

**Subono- General Secretary SERBUK- an Indonesian Union in West Java.**

**Subono (Bono)**- Previously an Indonesian asbestos factory worker, currently General Secretary SERBUK Union, an Indonesian trade union based in West Java and focussed on organising with construction workers. SERBUK campaigns on OH and S issues and works with victims organisations and victims for awareness and compensation. It was only after working in an asbestos roof sheeting factory for 17 years that Bono learned asbestos was in fact dangerous. Subono has been diagnosed with a pulmonary disorder and has witnessed his colleagues die with diagnosis of lung disorders without any detailed explanation or support. Subono has worked with other unions and survivors of workplace injury to set up the OHS Survivor Forum with the aim to for justice and pressure the government to improve working conditions.

“We never knew, the factory owners told us it was safe”.

“The boss kept telling us that asbestos was safe, that there was nothing to worry about. So I took a handful of the dust from the factory floor and blew it into his face, he panicked and ran out of the room”. It was at that moment that Bono knew his employer was lying.



**Darisman- Organiser for Local Initiative for OSH Network (LION).**

Darisman has been an organiser and lead campaigner for LION, a non-profit organisation focused on increasing health and safety awareness located in Bandung, West Java since 2008. In 2010 Darisman was part of the delegation of Asian Solidarity to campaign to Stop Asbestos Exporting and closure Asbestos Mine in Quebec, Canada. He was a founding member of the Indonesia-Ban Asbestos Network (Ina-Ban) and has acted as coordinator of that organisation.

“According to our mapping to date, there are at least 26 factories producing commodities containing asbestos which employ in excess of 100 people each. We believe that there are at least 7000 people working in factories that produce materials containing asbestos and that is just the start”



## **Ban Asbestos Campaign**

Bono's union SERBUK and labour activist organisation LION are together spearheading the effort to get asbestos import and production banned in Indonesia- the world's third largest consumer of asbestos after China and India. Together they are trying to build union support for the campaign in each of the 26 factories producing asbestos products. They believe that unless the campaign is led by asbestos workers, then a ban could leave the most exposed to the poison out of work.

"Firstly, there must be provisions in place for compensation for workers who get sick – and we know from international experience that there is going to be many, many workers and their families who will get sick. Secondly, there must be support for the factories to be refitted to produce non-asbestos commodities, or support the workers to re-train" Darisman.

*Darisman, 37 years old.*

*Since 2008 has organized the workers in the asbestos factory in Indonesia and in 2010 became one of the delegation of Asian Solidarity to campaign to Stop Asbestos Exporting and closure Asbestos Mine in Quebec, Canada. In the same year, along with activists, doctors, victims and unions declared the Organization network of Indonesia-Ban Asbestos Network (Ina-Ban) and became the coordinator of until this time.*

*Together with Ina-Ban, in 2017, asbestos campaigns in Indonesia reached the new milestone that in addition to the organizations involved in INA-BAN are increasing and for the first time in Indonesia it recognizes the victims of occupational diseases related asbestos and gets compensation from State insurance agency . Currently, together with Ina-Ban continue to urge the country to campaign on the issue of banning asbestos in Indonesia, organizing workers and victims exposed to asbestos-related diseases. The tagline of campaigns on asbestos is strengthening the grassroots movement to build Indonesia free asbestos.*

*Subono, 37 Years old.*

*Seventeen years have been worked in an asbestos-roof factory in Kerawang, and in 2014 resigned from the company because it was diagnosed with pulmonary disorder that was allegedly caused by the adverse effects of asbestos. Subono witnessed his own colleagues who died with diagnosis of lung disorders without any detailed explanation what kind of disorder whether due to work or other factors. The lack of understanding of the asbestos hazards and at that time there was no union that concern or carries the OSH and asbestos issue into a main program of union strategic makes OSH and Asbestos issues marginalized, and the victims continue to fall. On that fact, he made a determination to activate and carries the OSH and asbestos issue as part of the union struggle. Subono is currently the President of the Union Federation of People's Workers Union (F-SERBUK Indonesia) who are concerned on organizing construction workers and making OSH and Asbestos issues as part of their campaign and organizing. Currently F-SERBUK is advocating 7 workers in asbestos factories who diagnosed with occupational diseases to gain recognition and compensation from the state.*

*In line above, Subono and with several OSH victims and other unions, built OSH victims Organization with the name is OSH Survivor Forum, with the aim that victims can speak up and fight for justice and pressure the government to improve working conditions so that there will be no OSH victims anymore in Indonesia*