



*Let's push the governments and relevant organisations for the collection of reliable OSH data for sustainable action
Read the ANROEV statement on the International Workers' Memorial Day 2017 on page 2*

OSHE foundation Bangladesh new ANROEV Secretariat

OSHE foundation Bangladesh has been nominated as the new ANROEV Secretariat. The new Secretariat has formally taken over the responsibility from May 2017.

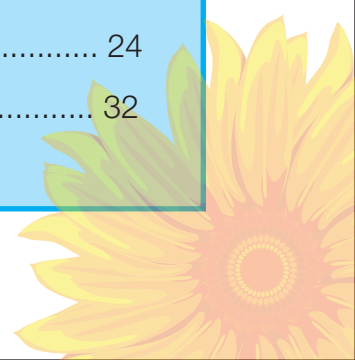
As part of the move, we are presenting OSH Rights newsletter with a new look from this issue. Please give us your valuable comments/suggestions so that we can incorporate those in future issues.

Apart from the newsletter, the ANROEV Secretariat will look after regular research on OSH issues, ANROEV's presence in social media, events/conferences, campaigns, information sharing and regular interactions with the members.

We look forward to your support and cooperation.

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ANROEV statement on International Workers' Memorial Day 2017



International Workers' Memorial Day takes place annually around the world on April 28 as a day of remembrance and action for workers killed, disabled, injured or made unwell by their work

The ILO recognises that the collection and utilisation of reliable OSH data are indispensable for the detection of new hazards and emerging risks, the identification of hazardous sectors, the development of preventive measures, as well as the implementation of policies, systems and programmes at international, national and enterprise levels. OSH data provide the basis for setting priorities and measuring progress.

Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV) and its partner organisation Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC) published a report in 2012 titled “Invisible Victims of Development – Workers Health and Safety in Asia” to highlight the severity of the problem on the ground in Asia with a detailed report from 6 Asian countries: China, India, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia.

The absence of figures also highlights the invisibility of impacted workers and their families and most of the time even denial about their existence by governments in the region.

Yet they exist on the ground – impacted due to hazardous conditions at work and denied justice in terms of compensation, rehabilitation and dignity forming the most marginalised and exploited section of society.

Under the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and multiple ILO OSH conventions, recommendations and protocols, countries have committed to the collection and utilisation of reliable OSH data. However, following are many of the recognised challenges associated with OSH data collection, which are organised into the following four categories: A) Coverage; B) Accuracy; C) Comparability; and D) Timeliness.

On the International Workers' Memorial Day 2017 let's continue to push the governments and relevant organisations for the collection of reliable OSH data so that workers health and safety in the world particularly in Asia can no longer be invisible, therefore, can be properly taken care of to uphold the four basic workers' rights on OSH:

Read the full statement...

<http://www.anroev.org/2017/04/28/anroev-statement-for-international-workers-memorial-day-2017/>



National fact-finding mission on the HTI factory fire in Philippines



Photo: Internet

At least 126 workers were injured in the HTI factory fire including 25 women

On February 1, 2017, at around 6 PM, a fire broke inside the premises of the three-storey building owned by House Technology Industries (HTI). Accounts from the workers indicated that between 1,000-2,000 workers were inside the building at that time. Some of the workers were about to leave HTI and some were coming in for their shift.

Authorities declared the fire under control on February 2 at 12:30 PM. However, the building continued to emit heavy smoke flames again by 7 PM until about past 11 PM. By February 3, BFP Region IV-A Director Sergio Soriano officially declared “fire out.” On February 4, the Governor of Cavite said that there were no fatalities, only the 126 workers injured and that all employees have been accounted for.

On February 2, CTUHR, IOHSAD, EILER and KMU dispatched a Quick Response Team and initial fact-finding Mission in the area to check on the situation. Cavite-based organisations also joined and kept a round-the-clock incident monitoring until the morning of February 4.

Interviews with HTI workers in surrounding communities were conducted, and all of the respondents remarked that many were trapped and presumed dead inside the burning building, contrary to the prior announcement of Cavite Governor Boying Remulla.

Workers’ and witnesses claims prompted a much broader NFFM on February 4 and 5.

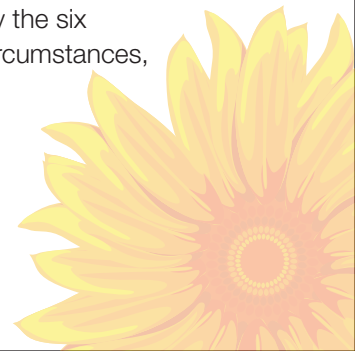
The Cavite LGU, PEZA and the Bureau of Fire Protection had all admitted that a thorough investigation has not been conducted on the fire incident, despite the strong allegations that many could have been trapped inside the burning building.

Cavite Governor Remulla has also announced a clearing operation even if no thorough investigation has been started nor in the beginning of admission that SOCO and BFP has not really gone to inspect every nook of the burnt buildings.

Suspensions of cover-up is increasing as full disclosure of workers particularly those hired by the six manpower agencies had not been done. Contractual workers claim that even in normal circumstances, agency-hired workers are not counted or considered HTI workers.

Read the full report...

<http://ctuhr.org/hti-nffm-finalreport/>





Briefing on the outcomes of the 2017 triple COPs to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions



Rotterdam Convention itself has failed miserably as Chrysotile Asbestos and three other chemicals blocked again from listing

The online briefings will provide an overview of the main outcomes and decisions of the recent meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that were held from 24 April to 5 May 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Read more...

<http://www.pic.int/Default.aspx?tabid=4215&meetId=35837361-C33F-E711-B423-005056937F29&lang=en>

National Asbestos Profile: India



In recent years, annual consumption of Asbestos in India has risen by more than 30%, making it Asia's 2nd biggest consumer

India has published its National Asbestos Profile based on the profile of ILO and WHO. This report is prepared by Peoples Training and Research Centre (PTRC) for Occupational and Environmental Health Network India (OEHNI) with support from Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC), Hong Kong.

Read the full report...

<http://ibasecretariat.org/india-final-nap-25-4-17.pdf>



Update from Partners



Workplace deaths hit on Workers' Memorial Day in Philippines



Workers' rights activists with the IOHSAD officials

Workplace safety NGO Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development (IOHSAD) Philippines, together with the workers of Kentex Manufacturing Corporation, whose factory burned down two years ago and killed more than 72 workers, picketed the Justice Department's office on April 26, 2017 to mark Workers' Memorial Day.

Read more...

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1682328135117747&set=a.369082863108954.108378.100000217301306&type=3&theater>

NTUF Pakistan activities on May Day



NTUF and Home-based Women Workers Association rally on May Day from Regal Chowk to Karachi Press Club

Workers belonging to different sectors took to the streets on Monday, May 1 to mark International Labour Day, while some of their colleagues did not deviate from their daily routines in order to earn bread for their families.

Read more...

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1398488/no-rest-sindh-labourers/>

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1104167169&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20170502

<http://epaper.pakobserver.net/201705/02/page03.php>





Update from Partners

Legislation for ship breaking code in Pakistan



Workers in a ship breaking yard in Pakistan

Photo: Internet

On November 1, 2016 deadly oil tanker blast incident at Gadani ship-breaking yard around 28 workers died, 42 sustained injuries while a number of went missing. Officially, the government has told nothing about how many people were onboard the decommissioned vessel when the incident occurred and how many could save their lives.

Read more...

<http://www.ntufpak.org/legislation-for-ship-breaking-code/>

OSHE foundation pays tribute to Rana Plaza victims



Photo: OSHE foundation

OSHE foundation formed a human chain demanding fair compensation, social protection, rehabilitation and justice for the Rana Plaza victims

OSHE foundation paid tribute to the victims of the Rana Plaza tragedy on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the deadliest building collapse that shook the world. Around 100 injured workers who survived and family members of the workers who were killed in this tragedy along with the trade union members and activists led by OSHE foundation Executive Director A R Chowdhury Repon were present in the site of this tragedy at Savar in the morning of April 24, 2017.

Read more...

<https://www.facebook.com/RPAVRN/posts/957343707701849>

<http://cpd.org.bd/fourth-anniversary-rana-plaza-collapse-stand-khondaker-golam-moazzem/>

Scores of workers took to streets of Karachi, Pakistan in protest on Sunday, April 23, 2017 to mark the fourth anniversary of Rana Plaza tragedy, demanding health and safety at their workplaces.

Read more...

<http://www.ntufpak.org/workers-rally-to-mark-the-fourth-anniversary-of-rana-plaza-tragedy/>





Health check-up camp on Asbestos-related lung disease in Bangladesh



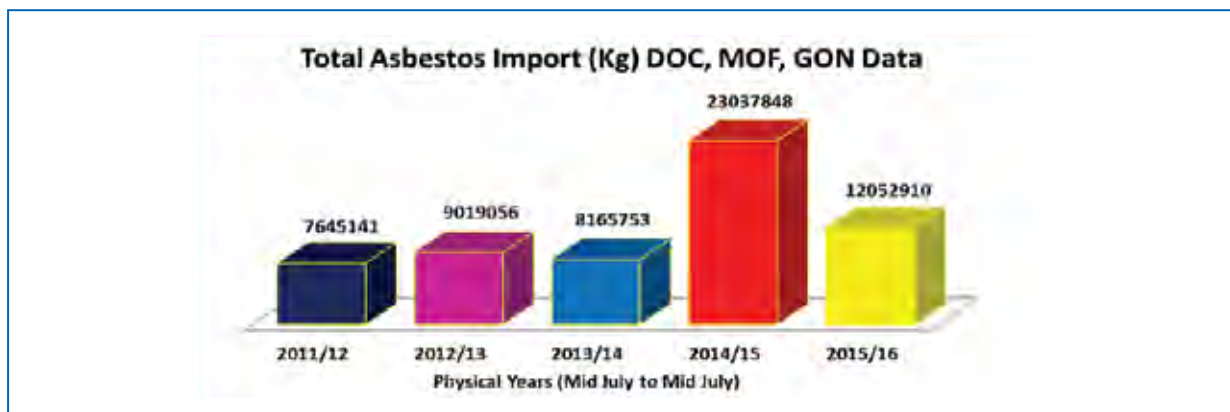
Dr. Murlidhar presents survey report at Dhaka Reporters Unity on February 2, 2017

OSHE foundation has conducted health check-up camps on Asbestos-related lung disease for shipbreaking workers of Sitakunda, Chittagong, Bangladesh. A total of 33 out of 101 workers are affected by Asbestosis, an incurable disease caused by breathing the mineral in the form of dust or fumes. Of them, 8 had 60 percent lung disabilities from the disease. OSHE came up with the disclosure while presenting the health survey at Dhaka Reporters Unity on February 2. Dr. V. Murlidhar presented the findings with OSHE Chairperson Ms. Saki Rezwana in the chair.

Read more...

<http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/environment/2017/02/02/asbestos-slow-poison-killing-ship-breaking-workers/>

CEPHED on Asbestos ban in Nepal

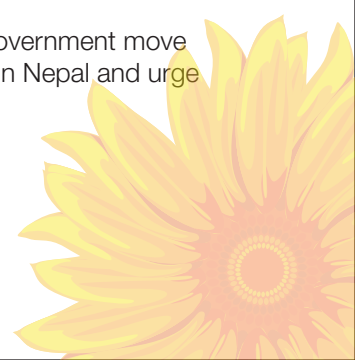


Government of Nepal decided to ban import, sale, distribution and use of all forms of Asbestos (Corrugated, Non Corrugated Sheet, Tiles, Insulators)

Center for Public Health and Environment Development (CEPHED) Nepal welcomes the government move to ban import, sale, distribution and use of Asbestos sheets, tiles and insulating materials in Nepal and urge for its effective implementation by all.

Read more...

<http://cephed.org.np/index.php?t=BANNING%20OF%20ASBESTOS&i=280>





Update from Partners

After 60 years Indonesia now recognises Asbestos-related diseases

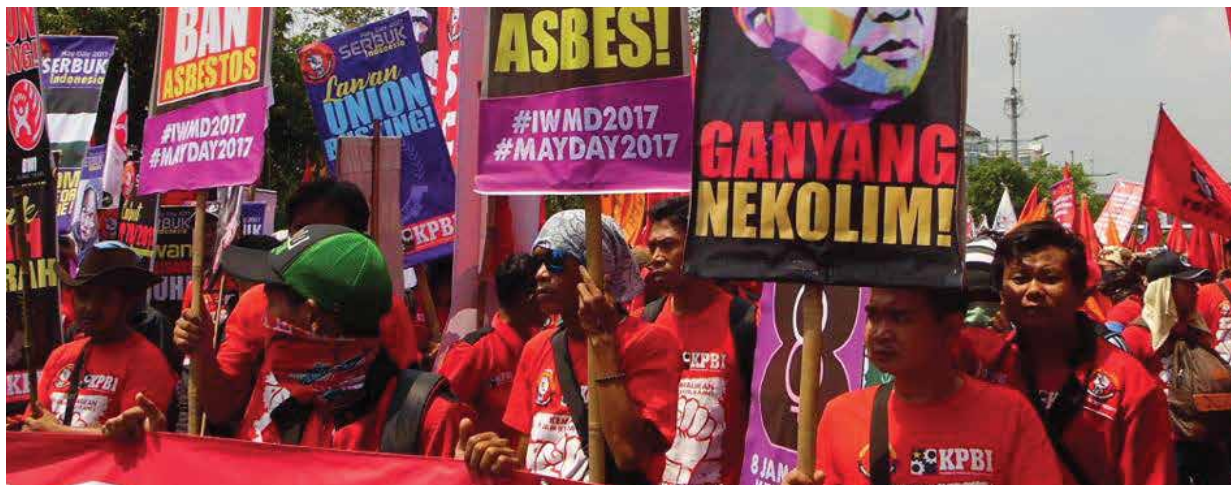


Photo: Facebook

A number of concerned organisations in Indonesia started campaigning the dangers of Asbestos and Asbestos-related diseases in 2008

Asbestos has been used in Indonesia since 1950. To date, Indonesia ranks 5th of the big asbestos consumer countries in the world with total consumption until 2015 reaches 119,405 ton and the 3rd largest country that imports Asbestos with total import from 2007 to 2015 reaches 1.043.882 ton. Statistic Indonesia recorded that about 6.06 million households in Indonesia (9.25%) use Asbestos roofing.

Read more...

<http://anroev.org/aban/after-60-years-indonesia-now-recognizes-asbestos-related-diseases/>

NGO coalition on youth and migrant labour in India



Photo: Internet

We work for the development of our nation and believe in equality, justice and the dignity of all human beings

Cividep India held a symposium on 'Youth and Migration' with local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) serving the greater Chennai region around labour rights. The meeting was hosted by the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development and was successful in highlighting the need for cross-sector collaboration to protect the rights of young, first-generation migrant workers in the local industries.

Read more...

<http://www.cividep.org/2017/03/05/ngo-coalition-youth-migrant-labour/>



Update from Partners



Supreme Court order for the coal-based thermal power plant workers in India



Photo: Internet

Supreme court of India had ordered that all coal-based thermal power plant workers will undergo a comprehensive medical examination on a yearly basis

There are more than 350 coal-based private and public hazardous thermal power plants in India and many more plants are being permitted to be established every year that cause grave damage to the environment and severely impacts the communities living in the surrounding regions. The workers in these plants are likely to suffer from several occupational diseases like Silicosis, Asbestosis, Noise induced hearing loss and many more.

Read the full writ petition...

<http://courtnic.nic.in/supremecourt/temp/79200533112014p.txt>

Read more...

<http://etdemo.cowmesh.net/wp/blog/2017/05/17/community-issues-in-coal-belts-2>

Graphic resources from the Hazards Campaign



Photo: hazardscampaign.org

A set of six large banners based on the April 28 theme 'Unsafe and unfair – discrimination on the job hurts us all'

The Hazards Campaign produced a set of six large banners based on the April 28 theme 'Unsafe and unfair – discrimination on the job hurts us all'. The banners were displayed initially at the People's History Museum in Manchester, UK from April 21 to May 1, 2017.

Read more...

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/new-28-april-graphic-resources-from-the-hazards-campaign>





Campaign and Support

Stand with Rajendra - demand action on Chrysotile Asbestos now



Photo: Asbestos Free Future

Rajendra Pevekar (third from right) with the international team at the Rotterdam Convention meeting in Geneva in early May 2017

Rajendra Pevekar is a victim of the deadly global Asbestos industry. His father worked in an Asbestos company. As a result, both he and his mother now suffer from Asbestos-related disease from secondary exposure. Rajendra spoke out on behalf of the 107,000 people who die annually from Asbestos-related disease. In May, the meeting of the Rotterdam Convention took place in Geneva and Rajendra faced representatives from countries who are blocking Asbestos from being added to the list of hazardous chemicals.

Read more...

https://www.labourstartcampaigns.net/show_campaign.cgi?c=3387

Free all the imprisoned Maruti-Suzuki trade unionists!



Photo: AMRCVEV website

Labour organisations strongly and vehemently opposed the court decision

The Gurgaon Court in India sentenced 13 Maruti-Suzuki union leaders to life imprisonment and four others to five-year imprisonment. The punishment was decided despite the weak evidence that failed to prove the guilt of the Maruti-Suzuki workers. The severity of the sentence imposed on the 17 trade unionists is a clear manifestation of the alliance of the state with the capitalists.

Read more...

<http://www.amrc.org.hk/content/solidarity-statement-maruti-suzuki-workers>





Retired Newcastle man fights for justice while living on borrowed time



Photo: Newcastle Chronicle

Ken Mulligan said: "I feel as though I am on borrowed time. My diagnosis came as a complete shock to me and I was angry and frustrated."

Retired Ken Mulligan is fighting for justice as his life ticks by after being diagnosed with an incurable cancerous disease.

The former machine operator and assistant technician has been diagnosed with Mesothelioma, an Asbestos-related cancer, and he is appealing for his former colleagues to help expert lawyers to investigate whether more could have been done by his former employers to protect him.

Ken, 71, from Fenham, Newcastle, was previously fit and well until he was diagnosed in July 2016 with Mesothelioma, an incurable Asbestos-related cancer affecting the lining of the lungs which develops as a result of exposure to harmful dust and fibres decades ago.

Ken has instructed industrial illness experts at Irwin Mitchell to investigate where he was exposed to Asbestos and why he wasn't provided with adequate safety equipment to protect him during his employment at various companies.

Together, Ken and his lawyers believe he was exposed to Asbestos at two places throughout his employment history at C A Parsons & Co Limited, on Shields Road in Heaton, and the General Post Office (GPO), now Royal Mail, on Pottery Lane.

Great grandad Ken worked for C A Parsons & Co from September 1965 to December 1979 as a machine operator. The firm was a large manufacturer of turbines, transformers and other electrical components.

The workshops would be dusty as fitters carrying out their work would create a lot of dust, which would linger in the air. After Ken had left the firm, it is believed that it underwent an Asbestos removal programme.

C A Parsons became Reyrolle Parsons in 1968, merged with Clarke Chapman to form Engineering Industries in 1977, became part of Rolls-Royce plc in 1989 and still survives today as a division of Siemens.

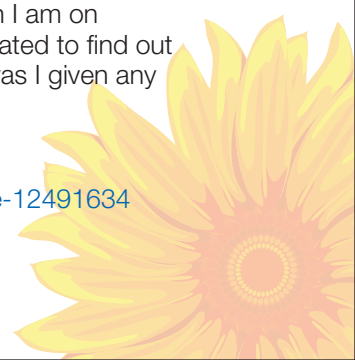
In January 1980, Ken began work as an assistant technician for the GPO, where he stayed until his retirement in June 2010, which by then the company had become known as Royal Mail.

Ken's main duty was to help the mechanics in the garage to inspect and repair Royal Mail vehicles. It is believed that Ken would have come into contact with Asbestos when helping to change brake shoes, or inspecting the brakes, due to some brake shoes being lined with Asbestos.

Dad-of-two Ken, who has been married to his wife Ann for 48 years, said: "I feel as though I am on borrowed time. My diagnosis came as a complete shock to me and I was angry and frustrated to find out that it was likely caused by my exposure to Asbestos during my working life. At no point was I given any training or warned about the dangers of Asbestos, or even provided with a mask.

Read more...

<http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/retired-newcastle-man-fights-justice-12491634>





Asbestosis victim of ship breaking sector in Bangladesh died



Photo: OSHE foundation

Md. Ridwan (55), an Asbestosis victim at the ship breaking sector in Bangladesh died on June 11, 2017

Ridwan from Baro Awlia, Shitalpur, Shitakunda died on June 11 who was identified as Asbestos-exposed worker though the special diagnosis health camp of OSHE foundation-operated Workers Health Clinic based in Shitakunda area among randomly selected 101 workers from various ship breaking yards. According to available clinical examination report, Ridwan was the highest affected with a percentage of 80. He had been working for last twenty years for KSRM Steel of Chittagong as Cutterman.

OSHE foundation has been working for Asbestos awareness among the workers in the country and running an advocacy campaign with the government for the complete ban of Asbestos in Bangladesh.

Man who championed cause of miners died of Silicosis



Photo: ANFODEV

Ramchandra Meghawal in a meeting of A-BAN network

Ramchandra Meghawal of Gadero Ki Dhani in Jodhpur, who had gained renown as a champion of the rights of miners exposed to Silicosis, succumbed to the incurable lung disease on Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

He was about 62 and had been diagnosed with the killer disease in 2013. He is survived by his wife Ugi Devi, two daughters and five sons.

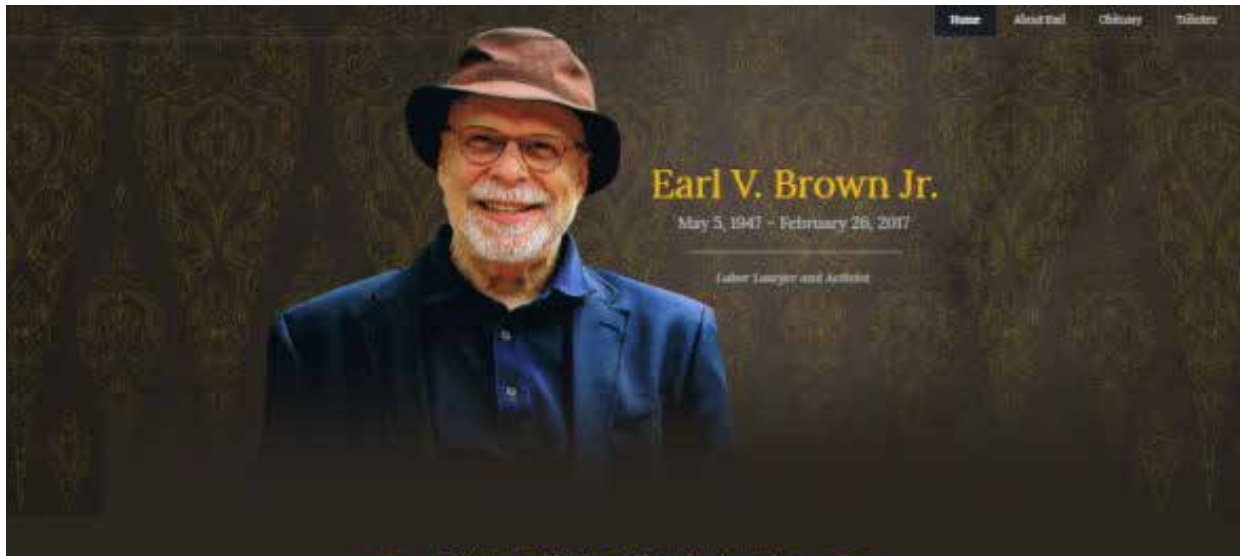
Read more...

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31810&articlexml=Man-who-championed-cause-of-miners-dies-of-19012017006008>





Earl V. Brown Jr., labour lawyer and activist passed away



Earl Vincent Brown Jr., May 5, 1947 - February 26, 2017

Earl Brown, Solidarity Center labour and employment law counsel, was a passionate civil-rights champion, tireless defender of workers and brilliant intellect passed away on February 26, 2017 following a brief illness.

Read more...

<https://www.solidaritycenter.org/online-tribute-earl-brown/#sthash.1Is1LIMR.dpuf>

Two-time Pulitzer winner Schneider died



Schneider, who twice won the Pulitzer Prize, journalism's highest honor, was remembered as a relentless, inspiring reporter

Andrew Schneider, an acclaimed investigative reporter and public-health journalist, died. He was 74.

Schneider, who lived in Missoula, died of heart failure in Salt Lake City, where he was being treated for pulmonary disease.

Read more...

http://mtstandard.com/news/state-and-regional/two-time-pulitzer-winner-schneider-dies-at/article_fc3fbc01-625b-5356-851d-bc94976c4f4b.html





Statement/Media Release

Global Asbestos Action Alliance on failure of Rotterdam Convention



Photo: Internet

"Failure to list Chrysotile Asbestos on Annex III once again is an absolute disgrace" said Andrew Dettmer, National President of IndustriALL affiliate, AMWU

Asbestos Action Alliance says Rotterdam Convention itself has failed miserably as Chrysotile Asbestos and three other chemicals blocked again from listing, continuing to put millions of workers at risk.

Read more...

<http://apheda.org.au/media-release-rotterdam-convention-failure/>

IOHSAD Statement on HTI fire in Philippines



Photo: Internet

Less than two years of Kentex fire tragedy, which claimed lives of more than 72 workers, a bigger workplace fire occurred affecting thousands of workers

The Philippine government's continuing "hands off" policy on workplace safety and other labour standards has made workplaces more dangerous and deadly for workers. Its continuous adherence with voluntary compliance, instead of mandatory labour inspection, as a framework on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is one of the immediate reasons for the mounting deaths and injuries in workplaces across the country.

Read more...

<http://www.iohsad.org/2/17/workplace-fire/iohsad-statement-hti-fire>





Final support statement AMRC, ANROEV, Good Electronics, ICRT, IPEN



Final support statement

Graphic: ANROEV

To the Minjoo Party of Korea:

We represent international networks that have been focusing for many years on human rights, occupational health and environmental health in the global electronics industry. We stand in solidarity with SHARPS during their historic 600+ day sit-in at Samsung.

Read more...

<http://www.anroev.org/2017/06/21/final-support-statement-by-our-networks-in-support-of-sharps-and-the-minjoo-party-statement/>

Rights of Indian leather workers systematically violated



Photo: Internet

Toxic chemicals used in tanneries often very negatively impact the health of the workers

Around 2.5 million workers in the Indian leather industry often face unacceptable working conditions that violate their human rights and seriously affect their health. Toxic chemicals used in tanneries often very negatively impact the health of the workers. Less known are the many labour and other human rights issues in the leather industry like wages below the stipulated minimum wage, child labour, the exploitation of home-based workers, the difficulty to organise in trade unions and the discrimination of Dalits ('outcasts').

Read more...

<http://www.indianet.nl/pb170315e.html>





Case Study/Report

Forensic investigation into a death: Post-traumatic Amnesia in a worker with a work-related head injury sustained in a coal-fired thermal power plant in India



Coal-fired thermal power plant in India

Photo: Internet

This is the first reported case of a work-related head injury in a coal-fired thermal power plant in India. This case highlights the trend of not reporting work injuries due to fears of reprisal from the management team that may include the termination of employment. Post-traumatic Amnesia in a worker presenting with head trauma must be recognised by coworkers, so the cause of injury can be elicited early and the victim gets timely medical help. There are few published studies on work-related traumatic brain injury, and they provide no information on either anatomical localisation or signs and symptoms.

Read the full study...

<http://casereports.bmj.com/content/2017/bcr-2016-218103.full?keytype=ref&ijkey=5z2zglWBCavwxq6>

Proceedings of ANROEV conference in 2015

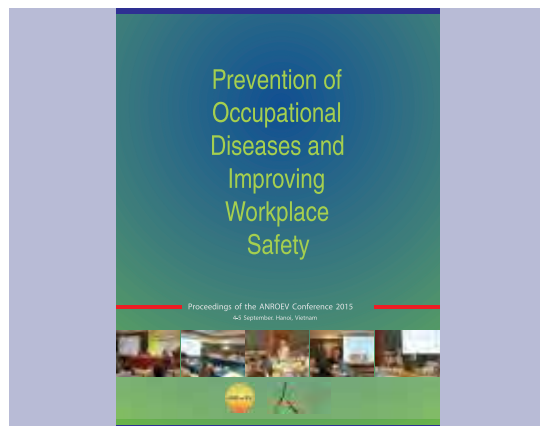


Photo: ANROEV & AMRC

Outcome

- Regional, international cooperation among civil society organizations in each region and Asia improved.
- Governments and International donors to pay more attention/supports to ASIAN CSOs action plans

The Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV) is a coalition of victims' groups, trade unions and other labour groups across Asia, all committed for overall improvement of health and safety at the workplace. The ANROEV conference 2015 was held in Hanoi, Vietnam from September 4-5, 2015. More than 130 participants from 14 countries participated in the conference.

Member organisations of the network, academias, scientists, and associated members from other parts of the world who are actively engaged with the network participated in this conference.

Read the full report of the proceedings of the conference...

<http://www.anroev.org/2017/03/30/anroev2015-2/>



Corporate Ties That Bind: An Examination of Corporate Manipulation and Vested Interest in Public Health by Martin J. Walker

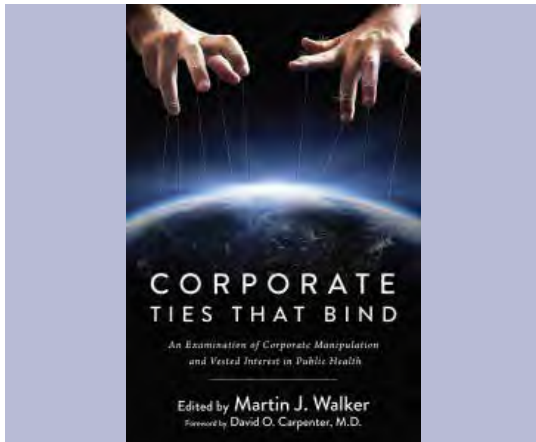


Photo: Internet

Title: Corporate Ties That Bind
Subtitle: An Examination of Corporate Manipulation and Vested Interest in Public Health
Author: Martin J. Walker
Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing
Imprint: Skyhorse Publishing
Published: March 28, 2017
Format: Hardback
ISBN: 139781510711884
Pages: 592
Dimensions: 6.00 x 9.00 inch

Corporate Ties That Bind is a collection of essays written by influential academic scholars, activists, and epidemiologists from around the world who scrutinise the corporate reasoning, false science, and trickery of those who present the scientific messages of organisations that attack and censure independent voices. It shows how we are bombarded with opposing messages, as producers fight to make big profits and those concerned with health try to warn society of impending toxic dangers.

This book addresses how the growth of corporatism is destroying liberal democracy and personal choice. There is a battle taking place between profitability and public health, and this book provides a detailed and scholarly intervention.

Read more...

<http://skyhorsepublishing.com/titles/11632-9781510711884-corporate-ties-that-bind>

An Air That Still Kills by Andrew Schneider and David McCumber



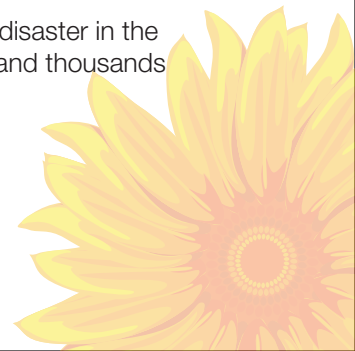
Photo: Internet

Title: An Air That Still Kills
Author: Andrew Schneider and David McCumber
Publisher: Cold Truth LLC
Published: 2016
Format: Paperback
ISBN: 978-0-9851851-2-1

An Air That Still Kills is the alarming and still-unfolding story of the deadliest environmental disaster in the United States. The catastrophe began in Libby, Montana, where hundreds of people died and thousands more were sickened from the asbestos that contaminated a vermiculite mine.

Read more...

<http://anairthatstillkills.com>





Book/Publication/Film

Complicit, a film on China's migrant workers



Photo: POV Magazine

(China/Hong Kong/USA/Netherlands)

Duration: 88 minutes

Director: Heather White and Lynn Zhang

Complicit puts a human face on the stories of China's migrant workers who toil away to make the modern conveniences many of us enjoy at a low cost. These workers leave home to scrape by in the burgeoning manufacturing industry and send their meagre paycheques back to their families.

The cost of this support is significant since the factory work often puts employees at risk for occupational diseases and major health problems. These workers can rarely afford treatment for health problems contracted through exposure on the factory floors, so whatever small fortunes they accrue go towards medical bills to pay the cost of care.

Read more...

<http://povmagazine.com/articles/view/review-complicit>

Factory Asia documentary on grassroots workers



Graphic: Youtube

Duration: 30 minutes

Language: Indonesia

(local dialect with English subtitle)

Narrated by: Hip-hop artist

Morgue Vanguard

Produced by: Sedane Labour Resource

Center, KoPI Dokumenter, Grimloc;

Indonesia (2017)

An educational material for grassroots workers, this short documentary discusses the pervasiveness of the low-wage policy in regions where neoliberalism takes a strong foothold, such as in South-east and South Asia. Showing the sprawling industrial cities in the northern coast of Java, the film depicts "race to the bottom" through Indonesia's nearly 40-year history of low wages and dismantling labour rights.

As new frontiers are opened by the manufacturing industry, more and more industrial cities are built. This is facilitated by capital investments that pour in the Asian region more aggressively than ever.

Under the polluted skies, between the disgusting and murky rivers, and in front of factory gates, thousands of workers line up – like preys that are vulnerable to oppression and exploitation. Nevertheless, workers do not remain silent. Many unknown unionists still fight and will continue to fight for their rights.

Watch...

<https://youtu.be/aJZa7-rOGKs>





Asian delegation at COP 8



Asian delegation at the Rotterdam Convention meeting in Geneva in early May 2017

The Asian delegation participated in a media event on the morning of May 2 at 9:30 am, held outside the conference venue organised by the Global Asbestos Action Alliance, which was followed by handing the petition of 7,000 signatories from around the world to the President of the COP Rotterdam Convention.

Read more...

<http://www.anroev.org/2017/05/03/asian-delegation-at-cop-8-media-event-updates/>

13th ADAO annual international conference



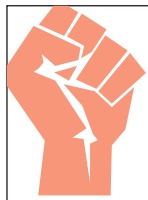
ADAO is the only U. S. nonprofit that organises annual conferences dedicated to preventing and eliminating Asbestos-caused diseases

On the heels of a historic year in U. S. Asbestos policy, the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) brought together experts, advocates, and patients from around the globe for the 13th Annual International Asbestos Awareness and Prevention Conference.

Read more...

<http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-international-asbestos-awareness-conference/event-summary-c9ae0ae636e54c1fa0621352f97b59f0.aspx>





Up to 82,000 small buildings still use Asbestos: Japanese gov't survey



"Now our task is to increase public awareness about the risks of Asbestos and connect these results with countermeasures" - Yuji Natori

Out of the roughly 1.3 million relatively small private buildings nationwide with less than 1,000 square meters of total floor space each, an estimated 60,000 to 82,000 still use sprayed Asbestos, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan announced for the first time on May 17, 2017.

Read more...

<http://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20170518/p2a/00m/0na/007000c>

ILO symposium to explore the Future of Work



The ILO symposium marked an important step to gain greater understanding of the ongoing changes

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) hosted a "major event" about the future of work on April 6 – 7, 2017. ILO's "The Future of Work We Want: A Global Dialogue" aims to bring together leading thinkers across many disciplines to discuss factors such as automation and technology, young workers, and sustainability.

Read more...

<https://ohsonline.com/articles/2017/01/30/ilo-symposium-to-explore-the-future-of-work.aspx?admgarea=news>

<http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/future-of-work/dialogue/lang--en/index.htm>



Samsung ordered to compensate former worker for medical treatment



Photo: Internet

An important new development that awards compensation to a former Samsung worker for multiple Sclerosis - congratulations to SHARPS!

A court has ruled that the multiple Sclerosis of a former worker on the LCD production line at Samsung Electronics (the line is now part of Samsung Display) is a work-related disease. Not only is it extremely rare for multiple Sclerosis to be acknowledged as a work-related disease, but this is also the first work-related disease to be recognised at Samsung's LCD line.

Read more...

http://english.hani.co.kr/arti/english_edition/e_business/782259.html

Cambodia draft minimum wage law: Guts basic freedoms



Photo: Solidarity Center

Tens of thousands of garment workers in Cambodia waged protests demanding a living wage

Cambodia's draft minimum wage law would prohibit unions and other civil-society organisations from contesting the country's minimum wage and would go so far as to restrict their ability to even conduct research to craft minimum wage options, according to a legal analysis by the Solidarity Center and its partners.

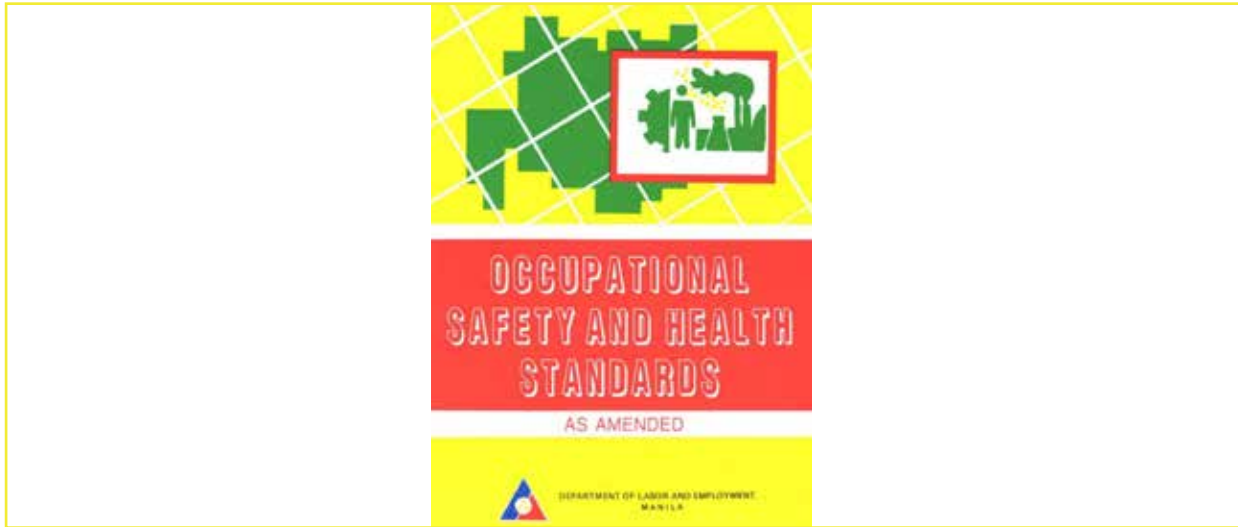
Read more...

<https://www.solidaritycenter.org/cambodia-draft-minimum-wage-law-guts-basic-freedoms/>





DOLE sets review of occupational safety standards



Graphic: Internet

OSHS manual being upgraded by DOLE

The Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) in Philippines is set to upgrade Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHS) to ensure compliance with labour laws and issuances and other social legislations.

Read more...

<http://www.manilatimes.net/dole-sets-review-occupational-safety-standards/309709/>

Lao villagers face eviction from dam sites



Photo: Internet

Aerial view of the Champasak province, Lao

Residents of three villages in southern Laos are facing forced removal from their homes by the end of March if they fail to move from the sites of planned dams to an area they are calling unsuitable for farming, sources in the South-east Asian country say.

Read more...

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/eviction-03292017143705.html>





Labour and human rights violations in Indonesia, Philippines, and India



The economic investment in Asia could not ensure the rights, lands, and resources of local people

Graphic: Internet

Asia is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Partly, the rapid economic growth is due to the rise of Factory Asia as manufacturing as well as the deepening of agricultural and extractive transnational corporations' (TNCs) operations in the region. Investments by TNCs are welcomed by the Asian governments, which have been adopting neoliberal economic policies more than ever.

Read more...

<http://www.amrc.org.hk/content/labour-and-human-rights-violations-indonesia-philippines-and-india>

WHO fact sheet on elimination of Asbestos-related diseases



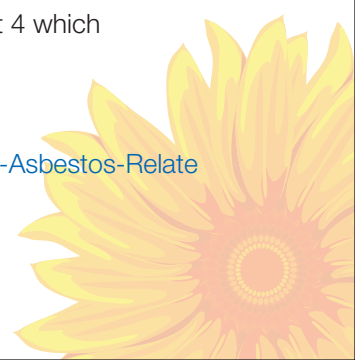
Screenshot of WHO fact sheet 4 on Asbestos

Graphic: WHO

On June 13, 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) released its Asbestos Fact Sheet 4 which concluded that banning Asbestos saved money as well as lives!

Read more...

http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/341131/Fact-Sheet-4-Elimination-of-Asbestos-Related-Diseases.pdf





The global campaign to ban Asbestos 2017



Graphic: Internet

Asbestos consumption 2015 and national bans 2017

The global Asbestos war is now being fought on two fronts: countries where Asbestos has been banned and those in which consumption remains legal. In most of the former, the only permitted handling of Asbestos is by highly protected and trained technicians during Asbestos removal operations while in the latter, Asbestos is regarded as just another raw material with few if any regulations to protect workers, members of the public, consumers or others from toxic exposures.

Read more...

<http://ibasecretariat.org/lka-paper-global-campaign-to-ban-asbestos-2017.pdf>

Asbestos association removes excerpt of controversial study



Photo: Internet

"We are pleased to advise you that appropriate steps have been taken in this regard" wrote Concordia University President Alan Shepard

Concordia University has taken "appropriate steps" that resulted in the International Chrysotile Association removing from a lobbying document on its website an excerpt of a controversial case study, commissioned and published by the university in 2015, that implies the ban-Asbestos movement is fuelled by emotion rather than scientific facts.

Read more...

<http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/concordia-demands-asbestos-association-stop-citing-controversial-study>





Lethal lies: How a corporate spy for a Kazakhstan company infiltrated the global anti-Asbestos network



Photo: T. Flich

Robert Moore, pictured at the Asbestos Disease Awareness Foundation conference in Washington in 2015

In Australia, workers who mined and processed Asbestos were called “Snowmen” because they’d emerge at the end of every shift covered in the white fibres. The companies who employed those men – firms like James Hardie and CSR – knew that their product was deadly and caused cancer. They mined it, processed it and sold it anyway, until the Australian government, under pressure from the anti-Asbestos movement of activists, unionists and lawyers, acted to protect public health. While Asbestos is now banned in Australia, the industry still thrives overseas.

Read more...

<https://newmatilda.com/2017/03/05/lethal-lies-how-a-corporate-spy-for-a-kazakhstan-company-infiltrated-the-global-anti-asbestos-network/>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/brother-of-bbc-boss-was-paid-to-spy-on-asbestos-campaign-r9lz935jj>

Twenty-first century diplomacy: Gherkins for Asbestos



Graphic: Internet

Asbestos producing countries in 2014

Did you ever wonder why sales of Asbestos, a substance known to be carcinogenic, have remained at around two million tonnes a year throughout the 21st century? Even with mountains of evidence detailing the deadly repercussions of Asbestos exposures and cemeteries of victims as visible proof of the dangers, some governments refuse to take action to protect their citizens.

Read more...

<http://ibasecretariat.org/lka-twenty-first-century-diplomacy-gherkins-for-asbestos.php>





Asbestos: The slow poison killing shipbreaking workers in Bangladesh



Photo: Dhaka Tribune

Shipbreaking workers drag heavy duty electric wires across the beach at Sitakunda

Workers' deaths at the ship-breaking yards of Chittagong are a common incident, as is environmental poisoning. But researchers have now detected one deadly illness that has been silently affecting the workers for decades.

Read more...

<http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/environment/2017/02/02/asbestos-slow-poison-killing-ship-breaking-workers/>

Court orders government to pay ¥176 million to Asbestos victims



Photo: Internet

The ruling is the latest in a series of class action lawsuits filed with six district courts over health-related damages caused by Asbestos at construction sites

The Sapporo District Court ordered the government on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 to pay a total of ¥176 million in damages to former construction workers who are suffering from Asbestos-related diseases, including the family members of those who have already died from their ailments.

Read more...

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/02/15/national/crime-legal/court-orders-government-pay-¥176-million-asbestos-victims>





We are all sickened by inequality at work



Photo: AP/Ahn Young-joon

Women working in the caring professions for example can lift more in a shift than a construction worker or a miner

When Babul Khan lost two of his four sons in an inferno at Gadani shipbreaking yard on November 1, 2016, it was a tragedy but it wasn't a surprise. Like all the 26 workers who were killed when an oil tanker was blasted apart at Pakistan's largest shipbreaking yard, 18-year-old Ghulam Hyder and 32-year-old Alam Khan were insecure workers. Disposable workers.

Read more...

<https://www.equaltimes.org/we-are-all-sickened-by-inequality#.WTvFjzOB0mJ>

India's air pollution rivals China's as world's deadliest



Photo: The New York Times

An Indian farmer walked through his field after burning his crops. A court has ruled that farmers can no longer burn their crops near New Delhi, but many still do

India's rapidly worsening air pollution is causing about 1.1 million people to die prematurely each year and is now surpassing China's as the deadliest in the world, a new study of global air pollution shows.

Read more...

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/14/world/asia/indias-air-pollution-rivals-china-as-worlds-deadliest.html?_r=1





Popping balloons may cause hearing loss: Study



Photo: Internet

"This research is a conversation starter," said Bill Hodgetts, an Associate Professor of Audiology

Popping balloons - a common birthday party favour - can be louder than shotgun blasts and may lead to permanent hearing loss, a new study has warned.

Read more...

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/popping-balloons-may-cause-hearing-loss-study/1/870924.html>

Radio-based awareness campaign for RMG sector on occupational safety in Bangladesh



Photo: Internet

A popular song 'We want safety' was produced to highlight key safety messages

A new radio-based campaign was launched in Bangladesh in March aiming to raise awareness of basic Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) issues and their prevention in the country's readymade (RMG) sector.

Read more...

<http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2017/03/30/65653/Radio-based-awareness-campaign-for-RMG-sector-on-occupational-safety-begins>





“Can we one day stop mining the earth altogether?”



Graphic: Internet

Apple has not set a timeline on the no-mining goal

Apple has set itself an ambitious goal to get away from the business of digging up all the metals and minerals needed to make its dominant electronics products. This plan is laid out in its 2017 environmental report, where the company said it wants to stop supporting mining and get all it needs to make iPhones and their kin from recycling.

Read more...

<http://www.mining-journal.com/financeinvestment/production/can-we-one-day-stop-mining-the-earth-altogether/>

The impact of 10 years of smartphone production



Photo: Internet

Smartphones are designed in such a complex way that refurbishing or repairing a damaged phone becomes more and more difficult

Over 7 billion smartphones have been produced since 2007. These smartphones have changed the world in many positive ways, but the manufacturing of the phones has a devastating impact on our planet. Greenpeace states in their report 'From Smart to Senseless: The Global Impact of Ten Years of Smartphones' that a new business model is needed in order to reduce the negative impact of smartphone production.

Read more...

<https://goodelectronics.org/news-en/the-impact-of-10-years-of-smartphone-production>





Article of interest

Study finds dramatic increase in amount of e-waste discarded across Asia



Photo: AAP

Serious health problems may be linked to rising amounts of e-waste being thrown out

A new report has revealed a variety of serious health problems may be linked to rising amounts of e-waste being thrown out in Asia.

The report by the United Nations University found millions of tonnes of e-waste were being dumped across East and South-east Asian countries.

Read more...

<http://www.9news.com.au/technology/2017/01/17/16/50/study-finds-dramatic-increase-in-amount-of-e-waste-discarded-across-asia>

EPA wants to restrict sometimes-deadly paint stripper chemical



Graphic: Internet

EPA wants to restrict the chemical's use

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants to largely ban the use of a chemical in paint strippers that has killed dozens of people, asphyxiating some and triggering heart attacks in others.

Read more...

https://www.publicintegrity.org/2017/01/12/20589/epa-wants-restrict-sometimes-deadly-paint-stripper-chemical?goal=0_ffd1d0160d-7bb31b5441-102636185&mc_cid=7bb31b5441&mc_eid=f7b5ca6c5f





Can Google and Amazon build a greener internet despite Trump?



Photo: Internet

"On the positive side, you see a race going on to build a renewable-powered internet," said Gary Cook, a Greenpeace analyst and lead author of the report President Donald Trump may question the need to use more renewable power, but a growing number of internet companies don't.

A report issued by the Greenpeace environmental group finds that many of the world's largest internet companies-including Apple, Facebook and Google-have made major progress powering their online operations with renewable energy.

Read more...

<http://www.sfgate.com/business/article/Can-Google-and-Amazon-build-a-greener-Internet-10845971.php>

Cancelling new coal plants in South-east Asia, Korea, Japan would save 50,000 lives a year



Photo: Internet

Coal-fired power plants could be responsible for 70,000 premature deaths in the region every year

Approximately 50,000 lives a year could be saved by 2030 if no new coal-fired power plants are built in South-east Asia, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan, according to a groundbreaking peer reviewed study from researchers at Harvard University and Greenpeace International.

Read more...

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/press/releases/2017/Cancelling-new-coal-plants-in-Southeast-Asia-Korea>



Upcoming event



ANROEV Biennial Conference 2017 in Nepal

The Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV) is pleased to inform you that the next ANROEV Conference will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal from September 19 to 21, 2017.

Please block the dates (Sept 19 - 21, 2017) to ensure your attendance and participation at this biennial conference.

The local hosts for the conference will be GEFONT and CEPHED, both organisations are members of the ANROEV network.

Participants can register for the conference by visiting the link below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQ5J6Uv5r6Old1RURprZAgVkp_Z9BXIUFXItJdYkoW025X7A/viewform

We look forward to seeing you in Nepal.

Editor

Mamunul Haque

Executive Editor

A R Chowdhury Repon, ED, OSHE foundation, Bangladesh and
Coordinator, ANROEV

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Rights is a quarterly newsletter on occupational and safety issues in Asia. It is prepared by the Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV) Secretariat. The newsletter contains information and news about the campaigns of the network in Asia on Mining, Victims Organising, Lung Diseases, Electronics etc.

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Opinions and suggestions to the editor are encouraged. Please send enquiries to the Editor,
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