



Bangladesh and UN Environment Host Dialogue between Neighbours to Enhance Trade Coordination on Ozone-Damaging Chemicals



DHAKA, 11 May 2018— The ‘Border Dialogue for HCFC (hydrochlorofluorocarbon) Trade Coordination and Cooperation’ took place from 9-10 May 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This thematic meeting was hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and organized in collaboration with UN Environment’s OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) to support countries in implementing their commitments under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Border Dialogue was opened by Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, Minister for Environment and Forests and Mr. Md. Rezaul Hasan, National Board of Revenue. The participants included representatives of Customs agencies, National Ozone Units and Border Security officials of six neighbouring countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal. Representative of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Container Control Programme and UN Environment also participated in the meeting.

The discussion covered various areas of customs and ozone authorities’ cooperation to ensure better monitoring and control of trade in Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) for accurate data reporting and prevention of illegal trade. The concerned substances include, for example, hydrofluorochlorocarbon (HCFC) refrigerant gases used for air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. The meeting also included a number of cross-country bilateral sessions to review and reconcile the official annual import and export data that each country is required to submit under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol. These data are highly important as they are used to determine each country’s compliance with its international commitments under the ozone treaty.

Three key issues emerged from the dialogue:

- The need to integrate risk profiling for ODS into trade control and border enforcement;
- Strengthening of cross-border collaboration; and
- The need to reconcile the data not only at the national level but also between the trading countries before the submission of Article 7 data.

Various options of dealing with seized illegal stock were also intensively discussed. Bhutan’s choice of reshipping such seizures back to the country of origin was highlighted. Participants found this type of dialogue useful and effective for strengthening the cooperation between customs and ozone authorities at national level as well as among the neighbouring countries. This Border Dialogue is the continuation of one held previously in Nepal in December 2016.



The participants from Myanmar receiving questions after their country update



National Ozone Unit Team of Bangladesh Department of Environment



Bilateral Discussions between NOU and Customs of India and Nepal



Bilateral session between NOU and Customs of China and Bangladesh

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