

# OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by:  
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris

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### 1- Ozone Layer Recovery Compels Global Cooperation (Sri Lanka)

Accelerating protection of the Earth's ozone layer will be the urgent focus of governmental representatives meeting here next week. The 13th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol will draw some 400 delegates from 130 countries... With the consumption of CFCs and other ozone depleting substances in developed countries now almost completely phased out, attention is turning to the developing countries. The ozone layer cannot recover unless these countries - which account for 83 percent of the remaining global CFC consumption - make an early transition to ozone friendly chemicals... Governments are discussing the need for stronger controls on imports and exports, more training of enforcement officers, improved regional customs cooperation, enhanced regional networking for sharing information and experiences, and greater awareness raising to help buyers avoid accepting illegal substances unknowingly. Related issues on the agenda include reducing emissions from ozone depleting chemicals used as chemical catalysts, developing national management plans for reducing halons in critical uses such as firefighting, promoting alternatives to ozone depleting chemicals, and critical use exemptions for methyl bromide to be implemented beginning 2005.

**Full Text @:** <http://ens-news.com/ens/oct2001/2001L-10-09-03.html>

**Source:** Environment News Service (ENS), 09 October 2001

### 2- First Climate Monitoring Station Set Up in Kenya

NAIROBI, October 08 -- An atmospheric monitoring station has been set up in Kenya to monitor climate changes and the results of green-house gases in Africa, the Sunday Standard newspaper reported. The Kenya Global Atmospheric Watch Station, established on Mount Kenya, is the only one for such purpose in the world that is located along the Equator and at an altitude of 4,000 meters, the report said. The station will monitor atmospheric composition changes in air pollution and the ozone layer depletion, which will help study regional and global climate changes. Musalia Mudavadi, minister of Transport and Communications, was quoted as saying at the inauguration of the station on Friday that the station will provide early warning in environmental and atmospheric degradation and enhance capacity building for Kenyan scientists. - Enditem

**Source:** Africast.com @: <http://www.africast.com/article.cfm?newsID=25456>

### 3- Tax Hikes on Chemicals Approved (Thailand)

Cabinet yesterday approved the Finance Ministry's proposal for tax measures to discourage the industrial use of four chemical substances harmful to the atmosphere. The ministry has proposed a royal decree and two ministerial announcements to impose higher excise and import duties on CFCs, halon, methyl chloroform and carbon tetrachloride, all of which contribute to depletion of the ozone layer. The excise duty will be raised to 15% and import duty from 1% to 5%, both effective the day after the three laws are published in the Royal Gazette. From 2003, the excise duty will be doubled to 30%. Two other ozone-depleting substances, HCFCs and methyl bromide, have been exempted because they are used in the drying of farm produce. The action is being taken to comply with the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, to which Thailand is a signatory. Adopted in 1985, the Vienna Convention commits signatories to protect human health and environment against the adverse effects of depletion of the ozone layer due to human activities. It sets out broad principles of ozone layer protection, rather than establishing a detailed phase-out schedule of ozone depleting substances, which were later included in the Montreal Protocol in 1987. Thailand has made progress in reducing the use of some of the substances, notably CFCs. However, the Finance Ministry said attempts to

discourage the use or import of the substances were so far not satisfactory. It said the tax measures were necessary to wean industries away from the substances and enable the Thai government to meet its obligations to the world community.

**Source:** Bangkok Post, 10 October 2001 @: [http://www.bangkokpost.com/News/10Oct2001\\_news20.html](http://www.bangkokpost.com/News/10Oct2001_news20.html)

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**OzoNews is also available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:**

<http://www.unep.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

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