

**Minutes of the Coordinating Committee Meeting for the  
Implementation of Montreal Protocol in Sri Lanka**

**Air Resources Management and National Ozone Unit  
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment**

**Date and Time** : 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 2.00 pm

**Venue** : “Saptha Parisara Mandapaya”, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment (M/MD &Envt.,)

**Present:**

Mr. M P D U K Mapa Pathirana, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

Mr. Asitha K Seneviratne, Consultant, Ministry of Industry and Commerce

Mr. G.M.J.K. Gunawardana, Director (NOU), Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

Mr. Gamini Wickramapala, Director (Planning and Monitoring), M/MD&E

Mrs. Chamila Sumathiratna, Senior lecturer, University of Vocational Technology

Mr. S.U.K. Rubasinghe, Director, Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission

Mrs. Amara Beiling, Director (Envt.), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka

Mr. S.P.K. Amarasinghe, Chief Training Engineer, CGTTI

Mr. J Senanayake, Additional Director, NPQS

Mrs. I K Warshamana, Deputy Director, NPQS

Mr. K.K.S. Jayakody, Superintend of Audit, Auditor General Department

Mr. L.D.N. Kumarasiri, Chief Internal Auditor, M/ MD & Evt.,

Mrs. Neranja R. Nissanka, Accountant, M/ MD & Evt.,

Mrs. P M M S Tilakaratna, Assistant Director, M/MD& Environment

Dr. (Ms.) Vishaka Hidellage, Assistant Country Director, UNDP

Ms. Sureka Perera, Programme Analyst, UNDP

Ms. Shyara Bastianz, Program Associate, UNDP

Mr. M.M.M. Senevirathne, Coordinating Officer, National Ozone Unit, M/MD & Evt.,

Mrs. Ramya Wickramasinghe, Administrative Officer, National Ozone Unit, M/ MD& Evt.,

Mrs. V.M.M.R Athukorala, Program Assistant, NOU, M/MD & Evt.,

Mr. Dilan Kulandaarchchi, Development Officer, NOU, M/MD & Evt.,

Mr. Mapa Pathirana, Additional Secretary (Environment Projects and Education and Training) welcomed all participants who have come to serve as the members of Coordinating Committee

Meeting. He further explained the importance of conducting Coordinating Committee and main objective of convening this meeting.

Mr. Gunawardana, Director/National Ozone Unit made a presentation to the Committee and briefed on Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol for the protection of Ozone Layer phase out of Ozone Depleting Substances and implementation of Montreal Protocol in Sri Lanka as a Party to the both Convention and Protocol. Subsequently, he presented the Progress report of 2016 (Physical & financial) on three main projects carrying out by the NOU and also current status of implementation of Montreal Protocol Project.

Through the Power Point presentation, he explained main project activities in detail as follows.

1. Institutional Strengthening (IS) project.
  - 10 awareness creation programmes have been conducted covering of Educational Directors, In-service advisors, principals and science teachers, school children Government Officials, security force officers
  - A Capacity building workshop for Custom Officers of the Sri Lanka Customs.
  - Several meetings and workshops were organized and conducted in collaboration with Ministry of Education, National Institute of Education (NIE) and Education Publication Department as well as Heads of the Divisions and Departments of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment for amending science subject in school curricula by incorporating environmental sensitive subject matters. Book on environment sensitive subject matters has been launched and distribute among the zonal education offices through NIE.
  
2. HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP)
  - Workshops on Good Practices in refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) have been conducted for service sector technicians in Districts of Matara, Kandy, Gampaha, Ampara and Sri Lanka Army. A Training workshop was conducted in Katunayake Industrial Promotion Zone to familiarize the recovery and recycling technology among RAC Service Technicians to minimize the emission of refrigerant to the atmosphere while during service and repairs. This programme is continued under the UNDP – HPMP component.

