

ANROEV Conference 2013
Welcome To Bangkok, Thailand
May 8-10, 2013

Dear participant,

Greetings from ANROEV Secretariat!

On behalf of the Organizing committee, I welcome you all to the 2013 ANROEV conference being held at Bangkok, Thailand from May 8-10, 2013 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Kader fire.

This meeting provides us with a unique opportunity for solidarity and strengthening our grass root movements.

This information sheet is prepared as a guide for your trip to Thailand. In this document, you will find the programme of the meeting, travel-logistical arrangement and guidelines, and general information about Bangkok, Thailand.

We are looking forward to meeting you and may you have a meaningful stay in Bangkok, Thailand.

Please contact me or any other committee member, if you need any assistance.

Thank you

Co-organised by

Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC)

Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV)

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BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV) formerly known as the Asian Network for Rights of Occupational and Accident Victims (ANROAV) is a coalition of victims' groups, trade unions and other labour groups across Asia, all committed to the rights of Victims and for overall improvement of health and safety at the workplace. The ANROAV members in 2010 decided to change the name of the network, in light of the many overlaps of the OSH movement with its environmental counterpart, the network was renamed as ANROEV, the Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims. The industrial disasters of Kader and Zhili, that killed more than 250 workers led to a campaign by the labour and victims groups in Asia towards better health and safety rights of the workers and the victims. ANROEV was formally constituted in 1997 and now has members from 14 Asian Countries and Territories including Japan, Korea, China, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia. In addition to the members in Asia, the ANROEV network is now the part of a process to build a global grassroots OSH network linking up grassroots OSH groups/networks in North America, Europe and Central/South America.

This year (i.e.) 2013 is the 20th Anniversary of the Kader fire tragedy and we will join victims of the fire in Bangkok on May 10, 2013 along with our comrades and Thai groups to commemorate the anniversary of this gruesome fire that took place in the Kader factory that took 188 lives on 10 May 1993. Later this year will be the 20th anniversary of the Zhili fire in China where the victims and member of our ANROEV China network will be coming together to remember and honour the victims of the Zhili fire. Over the past 20 years our network has moved on from accidents to occupational diseases and we now have strong victims organising in electronics, silicosis and asbestos. But unfortunately recent events in both Pakistan and Bangladesh have taken us back in time and we are back talking about accidents and fire safety again in 2013. This year there will be focus given to fire safety and occupational diseases. On February 19, 2013, a UN study which is the most comprehensive report on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) to date, highlights associations between exposure to EDCs and health problems including the potential for such chemicals to contribute to the development of in men, women and children. EDCs can enter the environment mainly through industrial and urban discharges, and waste. Human exposure can occur via the ingestion of food, dust and water, inhalation of gases and particles in the air, and skin contact.¹ Exposure to chemicals in the region, the cocktail of chemicals being used in industries, the extent and effects of this exposure is still unknown and how it affects people and the environment is not fully known. The ANROEV network has ongoing strong campaign and organising of victims in the areas of asbestos, silicosis, electronics and mining.

¹ Effects of Human and Wildlife Exposure to Hormone-Disrupting Chemicals Examined in Landmark UN Report, 19 February, 2013
<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=2704&ArticleID=9403&l=en&t=long>

The relevance of the ANROEV network is that our network is a grassroots network which is aimed at strengthening the victims and the people being impacted to seek justice so that they are organized and it also serves as a deterrent to remove the harmful hazardous substances are not used at the workplace. By bringing together the members from across the region, it is these experiences across the region that the ANROEV meetings brings together by creating a platform for the members and by facilitating thematic workshops for the exchange of ideas, to crystallise and form strategies nationally and regionally on existing campaigns and programs which will help shape the future direction of the network in terms of campaign, consolidated actions that can be taken and release of reports based on the collective work of the members. Members of the network have made steady progress and won victories that have pushed the frontier in the fight for justice of victims. The ANROEV conference now takes place every two years to help conserve our resources and to channel our energies nationally into building OSH networks like we have done in China, India and Indonesia. The network will now look at following the same strategy in other countries. These national networks come together on regional campaigns and further strengthen the fight for recognition and compensation and creating a united fight in OSH related issues in the Asian region. In addition, this year at the end of the ANROEV annual conference there will be a global grassroots OSH meeting where a few members of the ANROEV network will meet with members from other OSH and environmental network representatives with the intention of looking at ways of working together, and forming closer linkages with the vision of further strengthening the global grassroots OSH movement and the ANROEV network becoming an integral part of this network.

Objectives

- To provide updates from network members on various ANROEV struggles and campaigns during the conference
- To devise strategies and to strengthen the victims' movement by providing support at the ground for victims in terms of medical and legal support and access to information
- Look at joint collaboration on campaigns, actions, research and advocacy strategies for the next 2 years
- Look at ways to build strong linkages with environmental groups, workers and community groups on OSH issues building a strong OSH movement nationally and thereby making the regional ANROEV network stronger
- Share experiences with OSH groups outside Asia and look at ways to building linkages and support
- Propose a strategic plan for the direction if the network in the next two years

Expected Participants

Participants will be member organisations of the network and associated members from other parts of the world who are actively engaging with our network and are also looking to be a part of the global grassroots OSH movement.

