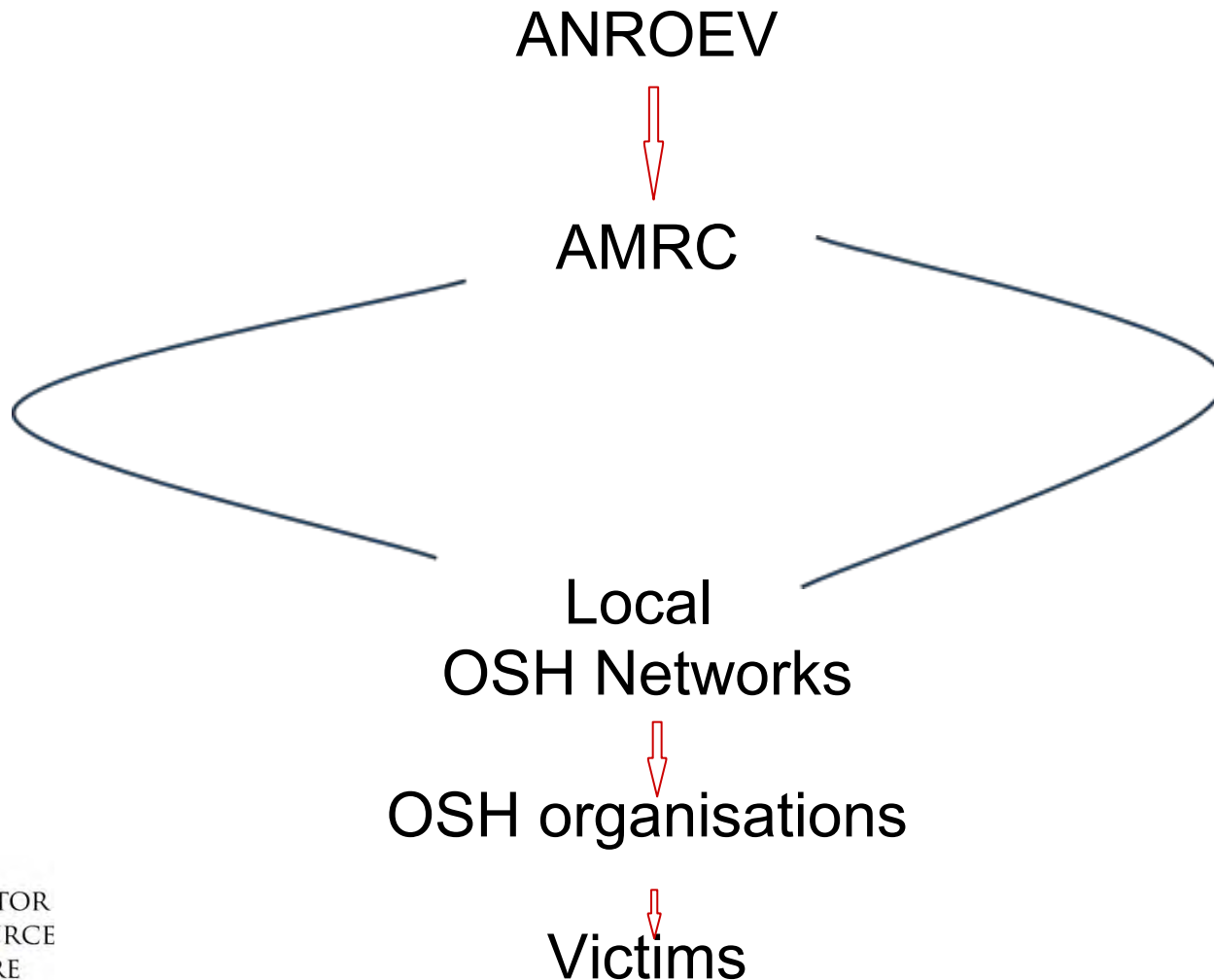


ANROEV and AMRC – OSH Rights in Asia



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Hong Kong

How we work



Asia Monitor Resource Centre

**Promoting workers' rights and democratic
labour movement for over 30 years**

www.amrc.org.hk



Mission and Vision

- Vision – to support and contribute towards the building of a stronger, democratic and independent labour movement in Asia
- Mission – to become a strategic research, education and information resource partner of the broad Asian labour movement

AMRC's journey

- It was formed in 1976 as an NGO called Asian Communications Centre
- In 1981 the name was changed to Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC) to reflect its new direction



What we do?

