



Annual Report 2014

National Ozone Unit
Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy



Annual Report - 2014



*Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy
82, "Sampathpaya"
Rajamlawatta Road, Battaramulla
Sri Lanka*

Vision

"Preserve Ozone Layer"

Mission

**Actively Contribute for the Global Environment Conservation Action Through
Gradual Phase out of Ozone Depleting Substances and
Adopt Environment Friendly Technologies**

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List of Abbreviations

ERD	External Resources Department
HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
HPMP	HCFC Phase out Management Plan
MOP	Meeting of Parties
MPU	Montreal Protocol Unit
NOU	National Ozone Unit
NPD	National Planning Department
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
RAC	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
ICL	Import Control Licensing
ICTA	Information and Communication Technology Agency
IS	Institutional Strengthening
MeBr	Methyl Bromide
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
M/E&RE	Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy
MLF	Multilateral Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program

Foreword

Ozone Layer is a protective shield which prevents reaching of harmful rays to Earth Surface. It acts silently and ensures the long term survival of all living being on earth. Sri Lanka became a Global Partner in protecting the Ozone Layer in 1989 when Sri Lanka endorsed as a Party to the Vienna Convention for the protection of Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on ODSs.

The Montreal Protocol Unit (MPU) was established under the Ministry of Environment in 1994 to fulfill the commitments under the Montreal Protocol and to integrate the Ozone Layer protection activities into the development programs of the country with minimum impacts to the industry and economic sectors of the country. MPU was renamed as National Ozone Unit (NOU) in 2003 in order to give more prominence and recognition for its activities. The role plays by the NOU in protecting Ozone Layer and implementing Montreal Protocol obligations in Sri Lanka as well as in regional context has been frequently commended. Since the inception of NOU, its responsibilities, capacity and scopes in protecting the Ozone Layer from year to year have been broadening. Many successes, achievements and victories had been recorded during its pathway.

This annual report of the National Ozone Unit of Sri Lanka compiles its activities, performances during the year 2014. Year 2014 was important milestone for National Ozone Unit as a National Focal Point of Sri Lanka which celebrated its 20th Anniversary.

With the guidance of Hon Susil Premjayantha, Minister of Environment and Renewable Energy, Mr. B. M. U. D Basnayake, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy and Additional Secretaries, NOU was able to accomplish many tasks and this report reflects the results of its achievements. NOU proudly remark the initiation, leadership and the cooperation extended by the Ozone Secretariat and the constant financial support provided by the Multi Lateral Fund (MLF). The constant efforts in complying with the setout national agendas and the challenges in complying with the global efforts in conserving the most precious Ozone Layer is not an easy task.

The NOU team in collaboration with Government and private sector partners extensively worked towards this endeavor. The dedication, enthusiasm of numerous other stakeholders has made our effort a more fruitful throughout 2014. Role played by the UNEP, UNDP as implementing agencies is noteworthy. Their willingness to assist and extend support continuously has been always positive and progressive. As a country we are very much proud to be recognized as a nation that effectively implements Montreal Protocol for the wellbeing of the present and future generation.

Introduction

Ozone is a naturally occurring gas present in trace quantities in the atmosphere. About 90% Ozone resides in the stratosphere about 50 km altitude and about 10% of atmospheric ozone is in the troposphere (10-16km altitude). Ozone layer acts as a shield for life on Earth. Ozone is quite the double-edged sword. When found at ground level atmosphere, this gas serves as a dangerous, harmful pollutant. But in Earth's stratosphere, it protects us by absorbing harmful UV radiation from the sun that causes a variety of health problems in humans, plants, and other animals, as well as damages ecosystems. In trapping Ultra Violet radiation (UV light) which can penetrate organisms' protective layers, like skin, damaging DNA molecules in plants and animals. There are two major types of UV light: UVB and UVA. UVB is the cause of skin conditions like sunburns, and cancers like basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. UVA light is even more harmful than UVB, penetrating more deeply and causing a deadly skin cancer, melanoma, and premature aging. Ozone Layer, our Earth's sunscreen, absorbs about 98 percent of this devastating UV light.

It took many decades for several dedicated scientists, such as Rowland and Molina, to describe the harmful effects of certain industrial chemicals are ozone depleting substances with a considerable Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) and cause a thinning of Ozone Layer. Such ODSs include a wide range of chemicals and are CFCS, Halons, HCFCs, HFCS, CCl₄, CHCl₃, CH₃Br. These ODSs have high Global Warming Potential (GWP) and contribute adversely on climate change too.

Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer was originally signed by 24 different countries in 1987, and at present with a global ratification by almost 197 nations in which they have vowed to curb this environment problem. Because of the global efforts and other legislation that followed, the production and use of ozone-depleting chemicals has been reduced and as of the end of 2009, the Parties to the Protocol had phased out the consumption of 98% of all of the chemicals controlled by the Protocol;

Over the past decade, Global Ozone and Ozone in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions is no longer decreasing but is not yet increasing. As a result of the phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances under the Montreal Protocol, the Ozone Layer outside the Polar Region is projected to recover to its pre-1980 levels some time before the middle of this century.

Global observations have verified that atmospheric levels of key ozone depleting substances are going down and it is believed that with implementation of the Protocol's provisions the Ozone Layer should return to pre-1980 levels by the middle of this century;

Sri Lanka is obliged to phasing out ODSs by implementing and monitoring activities in complying with the targets set under the Montreal Protocol in which Sri Lanka has been a member country since 15th December 1989. In 1994, Montreal Protocol Unit within the Ministry of Environment was established and it was renamed as the National Ozone Unit (NOU) in 2003, which is the central national responsible unit for designing and implementing national level activities to fulfill the country requirements in conserving the Ozone Layer. NOU facilitate close co-operation with one or more implementing agencies of the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, with other member countries and with different national stakeholder institutions

The important landmarks in conserving the Ozone Layer in 2013 is as per the decision made at the 19th Meeting of Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol in 2007, the adoption of an accelerated phase out schedule for HCFCs for gradual phase out of the substances thereafter and eventually to complete the total phase out of HCFCs by 2030 was took place. To impose import restrictions on HCFCs a Cabinet Paper has been submitted and the Cabinet Decision was granted to control the importation of virgin HCFCs and HCFC blends with effect from 1st January 2013. This has strengthened the import control licensing scheme which already been imposed for HCFCs and the importation quota system that has been introduced for the control of importation of HCFCs imports from year 2013.

Main Projects under National Ozone Unit

Several activities are carried out by NOU under the following 3 projects;

- Institutional Strengthening (IS) for Phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances (Phase X)
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) Phase out Management Plan (HPMP) , UNDP as implementing agency
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbon(HCFC) Phase out Management Plan (HPMP), UNEP as implementing agency

- **Institutional Strengthening (IS) Project**

Institutional Strengthening Project is continued since 1994 to date. It is renewed in every 2 years. Phase IX of the project was completed by the end of 2014 and the next phase (Phase X) for year 2015/16 has been approved by the Executive Committee of Montreal Protocol.

This project will enable the NOU to strengthen the institutional capacity, particularly National Ozone Unit (NOU) and monitoring of phasing out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in Sri Lanka according to the schedules designated by the Montreal Protocol.

- **Implementation of HPMP**

Moving Away from HCFC.....

Sri Lanka completed the first stage of the phase-out schedule of HCFC phase-out Management Plan. Financial Assistance for implementation of phase-out activities is provided by Multi-Lateral Fund (MLF). Technical and consultancy assistance are provided by the UNDP and UNEP.

Under the Montreal Protocol’s accelerated phase-out program for HCFCs, Sri Lanka has adopted HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP). Under the HPMP, Sri Lanka has committed to limit the import of HCFCs gradually from 1st January 2013 and finally phase-out these substances by 2030. HCFC Phase out is meant not only to protect the Ozone Layer but also to minimize the impacts on earth’s climate.

