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Oral Presentation

S5. ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT AND MEDICO-LEGAL APPROACH TO ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASES IN KOREA

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Use of asbestos and products containing asbestos has been strictly prohibited in Korea because it has been scientifically proved that continuous use of them would cause malignant diseases, such as cancer. Workers who were exposed to asbestos in their working place are entitled to compensation under the relevant damage compensation act, but any asbestos health damage due to environmental exposure without involvement in asbestos-related work in the working place can be compensated since the enactment of the Asbestos Damage Relief Act in 2011. This Act has been established as a part of 「2009 Asbestos Control Comprehensive Plan」 promoted by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, and any victims of asbestos related disease (primary malignant mesothelioma, primary lung cancer, asbestosis, or pleural plaques) that may occur due to exposure to asbestos environment in Korea or the bereaved of victims can apply for relief pay under this Act.

This paper looks into matters to be considered with priority when introducing an appropriate asbestos damage relief system, such as an ultimate purpose of the Asbestos Damage Relief Act, beneficiary of damage relief and scope of application, method of decision on damage, raising relevant fund.