



Tribute of Inspiration Award

Sugio Furuya

Presented by Dr. Arthur Frank



Sugio Furuya is being presented with the Tribute of Inspiration Award for being a bridge of hope and strength to victims of asbestos exposure in Asia and across the globe. Mr. Furuya is the Secretary General of the Japan Occupational Safety and Resource Center (JOSHRC). He has many years of experience in efforts to ban asbestos through Ban Asbestos Network Japan (BANJAN) as well as regionally for the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN).

Mr. Furuya is a master of international collaboration and he and his Japanese counterparts are second to none in their outreach to other countries, particularly within Asia, with efforts to ban asbestos and create safer working environments.

In the past, he has advocated for shortened working hours, prevention of occupational injuries among migrant workers, and compensation of health costs for migrant workers. He is a member of the Japan Society for Occupational Health (JSOH) and Japan Society for Labor Law (JSLL).

He has made enormous efforts to educate the Japanese government and public as to the hazards of asbestos. He has hosted gatherings of the world's leading scientists concerned about asbestos to help further his efforts, and those of many others around the world. He always makes himself available to colleagues and shares his knowledge and insights. He truly serves as a model for action for the rest of the world.

With the recent devastation in Japan, we are reminded how fragile our lives are, and are more grateful than ever to Mr. Furuya for his generous time and dedication to helping others.