As a regional Labour organization we conduct:

- Participatory Research
- Capacity Building Initiatives
- Campaigns
- Advocacy
- Networking
- Publications



Our Programmes



Aims of the OSH program

- trade unions and worker organisations will be better informed about OSH issues and will bargain for working environments that are safe and hazard free
- More victims will get recognition and justice due to them by access to diagnosis, treatment and compensation through education and empowerment and working with labour groups, NGOs, community and environmental groups
- Victims, labour groups, unions and NGOs who are a part of the ANROEV network share their struggles, lessons learnt and victories from the national to the regional level and learn from each others experiences and vice versa-regional struggles and experiences get translated into the local context and empower local movements even further
- More medical and legal professionals at the ground to work with grass-root groups and victims assisting them in their needs and struggles to get access to the right health care and legal advice for compensation
- More environmental groups in the network working with victims groups and labour groups on OSH issues strengthening the fight against polluting industries and employers who are responsible for hazardous workplaces



ANROEV Network

- Background
- The ANROEV network 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.
- Formally constituted in 1997 post the industrial disasters of Kader and Zhili.
- Members in 14 Countries in Asia including Japan, Korea, China, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia.
- Major campaigns include Occupational Lung Diseases, Victims Organising, Electronics and Mining

ANROEV

Provides Platform for:

- Sharing Experiences
- Sharing Expertise
- Running Joint Campaign
- Forming Strong solidarity group
- Grassroots OSH movement in Asia

OSH situation in Asia

- In broader context OSH rights have greatly reduced or diminished after the economic crisis.
- Cost cutting measures have included cutting back on safety and health at the workplaces.
- workers, who lost their jobs in the crisis, have found themselves working in more precarious jobs with unsafe working conditions.



Informalisation and OSH

- More workers work on contracts with lesser rights and greater risks
- Hazardous work is also being increasingly dumped into the vast informal sector – exposing millions of workers and their families to numerous hazards.



Reality at the ground

- Difference between the stated and the implemented policy.
- On one hand all governments want to promote (at least on paper) safe and healthy workplaces, on the other hand same governments are busy (in collusion or at the direction of business) in dismantling all the existing institutions of enforcement – like factory inspectorates etc.

Self Regulation???

- The funding of these institutions has always been restricted, which often leads to corruption
- It seems that these institutions have been deliberately created to fail and provides an easy excuse for business and other members of the society to criticise the institutions and seek their minimum role.
- they are perceived as „impediment“ in „free market economy“ and propose more „efficient“ self regulatory mechanisms.

Legalizing the self regulation

- Many governments in the region have reduced the enforcement drastically and instead are emphasising on self regulatory standards like OSHA 18000, etc.
- Though there virtually is no money earmarked for enforcement, as auditing and self regulatory business is a thriving multi million dollar industry



Compensation

- On compensation level, majority of workers are not covered by the compensation laws as they work in the informal sector.
- On the other hand, as a rule of thumb, majority of victims do not receive a just compensation – if they receive any at all.

Profit out of misery

- The workers compensation has become a big business in itself. The risk that workers might get sick or injured is increasingly insured and capitalised in financial markets.
- When the workers get sick or injured the procedures get complicated right from diagnosis to proving the link with the disease.
- The prevailing difference between the insurance premium collections and payments to workers can range anyway between 70-90%. The saved capital is free to be invested in free market.