HCFC Phase out Schedule for Sri Lanka

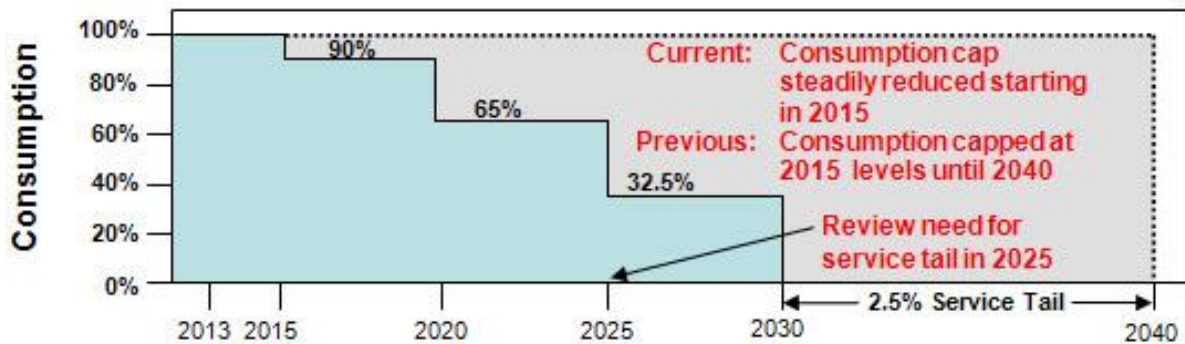


Fig 1: HCFC Phase out Schedule for Sri Lanka

The above projects have been approved by the External Resources Department (ERD) and the National Planning Department (NPD) and were under the supervision of the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable development, Additional Secretaries, Senior Assistant Secretary. Regular monitoring of activities has been reported to the Planning Division of the Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy and to fulfill the national requirements by reporting to the Project Management Department.

UNDP and UNEP the project implementing agencies too regularly monitor the performance. They do financial verification in accordance with the Project Agreement and with their specific internal procedures.

Achievements of National Ozone Unit (NOU) During 2014

National Events:

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

20th May 2014, "Saptha Parisara Mandapaya", Battaramulla.

Obtaining timely policy decisions on ODS phase-out, technical capacity building and awareness creation among stakeholders and adoption of legislative measures and other important implementation decisions for conserving the Ozone Layer are obtained through the Coordinating Committee (CC) and the CC comprises of officials from Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy, Ministry of Science & Technology, Department of Customs, Department of Import & Export Control, Board of Investment (BOI), Sri Lanka Standards Institute, National Plant Quarantine Service (NPQS), Department of Meteorology (DOM), UNDP officials and relevant major stakeholders.

Mr. B.M.U.D. Basnayake, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy, chaired the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to brief the progress obtained by the NOU during 2013, discuss the issues related to implementation, discuss the activities planned for immediate future and obtain opinions or consent from members of the committee.



At the Coordinating Committee Meeting

At this meeting, mainly discussed the financial and physical progress of the NOU in 2013 and scheduled programs/ activities for the year 2014 under three main projects; IS, HPMP (UNDP), HPMP (UNEP). Attention of members were drawn to main agenda items such as budget line allocations/ revisions, rephrasing of unutilized funds, issuing of HCFC quotas and quota distribution in 2014. The main concerns of NOU activities on future such as regulating the use of MeBr, making preparatory plans for phasing out of HCFCs in 2030, establishment of island wide recovery and reclaim centers, and the establishment of automated monitoring database on ODS imports/exports to and from Sri Lanka were the important considerations in the meeting.

Data Reporting on Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs)

Island wide data gathering on imports and the use of ODSs during the year 2014 was carried out with the assistance from the major stakeholders; Sri Lanka Customs, Department of Import and Export Control and Board of Investment (BOI) in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka was the first South Asian country to submit the ODS data to the relevant authorities; the Ozone Secretariat and the Multi Lateral Fund (MLF).

Table 1: Annual ODS Data Reporting 2014

Substance	Quantity(ODS Mt)	Quantity(ODP Mt)
HCFC-22 (R-22)	211.22	11.61
HCFC-123 (R-123)	2.09	0.0418
HCFC-141b (R-141b) (virgin foam)	11.21	1.23
HCFC-141b (R-141b) (blended foam)	21.68	NA
HCFC- 225 (R-225)	0.00	0.00
Total	246.2	12.8818

2015 Quota Distribution Ceremony

Implementing an Import Control Licensing (ICL) System for Import Ozone Depleting Substances is a mandatory requirement for Parties to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer. In order to comply this requirement, National Ozone Unit (NOU) has introduced a methodology for issuing quota for importers collaborate with Import & Export Department and Sri Lanka Customs.

Baseline for HCFC quota is 13.9 ODPt since 1st January 2013 and proceed up to 31st December 2014. As per the Baseline schedule, since 1st January 2015 quota amount is reduction in 10% and now eligible quota for 2015 is 12.51 ODPt. This quota was distributed among 16 eligible importers and ceremony on distribution of Quota was held on 12th December 2014 at the meeting room of State Timber Corporation of the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy. Mr. B.M.U.D. Basnayake, Secretary of the Ministry chaired the meeting.

Table 2: Sri Lanka HCFCs Phase-out Schedule

Schedule	Sri Lanka Target
Average 2009-2010 imports	Baseline level
January 1, 2013	Freeze at Baseline
January 1, 2015	10% below Baseline
January 1, 2020	35% below Baseline
January 1, 2025	67.5% below Baseline
January 1, 2030	100% Phase-out



HCFC Quota Distribution Ceremony

- **Technician Training Workshops on Good Practices in Refrigeration & Air- Conditioning (RAC) Service Sector**

As a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, it is an obligation to implement HPM for phasing out HCFC base refrigerants. In order to implement this plan, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and National Ozone Unit (NOU) of the Ministry of Environment were jointly organized a series of three day competency based workshops under the theme of “Good Practices in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning” for AC/Ref Service Sector technicians.

These technicians are either working for public/private sector workshops or training technicians follow AC/Ref courses in Technical Colleges/Vocational Training institutes. Training of technicians to engage promptly and effectively in new environment and ozone friendly technologies is vital in meeting the obligations of the Montreal Protocol Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFCs) phase out targets for Sri Lanka by 2013 - 2015 successfully.

Technician Training Workshop on Good Practices in RAC Service Sector *29th - 31st January 2014, Wayamba Technical College, Kurunegala*

Ozone Depleting Substances have been used in several applications including RAC service sector in Sri Lanka. According to the 2014 Annual Action Plan of the NOU, 4 Training of Technicians (TOT) had been planned. As its first TOT, a three day National Level Capacity Building Workshop for RAC Sector Technicians was held from 29th - 31st January 2014 at the Wayamba Technical College, Kurunegala.

Workshop Discussions were based on the followings;

- The information on Ozone Layer, Ozone Layer Depletion, effects on climate change
- Introducing alternative refrigerants to substitute HCFCs
- Hands on practical demonstrations on handling the use of refrigerants, recovery of refrigerant best practices in dismantling, installation of HCFC or HFC based Air-Conditioner and safety measures
- Identification of contaminated or mixed refrigerants



Practical Demonstrations

Technician Training Workshop on Good Practices in RAC Service Sector *18th -20th June 2014, Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka, Vavunia*

Second technicians training workshop was conducted for AC/ Ref. technicians from 18th – 20th June 2014 at the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka, Vavunia. 60 AC/ Ref. technicians in Vavunia district were participated and Mr. T. Jothesarupan, Mr.P. Baheerathan, Mr. S. Subendran, Mr. G.M.J.K. Gunawardana and Mr. R.W. Dharmawardena done fruitful lecturers and discussions for the participants during 3 days.

Technician Training Workshop on Good Practices in RAC Service Sector *29th – 31st October 2014, Technical College, Trincomalee*

Third technicians training workshop was conducted for AC/ Ref. technicians from 29th – 31st October 2014 at the Technical College, Trincomalee. 60 AC/ Ref. technicians were participated and Mr. K. Premaranjan, Mr. P. Premakavinath, Mr. S. Subendran, Mr. G.M.J.K. Gunawardana and Mr. R.W. Dharmawardena done fruitful lecturers and discussions for the participants during 3 days.



Practical Demonstrations

Capacity Building Workshop for Customs Officers

21st October 2014, Customs House, Colombo

Most environmental problems encountered in the world today have a trans- boundary nature and a global impact. Those can only be addressed effectively through the kind of international co-operation and shared responsibility made possible through a Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA). Several MEAs regulate the cross- border movement of items, substances and products, mainly in the form of imports, exports and re-exports. This gives the front-line Customs and border-protection officers responsible for controlling trade across borders a very important role in protecting the national and global environment. One of such MEAs with trade-related obligations is the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (hereafter referred as

“Montreal Protocol”), whose objective is to phase out both the production and consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS).

Sri Lanka too has started implementation of its national HCFCs Phase-out Management Plans (HPMPs), to meet the first phase-out target - i.e. consumption and production freeze by 01 January 2013 in line with the accelerated phase-out as agreed at the 19th Meeting of the Parties (MOP) in 2007. The ability of enforcement agencies including customs to engage promptly and effectively in the above mentioned national effort is a vital determining factor in meeting the obligations to the Montreal Protocol. In addition to the above mentioned assistance towards enforcement of regulations, the Montreal Protocol also rely very much on the enforcement community in combatting illegal trade in ODS.

