

**Minutes of the Project Steering 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 : 26th July 2018, 2.00 pm

Venue : Conference Hall (Ground Floor), Ministry of Mahaweli Development Environment

Present:

Mr. M P D U K Mapa Pathirana, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
Mr. W M A P B Wanninayake, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
Ms. K Piyaratne, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Mr. S M Dayaratne, Additional Director General, Dept. of Project Management and Monitoring
Mr. L K S U Dharmakeerthi, Director (ARM&NOU), Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
Mr. S P K Amarasignhe, Principal/Director, Ceylon German Technical Training Institute
Dr. R M S K Ratnayake, Director, Central Environment Authority
Mr. Majula Vidanapathirana, Actg. Director, Tertiary & Vocational Education Commission
Mr. Udasiri Perera, Actg. Director, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Mr. S N L Ratnaweera, Asst. Director, office of the Registrar of Pesticides
Ms. Rajitha Jagoda, Assistant Director, Dept. of National Planning
Mrs. W L C Wijayasundra, Assistant Director, National Plant Quarantine Service
Mr. A S K Warahena,, Senior Lecturer, University of Vocational Technology
Mr. Avishka Virajin, Senior Investigation Officer, Consumer Affairs Authority
Ms. M B S H R Fernando, Assistant Director, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka
Mr. K J Sirikumara, Assistant Director, Sri Lanka Standard Institute
Ms. P M M S Tilakratna, Assistant Director (ARM & NOU), Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
Mr. A B Issadeen, Superintendent of SL Customs, SL Customs
Mr. M P D Lanka, Assistant Superintendent, SL Customs
Mr. A H M Amrin, Assistant Superintendent, SL Customs
Mr. M K U S Fernando, Assistant Controller, Department of Import and Export Control
Mr. K R Samarawickrama, Training Officer, Vocational Training Authority
Ms. Rasika Gamage, Development Officer, Department of External Resources
Ms. Yamuna Dissanayake, Development Officer, Department of External Resources
Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Country Director, UNDP
Ms. Sureka Perera, Programme quality and design Analyst, UNDP
Mr. M M R Padmasisri, Technical Advisor, UNDP
Mr. Sumudu Sliva, Technical Coordinator, UNDP
Mr. M M Senevirathne, Coordinating Officer (Technical), National Ozone Unit

Mr. A N G S Gunaratne, Environment Management Officer, M/MDE
Mr. R W Dharmawardhana, Technical Officer, National Ozone Unit
Mr. P H C Premasiri, Technical Officer, National Ozone Unit
Ms. Roshanie Athukorale, Programme Assistant, M/MMDE

Mr. M P D U K Mapa Pathirana, Additional Secretary has welcomed the members of Project Steering Committee (PSC) who have participated to this meeting. This is the 1st PSC Meeting held this year and declared the next PSC meeting in Dec'2018. He invited to make self-introduction of the officials who have attended for the meeting, because some of the officers are new to PSC meeting.

Mr. W M A P B Wanninayake, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment made a brief introduction of the objectives of this meeting and activities, projects implemented under the Montreal Protocol in Sri Lanka. He further stated that the activities conduct by the National Ozone Unit in order to phase out the ozone depleting substances (ODSs) on specific time targets set by the Montreal Protocol Guidelines is continued. He invited Mr. Sugath Dhramakeerthi, Director/National Ozone Unit to do his detail presentation 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.

At the beginning of his presentation he gave an introduction about Ozone layer and Ozone science as this meeting was first meeting for some members. He enlightened the participants through the rest of the presentation about activities, progress of 2017 (Physical & financial) of three main projects that have been carried out by the NOU and ongoing activities of this year. He further explained about the planned activities for the rest of the period and expected budget revisions/ rephrasing of unutilized funds under HPMP/ UNDP Project if any balance may remained at the end of the year.

Mr. Mapa Pathirana, Additional Secretary, thanked Mr. Dharmakeerthi and opened the floor for the discussion

Matters discussed at the Meeting

1. Enabling activities to implement under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol

Mr. Dharmakeerthi mentioned that Sri Lanka has recognized the importance of HFC phase down to achieve climate benefits. However Sri Lanka is concern on safety, cost and commercial access to new or alternative technologies to replace HFCs. Therefore, the government has decided to take measures to address these issues with the assistance of UNEP and as a result of the request of the Government of Sri Lanka UNEP agreed to implement project titled 'Enabling Activities for HFC Phase down' with the funding of US\$ 150,000

2. Proposal for HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage II

In order to grant funding for the HPMP Stage II from 2020 to 2030 by the Multilateral Fund (MLF) of the Montreal Protocol, Sri Lanka government has to submit proposal to the Executive Committee of the MLF. This proposal will jointly prepared by NOU and UNDP. For that Consultant from UNDP visit Sri Lanka in late August.

