



zonAction



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A newsletter dedicated to the protection of the ozone layer and implementation of the Montreal Protocol

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Viewpoint

Building the future, together



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the Parties to the
Montreal Protocol,
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There is no doubt that developing country commitment to the Montreal Protocol now represents the most important factor in the recovery of the stratospheric ozone layer during the next few decades.

However, the task of achieving phase out may be undermined by the attractive and widespread myth that the job of developed countries is substantially complete. It is indeed tempting for many developed countries to cite their accomplishments with satisfaction. But satisfaction with accomplishment should not be confused with believing the job is done.

The truth is that the Montreal Protocol

is at an historic turning point at which the challenges facing us require a re-thinking of the roles and opportunities for developed and developing countries alike.

Developing countries are certainly aware of their role over coming decades and of the need for substantive reductions in ODS consumption and production. It is notable that the countries that have most recently hosted the Meetings of the Parties—Egypt (1998), China (1999), Burkina Faso (2000) and Sri Lanka (2001)—are demonstrating their commitment to ozone protection at a time when they could easily cite more obvious environmental, political or other challenges.

Similarly, the recent ratification of the Protocol by the Republic of Palau—a small, very low volume ODS consuming nation in the Pacific—together with the very real possibility that the Protocol will enjoy a universal membership by the end of next year, are further signs that ozone protection is firmly on the agenda of the developing world.

Many developed countries can feel justifiably proud of what they have

ExCom notes 2001 Business Plan of the Multilateral Fund

A phase out of 13,926 ODP tonnes and a disbursement target of US\$118 million for activities already financed by the Multilateral Fund are the main targets of the Fund's 2001 consolidated Business Plan. In noting the recommendations made for this business plan, implementing agencies were also requested to prioritize projects in countries requiring immediate assistance in complying with the freeze and the first ODS reduction measures. This was one of the decisions made during the Thirty-third Meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Multilateral Fund held in Montreal on 28–30 March 2001. This was preceded by meetings of the subcommittees on Monitoring, Evaluation and Finance, and Project Review.

The ExCom also had wide-ranging discussions on the continuing issue of strategic planning. A consensus was

reached on the need to implement a country-driven approach to allow countries to retain the flexibility that would best suit them in meeting their obligations under the Montreal Protocol. Further discussion will be needed on proposals to provide additional funding for developing countries, on the understanding that they make a commitment to reduce national aggregate ODS consumption.

Other decisions made during the meeting included the following:

- Agreement on the draft prerequisites for terminal phase out projects in the refrigeration sector.
- National customs training for each country should continue to be funded following the recommendations on the strategic framework for national, subregional and regional customs training.

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accomplished over the last decade. However, the investment of that decade-long effort cannot be realized without the north-south partnership that must

continued on page 8 ...

- The final report on the evaluation of the regional networks was noted. This includes the recommendation to hold network meetings back to back with, for instance, meetings of environment ministers and senior officials in the region, in order to raise political awareness concerning ozone issues.

The ExCom Meeting also approved the Business Plans of the bilateral and implementing agencies along with their respective performance indicators, as well as 2001 Work Programmes for UNIDO, UNDP and the World Bank, and UNEP's 2001 Work Programme Amendment.

The next meeting of the ExCom is scheduled for 18–20 July, in Montreal.

Contact: Multilateral Fund Secretariat
(see page 2 for contact details)

News from international agencies



Fund Secretariat

The Fund Secretariat prepared more than 30 technical and policy documents and contributed

to the successful conclusion of the 33rd ExCom Meeting.

After wide-ranging discussions, the ExCom reached a consensus on the need for a country-driven approach, allowing countries to retain the flexibility to determine the type of approach that would best enable Article 5 countries to meet their obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

As the basis for future work in strategic planning, the ExCom decided to adopt the framework on the objectives, priorities, problems and modalities for strategic planning of the MLF in the compliance period. It requested that the Secretariat prepare specific proposals for changes in procedures, implementation mechanisms and modalities.

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UNEP DTIE

UNEP's 2001 Business Plan was endorsed by the 33rd ExCom Meeting at a level of US\$10.5 million. Its first

Work Programme amendments for 2001, amounting to US\$470,000, were also approved at the same meeting.

