



Regional Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of Asbestos

Alexandria, Egypt, 28 March 2015

The Final Report

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PREFACE

BCRC-Egypt with the assistance of SBC organised a one day Regional workshop for the Arab states. The main objective of the workshop was to raise awareness about the dangers and health impacts of asbestos containing materials and potential management options in accordance with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Those delineate how to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of the asbestos containing materials.

The aims of the workshops were as follow:

- 1- To provide an overview of what asbestos is and where it exists
- 2- To represent the standards and regulations for Asbestos levels
- 3- To provide background information on the health risks associated with the exposure to asbestos
- 4- To provide guidance on the best practices in asbestos handling and disposal options

The workshop targeted the National technical officials responsible for or involved in hazardous Waste Management. There was 8 participants from 7 Arab countries which were: Republic of Djibouti, Arab Republic of Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanese Republic, Kingdom of Morocco, Palestinian Authority and the Republic of Sudan.

THE WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony commenced at **9:00** am. It was led and managed by **Mr. Mahmoud Bakry**, Chief Editor of *Elaosboa* Newspaper. There was a short film presented that spoke about the synergy between the three conventions, Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm.

Prof. Mostafa Kamel, BCRC-Egypt Director, in the beginning of his word welcomed all the participants from the Arab countries and affirmed the importance of the workshop. As it marked the start of a group of workshops taking place in the light of the synergies between Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm on the sound environmental management of POPs, PCBs and Asbestos.

Mr. Mohamed Kona, the Arab League Representative delivered a short word on behalf of HE Dr. Nabil Elarbi, the General Secretary of the Arab League, expressing the Arab League support for the project and for BCRC-Egypt as a regional center that aids the Arab states in implementing Basel Convention.

The First Session:

Prof. El Mohamady Eid Member of the National Disciplinary Councils and the Environmental Consultant of BCRC-Egypt delivered a speech that introduced the objectives and methodology of the workshop. He then represented the components of the Basel convention, and the definition of Hazardous Waste. This was then followed by a presentation delivered by **Prof. Tarek El-Araby**- *Vice Dean Community Service and Environmental Development Faculty of Science – Cairo University* Who defined asbestos, presented its different types, where it is used and the forms of exposure. He then clarified the groups most likely to be subjected to asbestos, the health hazards of asbestos, especially that it is a sources of cancer in the region. **Dr. El-Araby**, presented that there are maps constructed displaying the sites polluted with asbestos in the U.S.A. His presentation was interrupted by **Dr. Hana Labib**, Lebanon's representative, who stated that there is a strong opposition from major countries and that there are after all pros for using asbestos. Afterwards, Dr. Tarek continued on with his presentation presenting the death rates due to the consistent subjectivity to asbestos from 10-40 years.

The second session

Dr. Tarek then followed with another presentation on the US standard regulations. His presentation covered the different types of asbestos, the different concentrations, and the time period for subjectivity as well as the US regulations. Those regulations are concerned with drinking water, schools and workers. In addition, he presented the relationship between smoking and the subjectivity to asbestos. In conclusion, he presented the legislations issued by OSHA.

This was then followed by **Professor Dr. Omayma Salah El Din** –Former Chairperson National Housing and Building National Research Center, Former Chairperson of Materials Properties and Testing. Professor Omayma focused on the dangers of using asbestos in the pipelines of drinking water, and presented the health hazards faced by the workers that come in contact with asbestos. In addition, she presented the Australian regulations in handling asbestos starting from the extraction of the material.

She also presented a case study from Kuwait as they were able to undertake the safety disposal of large quantities of asbestos.

Discussion Panel (Chaired by: Professor Mostafa Hussein, Professor Mohamdy Eid and the Journalist Mahmoud Bakry) :

The main discussion questions were:

- Whether or not to manufacture asbestos containing product?
- How to deal with asbestos?
- Are the polluted sites in the Arab region mapped out?
- What are the alternatives to asbestos?
- How do we dispose of the present asbestos?

The main highlight of the discussion was an agreement on the importance of identifying a distinct institution that deals with coordinating a strategy in dealing with asbestos. There was also an agreement that the source of the problem lies in the older constructions where asbestos containing material have already been used. In conclusion, the participants also agreed that in general the use of OSHA regulations will decrease the hazard of asbestos.

Third Session:

Professor Dr. Mahmoud Amr Professor Of Occupational and Environmental Diseases in Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University-Founder of National Center for Clinical and Environmental Toxicology. Focused in his presentation on the lung diseases and the cancers that develop out of the use of asbestos. Thus, he emphasized on the dangers of using it in the pipelines for drinking water and sewage.

This was followed by **Professor Dr. Hesham El-Kassas** of Soil and Water Environment Dean-Institute of Environment Studies and Research (IESR)-Ain Shams University. Represented the importance of auditing the sites polluted with asbestos, the different methods of auditing and the procedures of environmental auditing of polluted sites. He delineated the steps of such procedure starting from the annual supervision, followed by the analysis of all asbestos containing materials and finally the presentation of results.

Followed by this, was a case study from a hospital in the United Arab of Emirates presented by **Dr. Tarek El-Araby**. It displayed the steps that were carried out in surveying the asbestos present in the hospital, how they carried out the analysis and the eventual safe disposal of asbestos containing material.

Fourth session:

Discussion Panel (Chaired by: Professor Mostafa Hussein, Professor Mohamdy Eid and the Journalist Mahmoud Bakry):

The aim of the panel was to present the status of asbestos pollutants in the Arab countries, with the goal of issuing recommendations.

Mahdy Fayrouz, representative of Kuwait, has put forward that his country has banned using any asbestos containing material. He mentioned that there are not any clear-cut regulations, but there are conditions and supervisions. He also stated the importance of benefiting from the experience from Arab countries who are ahead in this field.

Amgad Ibrahim, representative of Palestine, has presented that asbestos is heavily used in the poorer districts due to its low-price and availability. It is not safely disposed of, rather the disposal is mostly through dumping which harms the underground water. He also stated that there are legislations concerning asbestos that state that there is a fine for using it, but there is not however a mechanism of ensuring that it happens.

Hanna Abo-Habib, representative of Lebanon, there are regulations against the importing and usage of asbestos since 2006. The main problem he identified is that the Arab countries consider the concern for the environment a leisure, hence there is a responsibility of spreading the culture to Protect the environment and our health

- Afterwards there was a small session made up of

- 1- Dr.Hanna Abo-Habib, representative of Lebanon
- 2-Eng.Amgad Ibrahim, representative of Palestine
- 3- Dr. Mohammdy Eid,
- 4-a representative from BCRC-Egypt,
- 5-a representative of Arab League
- 6-Dr.Mahmoud Amr
- 7-Dr.Hesham El-Kassas
- 8-Dr.Omayma Salah el din

The Closing Session

This session started with a brief speech delivered by Prof. Kamal, in which he expressed his joy for the clear success of the workshop and thanked the participants and the lecturers for their effective participation. Finally, he presented the recommendations of the workshop.

Recommendations

1. Exchange of experiences and successful models for the safe disposal of asbestos waste and asbestos containing material in Arab countries
2. The need for cooperation to benefit from international and regional expertise.
3. Emphasis on not using asbestos pipes in each of drinking water, sewage water, and agricultural and industrial drainage in the future.
4. The importance of having accredited contractors that have specialized experience in dealing with asbestos waste and asbestos containing material
5. Issuing legislation on how to deal with asbestos waste
6. Constructing landfills for asbestos waste according to international standard
7. Preparing technical features and necessary codes for the safe disposal of asbestos
8. The importance of raising awareness and the role of the media
9. The role of BCRC in communicating with the specialized international organizations to be aware of the latest regulations and the means of treatment
10. The importance of coordinating the national reports and the role of the center in communicating and exchanging the latest findings especially concerning the early warning mechanism



Regional Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of asbestos
28 March, 2015 ,Egypt Alexandria, Egypt

First Day 28th of March , 2015

8:30- 9:00	Registration
Opening session	
9:00-9:30	Mr.Mahmoud Bakry , Chief Editor of <i>Elaosboa</i> Newspaper Prof. Mostafa Hussein, BCRC-Egypt Director Mr. Mohamed Konna, Representative of the League of Arab States
9:30-9:40	Coffee Break
Session I	
9:40- 10:00	Key Note Speaker ESM of Asbestos, Prof. El Mohamady Eid Member of the National Disciplinary Councils, Environmental Consultant, BCRC-Egypt
10:00- 11:00	Introduction to Asbestos, Types of Asbestos, Dr.Tarek M.El-Araby- Vice Dean for Environmental Affairs and Community Service –Faculty of Science –Cairo University.
11:00- 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
Session II	
11:30- 12:00	Asbestos Laws and Regulation Dr.Tarek M.El-Araby-Vice Dean for Environmental Affairs and Community Service –Faculty of Science Cairo University
12:00- 12:30	The Use of Asbestos in Construction and its Safe Disposal Dr. Omayma Salah El Din –Former Chairperson National Housing and Building National Research Center,Former Chairperson Professor of Materials Properties and Testing.
12:30- 1:00	<i>Plenary discussion</i>
1:00- 2:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
Session III	
2:00- 2:30	The Disease and Health Effects Attributed to Asbestos Dr.Mahmoud Amr- Professor Of Occupational and Environmental Diseases in Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University -Founder of National Center for Clinical and Environmental