Customs is required to cooperate with multiple government agencies including those are mandated to safeguard the environment as well as safety of its people. In addition, at the national-level, customs is one of entities of a “compliance and enforcement chain” with joint responsibility for:

- Monitoring, detection and seizure of illegal shipments by Custom Agencies;
- Prosecution of criminal cases involving such shipments by prosecuting attorneys, and ,
- Appropriate sentencing by the judiciary. All the three individual links in the chain must be strong for the whole to succeed. Therefore, NOU has conducted 05 Capacity Building Workshops for Customs Officers since 2012.

Another Capacity Building Workshop for Customs Officers was held on 21st October 2014 at the Customs House, Colombo, under the distinguish participation of Mr. G.M.J.K. Gunawardana - Director/ National Ozone Unit, Mr. Tharaka Senevirathne- Assistant Director General of Customs and Ms. Loushini U. Peris - Director (Human Resources)/Sri Lanka Customs. It was organized under the 2nd Tranche of UNEP funding.



At the Customs House, Colombo

Objectives of the awareness creation programs are to maintain the momentum by continuing efforts in the spirit of dedication to achieve the goal of protecting the Ozone Layer and assure co-benefits in climate change and energy efficiency for a healthy atmosphere, that future we want.

Ozone friendly technologies, substitutes and best environmental and ozone friendly practices have been introduced together with massive capacity building and awareness programs which contribute substantially towards the reduction of ODS & greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate Global Warming Potential (GWP). According to the Montreal Protocol regulations, Sri Lanka is progressively proceed with Awareness Programs under target groups such as School students, Teachers, Teaching Instructors, Importers of AC/Ref Equipment, Customs Officers & officers in other Law Enforcement Agencies, General Public etc.

Past experiences reveal that the live demonstrations and conducting seminars are more effective & productive compared to distribution of publication materials. According to 2014 Action Plan of the National Ozone Unit (NOU), awareness workshops were organized for different target groups mentioned in the above. Fruitful presentations were done by the expertise of the NOU based on the scientific information about Ozone Layer, Ozone Layer depletion & adverse effects, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), Climate Change & Natural Disasters, Preserving World Heritage Wetlands and related information.

Awareness Creation Program for Piriven Monks and School Children in Ratnapura District, 6th March 2014, Municipal Council Auditorium, Rathnapura

This program was jointly organized by the National Ozone Unit and Rathnapura Saddharmalankara Piriven Vidyayathanaya in collaboration with Zonal Education Divisional Office, Rathnapura. Nearly 400 Piriven Monks & school children were participated to this program and it was enriched with cultural dances performances of the dancing troops of Saddharmalankara Piriven Vidyayathanaya.



The Interactive Sessions of the Awareness Creation

Awareness Creation Program for School Children

4th July 2014, at the Agalawatta Maha Vidyalaya



At the Awareness of the School Children

Awareness Creation Program for School Teachers (Science), Teaching Instructors and Education Directors in Galle Zonal Education Area

16th October 2014, Southern Provincial Council



Lighting the Oil Lamp at the Inaugurating and Participants at the Workshop

Awareness Creation Program for School Teachers (Science), Teaching Instructors and Education Directors in Badulla Zonal Education Area

17th October 2014, Badulla Central College



Theoretical Presentation done by Director NOU presentation

Awareness Creation Program for School Teachers (Science), Teaching Instructors and Education Directors in Kegalle Zonal Education Area

23rd October 2014, Atulgama Education development Auditorium



Lighting the Oil Lamp



Theoretical Presentation for Participants

Awareness Creation Program for School Teachers (Science), Teaching Instructors and Education Directors in Ratnapura Zonal Education Area

24th October 2014, Rathnapura Samurdi Auditorium



Workshop on Phase- out of HCFC Based ODSs for Technical and Administrative Officers, BOI

27th June 2014, at the Export Processing Zone (EPZ), Biyagama

National Ozone Unit has conducted a one day workshop on phase out of HCFC based ODSs for technical and administrative officers of the industries in Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Biyagama.



Registration of the Participant



Aware of technical and administrative officers



Workshop to Review the progress of Quota utilization by the Importers

9th October 2014, at the Sri Lanka Foundation

Gradual Phase-out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) based refrigerant has been commenced to meet the first phase-out target - i.e. consumption and production freeze by 01 January 2013 in line with the accelerated phase-out as agreed at the 19th Meeting of the Parties (MOP) in 2007.

