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GLOBAL

1- Multilateral Fund Plans Activities Valued at US \$244.5 Million in 2005

April 8, 2005--- 2005 is an important year for the Multilateral Fund. **The developing countries that the Fund supports are at the halfway mark in terms of the elimination of CFC and halon, ozone depleting substances (ODS) that harm the ozone layer. Also, in 2005 the Fund aims to eliminate the largest amount of ODS ever namely 96,734 tonnes and US \$244.5 million's worth of projects and activities were outlined in the business plans of the Fund's implementing agencies. The Multilateral Fund's strategy not only includes helping countries that are large consumers and producers of ozone depleting substances (ODS) to eliminate these substances, but also helping countries with low levels of consumption. The needs of these low volume consuming countries were high on the agenda of the 45th Executive Committee Meeting which took place in Montreal from 4-8 April 2005.**

Two examples of countries being helped by the Multilateral Fund are Bhutan, which ratified the Montreal Protocol in August 2004, and Eritrea, which ratified the Protocol just a few weeks ago in March 2005. The Executive Committee endorsed a Country Programme for Bhutan and approved US \$90,000 for a refrigerant management plan (RMP) as part of the country programme. A country programme lies at the core of each developing country's strategy for ODS phase-out and is the means by which a country reviews its production and consumption of ODS and defines a strategy and action plan for elimination. Plans for Eritrea are already included in the business plans of the Fund's implementing agencies and two of these agencies, UNEP and UNDP, will present a country programme and RMP for Eritrea at the next meeting in July 2005.

The phase-out of CFCs in the refrigeration servicing sector has long been one of the Executive Committee's priorities. The Montreal Protocol requires developing countries to reduce CFC consumption and production by 85% not later than 2007, and achieve complete CFC phase-out by 2010. Achievement of this goal would appear to be within their grasp, however many challenges

remain and the Committee decided on a regime to make additional funds available to assist smaller countries to complete the phase-out of the final 15% of CFCs.

Actions to help developing countries eliminate CFCs began in 1991, almost ten years before the first reduction target set out in the Montreal Protocol. Now in 2005, ten years before the first control measure for hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), the Executive Committee is starting to address the elimination of HCFCs. The first step is to examine HCFC consumption patterns in developing countries through HCFC surveys. Thus the Committee agreed on US \$1.2 million for surveys in 12 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Syria and Venezuela).

The Committee worked out procedures for funding solvent technical assistance projects in countries with very low consumption of CTC and methyl chloroform. CTC and methyl chloroform are ozone depleting substances (ODSs) that are used as a solvent in many cleaning applications. Countries must meet an 85% reduction target by the end of 2005. The Committee agreed to provide grants of up to US \$40,000 will be provided for these projects.

Other projects and activities funded

The Executive Committee made a commitment of US\$ 31 million for new national plans to phase out ozone depleting substances in Chile, the Dominican Republic, Macedonia, Romania and Viet Nam. Chile will phase-out the use of methyl bromide, a harmful fumigant, while the other countries will phase-out a combined consumption of nearly 400 tonnes of CFCs over the next few years.

Finally as part of its regular business the Multilateral Fund's Executive Committee made available over US \$61 million to 61 developing countries to fund projects to phase out the consumption of ODS and to strengthen national ozone units.

More information on projects and activities recently funded by the Multilateral Fund can be found in the report of the Executive Committee which will be published on the Fund's web site in the near future.

Background information

The ozone layer which absorbs ultraviolet radiation harmful to living organisms and human health, is in danger from several chemicals currently used in industry and agriculture such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform and methyl bromide.

The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol began its operation in 1991. The main objective of the Multilateral Fund is to assist developing country parties to the Montreal Protocol whose annual per capita consumption and production of ozone-depleting substances is less than 0.3 kg to comply with the control measures of the Protocol. These countries are referred to as Article 5 countries.