2:30-3:30	<p>Toxicology.</p> <p>Environmental Auditing Of Asbestos Polluted Sites Dr.Hesham El-Kassas, Prof.of Soil and Water Environment Dean-Institute of Environment Studies and Research(IESR)-Ain Shams University</p>
3:30-4:30	<p>Asbestos Monitoring -Asbestos Safe Disposal and Handling (required PPE, fiber suppression tools) Case study : Experience in Asbestos Emission Control and Waste Management Dr.Tarek M.El-Araby- Vice Dean for Environmental Affairs and Community Service –Faculty of Science –Cairo University.</p>
4:30-5:00	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>
Session IV	
5:00-6:30	<p>Round –Table Discussion made up of Dr.Hanna bo-Habib, representative of Lebanon Eng.Amgad Ibrahim, representative of Palestine Dr. Mohammdy Eid, Dr.Mahmoud Amr,Dr.Hesham El-Kassas, Dr.Omayma Salah el din , A representative from BCRC-Egypt, A representative of Arab League Their goal was to finalize the recommendations of the workshop.</p>
6:30-7:00	<p>Closure of Workshop</p>



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ورشة العمل الاقليمية للادارة السليمة بينيا للاسبستوس، 28 مارس 2015 الإسكندرية – جمهورية مصر العربية
تقييم استمارة

الاسم رباعى :	الموقع الوظيفى:
قطاع / قسم / إدارة :	هيئة / وزارة / اخرى:
رقم الهاتف الشخصى :	البريد الإلكتروني:
الدولة:	
عنوان المراسلات (تفصيليا):	

البيان	ممتاز	جيد جدا	جيد	متوسط	ضعيف
محتوى ورشة العمل					
المادة العلمية المعروضة خلال ورشة العمل .					
تقييمك العام على محاضرين ورشة العمل					
تنظيم وسهولة محتوى المادة العلمية					
تحقيق أهداف ورشة العمل					
مستوى تنظيم ورشة العمل .					
التجهيزات والوسائل المستخدمة					
مدة ورشة العمل					
مكان ورشة العمل					
التوقيت					
تقييمك العام لورشة العمل					

الاقتراحات والملاحظات:

Evaluation Sheet and Results Analysis

Total Number of Completed Evaluation Sheets = 5

Evaluation of the workshop:

Category	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Mediocre	Weak
The content of the workshop	5				
The workshop scientific material distributed	5				
General rating on the lecturers workshop	5				
The organization and the ease of scientific material	4	1			
Achieving the goals of workshop	4	1			
The level of organization	4	1			
The presentation equipment and the means of presentation	2	3			
The period of the workshop	2	1	1	1	
The location of the workshop	3	1			1
The timing of the workshop	3	2			
The general evaluation	3	1			

The analysis

The results, in general, showed that the workshop has fulfilled its main objectives. The participants mentioned that the information was enriching, but commented on the short time span of the workshop.

List of Participants:

Title	Name	Country	Job
Mr.	Mohamed Konnah	Arab league	Diplomatic Tel : 01287224460 E-mail : Mohamed-konna@hotmail.com
Dr	El Mohamdy Eid	Egypt	Member of the National Disciplinary Councils. Environmental Consultant, BCRC-Egypt. Tel: 01227457492 E-mail:elmohamadyeid@gmail.com
Mr.	Mahmoud Bakry	Egypt	Chief Editor of <i>Elaosboa</i> Newspaper
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Dr	Omayma Salah El Din	Egypt	Former Chairperson National Housing and Building National Research Center, Former Chairperson Professor of Materials Properties and Testing. Tel :01001601985 E-mail:o.omima@hotmail.com
Dr	Mahmoud Amr	Egypt	Professor Of Occupational and Environmental Diseases in Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University -Founder of National Center for Clinical and Environmental Toxicology. Tel :01001271111 E-mail :mmamr@yahoo.com

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Mrs.	Gehan Hussein	Egypt	Journalist
Mrs.	Sara kandeel	Egypt	Journalist
Mr.	Montaser El shatby	Egypt	Journalist
Mr.	Ahmed Abdel Rehim	Egypt	Journalist