The Methyl Bromide Communication project involving NGOs was formally launched at a workshop in Paris, to define the modalities of implementation in 10 countries.

A Train-the Trainers workshop for refrigeration technicians was held in Fiji as part of their Refrigerant Management Plan (RMP).

A regional workshop for National Compliance for Pacific Countries was also held in Apia, Samoa.

CEIT countries held their first training workshop on alternatives to methyl bromide in soil treatments, in Hungary (see page 6).

Networks of ODS Officers of South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific South Asia also held their regional meetings (see page 7).

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UNEP Ozone Secretariat

The Ozone Secretariat participated in the 33rd ExCom Meeting (Montreal,

March 2001); the TEAP Annual Meeting (New York, April 2001); and the SPARC-Ozone Trends Meeting (Washington DC, March 2001).

Members of the Secretariat attended meetings arranged by UNEP on International Environmental Governance and on the Coordination of the Secretariats of Environmental Conventions.

The Secretariat also participated actively in meetings of regional networks of ODS Officers for West Asia Countries, South Asia Countries, Spanish-speaking Countries from South and Latin America and the Caribbean, and English-speaking African Countries.

The Secretariat was also involved in discussions on implementation of the Montreal Protocol in Pacific Island countries.

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UNDP

The 33rd ExCom Meeting approved UNDP's 2001

Business Plan which includes US\$44.6 million for investment projects to phase out 4,514 ODP tonnes. The major part of the funding will be targeted towards the foam sector, followed by refrigeration. The ExCom also approved US\$6.955 million for the second annual programme of the China Solvent Sector Plan.

A US\$3 million methyl bromide phase-out project was launched in Malawi, implemented by UNDP. This will eliminate the use of methyl bromide in Malawi by 2004.

Phase 1 of preparation of the Refrigerant Management Plan for Brazil, being implemented by UNDP, was also launched.

In April, UNDP hosted both the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) and the Aerosols Technical Options Committee (ATOC) meetings in New York.

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UNIDO

The 33rd ExCom Meeting approved 30 preparation projects to be implemented by UNIDO

in 15 countries. The projects will cover the foam, refrigeration, solvents, fumigants production and halons sectors.

In the production sector, a preparation project was approved for India on the understanding that UNIDO will prepare projects in the pharmaceutical product and materials subsector, to be incorporated into India's Process Agent Sector Plan, development of which is the responsibility of the World Bank.

Project preparation in D.P.R. Korea will cover the remaining consumption of CFC as a solvent and as a process agent.

The halon sector in Yugoslavia was included on request from the 32nd ExCom Meeting, to assist the country in achieving a freeze on halon consumption.

The 33rd ExCom also approved a Refrigerant Recovery and Recycling Scheme for Senegal and renewed institutional strengthening for Syria.

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World Bank

The 33rd ExCom Meeting approved US\$7.1 million including support costs to finance the 2001 annual

Work Programme for China. US\$11.9 million was approved for the 2001 annual Work Programme for India's CFC production closure project. In addition, project preparation and institutional strengthening funds for US\$737,000 were approved for Chile, China, Ecuador, India, Indonesia and Thailand, of which US\$422,000 is carried over from 2000. To date, the Bank has phased out 88 per cent in ODP tonnes through Multilateral Fund approved projects. Total approvals for the World Bank now equal US\$434.6 million, with US\$312.2 million in disbursement.

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TECH TALK

UNEP DTIE welcomes information from industry and will mention as many new technologies and products as possible in this newsletter.

REFRIGERANTS

End-users praise benefits of ammonia

A group of end-users of ammonia-based refrigeration technology recently voiced their enthusiasm for such systems. At the 23rd annual meeting of the International Institute of Ammonia Refrigeration (IIR), speakers cited cost, efficiency and the environmental performance of systems as the major benefits.

Mr William Duffy, P&O Cold Logistics President, reported that 15 of the company's 17 cold storage facilities use ammonia-based refrigerant platforms. Nestlé's Refrigeration Manager, Mr Brent Wiencke, added, *'we believe in the advantages of ammonia. HFCs are a transient refrigerant. We don't know if they will be around in 10 years.'*

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Sanya: driving out CFCs

Hotels and government organizations in Sanya, a tourist destination on the southern tip of the Chinese island of Hainan, are

replacing CFCs in refrigeration systems and are using a new coolant.

