorities? How many times did we hold demonstrations? How many times did we appeal to governments to stop this environmental pollution? Nothing has happened. They don’t care about our lives. Factory owners, government ministers, environmental officials are all on the same side.

“We had to wait for a long time to take patients to the hospital after the accident. But about 50 police officers from the special task force came to protect the factory within half an hour. All of them work against us.”

Government authorities are seeking to obscure their own responsibility for the accident, amid growing anger.

Western Province Chief Minister Isura Devapriya, who visited the factory, called on the Central Environment Authority to permanently close the plant. He said nothing about the fate of the workers in the event of a shutdown.

The Labour Department declared it will take legal action against the factory, but did not explain why it allowed the factory owners to violate safety practices. In reality, these conditions are the result of policies implemented by successive governments, including the present administration of President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Employing casual and contract workers in factories is rampant throughout Sri Lanka. This is aimed at extracting maximum profits via meagre wages and minimum, unsafe working conditions.

In March alone, two similar accidents were reported. Two workers died inhaling toxic gas at a Bio Foods Company plant located near Dambulla, 140 kilometres from Colombo.



Hasitha Dilranga

Around 100 workers at a Polytex Garments in Jaela- Ekala, outside Colombo, were hospitalised after being exposed to toxic substances.

Such factories are set up outside the major cities and towns to exploit the labour of rural youth. International chains such as Bettans and retail garment giants earn huge profits on the back of these conditions throughout South Asia and around the world.

Over recent decades, the number of industrial accidents in South Asia has grown dramatically, Some 1,134 workers died in the Rana Plaza factory disaster in Bangladesh in 2013. In India, the number of deaths due to industrial accidents has increased to around 48,000 per year.

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2018/04/23/hora-a23.html>



DENMARK

European Work Hazards Conference

20th – 22nd September 2018 | Copenhagen, Denmark | Ewhn.eu



Around 60 European work environment activists were gathered at the 15th EWHN conference. The title of the conference was “The future of work in the digital era”.

The conference was participatory. It consisted of work place visits to different sectors of the labor market in Copenhagen: The port of Copenhagen, The Royal Danish Theater’s new opera house “behind the curtains”, the hospital sector at Copenhagen University Hospital and hospitality work was discussed by a visit to a hotel.

In all workplace-visits we tried to introduce both safety reps and management views. There were information meetings made by the delegates, and workshops on relevant issues in health and safety: Precarious work, psychosocial work, work-related cancer and “How do you know if you work with something dangerous?”.

As a result of the workshop on precarious work a group was started on facebook, called EWHN: Precarious work.

All materials from the conference are available on the website ewhn.eu.



BANGLADESH

Orientation on Violence Against Women for the garments factories mid level management



OSHE's Jukta Hoe Mukta - United we Stand project organized the orientation on 'Violence against Women' for garments sector mid level management at 09 November 2018 at Union multipurpose hall, Mirpur 06, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. There are 20 participants from various garment factories attended the orientation among them only 3 are female. This day long orientation endeavored reflection, discussion, shared the challenges regarding VAW cases.

Objectives and aims : The objectives and aims of the orientation was to

- Sharpen the clarity on the aims and objectives of the Project
- Discuss the challenges related to ensuring women friendly working environment
- Awareness raising on BAW
- Enabling Dialogues between workers and employers

OSHE organized the orientation on VAW for the mid level management at Union multipurpose hall in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The training was inaugurated by Saki Rezwana, Chairperson of OSHE presided the orientation, Dr. Rokeya Begum, National Consultant of UNDP and gender expert conducted the sessions. At the end of the day participants made factory wise future plan considering their capacity and capability. These are –

1. Stalk free working environment
2. Encourage women workers for getting promotion
3. They will try to give all kinds of support for the welfare of women workers issues
4. Organize weekly awareness raising meeting with male and female workers
5. Policy formation based on judgment of High Court verdict
6. Formation of Anti harassment committee by ensuring workers representation
7. Ensure equality on recruitment process and encouraging women in Supervisory position
8. Easy access to the complaint mechanism



Training of Trainers (TOT) on Workers Social Protection



In Bangladesh social protection is a constitutional obligation of the Government of Bangladesh for its underprivileged citizen. Currently 20.24% population of the country is living under poverty line and 10.64% are extreme poor. The Government of Bangladesh has developed National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) 2015, which is a part of policies and programs that comprise the social development framework. There are 145 social protection programs (officially known as social security programs) are being implemented by 23 line ministries targeting 35.7 million beneficiaries spending BDT 345 billion dollar, accounting 12.73% total Government Budget in current fiscal year, at a level of 2.19% of GDP. Some programs overlap and are considered too small to make any real headway in reducing poverty. Ministry of Planning sources mentioned that 24% population receives benefit of at least one social security program.

Social Protection for working Class is not well addressed, only 2.19% of total allocation for social security programs are being spent for working class interest related 14 projects and schemes. Moreover, national Trade Union Federations were not well consulted during planning process of National Social Security Strategy and in pre budget discussion. From implementation perspectives, this is found that, in most cases, the Ministry of Labour and Employment is not engaged in implementation of safety net programs targeting the working class.

Considering those issues Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC) produced education material training manual for trainers under Asian Roundtable on Social Protection (AROSP) Network. As because AMRC believes that the grassroots workers of Asia region should also be able to formulate their own social protection demands and fight for them. The voice, needs, and interests of the grassroots workers should be reflected and addressed by social protection programmes.

In Bangladesh, OSHE organised the trainers of training (ToT) for the union leaders, activists, professionals, human rights, GO/NGO etc. following AMRC ToT manual from 21-22 September 2018 at Union multipurpose hall in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Updates from Partners

Training of trainers on OHS to reach 6000 RMG workers



OHS Initiative for workers and community project of OSHE foundation organised 20 days long training of trainers for the second batch on 30 June 2018 at Gonoshasthaya Kendra in Dhaka. OHS Initiative governing board member secretary and OSHE executive director A R Chowdhury Repon, board member and Gonoshasthaya Kendra chief executive officer Dr. Manzur Kadir Ahmed joined the inauguration session while OSHE chairperson Saki Rezwana chaired the session. Mr. Bruno Deceukeller, Asia coordinator of Belgium based international charity organisation World Solidarity Movement (WSM) present at the opening session of the event as special guest. The basic ToT was participated by 29 OHS trainers from -- Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE), Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), IndustriALL Bangladesh Council (IBC), Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS) and Naripokkho. The project has jointly launched on October, 2016 with the mission to establish a sustainable OHS Academy in Bangladesh. Area of actions are, accessible training and education in the area of occupational health and safety, development of education and training tools and safety professional in relevant field. It's a joint program of different organizations with OSHE Foundation as lead institution who believe it is necessary to improve health, safety and working conditions for those laboring in Bangladesh. At primary phase, a group of 75 OHS trainers will be developed through advanced training and they will carry out a series of training themselves, the number of rank-and-file workers trained on OSH issues under the project over the three-year would be 6,000 at the ready made garments sector.



INDIA

PTRC Activities - April to September, 2018



PEOPLES TRAINING & RESEARCH CENTRE

43, Shrinathdham Duplex, Dinesh Mill - Urmi Road, VADODARA - 390 007
Telefax - 0265 - 2345576, Email : ptrcvdr@yahoo.co.in, Website : www.peoplestraining.org

Legal activities

PTRC helped 15 tribal workers suffering from silicosis to file claim for disability benefit in ESI court in Baroda in 2008 under ESI Act. In course of hearing 6 workers succumbed to their disease and their claims had to be withdrawn. In remaining claims, the Court passed orders in February, 2015 in favour of claimants. ESI Corporation then filed appeal in Gujarat High Court challenging this order. Gujarat high Court dismissed their appeal on July 20, 2018 criticizing the Corporation. ESIC has accepted the verdict and is in process of paying the benefits to the 9 workers. In course of hearing at High Court one more worker died.

Since 2010 PTRC filed several complaints before National Human Rights Commission of India to get relief to the families of workers who died of silicosis. The commission passed its recommendations in December, 2017 end. Among several recommendations, one of the major one was to pay Rs. 4 lakh to the families of the workers who have died of silicosis. Government of Gujarat did not take any actions to implement the recommendations. In April, 2018, the Commission organized public hearing in Gujarat which we attended and represented the case. Chairman of the Commission assured us that they have talked to the Government and Government has assured them to enforce the recommendations. In August, Government paid the amount to 61 victim families. We are representing for the remaining cases.

Work on ESI

We encouraged Waghodiya Industries Association to take advantage of the ESI Corporation scheme for opening the dispensary in the area. We helped the office bearers understand the scheme and then we organized meeting of the ESIC officers with the Ind. Association office bearers. Ind. Association is considering the proposal seriously.

We visited one of the ESI dispensaries in Baroda, talked to the dispensary medical officer and local office manager. Took pictures. We realized that the complex requires a compound wall and better cleanliness standards. We presented the pictures to the ESIC Sub-regional office in regular monthly meetings.

We attend monthly meetings each month and represent the complaints that we receive for solutions to the satisfaction of the complainants.

On 5 July we attended Special Medical Board of ESI Corporation at Ahmadabad which examines the claims of occupational diseases. We helped represent case of silicosis before the panel of experts.



Publications

PTRC published report of its research of textile workers of Surat, Gujarat in English and Gujarati. It also published compilation of case studies of the silicosis victims in Gujarati titles "Aap kyu roe". One more publication in Gujarati was published last year which was compilation of the articles written by different authors published in different newspapers or magazines an work being done by PTRC. We organized programs in Surat and Ahmadabad to promote these publications. In Surat we organized on 17 March and in Ahmadabad on 25 March.

In Suart report was launched by Dr. Satyakam Joshi, Director, Centre for Social Studies. Dr. Kiran Desai, Krishnakant Chauhan and Sri Kishor Desai spoke on the occasion. Jagdish Patel presented the results of the study which was followed by screening of documentary on the conditions of workers in Surat.

In Ahmadabad program was in three sessions. One session was on "Reflection of pains of the downtrodden in Gujarati literature" in which discussants were well known Gujarati authors including Kanji Patel, Kirit Dudhat and Yashwant Mehta. Second session was "Efforts of Struggles and creative work by social workers in Gujarat and development" and discussants were Sri Dankesh Oza, Rajani Dave and Mahesh Pandya. Last session was on Conditions of textile workers in Surat. Jagdish Patel presented results of his study of these workers which was followed by screening of 15 minute documentary. It was followed by open house discussion under the chairmanship of Dr. Vidyut Joshi well known sociologist.

OEHNI

PTRC is hosting Secretariat of Occupational and Environmental Health Network India (OEHNI). In April, 2018 it published 12 page calendar for the period April, 2018-March, 2019 depicting different occupational diseases, legal provisions and demands. Copies were widely distributed.

On 10 May OEHNI organized meeting at Chennai in collaboration with local activists and organizations on OHS.

On 31 May attended meeting at a village in South Rajasthan which has large numbers of workers who worked in local Asbestos mines which are closed now.

On 13 August organized meeting of activists in Udaipur to discuss strategy to locate workers who worked in asbestos mines in past. We developed tool, got it printed and supplied it to the activists.

Attended and delivered presentation at a workshop organized by IBAN during Asian Development Bank Annual meeting at Mumbai on 22/23 June.

Attended ABAN and ANROEV meetings at Colombo during 9-14 July, 2018.



Trainings / Lectures

PTRC delivered presentation on Asbestos hazards at training on BOHS OHTA approved training program WS504 – asbestos and other fibres organized by Sustainable EHS LLP in Baroda in May. Participants were from different Asian countries.

- Delivered lecture before students of Indian Inst of Public Health on 11 June.
- Organized meeting with textile workers of Surat on 24 June.
- Organized training of industrial workers on OHS on 30 June at Waghodiya industrial area.
- Organized training of foundry workers on OHS on 4 July at Rajkot.
- Participated in 2 training programs organized by Bandhkam Mazdur Sangathan for construction workers at Veraval and Junagadh on 24/25 August.
- Organized follow up meeting with foundry workers in Rajkot on 23 August.
- Organized meeting of core committee formed to work on identifying silicosis victims in Rajkot region on 17 September at Rajkot.

Meetings

- Attended meeting organized by FES at Delhi to discuss proposed labor code on OHS on 22 May.
- Attended meeting organized by SEWA at Delhi to discuss achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal- Universal Health Care on 20/21 August.
- Attended National Core Committee meeting of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan at Delhi to discuss plans to organize National Health Assembly at Delhi on 31 March.
- Attended 3ed National Health Assembly at Raipur on 23/24 September with 70 other participants from Gujarat. Delivered presentation on Occupational Health rights situation in India.

Media

- Local TV channel GTPL aired our interview and panel discussion on ESI and OHS rights in two separate programs in April.
- “Web Gurjari” Gujarati E-magazine invited us to contribute articles on OHS once a month. 6 of our articles have been published so far.
- Suryakant Shah in daily “Gujarat Guardian” (14 July, 2018), Vidyut Joshi in daily “Nav Gujarat Samay” (15 April, 2018) and Sanjay Bhave in daily “Nav Gujarat Samay” (4 May, 2018) wrote about PTRC in their columns.
- On 15 occasions different media published news items on PTRC work.
- PTRC issued press release on UN Declaration on TB and emphasised need to control silica dust work to reduce mortality due to TB.

Other

- Helped National Institute of Occupational Health in research on finding bio-marker for silicosis. We helped the NIOH team of scientists in locating patients suffering from silicosis and convince them to cooperate the research. The team collected blood samples on 21 April.
- We were invited by the newly appointed Rural Labor Commissioner of Gujarat when he visited Khmabhat to meet him and help him understand the issue of silicosis and the problems faced by the people on 16 May.
- Prepared note for SAHAJ, local NGO working on safe motherhood rights, on SDG pertaining women workers.
- Filed several applications under right to information Act to seek information on important public health issues.



VIETNAM

Southeast Asia Ban Asbestos Conference 2018



Throughout 2018, the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS) has been in discussions with global partners regarding joint initiatives, outreach projects, political strategies and medical collaborations, many of which came to fruition between April and September 2018. In April and September, 2018 members of the Asbestos Interest Group, from a former asbestos mining region in South Africa, held outreach events cosponsored by IBAS for community members to raise awareness about the area's asbestos legacy and delineate support services and information resources for those affected. In May, IBAS and partnering organizations issued an Open Letter to the Asbestos Industry which was categorical:

“The asbestos industry, an industry of death and destruction, is itself dying. As this toxic technology is consigned to the history books, a ‘just transition policy’ for redundant asbestos miners and affected communities should be implemented as a matter of urgency. They too deserve the human right to work and live in a healthy environment; for them, and for us, the future is asbestos-free.”

In July, 2018 IBAS hosted Brazil's leading ban asbestos campaigner in London; during her visit Ms. Giannasi addressed the annual asbestos seminar of the Parliamentary Asbestos Sub-Group. Towards the end of this session, a letter was read out detailing the plight of two Everest employees – Arun Chakraborty and Goutam Sandar – sacked in April 2018 for organizing a medical diagnosis camp to examine workers for asbestos-related diseases in Kolkata, West Bengal.

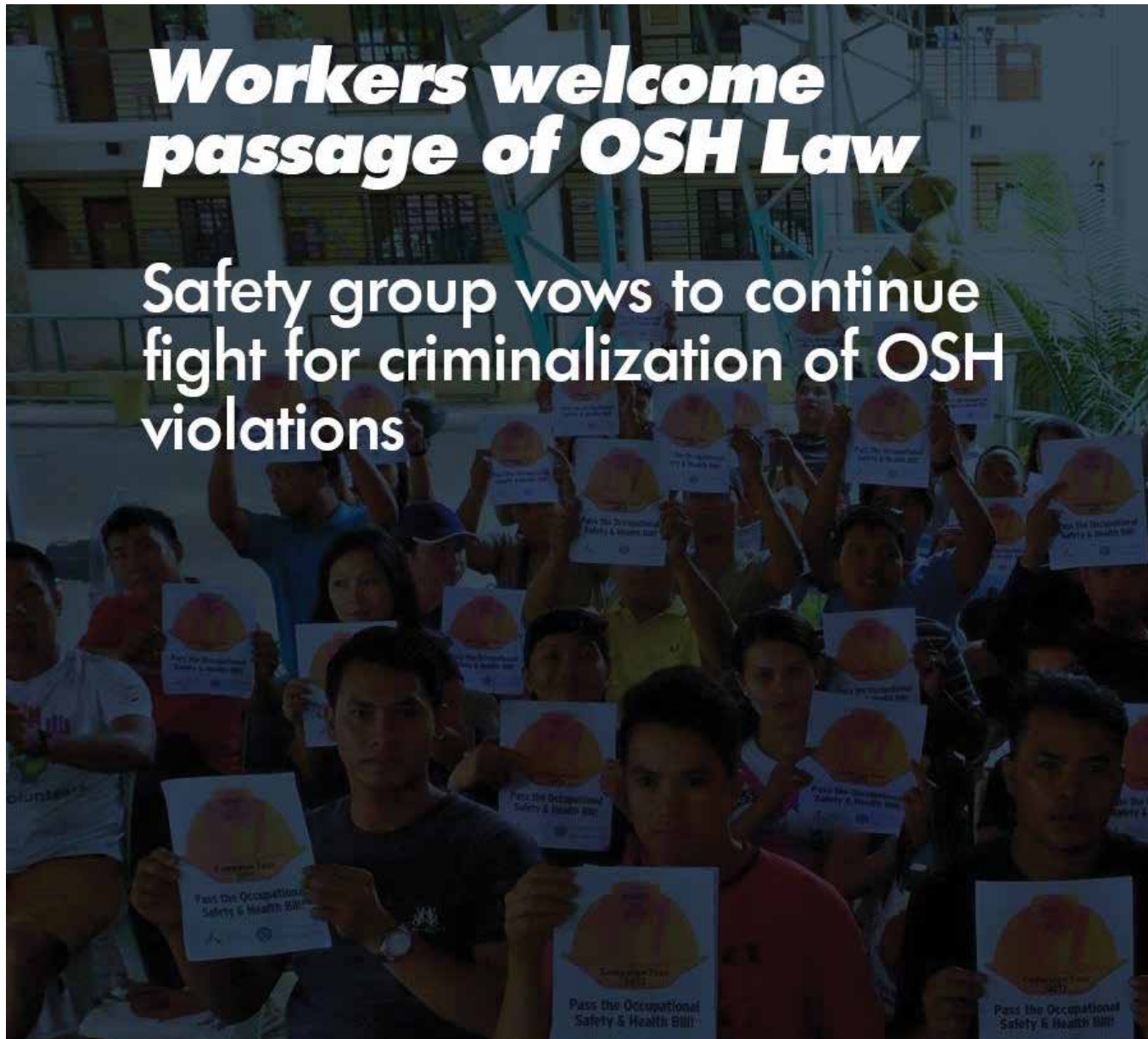
The 2018 South Asia Asbestos Strategy Meeting took place on July 10 and 11 in Sri Lanka; IBAS was privileged to be a joint sponsor of that event as well as the Southeast Asia Ban Asbestos Conference 2018 in Vietnam and the East Asia Asbestos Meeting in Hong Kong, both of which occurred in Sept.



PHILIPPINES

Workers welcome passage of OSH Law

Safety group vows to continue fight for criminalization of OSH violations

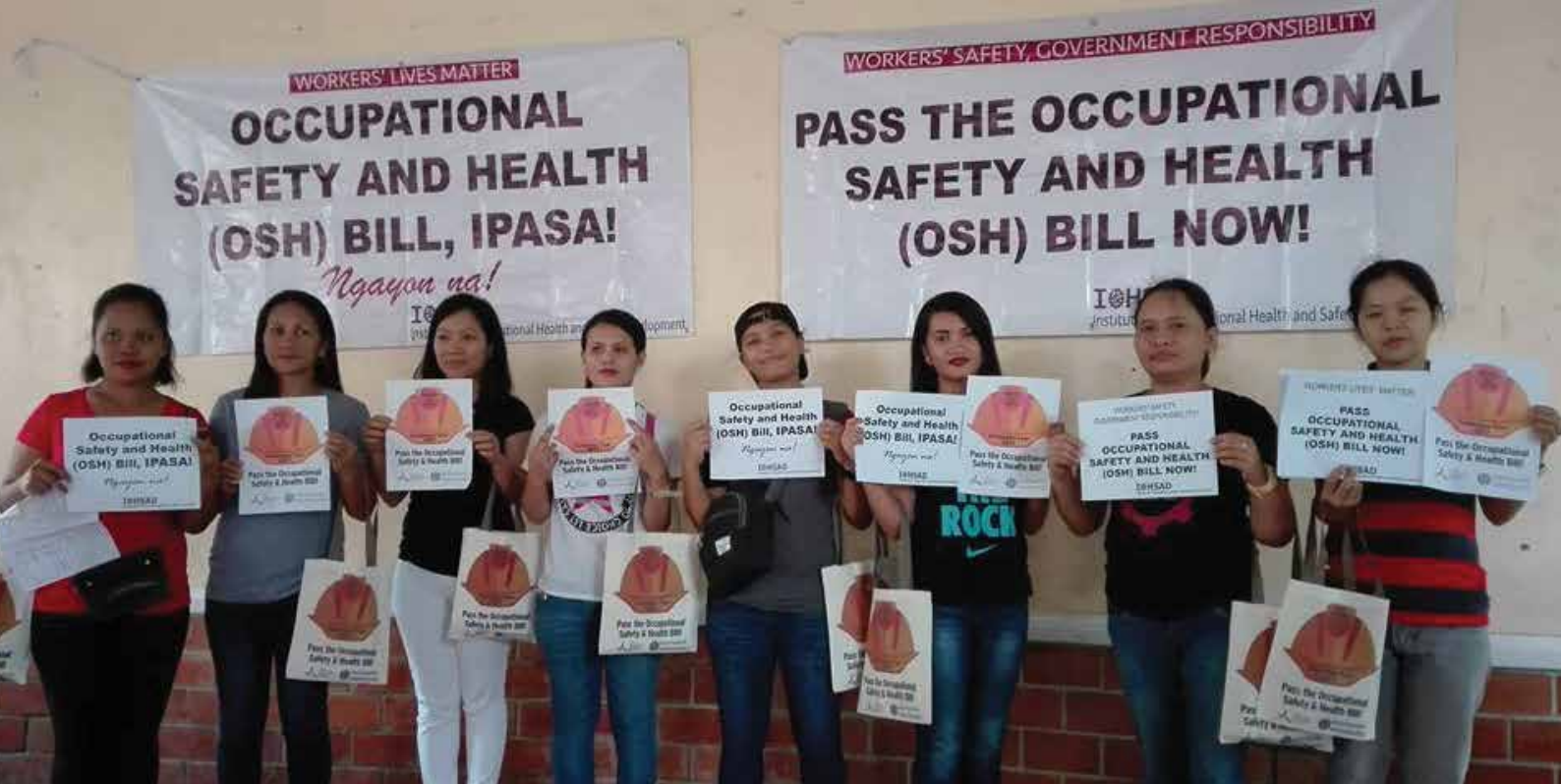


Workplace safety NGO Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development (IOHSAD) congratulated the workers, families of victims of workplace tragedies and Gabriela Women's Party for their untiring efforts to ensure the passage of an occupational safety and health (OSH) law. Since 2013, workers' groups have consistently pushed for government's mandatory inspection of all workplaces and imposition of stiffer penalties for employers who violate OSH standards.

"The Pass OSH Bill campaign has been a long and challenging process. Employers exerted countless efforts to block the passage of a stricter OSH law. Republic Act 11058 or the Philippine Occupational Safety and Health Law is literally a result of workers' blood, sweat and tears.



Update from Partners



Workplace tragedies in Eton Residences (2011), Novo Department Store (2012), Kentex (2015) and HTI (2017) factories, NCCC mall (2017) that claimed workers' lives forced legislators to act and eventually pass an OSH bill that can help prevent workplace injuries and deaths," said Nadia De Leon, IOHSAD Executive Director.

Workers started to organize consultations in 2013 to discuss the urgent need to pass an OSH law. On June 2014, during the 16th Congress, Gabriela Women's Party filed House Bill 4635 or the Worker's Safety and Health Inspection and Employer's Liability Decree (Worker's SHIELD). Since then, workers consistently pushed for the enactment of an OSH law through various forms such as lobbying, advocacy tours, social media and protest rallies.

"The OSH law or RA 11058 did not include the criminalization of safety violations that we have campaigned for, but its historic passage was still a significant gain of the workers and victims' families struggle for justice. It can also be considered as a positive step in our campaign to uphold the workers' basic right to health and safety," De Leon said.

IOHSAD said it will continue to join the workers in their fight for justice, safe workplaces and criminalization of safety violations. This campaign has taught us the importance of building our strength and increasing our capacity to wage bigger fights in the future.

"Muling pinatunayang sa pamamagitan ng mahigpit na pagkakaisa at sama-samang pagkilos maisusulong ng mga manggagawa ang kanilang karapatan para sa ligtas na paggawa. Tuloy pa rin ang laban para sa pagkakamit ng katarungan at pag-kriminalisa ng mga paglabag sa OSH standards," De Leon said. IOHSAD also challenged the Labor Department to immediately conduct OSH investigations in all workplaces, including those inside economic zones, and decisively penalize employers who violate OSH standards.



NEPAL

Awareness Raising Training Workshop on Carcinogenic Asbestos in Janakpurdham, Nepal



Successfully completed Awareness Raising Training Workshop on Carcinogenic Asbestos in Janakpurdham, Nepal. CEPHED organised this important event in the area of massive asbestos uses in Province No. 2 in coordination with Janakpurdham Sub Metropolitan City, Customs Office, Janakpur and District Youth Network (DYN), Dhanusha on 6th October 2018 well participated by more than 60 participants from different organisations, media and addressed by Deputy Mayor MRs. Rita Kumari Mishra, Chief Custom Officer Mr. Hem Chandra Sharma , Janakpurdham SMC Senior Official Mr. Pradeep Sah , DYN Dhanusha president Mr. Dhiraj Sah.. Technical paper entitled "Preventive Measure and Approaches to reduce Human Health and Environmental Implications from the use of Carcinogenic Asbestos were presented by Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director, CEPHED. The Fact sheet, Poster and Booklets on Asbestos produced last years with the support of WHO Country Office Nepal and International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS) were distributed to all participants.



World Day of Safety at Work

OSHE celebrates World Day for Safety and Health at Work



OSHE foundation formed a human chain and rally in front of National Press Club in Dhaka on 28 April marking World Day for Safety and Health at Work. National labour rights activists, trade unionists and civil society members participated the program. OSHE executive director A R Chowdhury Repon spoke on the occasion while OSHE vice chairperson Dr S M Morshed, Federation of Garments Workers secretary general China Rahman, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress (BFTUC) secretary Pulak Ranjan Dhar among others were present.

Awareness raising campaign on OHS by DIFE and OSHE

Speakers in a campaign program underscored the need for mass awareness on occupational safety and health as well as the OSH schemes initiated by the Government of Bangladesh. Overcoming the information gap is important for better understanding on the issue. The views were expressed in an awareness raising campaign jointly organised by Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) and Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) jointly organised the campaign in Dhaka on 25 April.

As part of this campaign, DIFE and OSHE officials distributed awareness leaflets among the city dwellers from a truck show. DIFE additional inspector general Md Anwar Ullah, joint inspector general Md Shamsul Alam Khan, deputy inspector general Sheikh Asaduzzaman and Soma Roy joined the campaign.





Statement/Media Release



Demand to Asian Governments for the Immediate Ratifications of ILO Convention 155

ANROEV Statement for International Workers’ Memorial Day 2018

On April 28, a day of remembrance for workers who are killed, injured or disabled due to work, we the members of the Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV) a coalition of victims’ groups, trade unions and other labour groups across Asia raise our voices collectively for the ratification of the ILO convention 155 on Occupational Safety and Health and the working Environment. The ANROEV network is a grassroots network that is committed to the rights of victims and for overall improvement of health and safety at the workplace.

Work-related disease and accidents are increasing due to OSH Rights violation at the workplace in Asia and poor working conditions kill a worker every 15 seconds across the globe¹. According to the ILO² in 2017, OSH-related deaths totaled to 2.78 million workers per year and 317 million workers suffer from work-related injuries annually³. The total cost of accidents, death and illnesses is conservatively estimated at four percent (4%) of the world GDP⁴.

Asia is the highest contributor to these figures and constituted about two-thirds of the global work-related mortality in 2017. The overall development approach in the field of OSH in Asia is mainly focused on workplace accident, addressing occupational diseases is still not a priority. Occupational diseases (silicosis, asbestosis and occupational cancers and many more) are an invisible and imminent threat for workers in Asia. The absence of OSH Rights, social protection and just compensation for industrial accidents, injuries and diseases are pushing affected families deeper into poverty and making them vulnerable.

Recent tragic workplace accidents in Asia such as Ali Enterprises [2012] in Pakistan, Tazreen Fire [2012] and Rana Plaza Tragedy [2013] in Bangladesh, Kentex factory fire [2015], HTI fire [2017] in the Philippines and the Fireworks factory explosion [2017] in Indonesia show consistently that health and safety of workers is not prioritised by employers or the enforcement authorities. Victims specially women and young people are even further marginalised as they find it even harder to find long term unemployment or are forced to take precarious work that is low paid, unprotected and hazardous.





Despite of the fact that large numbers of workers in different industries and workplaces are being exposed to deadly hazards and carcinogens, diagnosis of these occupational related illnesses and diseases takes a long time because of multitude reasons in the Asian region like lax laws, poor enforcement mechanisms, lack of skilled doctors to name a few. There is a dire need for medical practitioners who are adept and skilled in diagnosing occupational diseases and doctors on the ground who have access to workers and communities to make a timely diagnosis to ensure that workers receive swift treatment and compensation.

OSH legislations are outdated (regressive) as these generally fail to keep in step with emerging workplace issues and non-standard forms of employment. In many cases, workers in the informal economy, domestic workers, migrant workers are not covered under the legislations. Enforcement of OSH legislations are equally a serious concern in Asia and require joint responses at national and regional level. Updated OSH legislation in the Asian region reflecting the nature of work in Asia is crucial to prevent workplace accidents and diseases and to ensure just compensation for victims. The formulation of harmonisation of compensation systems and ratify ILO Convention 155 is an urgent need in Asia.

On the International Workers' Memorial Day 2018, ANROEV demands the governments in Asia ratify ILO Convention 155 to ensure workers' rights for a safe and healthy workplace.

Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims.

28.4.2018

¹<https://www.ituc-csi.org/one-worker-dies-every-15-seconds>

²<http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/lang--en/index.htm>

³ ILO, WSC-2017

⁴ ITUC/AP Report





Statement/Media Release

STOP DEADLY WORKING HOURS IN ASIA

ASIA TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION MONITORING NETWORK

In modern society, work has no meaning for the working class. Our daily routine is monotonous, dull and demeaning. We do our work not to develop our potential, but to enrich our employer. Most of our precious time is spent generating profits for the capitalists. Being working class means being forced to dedicate our time and even our lives to the capitalists.

In Asia, workers' lives are literally bound to the capitalists. Workers spend around 8-14 hours a day, or 45-70 hours/ week, on average at the workplace for very low wages. Workers in Hong Kong, for example, are reported to work an average of 50.1 hours a week, while only recently in South Korea it was announced that the average working hours would be reduced to 52 hours/ week from 68 hours previously.

In other parts of Asia, workers are ordered to work longer. Garment workers in Bangladesh are forced to work up to 14-16 hours a day for a six day a week. In some cases, the exhaustive working conditions are made worse by long overtime work. Workers in Japan log at least 80 hours of overtime a month, but this can amount to as much as 159 hours, equal to 6 hours of overtime each day.

Although in some countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines the maximum working hours should not be more than 8 hours under the countries' labor laws, if travel time is included this can still mean a 12-13 hour day due to bad traffic and the long-distance commute to major cities such as Jakarta and Manila. Workers can spend 5 hours just to commute tens of kilometers between their workplace and their home.

Stress and fatigue caused by exhausting working conditions does not come without more severe health risks. In China, where average working hours exceed 60 hours per week, official figures reported that in 2014 1,600 workers died every day from working too hard. Meanwhile, a woman worker in Japan last year reportedly died from heart failure after logging 159 hours of overtime.

Deadly working hours exist elsewhere in Asia. In Hong Kong, 19 passengers were killed when a bus driver who was exhausted due to long driving hours (12-14 hours) crashed. Similarly, in Indonesia, tank truck drivers employed by Pertamina Inc (an Indonesian state-owned oil company) face death risks by driving petrol tanks for more than 12 hours a day.

Death by overwork or 'work to death' is so prevalent that there is even a term to define it: Karoshi (過勞死) in Japan, Gwarosa (과로사/過勞死) in South Korea and Guolaosi (过劳死) in China. Even though there are no particular terms, Cambodia's garment workers are also literally working themselves



to death. Mass faintings in the factory are reported in many countries, such as Cambodia and Indonesia, while in China we have already heard about the sad story of Foxconn workers becoming suicidal due to harsh working conditions.

Long working hours brings no benefit at all to society. Lack of rest due to overwork can lead to the accumulation of stress and fatigue, which is one of the main sources of many health risks. Increasing stress hormones may cause heart failure or strokes, while the decreased metabolic ability due to lack of rest may cause diabetes. Overwork will not make workers become more productive but their cognitive level will decrease as the result of exhaustion.

Sleep deprivation may affect mental health and workers may become emotionally aggressive. Workers may frequently fight with his/her spouse due to accumulated stress. It is also common that stress may turn into depression or anxiety. This is reflected in the high suicide rate in South Korea where 40 people commit suicide every day on average.

Intensification of competition under free market capitalism has only adversely impacted on the working class. The 'Race to the Bottom' has created even more harsh conditions at the workplace. Workers are forced to work harder and harder to earn nothing but death itself. By extending working hours, the capitalists are not only robbing the fruits of our labor, but our dignity and even our lives.

Working in excess of the limits of our physical and mental capacity has already proven harmful to our lives. ATNC Monitoring Network demands our governments strictly limit working hours to 6 hours per day without reducing workers' wages. In order to maintain both our physical and mental health, we should have time to rest for at least 8 hours per day. Working hours should also take into account commuting time from home to the workplace and back. We will not have enough time to rest if we spend too much time commuting.

ATNC Monitoring Network also demands decent wages, not only to sustain our basic needs but also to develop our potential as human beings. If we earn decent wages we will not need to work longer to increase our income to meet basic needs and we will not need to work deadly working hours anymore.

We had a victory in limiting working hours as a result of constant class struggle since the "Eight Hour Movement" on May 1st, 1886. However, our victory has now been taken away from us as the number of working hours is almost exactly the same as before the Eight Hours Movement. We should not remain silent any longer as our quality of life has been degraded to the point of death. We should reclaim our victory.

[Date of publishing]

Asian Transnational Corporation Monitoring Network



BANGLADESH

Bangladesh's billion dollar leather industry having problem with toxic chemicals



The sector generates direct and indirect employment for about 850,000 people. According to Bangladesh Tanners Association, about 3,000 workers are employed in the tanning industry. Government is trying to create about 2 million employment in this sector, but who will pay attention for the safety of the workers already involved in the sector?

Bangladesh's billion dollar leather industry having problem with toxic chemicals

Two workers die while pickling hides in Savar factory

Two workers have died and another injured while pickling hides at a tannery in Savar leather industrial city on the outskirts of Dhaka.

Workers 'Mahbub', 50, and 'Hasan', 24, fell sick after they got on a tank full of chemicals for pickling at Prince Tannery Industries on 2 May 2018.

Another worker, Moazzem, 18, got on the tank to rescue the two but he fell sick too, said the co-workers in that factory.

Raju Hawlader, a co-worker of the deceased, said the workers fell sick while mixing chemicals in a jar around 2:30pm inside the factory. Workers of the factory also said that the victims were working at an underground water container

where different types of chemicals were mixed for washing hide and skin and at one point they fell ill. Workers suspected that the deaths were due to toxic gases created by chemical reaction.

They were rushed to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital. Hasan was pronounced dead by doctors and the other two were referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Mahbub also died after he was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while Moazzem is undergoing treatment at the hospital, said Sub-inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of Dhaka Medical police outpost.



Story of Moazzem

Moazzem's lung is severely affected as he inhaled the toxic gas. Now he is undergoing treatment at a private medical college Labaid where treatment cost is comparatively higher than other government-run medical centres. Wajidul Islam, brother in law of the victim, said they have already spent more than 3,00,000 (3 lakh) BDT.

'Moazzem is now under close supervision of doctors. His lung is not working properly. But doctors are hoping for his remedy. He might have been suffering from lung infection or pneumonia. He is in critical condition and currently under observation,' he added.

Answering the question 'who looks after Moazzem?' Wajid said Moazzem's most of the relatives live in Bagerhat district near the mangrove forest Sundarban. 'It is very difficult for us to visit Dhaka frequently to care after Moazzem,' he said. The distance between Dhaka and Bagerhat is more than 230 kilometres.

We have not get a single dollar as compensation or treatment allowance from the factory owner though treatment cost has reached beyond our capacity. We struggling to bear his treatment costs by borrowing money from other relatives.

But what keeps worrying the relatives most is Moazzem's future. Eldest among siblings, Moazzem came Dhaka for searching job as he was unable to prolong his higher study. Then he was hired as hide pickling assistant in the Prince Factory several years ago. He earn only 12000 BDT per month. Started to live in the upper floor of the factory which is also used as a warehouse of processed leather.

OSHE investigation team visited the room where jeans and shirts of Moazzem were hanging upon the lied leather. Acute chemical smell hurt noses of the team but tannery workers in the factory are coping up with the situation for many years.



A worker spraying chemical on hides without safety mask and gloves

Zakir, a worker of the factory, said 'we are used to it'. The team also found that workers were spreading chemical on the surface of leather without wearing mask, gloves or any other safety gears.

Jahangir Hossain, a leather product wholesaler of the factory, blamed workers' fate for the casualties. But there were some helmets and aprons lied down in the floor while workers were seen working without wearing personal protective equipment.



Another worker of the factory, Anwar said there is no nearby hospital or specialised clinic for tannery workers inside the industrial city. Anwar did not know whether first aid boxes were provided or not as he did not see any treatment kits inside the factory. Anwar underscored the need for establishing a medical center for workers inside the factory. 'Government has set up a police station inside the industrial area, so why not a medical center for workers' wellbeing?' Anwar asked.

Government has set up a police station inside the industrial area, so why not a medical center for workers' well-being?



Case study/report

Story of Hasan

Hasan (24) came from Laxmipur, a southern district of Bangladesh. He ended up his education for financial crisis after completing primary education. Hasan is the eldest of six brothers and sisters.

'His parents are at the age over sixty and unable to work. So the responsibility of raising younger brothers and sister fell on his shoulders. He tries his best to help his siblings from his earnings though he earns only 15000 BDT per month,' said Zakir, co-worker of Hasan.

Hasan's dead body was taken to his home district just after his departure. OSHE team tries to connect his parents over phone but could not reached. 'Everything is shattered now. Hasan's dream was to make brothers doctors and government officers. But we don't know whether we ever will be,' said Riaz, one of his brothers, heaving a deep sigh.

Mahbub's story

There is different happening for Mahbub (50). Muhbub was basically a sub-contractor or leather trader and sometimes he work with his subordinates.

On 2 May, the factory was shut down for a holyday. He takes lease the factory for some times to process the hide. That day most of the workers were enjoying the holyday. But Mahbub went to the factory to do the work. At first Mahbub fell sick and then the others fell sick on the chemical tank while try to rescue Mahbub.

Jahangir Hossain, another sub-contractor as like as Mahbub, said the business partners will pay the due money to the family members of Mahbub by selling the leather products. No compensation is applicable for him.

Jahangir said, Mahbub worked in the factory for more than 30 years, but he could not inform us the details of the family member. Mahbub was buried at his village in Noakhali.

Everything is shattered now. Hasan's dream was to make brothers doctors and government officers. But we don't know whether we ever will be.



The room where Hasan and his co-workers lived. You can see the hides at the floor very close to their folded beds



The place where Hasan and Mahbub have died. Hides are stored in the very low light room upon the tanks full of toxic chemical



Bangladesh leather industry: at a glance

Despite continuous agitations of green activists, more than 150 tanneries in Dhaka continue to operate while dumping 21,000 cubic feet of untreated wastewater and 100 tons of solid waste daily into one of the world's most crowded cities. Recently the government relocated the tannery factories from Hazaribagh to Hemayetpur in Savar on about 200 acres of land. Local investors invested about Tk 250 crore (Tk 2.5 billion) to shift their tanneries.

According to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), leather exports totalled USD 116.73 million in the last fiscal year (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017); the amount was USD 92.50 million the previous year. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics figures (2016) show that the domestic footwear market is approximately USD 2 billion. There are more than 3,500 domestic and more than 110 export market oriented shoemaking units supported by more than 250 tanneries.

According to Bangladesh Tanners Association, the country produces 220 million square feet (about 20 million square metres) of hide every year. Survey says about 16.5 million pieces of hides are collected each year in this country.

There is no safety committee in the factory. The factory manager bought some helmets and aprons, but no one use them.

- Anwar, a worker of Prince Leather Industries



A worker shows his wounded hand burnt by acid. Without fearing the risk he again carry the blue jar full of acid



INDIA

QUEST FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH CONTRIBUTES TO EPIDEMIC

ABSTRACT

Jassidih- where Hyderabad Industries Limited has an age old Asbestos Cement Sheet manufacturing unit had applied for an expansion, but even before the clearance was given it has started producing more than its permitted capacity, along with violating basic environmental and occupational safety norms.

Pooja

[A case study on Jassidih Asbestos Cement Sheet Plant](#)



April 2018

The team visited the Hyderabad India Limited established asbestos cement sheet plant in Jassidih, Jharkhand to ascertain the status of the manufacturing plant. Jassidih- A city in Deoghar district in the Indian state of Jharkhand, is famous for one of the twelve Jyotirlingas. The city considered to be sacred is scaring people who knows the dark history of asbestos. As per 2017 district demographic data Jassidih has a population of 14,129 and 20% of its population is below 20 years of age, meaning so many lives are within the vicinity of danger. Situated amidst the city and hardly 1 km from the railway station this asbestos cement sheet manufacturing company is present.

Case study/report



Solid Waste Management:

All solid waste generated during the process are recyclable in nature. The details are as under :

<i>Nature of Solid Waste</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Management</i>
Broken Sheets	1750 TPA	These sheets will be pulverized and recycled in the close circuit manufacturing process
Sediments from Cone Tank	17.5 TPA	These waste will be processed through ball mill and recycled in the close circuit manufacturing process



“A pioneer of green building materials” as stated by Hyderabad Industries Limited, which is already under litigation for its past mining activities in village Roro near Chaibasa, Jharkhand. An asbestos mine, abandoned nearly three decades ago still affects the people around it and a case is ongoing in the National Green Tribunal for scientifically reclaiming the mines and compensation for the victims. After more than 20 years of operation, the company abruptly closed in 1983 after incurring huge losses and disregarding hazardous waste removal rules when it dumped untreated toxic materials in the Roro hills.

Similar conditions can be seen around Jasidih plant. Various points were seen where the broken AC sheets were discarded randomly in open with no acknowledgement to ill impact it can cause or any sign of hazardous waste. Sound scientific evidence shows that any exposure to asbestos fibres poses significant health risk, but despite that the mineral continues to be found discarded openly. The industrial safety record has always been poor for industries, so was the case of Jasidih. There was no sign seen, for hazardous material, around the factory. Even if the companies claim to work within the permissible limits, there is no scientific data that can support this. even the best workplace controls cannot prevent occupational and environmental exposures to products in use or to waste asbestos. Environmental exposure from the continued use of asbestos is also a serious and continuing problem.

According to the norms on waste handling, anything that has asbestos has to be conceded as hazardous and to be dealt with extreme care. Under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, Amendments 2000, Draft Amendments 2002, asbestos comes under Schedule I (rule 3) and has to have scientific disposal. But looks like the company is not much concerned about the waste disposal and the packaging of the manufactured sheets. This may look little a bit irrelevant as in country like India everybody is used to such lack of awareness, but once people get to know the danger a fiber of asbestos can cause, definitely the companies will be made answerable.



Case study/report

As per the Pre feasibility report dated 30 January 2016 , the total asbestos import was about 350,000 tonnes of Chrysotile Asbestos every year from Canada, Brazil, Russia, Zimbabwe and Kazakhstan for production of AC Sheets and Pipes. The report further states that Asbestos is also mined in India, particularly Rajasthan, but the quantity and quality are of no relevance to AC Sheet production, if so it is a matter of concern as mining asbestos has been banned in India in the eighties only. This emphasises the importance of calculating the actual burden of disease over the economic trade and to encourage better and more efficient policies on environment and health.

Apart from the environmental norms being violated, workers healths are also taken for granted by the company. While talking to a local labour, it came into notice that the workers were given jaggery and black gram (gud- channa) to keep their lungs clean. Jaggery is considered to have therapeutic effect on lungs. They were given some powder to drink with water to which will apparently keep them healthy and a visit to local doctors if the worker feels unwell. As per the local worker, the unwell person are given some money and are sent back to his hometown/ village to take rest and not to come to work anymore as it will not be healthy for him. No further information was made available on the such workers.

Although many of these workers are illiterate, they can visualize injuries those are visible, but comprehending that a microscopic fibre can cause a fatal disease is a challenge. The sad part is that in India and other developing nations, asbestos-containing products have long been publicized as good alternatives because of their low cost, with little or no mention of their adverse health impacts. Consequently, asbestos-containing roofing products and other building materials are rampantly used across India, especially in rural areas. Moreover, thousands of workers are joining the asbestos industry every year, unaware of the dangers lurking around them. These workers are enticed by the industry through a relatively high pay scale and are neither informed about the ill effects of asbestos fibres nor made to comply with industrial standard safety regulations.

As per the the public hearing reply on the concerns of air pollution by the “particulate matter which will increase to a level to 3.66 mg/m³, and all the expansion activities will be completed upto Dec.2019”, but during the discussion with the lab assistant outside the factory it was mentioned that the company is producing some 300 tons per day which makes 109500 TPA which is far more than the present capacity for which the company has permission (72000 TPA). It is of major concern here that if the company’s production is more than what is presently allowed and it will complete the expansion activity by 2019 end, how can it be said that the fibre levels are maintained within the permissible limits. More over the EAC has been deferred due to unsatisfying replies by the project proponent in October 2017, but it was came into light that the proponent has already increased the production level without any clearances.

The village or the nearby settlement was not in the vicinity but few families from nearby comes to fetch water from the tubewell which is hardly 500 m from HIL factory. On the way to the factory a kid was seen taking drinking water from the tube well uncovered and unaware what he was going to face if these fibre contaminates his lungs. Women carrying infants were fetching drinking water from there, definitely unaware of the high health risk. As it is known that asbestosis takes greater time period to develop hence kids are likely to suffer by the time they are young adults. Hence it can be said that a five-year-old is five times more likely than an adult of 30 to develop mesothelioma, a type of cancer linked to asbestos, if they are exposed to it at the same time. As per an article published on BBC , it is said that the children are at greater risk as compared to adults in case of asbestos contamination.

This is all because the safety norms are over looked and no restriction or buffer zone was maintained. As per the the hazardous industrial act it is stated that 2000Km² should be treated as buffer zone and should be restricted for public interactions. This is a clear case of public injury liability act.



SOUTH KOREA

Court acknowledges correlation between leukemia and working environment



Seoul Administrative Court ruled that the Korea Workers' Compensation & Welfare Service should provide medical benefit to a 33-year-old employee who began working at Samsung's Giheung-based chip production line, south of Seoul, in 2003. The court claimed that it was reasonable to conclude that the environment had played a part in the worker's disease, considering that it occurred at an early age and that the victim's family had no history of such a condition. The court added the worker was frequently exposed to hazardous materials, including formaldehyde and benzene, for long periods of time.

The ruling came a week after Samsung Electronics made a formal apology to all victims of work-related diseases who were employed at the company's chip and display production lines. Earlier this month, the mediation committee announced the settlement, which included compensation of up to 150 million won per illness. The compensation plan also covers congenital diseases suffered by children of the victims.

See more ...

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20181129000830&fbclid=IwAR3ZMqkWg4ABBC0U0BoAbKCwMWIjQjDsAX-WMoa9jtc-VHPDYPIIBLrP4>



Stop Samsung - No More Deaths !



Huge news about Samsung in Korea - after a sit-in organized by SHARPS that lasted 1,023 days until July 2018, the arbitration committee has announced its decision and all parties have agreed to:

1. Samsung will compensate workers falling ill at its LCD and chip plants from 1984 onward - compensation will cover a variety of blood disorders, cancers, and pulmonary conditions, as well as miscarriages and still births
2. a Samsung representative director will publicly read an apology before an audience of its occupational victims and their families to fully express the conglomerate's sincerity.
3. Samsung will create a U\$ 44.4 million fund to improve workers safety and health in the electronics industry.

For more information see <https://stopsamsung.wordpress.com/>



BANGLADESH

Bangladesh to eject safety inspectors brought in after Rana Plaza disaster



An international inspection regime put in place after the collapse of a Bangladesh garment factory killed more than 1,100 people will be forced to leave the country on Friday, with activists warning of “profound and lasting” consequences for worker safety.

A restraining order imposed by the Bangladesh high court will come into force on 30 November, forcing the Accord for Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh to close its Dhaka office, limiting its ability to inspect thousands of factories supplying clothes for brands including H&M, Esprit and Primark.

The European parliament has expressed “serious concern” at the prospect of the Accord being ejected from Bangladesh, with around 1,450 factories covered by the initiative still in need of urgent safety upgrades – including more than half without adequate fire alarm systems.

See more ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/28/international-inspectors-to-leave-bangladesh-after-factory-fire?fbclid=IwAR25cXgJDJTAfjYaeMuuxHks-PzH-r3raWXPZP5EODw0kClvWjVigQkDwul>



‘Work together to bring rights and justice’



Speakers in a human chain and discussion observing 5th anniversary of Rana Plaza accident on Tuesday, April 24 said that the victims should work together to bring rights and justice.

Commemorating the deadly disaster in the country’s apparel industry, Rana Plaza Accident Victims Rights Network, Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE), Asia Monitor Resource Center (AMRC), suisse trade union Solidar and Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV) jointly organized the program at Savar.

The activists paid tribute to the victims of the deadliest building collapse that robbed the happiness of hundreds of families as their bread earners were either killed or permanently lost their ability to work. The search for the dead ended on 13 May 2013 with a death toll of 1,138. Approximately 2,500 injured people were rescued from the building alive.



Around 150 survivors and members of the deceased family of Rana Plaza Accident Victims Rights Network along with representatives of the ANROEV, AMRC, Suisse Solidar and OSHE representatives were present in the site to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in this tragedy. A human chain was formed demanding workers rehabilitation, social protection, and alternative employment opportunity for injured workers, medical support and legal justice for the victims through a coordinated way by the representatives of the network and its supporters. Victims demanded that ensuring fair compensation, social protection, medical treatment, rehabilitation and justice are still needed for the victims as they are in dire need of support.

Asian Monitor Resource Center (AMRC) Programme Coordinator Omana George, OSHE foundation Executive Director Repon Chowdhury, OSHE foundation Chairperson Saki Rezwana, SOLIDAR SUISSE Regional Coordinator Sanjiv Pandita, ANROEV Coordinator, Federation of Garments Workers (FGW) General Secretary China Rahman and members of Rana Plaza Accident Victim's Rights Network also joined in the programme.

Speakers at the human chain urged meaningful action for workers' rights. They also called for transparency in the actions taken by the Government to address the needs of the workers, building safety and social protection of all industries in Bangladesh.

Later in the afternoon, Rana Plaza Accident Victims Rights Network and ANROEV organized a discussion session on the compensation and rehabilitation status of Rana Plaza victims.

Omana George said Rana Plaza Victims Network must be active to bring the justice and dignity. The network should fight for equal compensation.

Sanjiv Pandita utter that victims network should organize as a group to fight against injustice.

Repon Chowdhury spoke that victim network should transform as an institution for serving and supporting the members.

All of the speakers highlighted the urgent necessity of alternative employment for workers and social protection. At least 40 family members of the victims and injured workers took part in the discussion. They sought alternative employment opportunities, prompt and sustained medical treatment for the injured workers.

Jewel Sarker, who was working at the 8th floor of Rana Plaza as sewing operator, demanded treatment for his eyes and alternative employment.

Wahidul Islam, convener of Rana Plaza Accident Victims Network, urged to provide more support to accelerate the network for bringing justice.

The demands of this tragic accident victims are yet to be properly settled.



PAKISTAN

Pakistan Central Mines Labour Federation protested against the recent 11 deaths of coal mine workers



Pakistan Central Mines Labour Federation protested against the recent 11 deaths of coal mine workers in kalat(Balochistan) and Punjab and offered prayer for there souls on 06 April, they also demanded government to take serious action against the responsible authorities and ratify ILO convention 176. Protestors condemned the horrific accident and chanted slogans against owners and responsables.

Read more at ...

<https://www.facebook.com/khalid.malik.13>



Seminar on safety at shipbreaking industry in Pakistan

On 1 November, 2016, 29 workers were killed and several more injured while dismantling an oil tanker at Pakistan's Gadani shipbreaking yard. Speakers at a seminar on the industry, organized by IndustriALL affiliate the National Trade Union Federation in Karachi on 21 April, said that the government does not appear to have learnt any lessons from the tragedy.

In an industry often called the most dangerous in the world, the Gadani shipbreaking yard in Pakistan is among the worst. The unions say that failure to comply with internationally accepted labour standards and criminal negligence by the Pakistani government, employers exploiting labour rights, risking workers' lives, is resulting in a decline. The government has given employers and contractors a license to kill the workers, when despite all the casualties in the industry, no one is prosecuted. According to the unions, there is an urgent need to implement labour standards in line with ILO conventions, South Asian and Turkish shipbreaking industries' guidelines and the Hong Kong Convention.

Speaking at the seminar, IndustriALL affiliate NTUF deputy general secretary Nasir Mansoor said that the shipbreaking industry earns billions of rupees to the federal and provincial governments, employs thousands of workers directly and indirectly and caters for up to 30 per cent the country's iron needs: "But because of the governments' negligence, the industry is deteriorating with devastating results. A lot of iron now needs to be imported to the country, and downstream industries with businesses linked to shipbreaking employing more than two million people, face an uncertain future." "Similar industries across the world have managed to change after implementing labour rights and standards according to international conventions. In Alang, India, they have started to implement a shipbreaking code after a decision from the Supreme Court, and the accidents and casualties have been considerably reduced. In its turn, this has helped Alang become the largest shipbreaking industry in the world with 60,000 directly employed workers." Once one of the leading ship breaking industries in the world, employing around 35,000 workers, there are today around 10,000 people working there, a number which may decline even further. Bashir Mehmoodani, president of Ship Breaking Workers Union, Gadani, said that the government, other authorities and employers should take real measures to save the industry from closure: "There should be serious consultation with trade unions and workers' representatives to ensure labour rights."

NTUF has prepared a draft law on shipbreaking. The draft has been given to the Balochistan government, who has still to move on it. The union is also educating workers on their rights and training them how to work in hazardous conditions.

Participants at the seminar are demanding:

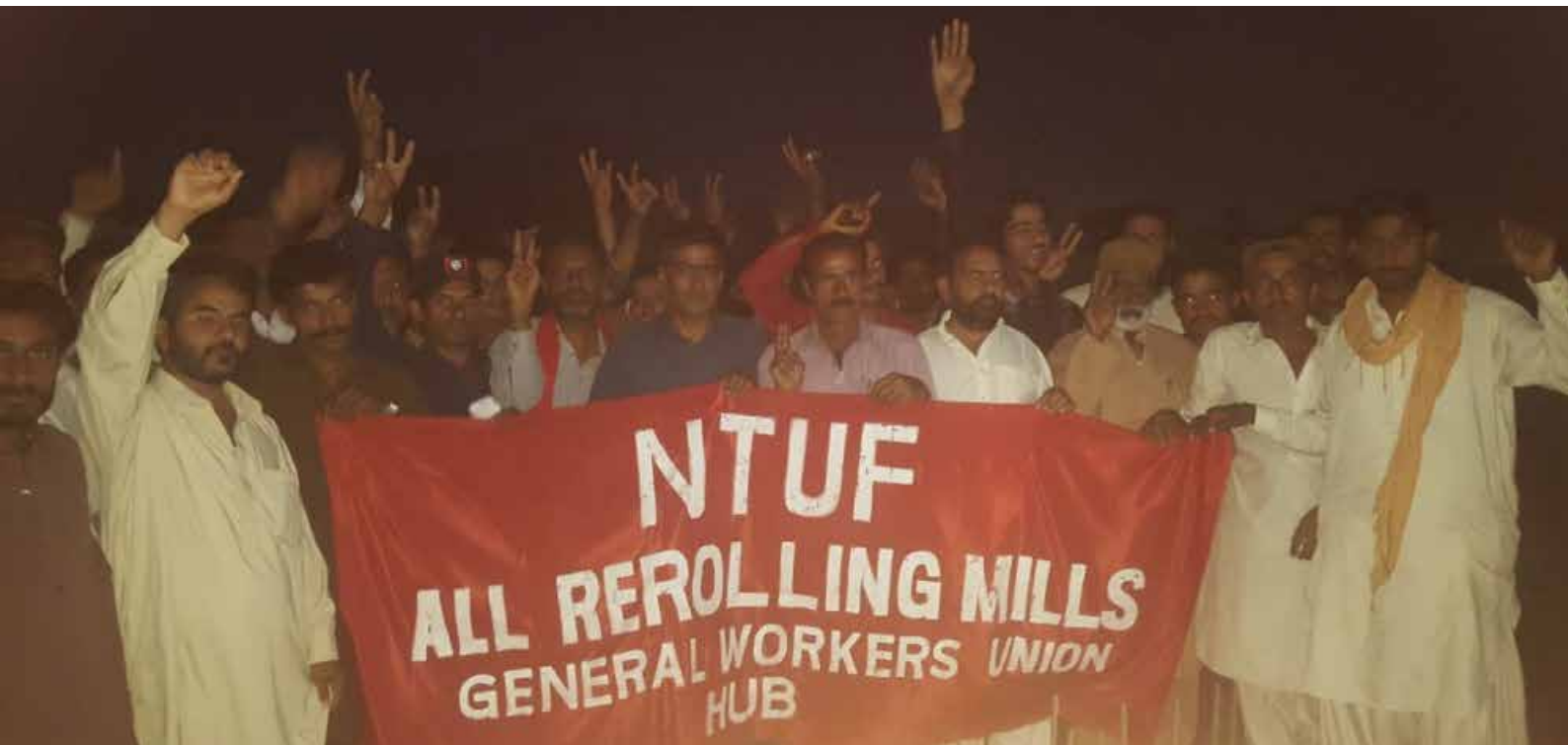
- * Legislation for the shipbreaking industry in the light of ILO guidelines
- * Ratification of the Hong Kong Convention for safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships
- * A tripartite consultative mechanism
- * A law on shipbreaking; drafted, passed through the assembly and enacted be done
- * Trade unions must be recognized and consulted with
- * Access to ambulance, dispensary and safe water for workers, as well as a hospital in Gadani
- * A labour colony with all basic necessities and facilities be built in Gadani

