

Invitation to Lunch Event

"Asbestos – who pays the bill?"

Testimonies and Dialogue on Policy Recommendations"

In the framework of the 18th session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD)

Thursday, 6 May 2010

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm – Lunch will be provided

Conference room D, North Lawn Building

United Nations Headquarters, 866 United Nations Plaza, New York

Chrysotile asbestos mining and use is expanding in a number of developing countries, waste is uncontrolled, users are not informed about health risks, developing countries are not aware of imports and exports as long as asbestos has not been added to the list of prior informed consent of the Rotterdam Convention.

Over 45 mostly industrialized nations have banned chrysotile asbestos. The main cost in number of lives is still expected to arrive in most of these countries in the coming decade. The economic costs for clean up are astronomical. WHO and ILO resolutions state that the most effective way to eliminated asbestos related diseases is a ban of all types of asbestos.

This year's focus of the UN-CSD will be on chemicals, waste management and mining. The event will present insights of NGOs working in the main asbestos mining, producing and processing countries.

This side event evaluates the situation in these countries and shows examples and lessons learned from countries that already phased out the use and production of asbestos. A dialogue with international policy makers, agencies and civil society representatives, will address how policy options will deal with internalization of the economic and health cost of asbestos in developing and transition countries.



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