The 2 billion dollar Fund is managed by an Executive Committee chaired in 2005 by Paul Krajnik of Austria, Khaled Klaly of Syria is the Vice Chair. The Committee is assisted by the Fund Secretariat which is based in Montreal. Activities are implemented by four international agencies (UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, World Bank) and a number of bilateral government agencies. Responsibility for overseeing the operation of the Fund rests with the Executive Committee comprising seven members each from developed (Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Japan, United Kingdom and the USA) and developing countries (Brazil, Cuba, Niger, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Zambia. Since 1991, the Multilateral

Fund has approved activities including industrial conversion, technical assistance, training and capacity building worth almost US \$1.9 billion.

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2- Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC/TEAP Special Report

"How to Save the Ozone Layer while Combating Climate Change"

is now available. **To download a PDF** <http://www.ipcc.ch/press/SPM.pdf>

SOURCE: IPCC Secretariat, C/O World Meteorological Organization, 11 April 2005
<http://www.ipcc.ch>

SOUTH ASIA

3- China Pledges Stronger Efforts in Phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances

China will take stronger efforts to phase out ozone depleting substances (ODS) and is confident of **realizing zero major ODS production and consumption by 2010**, an official with China's environmental authority said in Beijing Wednesday.

Li Xinmin, deputy director of the Pollution Control Department of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), made the remarks at a joint network meeting of ODS officers in South Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific region, sponsored by the United Nations Environment Program. Since ratifying the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Ozone Protection Protocol, China had earnestly honored its obligations by carrying out ODS phase-out activities in various sectors, he said.

By the end of 2004, CFCs production and consumption in China had been reduced by 40 percent and 55 percent, respectively, from levels in 1997. Meanwhile, Halon production and consumption had been cut by 85 percent. China is also committed to stopping the production and consumption of CFCs and CFC-11, used as blowing agents in the PU foam sector, by July 1, 2007, except those for that are essential. "This means that China will reach the target two and a half years ahead of the schedule in the Montreal protocol," Li said.

The period from 2006 to 2008 will be key for China to implement the convention and protocol, as the country will shift its focus from investment activities in phasing out ODS production and consumption to non-investment activities in strengthening supervision of ODS production and consumption.

China began to draft the ODS management regulations in 2004 so as to crack down on the illegal production, consumption and trade of ODS with legal instruments, he said.

Speaking at the meeting, Maria Nolan, chief officer of the secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, said that one of the big challenges in the region is the need to monitor and achieve a balance between supply and demand for CFCs in the regions.

"There have been encouraging developments within India and China in controlling the flow of ODS across the borders," she said.

Nolan said that the fund's executive committee had approved China's request to advance the complete phase out of CFC production from 2010 to 2007.

"This will certainly have an impact on reducing global supply of CFCs," she said.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Convention, and a series of events will be held in Vienna to mark the occasion, according to the Secretariat for the Vienna convention and Montreal protocol.

SOURCE: Xinhua, 21 April 2005

http://english.people.com.cn/200504/21/eng20050421_182023.html

SOUTH ASIA AND PACIFIC

**4- Asia and the Pacific Region Already Reduced CFC Consumption by Half
With recent data showing that they have already reduced their CFC consumption by fifty percent, twenty three countries from the Asia and the Pacific region gather together in Beijing with the magnificent Great Wall of China as an inspiration, to agree on further actions that will bring them closer to full phase out of ozone depleting substances (ODS) under the Montreal Protocol.**

Representatives from ozone protection focal points from South Asia and Southeast Asia and the Pacific discuss the challenges faced in ensuring that 50 percent of the production and consumption of CFCs and halons, 85 percent of CTCs and 30 percent of Methyl Chloroform need to go by the end of this year. The theme "Gearing up for 2007 and beyond" also shows that they are confronted by further commitments that need to be met by 2007 which includes further reductions in their ODS use.

For a region where most ODS use is important in its economic development and where two of the largest ODS producers are located, reducing CFC consumption to 46,352.35 ODP tons from a baseline of 103,321.93 ODP tons is very good news.

But although countries have shown a marked decrease in CFC consumption, they have yet to commit to further reductions especially on halon and methyl bromide phase out. Specific benchmarks will need to be set to allow countries to meet these targets without any difficulties.

The region still continues to face problems of illegal ODS trade among border countries, but it has sufficiently put in place a system of regional cooperation and coordination that allows for this to be resolved by the concerned countries.

"I have no doubt that the Asia and Pacific region can set another example for the world to follow in fully complying with the upcoming and most critical obligations of the Montreal Protocol. Non-compliance with the Protocol, whether large or small, will have negative repercussion on the achievements thus far" said Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director and Representative, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

This three-day meeting of the Regional Networks of ODS Officers from South Asia and Southeast Asia and the Pacific will plan:

- Comprehensive policy and actions such as solid control and monitoring on ODS import,

- Conversion to alternatives and emissions reductions,
- Public awareness and involvement at least for the next year for these countries.
- identify potential difficulties that countries might face in 2007, and suggest specific actions to move these commitments forward.

Ms. Monique Barbut, Director of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics in Paris, said "that the compliance challenges of 2005 and 2007 will not be easy to overcome and can be faced through development of regional cooperation. We also would be able draw inspiration from the historic Great Wall in Beijing to witness what human dedication can achieve. This human feat should add to the countries' resolve to assist in building a wall around our globe to prevent UV radiation from getting in and meeting Montreal Protocol obligations may no longer seem too challenging."

This meeting is part of the work programme of the UNEP Compliance Assistance Programme in the regional office for Asia and the Pacific. The CAP team provides UNEP assistance to the region for compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

For more information, please contact:

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SOURCE: Port Villa Press, 21 April 2005,
<http://www.news.vu/en/news/environment/050421-CFC-consumption-reduced-by-half.shtml>

EUROPE

5- EU Commission Pursues Legal Action against Ireland

The European Commission has decided to take further legal action against Ireland **over three cases where EU laws to protect the environment and human health are being breached. The cases involve aspects of the management of waste water, assessment of the environmental impact of projects and a repeated failure to provide information on measures to protect the ozone layer.** The Commission is also pursuing legal action against Germany over its failure to assess the environmental impact of a power plant burning hazardous waste.

Irish cases

The Commission has decided to take Ireland to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) over two separate cases and to send it a written warning over a third case.

- The first case relates to the lack of satisfactory rules in Ireland for preventing malodours from sewage treatment plants in accordance with the EU framework directive on waste. This directive lays down basic requirements for how Member States are to deal with waste. The case arose from complaints about smells from certain Irish treatment plants, including the largest one in Dublin. Legislation promised by the Irish government to better regulate the management of such plants has not yet materialised.

This case also addresses the lack of satisfactory rules and controls to ensure that the siting, design and maintenance of domestic waste-water treatment systems do not harm the environment. Many Irish water supplies are contaminated by bacteria, the principal causes of which are land-spreading of animal wastes and leaking domestic waste-water treatment systems. Ireland is attempting to deal with the public health risk by devoting Community and Irish taxpayer resources to investments in chlorination and other forms of disinfection of contaminated water sources. However, more needs to be done to protect these sources from becoming polluted in the first place.

- The second case relates to Ireland's implementation of the EU directive on environmental impact assessment (EIA). This directive aims at assessing the environmental impact of certain projects before they are undertaken in order to avoid or minimise environmental harm and nuisances. EIA procedures provide for public consultation. The decision to go to Court relates to two issues.

Firstly, Irish legislation and enforcement practice regarding illegal developments mean that certain projects, such as quarrying and pig-rearing, can be carried out or intensified before an EIA is undertaken or considered. As a result, the public and the environment may suffer nuisance and harm.

Secondly, the Irish authorities have failed to give any commitment to carrying out a fresh EIA, including consultation of the public concerned, before work resumes on Ireland's largest wind-farm project at Derrybrien, County Galway. Initial work on this project led to an environmental disaster in October 2003, with a half million cubic metres of peat displaced in a landslide that damaged property and killed an estimated 50,000 fish. A prior EIA had failed to properly assess the risks that the project presented as a result of soil instability.

- In the third case, Ireland has failed to comply with a judgement delivered by the ECJ last October. The judgement condemned Ireland for failing to provide reports to the Commission on how it is implementing a number of provisions in the EU's Regulation on substances that deplete the ozone layer. These provisions concern systems for promoting the recovery of used ozone-depleting substances and the establishment of minimum qualification requirements for technical personnel. Ireland was also judged to have failed to take all precautionary measures practicable to prevent and minimise leakages of methyl bromide, an ozone-depleting substance used for fumigation.

Ireland is the only Member State not to have provided this information, for which the deadline was 31 December 2001. Ireland has mentioned the preparation of a report by consultants, but the information has still not been supplied. The Commission is therefore sending Ireland a first written warning under Article 228 of the Treaty. Article 228 gives the Commission the power to ask the ECJ to impose a fine for non-compliance should Ireland continue to ignore the Court's ruling.

SOURCE: EUROPA Press Release, 11 April 2005
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/411&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en#fn3#fn3>

6- Visteon Outlines Progress in Developing Advanced R744 Climate Systems for Vehicles
KERPEN, Germany, March 11, 2005 – At the VDA* Alternative Refrigerant Winter Meeting in Saalfelden, Austria, Visteon's climate control development group gave an overview of development of the R744 climate system, which is now being readied for commercialization. Visteon is one of the leading full-service suppliers of climate control systems for vehicles.

Compared with the traditional refrigerant R134a, the natural refrigerant R744 (CO2) has more favorable thermodynamic properties which, among other advantages, allow for better

cooling performance. With R744 climate systems, Visteon can provide vehicle manufacturers with a --- technology capable of meeting future European Union (EU) environmental legislation regarding automotive refrigerants.

“In developing R744 climate systems we have been able to demonstrate excellence at both the components level and in overall systems integration expertise to our customers,” said Nurdal Kuecuekkaya, who is leading the climate control activities for Visteon’s European and South American operations. “Over time, Visteon has gained a high level of climate system competence and our customers have confirmed that we are at the leading edge of R744 development.”

All relevant components of the system, from compressor through heat exchanger to accumulators, as well as refrigerant lines and connections, were designed at Visteon’s global climate control technical centers in Germany and the Czech Republic. Visteon has already delivered more than 20 prototype vehicles with R744 air-conditioning systems, which are undergoing trials with several automakers. Additionally, Visteon runs its own R744 test fleet of vehicles, some of which feature an integrated heat pump system for improved supplemental heating. As a result, Visteon is collecting feedback from major customers and long distance users to test the reliability and everyday practicality of the system. To date, the test vehicles have traveled a total of more than 372,000 miles (600,000 kilometers).

During test drives under extreme temperature conditions, jointly conducted by engineering staff from Visteon and its original equipment manufacturer customers, the new air-conditioning system proved convincing on all fronts. “The rapid cooling output is impressive,” Kuecuekkaya explained. “By developing all the components in the R744 system, we have attained a level of system expertise which enables a very dynamic response, representing a real advance over conventional air-conditioning systems.

The performance of the R744 system can be further improved with Visteon’s integrated heat pump technology. Winter trials in Scandinavia have demonstrated that the integrated heat pump is capable of supplying additional heat almost instantly. This not only increases thermal comfort in the cabin but has the additional benefit of defrosting the windshield rapidly.

Evaluations made by Visteon demonstrates that for a typical annual average temperature in Central Europe, R744 air-conditioning systems consume up to 20 percent less fuel compared to traditional R134a systems. This is a result of the very beneficial thermodynamic performance of R744, particularly in the lower temperature range. Pioneering the R744 technology, Visteon continues to work in partnership with its OEM customers to ensure rapid commercialization in line with European legislation. ---

* VDA = Association of the Automotive Industry, based in Germany (Verband der Automobilindustrie e.V.)

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SOURCE: Visteon, Press Release, <http://www.visteon.com/>

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