- Training curricula for Technical and Vocational Training has also been completed and published in introducing more technical subject matters on alternative technologies for ODSs. And also the practical training workshops have been conducted for AC/Ref Service sector technicians who are working in Anuradhapura District. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has provided the necessary funds for these activities. He further stated that the UNDP and UNEP are giving their fullest support for implementing all activities on protecting Ozone Layer.
- Programmes have been organised to aware the officers/workers who are working in industrial zones of Biyagama, Koggala and Katunayake. This is for the awareness of investors and workers in order to control of ODSs in BOI Export Processing Zones and introducing the alternative substances.

### 3. HCFC import Quota

In his presentation, elaborated the details of quota utilization in 2016 and quota distribution for 2017. Quota for import of HCFC for the year 2013 is 230 mt and from 2015 to 2020 it will be maintained at 10% reduction level. From 2020 to 2025 it will further reduced by 25%. Therefore, the demand for HCFC may increase and the price of HCFC refrigerant also is going up. In order to avoid any scarcity of HCFC refrigerant, it has taken a decision to ban import, manufacture of refrigerators and air conditioners working with HCFCs having ODP value over 0.03. However, due to low GWP value and very low ODP value, equipment working with HCFC 123 will be allowed until 2020.

### 4. Incentive scheme for purchase of 0 ODP, low GWP Air conditioners

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) have been introduced as alternative to Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in refrigeration, air conditioning, insulation, solvents, aerosol, and fire-protection products. Pilot Incentive payment scheme is in operation to provide incentive for procuring 0 ODP and low GWP Split Air Conditioners. R 32 is such refrigerant which has 0 ODP and 675 GWP. Therefore, purchase of R 32 ACs are eligible for this scheme. Under this scheme, Ocean University, Marine Environment Pollution Authority, Cultural Ministry, National Transport Commission, obtained incentives last year.

### 5. Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol

The Parties to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer reached agreement at their 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the parties on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). This Kigali Amendment adds to the Montreal Protocol the phase down of the production and consumption of HFCs. Sri Lanka has been requested by the Ozone Secretariat to become one of the first countries to ratify for this amendment. Accordingly, Director mentioned that the steps have been taken to ratify it on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017, on the day Montreal Protocol celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

6. The following suggestions and decisions were taken at this meeting:

6.1 Accessories of environment friendly recovery and recycling process of refrigerants will be mandatory from 01.01.2019 for service centres/ workshops when issuing the license by Central Environmental Authority effective from year 2019. Director, further informed that soft loan facility to purchase these equipment will be arranged with the help of commercial banks and discussions have already been started.

Senior Training Engineer of CGTTI, mentioned that they can help to manufacture low cost recovery machine and provide training for needy persons.

6.2 Encourage the reclaim facility already established in 8 centres by the service sector to make recovered gas up to 99% purity.

6.3 In addition to the item 6.1, quantity of gas which recovered/recycled should be measured and recorded.

6.4 The recover/recycle machines could be hired from the Ceylon German Technical Training Institute.

6.5 Guidelines on maintenance of REF/AC in environment sound manner should be included into the ISO 14000.

6.6 Awareness of public on Eco friendly REF/ACs equipment and their maintenance will be needed before buying the REF/AC equipments and should be introduced the alternatives for these.

6.7 MeBr Fumigation of transshipment cargo is not allowed. Country of origin should fumigate and shipped.

6.8 Department of Export and Import Control can request extra quota of ODS from Montreal Protocol if necessary

- 6.9 MeBr has been used as a fumigator in Quarantine practices which was exempted by Montreal Protocol because of there is no alternatives in Sri Lanka. Department of Plant Quarantine should submit the information of MeBr (i.e. origin, volume, destination etc.)
- 6.10 Director General/ Customs should examine the exceeded quantity of quota of HCFC in accordance to the rules and regulations.

**G M J K Gunawardena**

Director

Air Resources Management and National Ozone Unit

Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment