

Asia Pacific Region Activities International Workers Memorial Day 2009

Last year In Asia, on 28th April International Workers' Memorial Day, more than 6,000 BWI members participated in training and campaign meetings. The focus was on the campaign for prevention of Asbestos Diseases and Occupational Cancers. Several BWI affiliates in the region organized events to commemorate the day.

The activities ranged from one-day awareness seminars for workers, and H&S training courses for union organisers, to dialogues with government representatives, demonstrations and candle lighting ceremonies to pay tribute to those who died at work.

Unions invited supporters from Labour and Health NGOs, medical practitioners and representatives of government offices and agencies to participate in the events organised by the affiliates.

Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN) Launched

A nine member BWI delegation consisting of trade union representatives from Malaysia, Korea, Philippines, Indonesia and India (including BWI Asia Pacific Regional Representative - AmbetYuson and Global Health and Safety Director - Fiona Murie) attended the 2nd Asian Asbestos Conference in Hong Kong from 26 to 27 April 2009. The conference was organized jointly by the BWI, IMF, HKCTU, AMRC, ARIAV, IBAS, BANJAN, and BANKO and attended by over 200 delegates from 24 countries across the world.

The highlight of the conference was the launch of Asia Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN) bringing together trade unions, victim groups, labour NGOs, researchers, academicians and many other smaller groups. The BWI is expected to play a key role in shaping A-BAN as a network of repute in the coming future and in the process lend strength to the Ban Asbestos Campaign, especially in the Asia Pacific region.



Country	Union	Number of Participants		Description of Activity	Purpose / Results
		Male	Female		
PHILIPPINES					
BWI Affiliates' Council (spearheaded by ALU)	Philippine Council	14	11	Multi-sectoral <u>consultation workshop</u> to develop National Programme of Action to Eliminate Asbestos Joint BWI/ALU/TUCP and Representative Riza Hontiveroz on Bill to Ban Asbestos	To discuss on the development of a national program for the elimination of asbestos-related diseases in Philippines and the Bill to Ban Asbestos. It was concluded that the participation of government agencies is needed to start developing the national program.
NUBCW		215	38	Forum on health and safety issues in Hanjin (26 April) Torch Rally and Candle Lightning (26 April)	To give workers awareness on health and safety issues and the management responsibilities to workers in Hanjin To make the workers aware of the

	77	06	Lightening Picket in Occupational Health and Safety Center (OSHC) – 28 April	<p>different government agencies who are responsible for health and safety issues and awareness to communities on unsafe situation of workers in Hanjin</p> <p>The purpose of NUBCW NCR chapters' march was to highlight the issues of Hanjin at the national level.</p>
INDIA				
TCWF	12	23	Seminar on Occupational Cancer	<p>To increase awareness and prevention of cancer in BWI sectors and to also impress upon state the government to ban the use of asbestos.</p> <p>The participants made list of demands to be submitted to the government concerning the ban of asbestos including ratification of ILO Conventions 162, 167 and 155.</p>
KKNTC	123	250	Rally and Workers Meeting on Safety and Prevention of Accidents at Construction sites and Asbestos awareness raising	To raise awareness on health and safety in the construction sector and to create awareness on the disastrous impact of the usage of Asbestos.
DANMU, MAMU & NMPS (Delhi)	15		Delegation meeting with Embassy / High Commissions of Canada, Brazil etc. to push for	To explain trade union position on the issue of Asbestos. The Delhi

	300		<p>the ban Asbestos campaign</p> <p>Workers signature campaign on raising awareness on health and safety at Commonwealth Games Sites to be followed by submission of memorandum to concerned authorities</p> <p><u>28th April 2009</u> Health and Safety <u>mass awareness meeting</u> and candle light remembrance event at the main Commonwealth Games Village site</p>	<p>Unions led by DANMU met the officials of the Brazil High Commission on 23 April 2009 and submitted their concerns. On a second occasion, on 5th May 2009, a 4-member delegation (DANMU, BWI, BANI - Gopal Krishna & MAMC - Dr. T K Joshi) met senior representatives in the trade division of the Canadian High Commission and discussed on the Asbestos issue for consideration of the Canadian Government. BWI publications / materials were distributed.</p> <p>As part of the 2010 Fair Work Fair Games Campaign at the Commonwealth Games Worksite – the Delhi affiliates organized an event to remember the dead and also to raise health and safety awareness among the workers.</p> <p>The Delhi unions organized a week-long signature campaign at their respective major commonwealth games organizing sites. More than 3,000 signatures were obtained. A 10-point union demand letter along with the signatures would be</p>
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NEPAL				
CUPPEC & CAWUN	70	22	<u>Mass meeting</u> on Occupational Cancer	Awareness Raising on Occupational Cancer among union leadership at district level.
PAKISTAN				
PFBWW	350		<u>Workshop and Rally</u> on health and safety awareness	To raise awareness among the construction workers on health and safety issues, including the ill effects of Asbestos usage.

April 2009 in Latin America

Campaigns against the use of Asbestos in the Dominican Republic, Peru, Panama and Ecuador were organized, attracting hundreds of people. Training seminars for union organisers and awareness meetings for workers were organised for 977 trade union members across the Region.

28 de abril - Día Internacional en Memoria de los Trabajadores Fallecidos y Accidentados en el Trabajo

RESPETAR
Hoy y cada día la memoria y situación de los compañeros fallecidos y accidentados

PREVENIR
Como método principal para minimizar las enfermedades laborales y los riesgos de accidentes invalidantes o fatales

CUMPLIR LA LEY
Única forma de garantizar la salud y vida de los trabajadores

CUIDAR LA VIDA



