



United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Bhutan Prime Minister signs Compact on Ozone Protection to reduce use of ODS by 20 percent

Thimpu, 26 June 2014– The Prime Minister of Bhutan, H.E. Tshering Tobgay signed a Compact with the National Environment Commission (NEC) that includes specific phase out targets of 20 percent reduction for Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). The rest of the developing world will achieve this target between 2015 and 2020. The Compact/Performance Agreement (for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015) with NEC focuses on meeting targets and outputs for 2014-2015 which also included Ozone targets. This is a very important development which implies that the Prime Minister will review the achievement of Ozone targets included in the Compact on an annual basis.

The Prime Minister informed Mr. Atul Bagai, Senior Regional Network Coordinator, UNEP OzonAction Programme, that he appreciated the efforts of UNEP and promised full support on Ozone issues. He was keen to know more about the HFC issue and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) initiative and promised to look into the issue from Bhutan's perspective. The Prime Minister spoke most positively about the curriculum development for the RAC industry which was launched by Her Majesty the Queen of Bhutan at the celebration of the Environment Day on 4 June 2014 in the presence of many senior government officials. He was also very encouraged with the signing of the compact with NEC a day before which included specific ozone targets.



Mr. Atul Bagai, in conversation with the Prime Minister of Bhutan

Addressing the members assembled for the Compact signing, the Prime Minister reiterated that the performance agreements signed between him and the respective agencies meant that the Government led by the Prime Minister himself would fully support the performance agreement which is comprised of a defined set of objectives, mandates and agreed set of targets to be accomplished within a year's time. He further noted that it was imperative to achieve what has been agreed and signed as per the Performance Agreement. He also reassured all the support and backing of the government to meet the set targets and would personally oversee and carry out periodic reviews sometime towards the end of 2014 to assess and evaluate their achievements.

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He added, “The Kingdom of Bhutan remains entirely committed in this endeavour and I believe that with our collective efforts to preserve our environment and reduce the use of ozone-damaging HCFCs, our global commitment will accomplish sustained and resolute actions throughout the world.

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Bhutan’s National Environment Commission: www.nec.gov.bt