The change of coolant is part of a city-wide campaign launched at the beginning of the year to eliminate CFCs in refrigeration units and air conditioners. Sanya is recognized as having very high air quality (reputed by some to be the best in the world). By eliminating CFCs, the city will take a step towards maintaining this reputation, thereby ensuring continued prosperity from tourism.

Punitive measures are to be introduced for businesses that continue to use CFCs, including their closure and confiscation of freezing equipment and refrigerants. Local administrative departments will not approve annual check-up documents for vehicles that continue to use CFCs in their air conditioning, and commercial banks will refuse construction approval and credit support to developers whose projects require CFCs.

Contact: Greencool,

e-mail: greencool@public3.bta.net.ca

North America's oldest fridge is ozone friendly

The oldest operating refrigerator in North America—77 years old and owned by Mr Chuck Sozio, Melrose, Massachusetts—uses a non-ozone-depleting sulphur dioxide coolant system. The fridge was located after a search launched by Electrolux Home Products to commemorate the 85th anniversary of Frigidaire's development of the self-contained electric household refrigerator.

Contact: Tony Evans, Electrolux,

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EPA expands list of acceptable SNAP substitutes

The US EPA has expanded the list of acceptable substitutes for ODS under its Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) programme. The new substitutes listed are for use in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector.

A chemical blend of 92 per cent of HFC-134a and 8 per cent of hydrogen bromide is now acceptable as

Ozone science news

Cold polar rings help form clouds that destroy ozone

Newly discovered, narrow rings of cold air above the Earth's poles help to form clouds that destroy ozone, according to a technical paper in the 30 March issue of *Science*.

According to the paper's lead author, Azadeh Tabazadeh, a scientist at NASA's Ames Research Center in California, large polar stratospheric cloud (PSC) particles are born inside narrow temperature rings around the Earth's poles in total darkness. Strong winds blow these special clouds away from the cold rings to fill the polar air with ozone destroying particles. The clouds extend over an area greater than that of the US, despite the fact that they form initially inside a narrow temperature ring.

Contact: John Buck, NASA,

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WMO says ozone loss down in Arctic

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced on 24 April that northern, middle and high latitude ozone values during last winter and spring appeared to be higher than in recent years. The organization said that total ozone values were approximately 5 per cent less than the average pre-1980s level used as the undepleted ozone layer reference point. However, WMO attributes these 'near normal' ozone levels to warmer than average conditions in the winter and spring months in the Arctic stratosphere and not to the expected long-term recovery of the ozone layer.

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replacement for CFC-12 and R-502 in retail food refrigeration and cold storage warehouses. This blend is also acceptable as a substitute in new equipment for CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-114, CFC-115 and R-502 in industrial process refrigeration, and CFC-12 and R-502 in

EPA 2002 Ozone Protection Awards

The US EPA is now accepting nominations for its 2002 Stratospheric Ozone Protection Awards. The deadline for applications is 31 August 2001.

The Ozone Protection Awards were established in 1990 to recognize exceptional leadership, personal dedication, persuasive moral and/or organizational leadership and actual elimination of ODS emissions.

Candidates from anywhere in the world are eligible. Individuals may work for the public or private sector.

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refrigerated transport.

Fittings for small cans of SP34E were also listed. An original SP34E listing did not include these.

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METHYL BROMIDE

Floriculture industry prepares for methyl bromide phase out

Scientists at the University of Florida's Gulf Coast Research and Education Center have studied various soil fumigants and herbicide combinations that could provide alternatives to methyl bromide for control of soilborne pests in caladiums (ornamental plants).

Researchers used treatments consisting of methyl bromide and chloropicrin, 1,3-dichloropropene and chloropicrin, and metham and chloropicrin. They found that 1,3-dichloropropene and chloropicrin may be a viable replacement for methyl bromide when combined with metolachlor herbicide used at planting.

Contact: USDA
<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/mba/jan01/flor.htm>

Telone injection: a promising alternative

The US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA ARS) has evaluated Telone as a possible alternative to methyl bromide. However, Telone is subject to buffer zone regulations based on amounts emitted.

Now a new coultter assembly that could be used to inject Telone into the soil may allow it to be used as an alternative to fumigation with methyl bromide. The coultter assembly, designed by a consultant

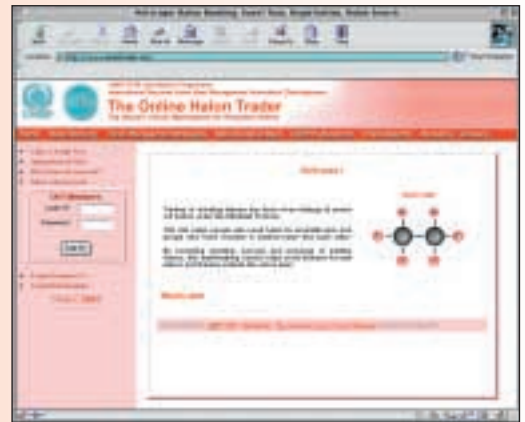
First B2B web portal in the UN system to protect the environment

UNEP has launched a new B2B web portal, the 'On-line Halon Trader' (www.halontrader.org), that facilitates the international exchange of 'banked' halons and aims to reduce the demand for new halon production. This is the first B2B web portal to support compliance with a multilateral environmental agreement.

The 'On-line Halon Trader' is designed for companies that use halons in 'critical' applications, including owners, managers and/or operators of fire protection systems, fire control services and other

organizations related to fire protection. It provides a virtual marketplace where people can match demand with supply. This is a free service in which 'Halon Seekers' (companies that need halon for critical applications) post listings of their specific requirements in a virtual marketplace. 'Halon Providers' (companies or halon banks that can meet this demand with recovered, reclaimed or recycled halon) respond or post their own listings about halons available for exchange. UNEP provides the platform for this exchange but does not become party to the transaction between those who seek halons and those who provide them.

Contact: OzonAction Programme,
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from Dow AgroSciences, injects the Telone about 30 centimetres into the soil and covers the hole with compacted soil to slow emissions.

Contact: USDA ARS,
website: <http://www.ars.usda.gov>

AEROSOLS

FDA approves ozone-friendly Albuterol inhaler

The US FDA has approved Ventolin HFA for use in the United States. This albuterol sulphate metered dose inhaler

(MDI) uses HFA (hydrofluoroalkane) propellant that does not damage the ozone layer. Ventolin HFA is the second albuterol HFA MDI approved for use by the FDA. The other, Proventil HFA from Key Pharmaceuticals, was approved in 1996.

FDA further announced that although no action to remove CFC-containing albuterol MDIs from the market is planned at the present, the availability of two albuterol HFA MDIs offers patients important alternatives to their present albuterol CFC medications.

Contact: FDA, **website:** <http://www.fda.gov>

HFC-227 production site launched

Du Pont has announced that it has started production of hydrofluoroalkane (HFC-227) in the USA.

The company uses HFC-227 as a propellant in medical products, replacing the use of CFC-12 and CFC-11.

The company is also producing HFC-227 as an alternative to halon-1301 in fire extinguishers.

Contact: DuPont **website:** <http://www.dupont.com>

Success story ...

Duriflex phases out CFC-11 by conversion to LCD water-based technology

Duriflex, a manufacturer of office furniture in Thailand, is now using non-ODP liquid carbon dioxide as an alternative to CFC in the manufacture of flexible moulded foams. The company is also using water-based technology, including use of an in-mould coating system, to make integral skin foam.

Before making the switch Duriflex was using 30 tonnes per year of CFC-11, with 65 per cent of this being used for flexible moulded foams and the other 35 per cent for integral skin foams.

The company has also eliminated use of 1.5 tonnes per year of 1,1,1-trichloroethane—used for flushing—from its manufacturing process.

The project was implemented by UNDP after approval by the Multilateral Fund in July 1998. It was completed in September 1999 and has achieved a total CFC-11 phase out of 21 ODP tonnes, at a cost of US\$278,000.

Contact: Duriflex, **fax:** +66 2 431 1818


WORLD POLICY ROUNDUP
Mauritius to eliminate CFCs by 2005

The Mauritian Minister of Environment, Mr Rajesh Bhagwan, has said that the country intends to completely eliminate CFCs ahead of Montreal Protocol requirements. Speaking at a workshop on the theme of 'Recovering and Recycling of CFCs', at Ebene, Mauritius, Mr Bhagwan reported that, under the Country Programme, CFC consumption has dropped from 70 tonnes in 1992 to 38 tonnes today. Further reductions are expected in 2001.

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Pakistan to increase duty on compressors

The Government of Pakistan is to increase the import duty on CFC compressors used in air-conditioners and refrigerators from 10 per cent to 35 per cent.

The Environment Ministry of Pakistan has already concluded agreements with international agencies for a ban on production and marketing of electronic and electrical goods that cause pollution and deplete the ozone layer.

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Japan proposes fluorocarbon tax

The Democratic Party of Japan has unveiled a bill to levy a tax on manufacturers to promote the collection and disposal of three types of greenhouse gas, including some that are harmful to the ozone layer.

The bill proposes a fluorocarbon tax and use of the revenue raised to run a centre to collect and destroy CFCs and HCFCs used as refrigerants in automobiles, industrial cooling equipment and home appliances. Revenue would also be used to develop technologies to replace these ODS and to collect gases contained in used appliances exported to developing countries.

Contact: Mr Kono Haruhiko, Ozone Layer Protection Office, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, **fax:** +81 3 3501 6604,
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US EPA proposes global exemption for laboratory users using Class 1 ODS

The US EPA now intends to continue the exemption on companies producing and importing Class 1 ODS for laboratory and analytical essential uses. The agency also intends to extend the exemption to purposes involving equipment calibration; extraction solvents, diluents or carriers for chemical analysis; inert solvents for chemical reactions, as a carrier or laboratory chemical; biochemical research; and other critical analytical and laboratory purposes.

The US EPA plans to announce later this year that ODS uses relating to testing of oil, grease and total petroleum hydrocarbons in water, testing of tar in road-paving materials and forensic fingerprinting will no longer be considered essential as of 1 January 2002.

Contact: Margaret Sheppard,
US EPA, **tel:** +1 202 564 9193

Czech cabinet approves draft bill on air protection

The Czech Government approved a draft bill, on 9 April 2001, on protection of air, the ozone layer and the climatic system that will bring Czech legislation into harmony with that of the European Union and with international agreements and protocols.

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Ministry of Environment,
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e-mail: lenkamoravcova@env.cz

Togo: bringing forward the deadlines

Togo is seeking to eliminate ODS by 2005, instead of by the deadline of 2010 allowed for developing countries under the Montreal Protocol. This is the objective behind a national awareness raising campaign launched by Togo's Minister for Environment and Forestry Production, Mr Koffi Adada.

The campaign will raise awareness among technicians in the refrigeration sector, importers of refrigerating equipment and users as to the availability of alternative substances and equipment.

A campaign has already been aimed at importers operating in the port sector in Togo and non-compliant imports will be banned as of 1 January 2003.

Contact: Mr Kossi Domepha, AMONA, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Tourisme,
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e-mail: bno-togo@rdd.tg

Philippines to begin recovery of halons

The Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has announced that the Philippines is to launch an initiative to begin recovering halons.

Acting secretary of the department, Mr Jose Marie Gerochi, said that a halon recovery bank in Paranaque city will recover, recycle and manage banned halons from all fire extinguishers, especially halons 1211 and 1301 used both as fire extinguishing agents and refrigerants.

Contact: Amando C. Dayrit,
Public Affairs Office, DENR,
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International workshop promotes increased military cooperation on ozone issues

One hundred and sixty one senior military officers, environmental authorities, technical experts, and environmental NGOs met in Brussels, Belgium on 6–8 February, at a workshop that explored the importance of the military organizations in stratospheric ozone protection and climate protection. At the workshop, the military representatives agreed to increase their commitment to phase out of ODS, and to strengthened 'military-to-military' and 'military-to-civilian' environmental cooperation. They also exchanged crucial technological and policy information required by military organizations to halt the use of ODS.

