

KILLED AT THE WORKPLACE

WORKERS' EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS IN THE ELECTRONICS FACTORIES IN BATAM, INDONESIA

LEMBAGA INFORMASI PERBURUHAN SEDANE (LIPS)

INFO@LIPS.OR.ID

CONTEXT

- ELECTRONICS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FASTEST RISING INDUSTRIES. IT IS PART OF **CROSS-BORDER PRODUCTION NETWORK.**
- **GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS** IN THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY ARE MORE GEOGRAPHICALLY EXTENSIVE AND **DYNAMIC** THAN IN ANY OTHER MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

- MORE THAN **A QUARTER OF A TRILLION CHIPS** MANUFACTURED ANNUALLY, REQUIRING THE USE OF HUGE AMOUNTS OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, METALS AND GASES.
- TOXIC CHEMICALS ARE **ESSENTIAL RAW MATERIALS** FOR THE ICT PRODUCTION.
- THOUSANDS OF CHEMICALS ARE BEING USED IN ICT PRODUCTION PROCESSES WITH DEVASTATING EFFECTS ON THE **HEALTH OF WORKERS, COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT** AS A WHOLE

ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IN INDONESIA

- SINCE 2008, THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY AS ONE OF THE SIX **PRIORITY INDUSTRIES** (PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 28/2008 ON NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL POLICY).
- WHAT IS THE **WORKING CONDITIONS** IN THIS SECTOR? WHAT ARE THE **CHEMICALS** BEING USED? WHAT ARE THE **IMPACTS**?

OVERVIEW OF BATAM

- BATAM IS AN ISLAND IN INDONESIA WITH A LONG HISTORY OF BEING A MANUFACTURING BASE AND A PART OF **THE GROWTH TRIANGLE** INVOLVING **SINGAPORE, INDONESIA** AND **MALAYSIA**.





- THERE ARE **22 INDUSTRIAL ESTATES**

- THE MAJOR ARE:

1. BATAMINDO INDUSTRIAL PARK
 2. PANBILL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
 3. CAMMO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
 4. SEKUPANG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.
- 

- MORE THAN **1,000 FOREIGN COMPANIES**
- MORE THAN **10.000 DOMESTIC COMPANIES**
- THE NUMBER OF WORKERS IN MAJOR INDUSTRIES: **130,000 WORKERS.**
(2016).
- ELECTRONICS WORKERS ARE TOTALED MORE THAN **50,000 WORKERS.**

TOXIC CHEMICALS

- SOME CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES ARE PROHIBITED TO BE USED ON FINISHED GOODS (SUCH AS **MERCURY, LEAD, CADMIUM**)

- THERE ARE **FIVE REGULATIONS** TO MONITOR THE USE OF CHEMICALS. HOWEVER, THEY ARE **NOT STRICTLY ENFORCED** AND MONITORED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
- THE EXISTING REGULATIONS ARE **NOT UPDATED REGULARLY**, SO THEY MIGHT BE OUTDATED OR IRRELEVANT

KEY FINDINGS

1. WEAK ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN REGULATING THE INFLUX OF HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS

- EXAMINATION OF CHEMICALS – ONLY ONE LAB. FOR **LEAD (PB)**, **MERCURY (HG)** AND **CADMIUM (CD)**.
- LIMITED CAPACITY OF THE LABORATORY TO OPERATE *VIS-À-VIS* THE **HUGE VOLUME OF CHEMICALS FLOW** INTO BATAM.
- THE **LIMITED TESTING CAPACITY** IN THE LABORATORY HAS CAUSED A LONG QUEUE. → BRIBERY - WHO WANT THE TEST EARLIER THAN OTHERS
- MANY CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES **REMAIN UNEXAMINED**

2. LACK OF GOVERNMENT MONITORING ON THE USE OF CHEMICALS IN THE WORKPLACES

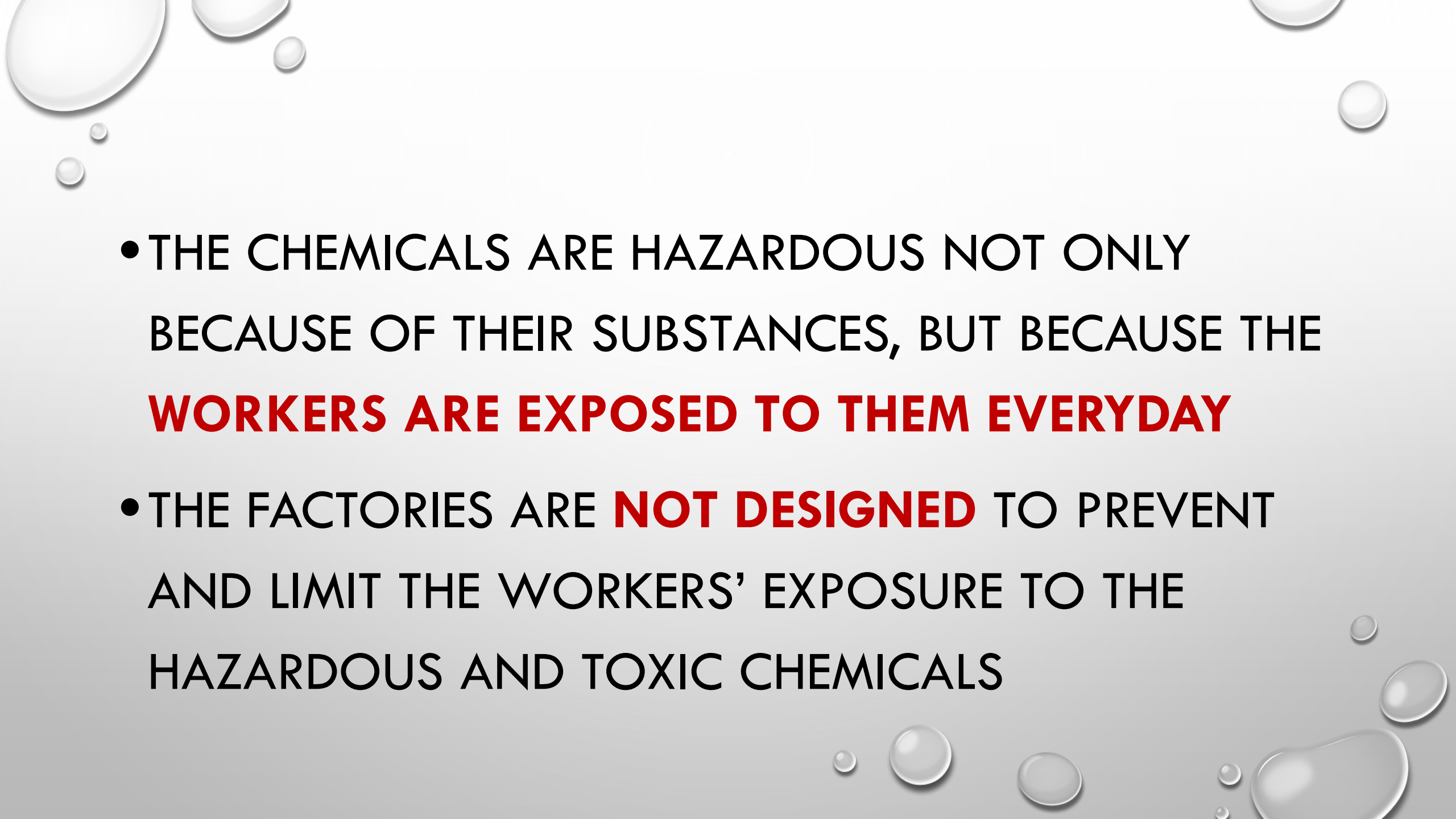
- THE NUMBER OF LABOUR INSPECTORS: NOT MORE THAN **TEN OFFICERS** – WITH TASKS TO CONDUCT THE INSPECTION OF THOUSANDS OF FACTORIES IN BATAM.
- CATEGORY FOR MONITORING:
GREEN (GOOD) – **YELLOW** (MODERATE) – **RED** (POOR)

3. BOGUS SOCIAL AUDITS AND BUSINESS OF CERTIFICATIONS

- PRESSURE FROM THE CONSUMERS HAS CREATED A GROWING **CERTIFICATION BUSINESS** FOR SOCIAL AUDIT.
- SOCIAL AUDIT AND CERTIFICATION CAN BE **MANIPULATED**
- THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND **HAS NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED**

4. WORKERS' DAILY ENCOUNTER WITH THE TOXIC CHEMICALS

- WE HAVE CHECKED THE CHEMICAL NAMES AND THEIR IMPACTS FROM A USEFUL WEBSITE CALLED **WWW.CHEMHAT.ORG**
- THE CHEMICALS BEING USED IN ELECTRONICS FACTORIES IN BATAM HAVE HIGH LEVEL OF HAZARDS THAT COULD CAUSE **FATAL DAMAGE OF ORGAN, CANCER, AND EVEN DEATH.**

- 
- THE CHEMICALS ARE HAZARDOUS NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR SUBSTANCES, BUT BECAUSE THE **WORKERS ARE EXPOSED TO THEM EVERYDAY**
 - THE FACTORIES ARE **NOT DESIGNED** TO PREVENT AND LIMIT THE WORKERS' EXPOSURE TO THE HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS



AMONG THE NAMES OF THE CHEMICALS

1. **TRICHLOROETHYLENE (TCE)**
2. **STODDARD SOLVENT**
3. **ACETONE**
4. **ANTIMONY TRIOXIDE (XN)**



PROBLEM OF OUTSOURCING EMPLOYMENT SYSTEM:

- THE COMPANY CAN FIRE THE WORKERS ONCE THEY REACHED MAXIMUM OF **TWO-YEARS** OF WORK PERIOD
- MOST OF WORKERS ARE EMPLOYED OR **MOVED FROM ONE FACTORY TO ANOTHER**

- IT IS DIFFICULT TO TRACK WHETHER WORKERS' **OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS** IS FROM THE CURRENT EMPLOYER.
- IN BATAM, THERE IS **NO SINGLE OCCUPATIONAL DOCTOR** PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

The image features a light gray gradient background with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?



- 2011 TO 2013: MORE THAN **100,000 WORKERS** PARTICIPATING IN MAY DAY RALLIES
- MORE THAN **TWO MILLION** AND **THREE MILLION** WORKERS PARTICIPATED IN THE **GENERAL STRIKES IN 2012** AND **2013** RESPECTIVELY.

- WORKERS DEMANDED: **DECENT WAGES**, REGULAR EMPLOYMENT STATUS (**AGAINST OUTSOURCING**), AND **BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS**.
- MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES OF UP TO **48 PER CENT** IN 2013, AS A RESULT OF GENERAL STRIKE IN 2012.
- THE INCREASE WAS **13 PER CENT** (2012), **48 PER CENT** (2013), AND **19 PER CENT** (2014) OR **27 PER CENT** ON AVERAGE

MAJOR GRIEVANCES/DEMANDS OF LABOUR STRIKES IN INDONESIA, 2007–2013 (PER CENT)

Year	Basic rights	Policy change	Other Demands
2007	68	8	24
2008	44	32	24
2009	50	20	30
2010	51	27	22
2011	50	30	20
2012	42	36	22
2013	40	37	23

Source: LIPS (2015)

PUTTING EMPLOYERS IN JAIL

- SINCE 2009 WORKERS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT A COMPANY'S GENERAL MANAGER TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION - AND EVENTUALLY **TO JAIL** FOR **DISMISSING UNION LEADERS DUE TO UNION ACTIVITIES**
- IN LATER YEARS, THEY WERE ALSO ABLE TO PUT SEVERAL EMPLOYERS TO JAIL FOR **NOT PAYING MINIMUM WAGES**

FACTORY RAID

- FROM MAY TO NOVEMBER 2012, THOUSANDS OF WORKERS MOBILIZED IN A RELATIVELY NEW EXPERIENCE OF **FACTORY RAIDS** THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND OF BEKASI, WEST JAVA.

PROTESTS BY INDIVIDUAL LABOUR UNIONS AND ALLIANCES IN INDONESIA, 2007–2013 (PER CENT)

Industrial action	Year						
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Individual labour union	95.5	92	57	60	38	40	43
Alliance of labour unions	4.5	8	43	40	62	60	57

Source: LIPS (2015)



- **COUNTER ATTACK** FROM CAPITAL AND STATE

- NEW REGULATIONS:

1. CERTIFICATE OF **NATIONAL VITAL OBJECT**

(PROTECTED FACTORIES) FOR THEIR ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

2. GOVERNMENT REGULATION NO 78 (**PP 78**) ON **MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE**