3. Status of the Proposal for Institutional Strengthening (IS) Phase XII

IS project is continued in phase-wise and Phase XII of IS project will be implemented during 2019/20 and the level of funding has to be informed by the UNDP and accordingly proposal for the IS Phase XII will be submitted to the UNDP in October.

4. Pending funding for UNDP verification of HPMP stage I and preparation of stage II

UNDP will submit the HPMP Stage II preparation and HPMP Stage I verification funds request to 82nd Excom (timeline 24 September 2018) and will be notified the funding arrangement after the approval received.

5. Issuance of HCFC Quota for 2018

National Ozone Unit has to forward the recommendation to the Import and Export Control Department to issue license (ICL) for importing of HCFCs under the quota allocated to particular importer. According to the cabinet decision dated 28th July 2017 for Introducing additional regulations on HCFC Phase-out, was advised to prepare a transparent methodology to be followed in selecting suitable importers and to follow open competitive bidding procedure for issuing import quota.

The methodology has been developed the issuance of quota to Import HydroCholoroFluroCarbon (HCFC) for year 2018. For this year, 164 m.tons has been distributed among 24 companies who have engaged in the refrigerant industry in servicing, installing and assembling using R22 (HCFC substances) and other gases and importation of R22 and other refrigerants over the last 5 years are favorably considered for issuing licenses with having proven documents.

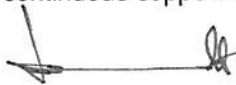
6. The following decisions were taken for special matters:

- a. In response to the request of Dr. Ratnayake, Director/CEA, it was decided to enhance the knowledge on Preservation on Ozone layer and the implementation of Montreal Protocol among Officials attached to the Local Authority and Central Environment Authority. Therefore, NOU undertook to conduct training programmes in future.
- b. There is a shortage of R-22 refrigerant availability in the market due to phase out programme of R-22 refrigerant under the Montreal Protocol. In order to face this shortage eight refrigerant Reclaiming centers were established covering eight provinces in the country until June this year. Recently ninth reclaim centre was opened in Technical College, Gampaha and this will facilitate to reclaim the refrigerant in Gampaha District. Proposal was made to increase the number of reclaim centres and also to commence mobile reclaim facility to support workshops in distance places and who have collected small quantity of refrigerant.

- c. Every year, NOU has conduct the capacity building programmes for SL Customs officers. This year customs has recruiates 68 new officers and NOU conducted a workshop for them. As per the request made by Mr. A B Issadeena, Superintendant of Customs, refreshing training programmes will be arranged for the customs officers who had been trained many year ago. It was decided to print more training materials and prepare an user friendly mobile app to easy access of all the details pertaining to ODS/non ODS.
- d. UNDP proposed to hold separate meeting to discuss about the next year funding and budget allocations more broadly.
- e. Separate committee will be appointed to give recommendation to review the existing mechanism and the implementation of Montreal Protocol.
- f. Data on Import of ODS to SL is being recorded and these data informed to the ozone secretariat according their deadlines. The mechanism to identify these things should be established in SL. Mr. Mapa Pathirana, Additional Secretary proposed to prepare a format jointly by NOU and Customs to collect necessary data. SL Customs will provide these data when required.
- g. Working group will be formulated to find innovation and alternative ways to address the issues related to global warming and find sustainable use of domestically modified and new finding among university academics and practitioners.
- h. NOU and UNDP jointly to work for transferring funds in the budget lines appropriately to facilitate the requirement of fully utilizing the funds during 3rd and 4th quarter of year 2018.

At the conclusion, Additional Secretary invited Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Country Director, UNDP to make her remarks on behalf of UNDP. She thanked for inviting for this meeting and expressed her highest consideration to the Montreal protocol implementation in Sri Lanka. She stated that the projects under UNDP are well managed and happy to cooperate further for successful implementation of Montreal protocol to achieve expected climate benefits as mentioned in the discussion

At the conclusion remark, Mapa Pathirana, Additional Secretary, once again thanked the participants and their exclusive contribution to implement Montreal Protocol in Sri Lanka. He further emphasized the continuous support from all to reap benefit from this Multilateral Environment Agreement.



Sugath Dharmakeerthi

Director

Air Resources Management and National Ozone Unit

Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment