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**Featured Reading** >>> The full Report of the 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee is now available on the Multilateral Fund website: <http://www.multilateralfund.org/files/4647.pdf>  
Also available a new leaflet "Creating a Real Change" produced by the Multilateral Fund Secretariat about the Fund <http://www.multilateralfund.org/files/MLFLeaflet.pdf>

## **GLOBAL**

### **1- Ozzy Ozone Brings Environmental Messages to the World's Children**

AICHI, JAPAN, 29 July 2005. A virtual defender has arrived from space to protect our planet. The colorful and charismatic little molecule known as Ozzy Ozone, the stalwart defender of the Earth's stratospheric ozone layer has for the first time taken human form as a life-size mascot at this week's Children's World Summit for the Environment. More than 840 children from 64 countries had the opportunity to meet Ozzy in person in this southern Japanese city as part of cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Division of Technology, Industry and Economics OzonAction Programme and Japan's Save the Ozone Layer Network (JASON), a Japanese NGO working on ozone and climate issues.

The Summit is the premiere international environmental awareness event targeted at 10-14 years old, and the Aichi event marks the sixth time this event has been held. The main themes of this Summit were energy, forests and biodiversity, water and recycling. Thanks to support provided by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, UNEP and JASON were able to include significant activities related to stratospheric ozone protection.

The Ozzy Ozone mascot used entertainment as a medium to convey educational messages to the children. During the plenary session, he introduced the Ozzy Ozone video, which has already met with significant global success. Ozzy then played "Welcome to Wonder Forest" in which he performed a magic show, and then taught the children how to sing an original song called "Let's Sing What is the Ozone Layer". Ozzy also distributed for the first time a new educational comic book entitled "Ozzy Ozone: Defender of Our Planet". At the end, Ozzy asked for feedback from children about the ozone layer protection and gave the children pencil bag kits with Ozzy-themed school materials.

The Ozzy activities in Aichi were part of a larger strategic project, "Development of effective awareness materials", which is developing awareness and educational materials that can be adapted locally to communicate the ozone issue through television, radio, internet and printed materials, and in particular, teaching aids for children. The project is linked to the Global Strategy

for Compliance with the Montreal Protocol developed by UNEP OzonAction, and also to UNEP's Tunza project.

In addition to distribute the Ozzy materials at the International Children's Summit on the Environment, the OzonAction Programme will share them with National Ozone Units in developing countries for use in national celebrations of International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer on 16 September.

At the Summit, the children wrote a petition to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan. A giant canvas that was painted in Aichi will be placed prominently in the front of the United Nations Headquarters in New York when in two months' time, when world leaders will meet in the 2005 World Summit to discuss the Millennium Development Goals.

**Further information at** <http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction>

**Source:** UNEP DTIE - OzonAction, Information Release, 29 July 2005

## **AFRICA**

### **2- EPA Bans Ozone-Depleting Chemicals (Ghana)**

Sunyani (B/A) July 27, GNA - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has banned all imports of Chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs) manufactured refrigerants as the country recovers from the depleting state of the ozone layer. The Agency has also ordered a ban on other chemicals like halons used in fire fighting and Methylchlorofluom, also used as solvent and other materials.

Mr. Emmanuel Osae-Quansah, National Ozone Project Coordinator of the Agency who announced this at a seminar organised by the Brong Ahafo Regional Office of EPA in Sunyani said, in line with this, the Agency had impounded 30.3 tones of cylinders to rid the markets of illegal and mislabeled refrigerants. He explained that such human-made chemicals rising up to the atmosphere were damaging the ozone layer resulting in increase in skin cancer, damage to certain crops as well as increase in carbon dioxide concentrations.

Mr. Osae-Quansah indicated that the ozone layer absorbed most of the harmful ultraviolet emanated from the sun, adding the damage to the layer would allow UV-B radiation to reach the earth, which would be disastrous. The Project Coordinator expressed the hope that by 2010 the total consumption of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) and other chemicals used in manufacturing refrigerants and which is an ozone-depleting substance, would be got rid of the country.

Earlier Mr. Isaac Osei, Regional Programme Officer of EPA, explained that the ozone layer is a layer of gas in the earth's upper atmosphere that protects all living things on earth and called for intensive public education and pragmatic approaches to halt the depletion of the ozone. Mr. Joseph Abanor Sam, Regional Head of the Survey Department, who presided, asked all Ghanaians to become ambassadors and together fight against human activities that lead to the depletion of the ozone layer. **Source:** Ghana web page, 27 July 2005, <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=86757>

## **NORTH AMERICA**

### **3- New Research is Quantifying Environmental Benefits of Appliance Insulation**

WASHINGTON, July 28 /PRNewswire/ -- New research shows that substantially less of the fluorocarbons used in the foam insulation of refrigerator/freezers are emitted during the disposal process typically used in the U.S. than previously assumed. While the energy efficiency of refrigerator/freezers is the most visible environmental impact, this new research is aimed at quantifying the environmental effect of these appliances at disposal. In the U.S., fluorocarbon blowing agents are used in the manufacture of the insulation foam, which

is encased in the cabinet walls of refrigerator/freezers. The research conducted by the Appliance Research Consortium (ARC) and supported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Alliance for the Polyurethanes Industry (API), is part of an ongoing program designed to determine the environmental fate of blowing agents in the disposal and shredding process in the U.S., including the direct emissions, as well as the "attenuation" or degradation of blowing agents in landfills. Previous assumptions have been that 100% of the blowing agent is released into the atmosphere upon disposal of refrigerator/freezers in the U.S., however, this study indicates that, on average, only 25% of blowing agents are released at the time of shredding.

"Appliance manufacturers have been leaders in deploying ozone-friendly refrigerants and foam blowing agents while increasing the energy efficiency of their products," said Jeff Cohen, Chief of the Alternatives and Emission Reduction Branch at EPA. "This study is part of a continuing partnership to not only address emissions of ozone depleting chemicals from older equipment, but to also minimize atmospheric emissions of the alternatives through responsible use and innovative technologies."

This study has also found that:

\* virtually no blowing agent is released during the life of the refrigerator because the foam is encapsulated inside the appliance walls and the diffusional transport of fluorocarbons in the rigid foam is very slow.

\* if attenuation is occurring in landfills, it is possible that a significant fraction of the blowing agent, in particular CFC blowing agents, may be degraded within the waste layers of a landfill and never be released to the atmosphere, which further diminishes the ozone depleting effect of the foam. Further work is necessary to determine the breakdown products of shredded foam in landfills and the capacity of landfills to absorb these chemicals.

Research contractors W.Z. Baumgartner & Associates determined the representative size of shredded foam from various U.S. scrap yards, and the Technical University of Denmark conducted the chemical analyses for this project.

This research will be presented at API's Polyurethanes 2005 Technical Conference & Trade Fair, October 17-19, 2005, in Houston, Texas. A full summary of the conclusions and details of the research can be obtained in the Publications section of <http://www.aham.org>. For information on stratospheric ozone protection, visit <http://www.epa.gov/ozone>. More information on the API Polyurethanes 2005 Technical Conference & Trade Fair can be found at <http://www.polyurethane.org>.

The Appliance Research Consortium (ARC) is incorporated as a subsidiary of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) and is a partnership of U.S. appliance manufacturers, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address pre-competitive appliance technology issues.

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) is a not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry and is headquartered in Washington, DC.

You can visit the AHAM web site at <http://www.aham.org>

API promotes the sustainable growth of the polyurethane industry, in accordance with the principles of Responsible Care(R), by identifying and managing issues that could impact the industry in cooperation with user groups. Its 70 members are U.S. producers or distributors of chemicals & equipment used to make polyurethane or are manufacturers of polyurethane products. API is a business unit of The American Plastics Council (APC). APC advocates unlimited opportunities for plastics and promotes their economic, environmental and societal benefits. Plastics: A World of Unlimited Opportunities. Plastics Make It Possible(R)

SOURCE Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

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**Source:** HooversCom, Quoting: PR Newswire, 28 July 2005

[http://www.hoovers.com/free/news/detail.xhtml?ArticleID=NR200507281680.2\\_7067004ac0a9add5](http://www.hoovers.com/free/news/detail.xhtml?ArticleID=NR200507281680.2_7067004ac0a9add5)

#### **4- Eclipse Introduces New Chemical Fire-Suppression System**

Eclipse Aviation said Tuesday that it has developed a chemical fire suppression system for aircraft engines that could make it more money than the twin-engine very light jet (VLJ) Eclipse 500 plane it is developing.

The company said its system will replace the Halon suppression system that has been in place on airplanes since the 1950s.

Eclipse's PhostrEx system will be the first commercially viable, Federal Aviation Administration-certified, Halon replacement fire extinguishing agent, Eclipse said in a news release.

The FAA requires that every jet aircraft engine have a fire-extinguishing system. Halon, a chemical system that has been in use for more than 50 years, was banned in 1994 by the Montreal Protocol Treaty because it depletes the Earth's Ozone layer. Halon production ceased in 1994, but the aviation industry was allowed to continue using Halon-based systems pending the development of a replacement agent.

More than 500,000 aircraft worldwide use the Halon system, and their owners could be customers for Eclipse's PhostrEx system, according to Eclipse's prepared statement.

"It could be huge. It could be a bigger profit center for us than the planes," said Eclipse spokesman Andrew Broom.

Eclipse has invested in the tools and technology to manufacture the PhostrEx system, and the company's board of directors has authorized it to explore the establishment of a separate company to make and sell the system, Broom said.

The PhostrEx system is 90 percent lighter, more potent and easier to maintain than the Halon systems. And, it does not contain any Ozone-depleting agents, Broom said.

Eclipse began developing the system in 2003 and has tested it in more than 200 fires, Broom said.

The agent is released from a hermetically sealed canister and deploys in less than one-tenth of a second, combining with moisture in the air and quickly becoming inert. The system is expected to be certified for use on the Eclipse 500, which is undergoing flight testing. The company hopes to have the 500-jet certified by early 2006 and shortly thereafter expects to start delivering planes to its more than 2,100 customers.

Eclipse President and CEO Vern Raburn was not immediately available for comment.

Article at <http://albuquerque.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/stories/2005/07/25/daily10.html>

**Source:** New Mexico Business Weekly, 25 July 2005

## **EUROPE**

#### **5- RAL Questions WEEE Directive "Weakness" on Fridge Recycling**

Anglo-German quality assurance association RAL has written to EU ministers calling for a unified standard for the treatment of ozone-depleting gases from waste fridges.

RAL has written letters to each of the 25 EU Member State governments requesting their views on the interpretation of the European WEEE Directive with respect to the recycling of fridges.

"RAL believes that Europe must have a unified approach to treating waste refrigeration appliances that contain hydrocarbons."

- RAL Quality Assurance Association The association - which is pushing its own quality mark for the demanufacture of refrigeration equipment containing environmentally harmful substances - believes there could be a loophole in the WEEE Directive.

The major question that RAL raises is whether hydrocarbons contained in waste fridges and freezers have to be completely recovered before disposal.

The Directive brings in treatment requirements for separately collected waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) along with new collection and recycling targets. But RAL claims that the legislation has a weakness with respect to the collection of hydrocarbon coolants from fridges.

The quality assurance association interprets Annex II, section 1 of the WEEE Directive as requiring CFCs, HCFCs, HFCs and HCs to be removed from separately collected WEEE.

However, section 2 of the Annex - which states that components of WEEE collected separately have to have ozone-depleting or greenhouse gases properly extracted and destroyed - "weakens or even invalidates the provisions of section 1", according to RAL.

#### Emission

RAL says that because section 2 contains no explicit reference to hydrocarbons (HCs), it can be interpreted as permitting the emission of these substances into the environment. It adds that some hydrocarbons used in fridge systems are liquids and not gases at room temperature - and the section only refers to "gases".

The association believes that the potential loophole in the Directive could undermine investment being put into fridge recycling plants that can recover all substances contained in fridge cooling circuits and foams.

In a statement, it said: "RAL believes that Europe must have a unified approach to treating waste refrigeration appliances that contain hydrocarbons.

"For this reason, RAL would be very interested to know whether in the opinion of European ministries... all fridges and freezers containing hydrocarbons have to be treated together with those containing CFCs, HCHCs and HFCs and that the hydrocarbons have to be recovered and then subjected to further treatment or disposal," RAL said.

**Source:** letsrecycle, 29 July 2005, <http://www.letsrecycle.com/legislation/news.jsp?story=4713>

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