

*Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA 2019 Solidarity Award
Madam An*

Madam An is a long and valued partner of Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA’s Vietnam program. She has been a tireless advocate in the Asbestos Not Here Not Anywhere campaign and instrumental along with ban network colleagues over many years of advocacy, in bringing about the Vietnam Prime Ministers announcement of a ban on use of asbestos in Vietnam in 2023.

Following relentless attacks by the asbestos lobby in Vietnam on VNBAN members, Madam An personally advocated seven ministries to respond and was a key reason for the Prime Minister publicly instructing Ministry of Construction to respect the international science and research and commit to ending their use of asbestos in Vietnam – effectively cementing support for the ban at the highest level.

Madam An first became aware of asbestos a workshop co facilitated by APHEDA and VGCL that was funded through the Australian Embassy’s Innovation Grants in 2010. At the time, Madam An was a member of the 13th National Assembly, representing Science, Technology and Environment.

Leading into retirement, in 2016, Madam An became more active in the Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA supported VNBan movement and helped establish the Justice for Environment and Health Network as well which she now co leads. Madam An continues to work tirelessly to raise awareness about the threat of poorly managed asbestos already in the environment in Vietnam and urgent need to prevent more asbestos from being imported.

Madam An is a highly respected member of the science and technology community and a consummate advocate. At 76, Madam An shows no signs of slowing down and has begun to engage in regional ban activities, making a significant contributions to the reform Rotterdam Convention campaign efforts of ABAN, supporting LaoBAN and more recently in Australia with ASEA.

For the APHEDA team in Vietnam, Madam An represents a tireless defender of the rights of ordinary people. In turn, Madam An views APHEDA as an organization genuinely interested in advancing the health and well-being of Vietnamese people. The partnership between APHEDA and Madam An’s organization is based on mutual trust and deep commitment to shared values.