We will have detailed information soon through the Secretariat on logistics and other related information. It is recommended that all participants go through the Secretariat to secure rooms at discounted prices as the conference is being hosted by the ANROEV Secretariat.

DRAFT PROGRAM

Tuesday, May 7

Arrival of delegates for the ANROEV meeting

Wednesday, May 8

ANROEV CONFERENCE

Day 1

Morning Session

8:30 - 9:00 Registration

Session 1 - 9: 00 – 9:20 - Welcome and Opening Session

Moderator - Omana George

9:00 – 9:20 - Opening Remarks and welcome - Dr. Voravidh Charoenloet
Somboon

Session 2 - 9:20 – 10:40 – Interactive Session on Industrial Disasters in Asia

This will be an interactive session in which the moderator and audience will ask questions to the panelists

9:20 – 10:00 - Moderator – Apo

Victims and representatives of the Kader Fire – Thailand and Zhili fire - China

10:00 – 10:40 - Moderator – Sanjiv Pandita

Victims and representatives of the Tazreen Fire - Bangladesh and Ali Enterprise - Pakistan

10:40 – 11:00 *Tea Break. There will be screening of film on Tazreen Fire, Bangladesh*

Session 3

Moderator- Noel Colina

11:00 - 11:15 - Discussion on fire safety and situation in Asia

11:15 - 11:30 – Update from the ANROEV Secretariat – Mohit Gupta

11:30 - 13:00 - Internatal Updates on OSH Struggles

11:30 – 11:40 - Situation of Victims and Justice System in South Africa - Dr Barry Kistnasamy, NIOH,
South Africa

11:40 – 11:50 - Tom O'Connor, US - COSH Network

11:50 - 12:00 - Hilda Palmer – UK Hazards Network and European Work Hazards Network (EWHN)

Presentation by Thomas Gassert

12:20 – 12:30 – Jan de Jong - FNV

12:30 - 12:55 Discussion

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

12:00 – 12:10 – Garrett Brown – Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network

12:10 – 12:20 – Sari Hannele Sairanen – Canadian Auto Workers Union

Afternoon Session

Session 4 - 14:00 – 18:00 Simultaneous Workshops

(These workshops will be held simultaneously. Members of the network will be facilitators of the workshops and the ANROEV secretariat will work with the facilitators on content and structure of these workshops)

Workshop 1 – Occupational Lung Diseases – regional strategy

Facilitator - Jagdish Patel (PTRC) and Mohit Gupta (ANROEV)

Workshop 2 - Chemical Poisoning

Facilitator - Suki Chung (LAC)

Workshop 3 - Use of Social Media and Internet tools to organise campaigns

Facilitator - Noel Colina (IOHSAD) and Miriam Lara (Hesperian Foundation)

15:30 - 15:45 – *Tea Break*

15:45 - 18:00 - *Workshops continued*

18:00 *Close of Day 1*

19:00 – *Welcome dinner at the hotel*

Thursday, May 9

Day 2

Morning Session

Session 5

9:00 – 13:00 **Simultaneous Workshops continued**

Workshop 1 - Electronics Workshop – Strategy planning and strengthening of work in Asia and OSH and Environmental Groups Meeting (Exchange and identifying common issues for stronger collaboration)

Facilitator - Ted Smith (ICRT) and Dr Jeong-ok Kong (SHARPS)

Workshop 2 - Victims Organizing

Facilitator - Xiao Ying (ANROEV China) Samuel Li (AMRC)

Workshop 3 - Legal Practitioners Workshop

Facilitator - AMRC

11:00 - 11:15 - Tea Break

11:15 - 13:00 - Workshops continued

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

Afternoon Session

Session 6

14:00 – 16:45 - Plenary Session 2

Moderator - Sanjiv Pandita

14:00 - 14:15 - Presentation by Domyung Paek

14:15 – 14:25– Simon Pickvance contribution to ANROEV network

14:25 - 14:35 - ILO 121 Endorsement from network

14:35 - 15:20 - Report back from the workshops - *10 mins presentation and 5 mins comments/feedback*

15:20 – 15:35 – *Tea Break*

15:35 - 16:20 - Report back from the workshops continued - *10 mins presentation and 5 mins comments/feedback*

16:20 - 16:30 - Closing Remarks

End of Meeting

ANROEV Membership meeting (open to members and associate members of the ANROEV network only)

17:00 – 17:45 - ***ANROEV Membership Meeting and ANROEV Secretariat***

- * Nomination of New ANROEV Central Secretariat
- * Secretariat Structure and Functions - Election of Executive Council members and
- * Confirmation/update of Regional Advisory Board Members
- * Next ANROEV meeting in 2015 (location and host)

(From the ANROEV Constitution)

- * *7 executive committee members among the members who will be responsible for the day to day functioning of the network*
- * *ANROEV will also have a regional advisory board that shall provide advisory services and supervision to the secretariat.*

End of Day 2

FRIDAY, MAY 10

20th Anniversary of Kader Fire – hosted by WEPT and the Kader fire steering committee

(Location and details to follow – ANROEV network members, local participants and foreign delegates are encouraged to attend and share solidarity with the victims of the Kader fire tragedy)

End of Conference

Departure of Delegates

Press Conference on OSH Situation in Asia and book launch of the legal Resources Handbook - hosted by AMRC and ANROEV

(Location and details to follow)