See more at ...

http://www.industriall-union.org/pakistan-has-failed-to-learn-lessons-of-gadani-trade-gy-say-unions?utm_source=Newsletters+in+english&utm_campaign=7f68ba1715-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_04_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_65751b77d5-7f68ba1715-19168841



Pakistan: Shipbreaking workers win union rights



In a significant achievement, workers at so called re-rolling mills near Pakistan's Gadani ship-breaking yard have received union registration and are now formally recognised as a collective bargaining agent.

The re-rolling mills downstream from Gadani shipbreaking yard use the steel recovered from dismantled ships. Around 15,000 workers in 20 different mills will benefit from the registration of Rerolling Mills General Workers Union Hub.

The directorate of labour welfare in the Balochistan province has also officially recognized the union as collective bargaining agent for all workers of re-rolling mills in the area, and the union has opened an office to assist workers on day-to-day issues.

All re-rolling mill workers are precarious workers with no written contracts, and they are not covered under the social security system. Most of them are paid less than the statutory minimum wages and they are forced to work long hours. With no protective equipment, the precarious workers face serious health and safety issues. In addition, they constantly face the risk of being fired without due process.

Nasir Mansoor from IndustriALL affiliate National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) says:

Official recognition of the re-rolling mill workers' union is an important achievement and will pave the way for the union being able to improve working conditions, health and safety, social security and wages. We will intensify our efforts to organize more re-rolling mills workers in other cities.

Kan Matsuzaki, IndustriALL shipbreaking director says:

We congratulate the NTUF on this significant step forward in organizing precarious workers in the re-rolling mills. We hope that forming a union will enable workers to effectively defend their rights and demand their right to a safe working environment.

See more at ...

http://www.industrial-all-union.org/pakistan-shipbreaking-downstream-industry-workers-win-union-rights?utm_source=Newsletters+in+english&utm_campaign=ffefa894b0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_05_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_65751b77d5-ffefa894b0-19168841



Pakistan's deadly mines - 23 workers killed in one day



In separate incidents on the same day, a staggering total of 23 mine workers were killed and 11 injured in horrific mine accidents in Pakistan's Balochistan province on 5 May.

According to reports, 16 workers were killed in a mine in the Marwar area when the mine collapsed at the exit point following a methane gas explosion. A private company called Pir Ismael was operating the coal mine, and 25 to 30 workers were believed to be at work at the time of the accident. In another accident on the same day, seven workers in a state-owned mine run by the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) in the Sur-range area were killed by a mudslide.

Kemal Özkan, IndustriALL assistant general secretary, says:

This massacre could have been avoided. During a mission to Pakistan in March, IndustriALL met with the government and urged them to ratify ILO Convention 176 on Safety and Health in Mines. At the same time, we launched a campaign for health and safety in Pakistani mines. The government must take immediate action to improve mine safety and stop fatal accidents. Condemning the deaths and protesting against the negligence and apathy of the mine owners and the government, Pakistani trade unions, including IndustriALL affiliate PCMLF, organized protest actions in Quetta the following day.

Trade unions called for immediate action to hold those responsible to account and for appropriate compensation for the victims. The unions also called for strict implementation of mines safety laws and immediate ratification of ILO C176

See more at ...

http://www.industriall-union.org/pakistans-deadly-mines-23-workers-killed-in-one-day?utm_source=Newsletters+in+english&utm_campaign=b64587221f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_05_10&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_65751b77d5-b64587221f-19168841



Women's health in India still facing a recognition challenge

Moulshri Kanodia



Generally, women's health receives attention only during pregnancy; this comes from our patriarchal understanding of women's role in society.

According to the "OECD Health Statistics 2014: How Does India Compare" report, the overall health spending accounted for only four per cent of the GDP in India in 2012, out of which only 33 per cent of health spending was funded by public sources. Further, health accounted for only 4.8 per cent of total government spending in 2012. India ranks extremely high even among other developing countries in out-of-pocket costs on healthcare.

The "Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2016-17" says that tobacco smoking is a major preventable risk factor for a number of causes of death. In India, 10.7 per cent adults smoked daily in 2010 and it remains so even in 2016. When measuring the exposure of second-hand smoke in households, women are at a higher risk (39.3 per cent) in comparison to men (38.1 per cent) but unfortunately our policies remain passive on this issue.



With the dismal condition of healthcare in India, the provisions for healthcare are even worse when it comes to women-specific diseases. Generally, women's health receives attention only during pregnancy; this comes from our patriarchal understanding of women's role in society. Cardiovascular disease, stroke, kidney disease, respiratory diseases and trauma are major causes of death for women worldwide. The health profile of India by WHO reveals that women have a higher life expectancy in comparison to men, but this is marred by disorders like musculoskeletal diseases, depression, etc. Social structures and prejudices also create an environment in which women's health and well-being are further compromised.

Due to a lack of disease-specific data on gender differences, there is a complete absence of evidence about preventive care for women, along with issues like increased consumption of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. Gender disparities have also crept into healthcare delivery and women's access to treatment.

Traditionally, much of the work done by women is performed within the context of the family. As women move beyond their traditional occupations in today's era, they meet new health hazards which add to the existing occupational hazards.

Globally, psychological violence at work, especially bullying, violence, mobbing and harassment (including sexual harassment) are reported to be major concerns for women. Many studies show that women are at particular risk of physical and psychological violence both in and outside the workplace. But this is rarely considered under the banner of occupational safety and health. Appropriate indicators must be established when examining compensation for work accidents and injuries in such cases.

As a result of the neglect of women's occupational injuries, women are reported to be at much lower risk of occupational injuries and accidents. For instance, till recently, deteriorating respiratory health due to pollution from household cooking was not considered an occupational health issue. Whatever little data is available on women's occupational health and safety issues is mostly aggregated and this ignores many important aspects of women's health profiles.

A UN study of 31 countries shows women are working 10 to 30 per cent more hours than men and that two-thirds of women's work is unpaid, unvalued and invisible. Yet our national health programmes fail to address health issues pertinent to women.

Low participation rate of women in the labour market is also attributed to uncertain occupational health and safety. Thus, there is a high urgency for a comprehensive plan for women's health whether in the workplace, household, or other spheres.

(Moulshri Kanodia, German Chancellor Fellow at Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung (Foundation), & Researcher at Harriet Taylor Mill Institute, Berlin School of Economics and Law. The views expressed are personal)

See more at ...

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/womens-health-india-still-facing-recognition-challenge-79652>

Upcoming Event



World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2019

28 April workers Memorial Day and World Day for Safety and Health at Work will be observed. On mark of the day different event will be organized to pay homage to the workers and build awareness to ensure workers' rights.

WISH YOU WARM AND PROSPEROUS

2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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The newsletter contains information and news about the campaigns of the network in Asia , Victims Organising, campaign on OSH etc.

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