Pushing the National Programs for the Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases (NPEAD):
A Trade Union Perspective

Presented by
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Our family is not safe from asbestos!

BAN ASBESTOS NOW!

Ban Asbestos Philippines
ALU - TUCP - BWI
Presentation Outline

- Introduction: Associated Labor Unions (ALU) and Building and Woodworkers International
- ALU & BWI ban asbestos campaign and contribution to NPEAD
- The National Programmes for the Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases (NPEAD) Tripartite & Unilateral Experience
- Status and Prospects of NPEAD
- Conclusion: Success or Failure of NPEAD in the Philippines
The Associated Labor Unions

- Organized by 42 union workers in Cebu City port in April 1954
- Union members in 17 industries (land-based, seafarers)
- Biggest labor federation in Philippines, more than 200 staffs
- Organizational structure: administration, finance, audit, legal, medical, dental services, union organizers
- Consulted by government in crafting, re-crafting national laws, regulations, policies
The Associated Labor Unions

- Critical but constructive in promoting workers’ rights & well being in optimizing unilateral, bilateral, tri-partite mechanism to achieve advocacies (wages, workers health & safety etc.)

- Responsible partner of NAGKAISA!(United), BWI, UNI, ITF, JSU, IndustriALL

- Collaborate with Government, ILO, WHO & NGOs, CSOs in forging solutions
The ALU & BWI ban asbestos campaign and contribution to NPEAD

- ALU formally started the campaign in 2007; our goal is to responsibly ban asbestos in the Philippines
- Major break in August 2009 letter to former President Arroyo to adopt ILO & WHO National Programmes for the Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases (NPEAD)
- 1st NPEAD meeting took place Sept. 16, 2009 with ALU, BWI affiliates, DOLE, DENR, DOH, DOST, DTI, Customs, SSS, ECC, Cancer Society, Association of Chrysotile Industry of the Philippines (ACIP)
ALU & BWI ban campaign highlights

- In August 2009, the ALU/BWI called the attention of the government to respond to the improper abatement and disposal of asbestos and asbestos containing materials during the demolition of the Manila Thermal Power Plant in Paco, Manila.
ALU & BWI ban campaign highlights

- Called the attention of DOLE and DENR to intervene in the improper asbestos removal and disposal of asbestos and asbestos containing materials in January 2012.
ALU & BWI ban campaign highlights

- In October 2011, the ALU/BWI exposed wire gauzes used in Philippine schools contain Chrysotile asbestos.
- DepEd, CHED and PACU decided to phase out the use of asbestos-containing wire gauzes in schools.
- Observe IWMD April 28th highlight on workers who died while working with focus on asbestos ARDs victims.
ALU & BWI ban campaign highlights


- Ban asbestos bill also filed by Akbayan Partylist Reps. Walden Bello and Ibarra Guttierrez III

- Features: (1) Absolute ban takes effect after 3 years, (2) 1-year exemption on materials without alternatives, (3) 3-year exemption for defense materials without alternatives, (4) safe removal/demolition of asbestos in buildings, (5) registry of exposed workers

- Mapping found presence of strong lobby from industry players
ALU & BWI ban campaign highlights

- Partner with network of ban asbestos activists-- Asian Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN) led by Japan and Korea and the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat based in UK
- Collaborate with Eco-Waste & Greenpeace on ban campaign
- Improve Philippine position in the Rotterdam Convention Conference of Parties
- Utilize conventional tri-media, Facebook in sharing information and creating critical mass, strengthening partnership, network
The National Programmes for the Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases

- Started in the Philippines via ALU-TUCP/BWI letter to former President Arroyo on August 2009; 1st meeting Sept. 16, 2009
- A consensus policy document template designed to define the magnitude of asbestos problems and give government political will to address problems on health
- Designed by World Health Organization (WHO) & International Labor Organization (ILO) which require multi-party & inter agency participation
- Philippine NPEAD is ONE and only in Asia

Outline
for the Development of National Programmes for Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases

Introduction

The term "asbestos" designates a group of naturally-occurring fibrous serpentine or amphibole minerals with current or historical commercial use due to their extraordinary tensile strength, poor heat conduction and relative resistance to chemical attack. The principal varieties of asbestos are chrysotile, a serpentine material, and crocidolite, amosite, anthophyllite, tremolite and actinolite, which are amphiboles.
The 1st NPEAD meeting was held on September 16, 2009.

Participated by the following stakeholders: Chaired by OSHC. Members: ALU/BWI, BWC, DOH, DENR, DOST, DTI, Customs, ECC, SSS, Lung Center of the Philippines, Association of Chrysotile Industry of the Philippines (ACIP), academe.

Going 5 years; it has had 15 meetings.
The Philippine NPEAD Progress

Fulfilled some aspects of national profile such as:

- Established important data needed to create a partial picture of asbestos problems in the Philippines
- Import of 4,000 to 6,000 metric tons of raw asbestos & more than 10,000 metric tons of ACMs every year
- 82 companies manufacturers of these imports Chrysotile
- These companies employ 10,000 to 15,000 workers

- An estimated 1.3 million construction workers exposed to asbestos dust daily
- In May 2011, DOH made partial training of regional doctors and health officers in (1) conducting survey, (2) diagnosing ARDs, (3) training on using equipment/s in detecting ARDs, (4) handling and managing information
- Established effective synergy established between and among NPEAD tripartite actors
- Currently crafting a regulation raising asbestos standards in the workplace
The Philippine NPEAD is 5 years old but there’s a long way to go...

NPEAD priorities components

1. National Asbestos Profile
2. Effective system of inspection and enforcement of safety standards
3. Safe demolition of buildings with asbestos
4. Building central registry and medical surveillance of exposed workers
5. Safer substitutes for asbestos and alternatives for asbestos-containing materials
6. Proposed matrix in satisfying NPEAD

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<th>Components</th>
<th>Responsible Agency</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>1. NAP</td>
<td>DENR-EMB,DOLE</td>
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<td>2. Inspection</td>
<td>BOC, EMB</td>
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<td>3. Demolition</td>
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<td>4. Registry</td>
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<td>5. Substitutes</td>
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The Philippine NPEAD Profile Needs/Challenges

- Need of funding and political support on DOST—has yet to research & develop alternatives
- Need of funding and political support in the efforts of DOH for studies, surveillance and diagnosis equipment
- An active information dissemination of asbestos related diseases compensation SSS, ECC
- Need more action on public education & awareness about dangers/hazard of asbestos
These challenges/needs tend to make process static; thus, it calls for a revitalized NPEAD process.

We recommend

1. A creation of a dedicated, dynamic NPEAD secretariat;

2. Funding support for DOH, DOST, OSHC NPEAD activities/mandates; &

3. A heightened information dissemination, advocacy campaign about dangers & hazards of asbestos, and SSS, ECC benefits on ARDs