Military organizations in most developed countries have eliminated almost all use of ODS and have minimized emissions for most remaining applications, but the military in countries with economies in transition (CEIT) and developing countries are just beginning to consider their phase out. Use of ODS by the military is not more than 5 per cent of national ODS consumption in most countries, and use is for critical applications necessary for national security. However, as the Montreal Protocol proceeds, these chemicals will become increasingly scarce and eventually phased out, and the military in CEITs and developing countries will need to be prepared to adopt alternative technologies. The workshop concluded that it is critical that military organizations continue global cooperation including internal and military-to-military workshops to create awareness and prepare for ODS phase out.

Contact: OzonAction Programme,
e-mail: ozonaction@unep.fr
Workshop report available on line at
www.uneptie.org/ozonaction.htm

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

Communicating methyl bromide phase-out through NGOs

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are to implement communication programmes in 10 countries to raise awareness about methyl bromide, its phase out and availability of alternatives. This was the subject of a meeting between UNEP and 10 NGOs, held in Paris, France, in February 2001, to provide the NGOs with the information and tools necessary to implement the communications programmes. The meeting also noted that this is the first time that funds have been provided by the MLF to use NGO expertise

Eliminating ODS in central and Eastern Europe

UNEP held a workshop in Hungary from 23–25 April 2001, at which participants identified the need to promote ozone-friendly agricultural practices in nine central and eastern European countries.



Workshop participants on a field visit to a farm using alternatives in Hungary

The workshop, organized jointly with the Plant Health and Soil Conservation Station of Csongrad County (PHSCS) and the Government of Hungary, noted that current consumption in the nine countries is 325 tonnes, and demonstrated that non-ozone-depleting alternatives to methyl bromide are currently available.

This project was funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Government of Canada.

Pacific island countries launch actions to save the ozone layer

Fiji has become the first country in the Pacific Islands to launch serious actions to protect the ozone layer. At a training session, held on 5–9 March, at Nasinu, 30

refrigeration technicians acquired the skills they need to observe good practice when servicing equipment containing ODS and thus reduce emissions. They also heard that the Fijian Government is committed to the phase out of ODS well ahead of the 2010 deadline set by the Montreal Protocol. With financial help from the MLF, Fiji is well on target for phase out by the end of 2002.

During his opening address at the workshop, Mr Epeli Nasone, Fiji's Director of the Environment stressed the importance of close cooperation between countries in the region in areas such as training of technicians and sharing experience on project implementation.

The Nasinu training session was organized by UNEP DTIE's OzonAction Programme in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Fiji. Training was provided by the Australian Institute of Refrigeration Air-Conditioning and Heat (AIRAH) at the Fiji National Training Council.


For more information on the above articles contact the Ozonaction Programme (see page 2)

South Pacific island countries agree on regional ozone protection strategy

As the result of a new regional strategy, agreed at a meeting held in Apia, Samoa on 24–26 April, South Pacific Island countries will be better equipped to play their part in preventing ozone depletion.

The strategy emphasizes sharing of information and experience between ODS Officers, and will help to improve import control mechanisms, trade monitoring by customs officers, and training of

New publication



UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme has released *Eliminating Dependency on Halons: Case Studies*, which presents eight examples to inform developing countries of how other countries and organizations have approached and addressed different aspects of halon management. This is available on line at the **OzonAction** website (see page 2).

refrigeration servicing technicians to minimize ODS emissions.

The three-day meeting was organized by UNEP and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). It was supported by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

Commenting on the new strategy, Mr John Bungitak, General Manager of the Environmental Protection Authority of the Republic of Marshall Islands, one of the ten countries represented, said *'It is an excellent beginning of the end for ODS in the region. Strengthened national initiatives backed up by a regional strategy supported by UNEP and SPREP will enable the Pacific to play its part in this international concern.'*

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WEB Watch

A new website for ozone watchers

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has launched a new website designed to share the latest science and news about the Earth's ozone layer

The new site answers frequently asked questions about ozone and provides information on ozone science and NOAA's work in ozone monitoring and research.

In the September–October period, the Antarctic ozone hole 'season', the site will provide up to date information on the ozone hole and on how it compares to those of previous years.



For information, visit the site at: <http://www.ozonelayer.noaa.gov> or contact: Patricia Viets, NOAA, tel: +1 301 457 5005

NETWORK NEWS

Countries express growing concern about illegal trade in ODS

During their meeting in Tehran on 28 April–01 May 2001, ODS Officers from the South Asia Regional Network encouraged stronger controls on ODS imports and exports among member countries. This will counter the growing threat of illegal trade which could undermine their efforts to phase out ODS under the Montreal Protocol. ODS officers are keen to encourage a more frequent exchange of information between member countries, in particular regarding the latest developments in import requirements and updates in the list of trade names. The ODS officers also invited the Ozone Secretariat to supply member countries with information they receive on illegal ODS trade. Member countries also agreed on the need for a workshop for ODS Officers on the 'country-driven' approach to Strategic Planning as endorsed by the ExCom. It was felt that this would help them to understand the wider implications of such an approach and would provide valuable support in helping them to meet the remaining challenges in phasing out ODS.

The need for more information on the long-term regional trends in ozone, UV radiation and ODS emissions for South Asia was also raised, along with a recommendation to the Parties to request an update on current data from the Scientific Assessment Panel.

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Regional customs cooperation deemed important in Southeast Asia

The growing trade in ODS imports both *en route* to other destinations outside Southeast Asia and to countries within the region itself continues to raise concerns about the possibility of contraband shipments. Countries in the SEAP region are addressing these concerns with a proposal to further promote regional cooperation in the control of ODS imports. The modalities of the proposal are currently being prepared and will shortly be presented for consideration by the members of the Regional Network of ODS Officers in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

In a meeting held in Bangkok on 9–10 April, the Network recommended the importance of preparing case studies on crops that do not use methyl bromide from countries in the region, as this would contribute greatly to their search for alternatives to meet the 2002 methyl bromide freeze. ODS Officers in Thailand and the Philippines have agreed to prepare such reports on pineapples and bananas respectively. Other issues discussed included specific awareness-raising projects that countries in the region are keen to undertake, and how recommendations from the Network evaluation carried out by the Multilateral Fund can be implemented.

Contact: Thanavat Junchaya,
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Illegal trade

ARAP warns against illegal CFC trade

The Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy (ARAP) has issued a statement asking industry to be certain that CFC purchases are legal. ARAP also appealed to industry leaders to refuse to buy illegally imported refrigerants. The warning was issued because ARAP suspects that smuggling of CFC imports are increasing as ODS become increasingly scarce due to international phase outs.

The US Government has formed a joint Department of Justice, US EPA, Customs Services and Internal Revenue Service Task Force to combat a wave of CFC smuggling. Penalties have included prison sentences from two months to five years and fines have totalled more than US\$40 million.

Contact: Dave Stirpe, ARAP,
tel: +1 703 243 0334, <http://www.arap.org>

Twelve arrested in alleged illegal Freon ring

Police in Jefferson County, Kentucky, USA think they have broken up a ring that stole ozone-depleting Freon refrigerant and sold it illegally to businesses.

Twelve men were arrested and 10 tonnes of Freon were seized. The black market value of the Freon was estimated at US\$1 million.

Contact: http://enquirer.com/editions/2001/03/14/loc_arrested_in_alleged.html

21st Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) Meeting: setting the agenda

The terms of reference (TOR) for replenishment of the Multilateral Fund (MLF) of the Montreal Protocol is one of the issues to be discussed at the 21st Meeting of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, to be held on 24–26 July 2001, in Montreal, Canada. The Parties have agreed to replenish the MLF every three years and will again discuss the TOR for the mechanism to determine replenishment for the next triennium (2003–05).

Other subjects tabled for discussion include:

- The need for further adjustment of the schedule for phase out of HCFCs by Article 5 countries under the Montreal Protocol.
- Findings from the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) on new ODS and on progress made in reducing emissions of controlled substances from process-agent uses and on implementation and development of emission-reduction

techniques and alternative processes not using ODS.

- A joint report from the TEAP and the Scientific Assessment Panel, on the criteria for assessment of the ozone-depletion potential (ODP) of new chemicals and a guidance paper on mechanisms to facilitate public-private sector cooperation in the evaluation of the ODP of new chemicals.