Major Activities by Network Members

- Investigation reports on Factory Fires in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Press statement on the fires released at the ANROEV 2013 conference <http://amrc.org.hk/node/1334>
- Yuying Chen awarded by the APHA <http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/05C65102-3D52-40AD-AEB3-529B3EDDF9AA/0/2012OHSAwarderNewsReleaseFinal.pdf>
- Exchange and sharing with other OSH grass root movements / networks
- Growth of National OSH networks

TAZREEN FIRE Victims Meeting



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Electronics Sector

- First Recognition of Occupational Breast Cancer from Samsung Semiconductor plant
- Batam, Indonesia- Workers in the factory suffering from Breast Cancer and other serious medical conditions that is not being investigated and the identified victims will receive medical treatment
- Continued campaigns and fights against apple and Samsung



Batam – Batteries” factory



AMRC co-hosted the Asian Asbestos Congress in 2009 April





'Controlled Use in Asia' Some Pictures from Asia





Ventilation?





Ship Breaking in Bangladesh



Ship breaking is the only source of Iron for Bangladesh



Safe Mining in Asia Mining Meeting in China



China Mine Area Visit



Visit to Coal Mine in India



Capacity Building



Victims Exchange




Indian Victims visits China

Victims from China Visit India





Regional Activities

- Release of Book on “Invisible Victims of Development”
 - Legal Practitioners meeting in Chaing Mai and Hong Kong. Preparation of a Legal Resources handbook underway.
 - Medical Practitioners Skill Share in October 2013 (Proposed)
 - Workshop on Occupational Lung Diseases in Hong Kong
 - Strategy Meeting in South Korea on Electronics Sector
-  ASIA
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- Exchange Program between Network members



INVISIBLE VICTIMS OF DEVELOPMENT

WORKERS HEALTH AND SAFETY IN ASIA



ANROEV Annual Conference

- The ANROEV Annual Conference brings together victims groups, trade unions, labour groups, doctors, lawyers and workers rights organisations not only from Asia and also from North America, South America, Europe – UK, Netherlands and Belgium among other countries, Canada, South Africa who are also parts of networks in their region.
- We see the need to come together and strengthen our struggle and support in international solidarity by the formation of an international Global OSH Network for workers and victims rights on OSH globally for health and safety rights.

GOSH Network

- Campaigns on
- Chemical poisoning
- Asbestos
- Electronics
- Silicosis
- Organising victims

GOSH Network

- Key functions:
 - 1) Strategic Information sharing and exchange - on various issues
 - 2) Sharing of resources - training, skills etc.
 - 3) Common Global Campaigns - for example - Asbestos Ban, Elimination of Solvents etc.
 - 4) Advocacy at Regional and International Level with various bodies like ILO, etc.
 - 5) Solidarity Action - against companies, government etc.



Bandung Declaration on Occupational Safety and Health in Asia

**ANROAV Annual Conference
Bandung, Indonesia
October 17 to 20, 2010**

- ***To take and support actions to develop ‘good work’: work that is safe, meaningful, socially just and environmentally sustainable; work that enables workers to develop skills and knowledge and have a reasonable life/work balance, work where workers are treated with dignity and respect***

- Acknowledge the magnitude of the problem, when more **than a million workers are dying every year in Asia** and millions more are getting sick or injured.
- Act urgently, decisively and in good faith by making occupational safety and health (OSH) a priority policy issue. **This should include the requirement of reporting all cases of occupational deaths and diseases in the respective countries.**

- Ensure that injured and sick workers receive prompt and immediate treatment, just compensation and rehabilitation within a reasonable timeframe. The whole process should be simplified to ensure that victims are not further penalised by unwarranted delays.
- Ensure the proper diagnosis of occupational diseases by providing sufficient diagnostic clinics and specialists that are independent, transparent, and accountable.

- Recognize that **health and safety at the workplace is a fundamental human right** of workers and that existing problems are due to the institutional failures and denial of these fundamental rights not because of the „**carelessness of the workers**“ which is often promoted by the corporate sector.

Thank you!

Please keep in touch with our work:

www.amrc.org.hk

www.anroev.org