Contact: UNEP Ozone Secretariat (see page 2)

The National Ozone Unit Interview

This is one of a series of articles featuring the views of national ODS Officers

Christine Wellington



**ODS Officer,
Ministry of
Environment, Energy
and Natural
Resources, Barbados**

You have recently hosted a Regional Workshop on Policy Development to Phase out Methyl Bromide in the Caribbean. Can you please give us your view of the workshop and of how it has influenced your work in phasing out methyl bromide?

The Workshop directly exposed other Government sectors to the Montreal Protocol. It helped to clarify the Protocol and 'de-mystified' methyl bromide use and its alternatives. It has coordinated Town Planning, the Pesticide Control Board and the Ministry of Environment, Energy & Natural Resources on the issue of methyl bromide; and the Chief Town Planner has since stated that methyl bromide is unnecessary for all new golf course development.

We understand that Barbados' consumption of methyl bromide could increase due to new development in golf tourism. How are you responding to this problem considering that the methyl bromide freeze is in 2002?

The Pesticide Control Board and the Chief Town Planner have stated that, since the Workshop, they now feel confident that methyl bromide is unnecessary for golf course development, and will be issuing no more permits for its use. The Ministry of Environment can now amend its ODS Policy to essentially ban methyl bromide for such uses, since all Government is confident that development can continue unfettered without it.

You are also in the process of developing your Refrigerant Management Plan (RMP). Can you describe briefly how this will assist you in the phase out of CFCs in the refrigeration sector?

... continued from page 1

continue to characterize the Protocol.

In particular, the expertise gained by developed countries must find its way to developing countries. The lessons learnt by the experiences of one must help the other to develop and implement effective and efficient ODS management regimes.

We are currently looking at the elements of the RMP, to tailor it to our national environment. For example, we would like to explore expanding application of local natural gas refrigeration technology, already used to cool certain large structures on the island. Also there is a need to examine the whole reclaim/recycling approach where there is no reclamation centre included, or mechanism to help local technicians offload non-reusable gases.

As an ODS Officer of a small country, can you describe the main constraints that you are facing in implementing your projects and meeting your targets? How did you overcome these? Can you identify the factors that have been most helpful to you in carrying out your responsibilities?

The main constraint is human resources. Most ODS officers are also in charge of implementing one or two other Conventions, particularly the UNFCCC. So, to survive, computer literacy, e-fora, electronic forms and use of desk top publishing techniques to design public awareness materials in-house are invaluable. The Caribbean ODS Officers Network has been the lifeline of many an officer as well, since it helps to bring country performance into focus.

You have been very active in the Regional Network for ODS Officers for the Caribbean, how has the network contributed to your phase-out activities? Can you cite specific examples?

The Network acts as the ODS Officer 'training camp' and highlights country performance. At my first meeting Barbados' performance was critiqued, dangerous trends identified, and the Protocol was clarified, so that I could write up a task list with the appropriate timelines from the outset. It was the Network meeting that helped to make the Methyl Bromide Workshop a reality, since it was there that Barbados first voiced its concern about its increasing use of the chemical.

**Contact: Christine Wellington,
e-mail: cwellington@environment.gov.bb**

The investment made by developed countries to date—substantive though that has been—is really the foundation of a larger structure that will require the proactive engagement of developed and developing countries alike for many more years. In a very real sense, that structure will be the house in which together we will all live or die.

Forthcoming meetings

International Institute of Refrigeration
Conference on Refrigerant Management and
Destruction Technologies of CFCs,
29–31 August, Dubrovnik, Croatia

34th Meeting of the Executive Committee of
the Multilateral Fund, 18–20 July, Montreal

Status of Ratification

(as at 30 April 2001)

The Vienna Convention
176 parties. No new parties*

The Montreal Protocol
175 Parties. No new parties*

The London Amendment
145 Parties. New Party: Yemen

The Copenhagen Amendment
120 Parties. New Parties: Bahrain, Ghana,
Paraguay, South Africa, Yemen

The Montreal Amendment
56 Parties. New Parties: Argentina, Bahrain,
Paraguay, Yemen

The Beijing Amendment
5 Parties. New Parties: Canada, Jordan,
Luxembourg,

*since the last issue of the *OzonAction Newsletter*

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