Sri Lanka has introduced an Annual Quota System to import HCFCs and its blends complying with the regulations imposed by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete Ozone Layer. Since availability of HCFCs in future is restricted the National Ozone Unit (NOU) of Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy, which is the National Focal Point (NFP) of Montreal Protocol for Sri Lanka has decided to invite Importers of AC/ Ref Systems for a discussion.

Therefore, Meeting with Importers of Air Conditioners and Refrigeration Equipment was commenced on 13th August 2014 at the Sri Lanka Foundation under the patronage of Mr. R.A.R.R. Rupasinghe, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy, as the chief guest and the distinguish participation of Mr. G.M.J.K. Gunawardana - Senior Assistant Secretary, Director/ National Ozone Unit, Mr. J.A.D.A. Perera- Director/Sri Lanka Customs, Director/ Sri Lanka Import & Export Control Department.



at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute

Establishment of Refrigerant Reclaim Centres in Sri Lanka

3-5 November 2014, Ceylon German Technical Training Institute, Moratuwa

Considering the geographical disposition and size of Sri Lanka and consumption intensity which relates to number of service centers, it is proposed that 8 mini-reclaim centers to be located among the following places keeping in mind the mini-reclaim centers would also be provided and placed in high consumption pockets to ensure that logistics costs associated with bringing recovered HCFCs and reclaiming at the reclamation centers are minimized.

NOU, in collaboration with Ceylon German Technical Training Institute (CGTTI) had organized a 3 Day Training Program for Ref/AC Instructors attached to the aforementioned Training Centres and few other instructors who would be benefitted from this training. Equipment supplier ASADA Corporation of Japan sent a Training Specialist to train on equipment.

1. Ceylon German Technical Training Institute (CGTTI) – Western Province
2. College of Technology, Kandy – Central Province
3. College of Technology, Batticaloa – Eastern Province
4. College of Technology, Badulla – Uva Province
5. College of Technology, Galle – Southern Province
6. Vocational Training Authority – Vavunia – North Central/Vanni
7. Wayamba Technical Institute, Kurunegala – Wayamba



*Practical Demonstration for
Participants*

Group of Participants

Development of Automated Monitoring System for Imports of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs)

7th March 2014, "Saptha Parisara Mandapaya"

According to the Montreal Protocol, time targets Sri Lanka has completed phase out of aggressive ODSs and currently HCFC is being phased out though it has small Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) Value. NOU has imposed a quota system for importing of HCFCs based on their Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) among importers considering their imports according to the baseline years.

National Ozone Unit, Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy (M/E&RE) has already taken steps to develop an online monitoring system for ODSs imports which is being implemented annually at present. Several discussions were made under the chairmanship of Secretary ME & RE, and the key stakeholder, Director General of Sri Lanka Customs, Controller, Import and Export Control Department and Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA).

ICTA had been assigned the task of developing the system for Monitoring of ODS imports by integrating NOU, DIEC and the major responsible organizations in this regard. Sri Lanka Customs and the Department of Import and Export Control have agreed to provide the necessary data such as the access to ODSs HS codes etc.

This system facilitates to track the illegal imports of ODSs, facilitate checking up of granting of recommendations and ICLs, obtain the total ODS quantities of Imports etc. This system facilitates efficient reporting of ODS data to Ozone Secretariat, Multilateral Funds and other relevant agencies. Major technical aspects of the systems such as the selection of a method for passing the data between NOU and DIEC effectively (i.e message broker technique) were mainly focused.



- **Commemorative Events**

International Ozone Day Celebration 2014

Since 1995, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated on 16 September. This commemoration offers an opportunity to focus attention and action at the global, regional and national levels on the protection of the ozone layer. All Member States are devoted at their national levels on this special day to promote the objectives and goals of the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments.

Purpose of declaring of this special day is to generate collective effort to conserve the most precious Ozone Layer which is having a threat of its existence, due to certain adverse activities of human. Ozone Layer plays a vital role by resisting to harmful UV rays to reach the earth's surface. Depletion of Ozone Layer paves way for UV rays to fall on earth surface easily and cause numerous health problems and climatic catastrophes. Therefore, all nations of the world celebrate this day engaging with many activities related to protect the Ozone Layer. One of the key activities of this day is making aware of the public and other responsible personnel of their commitment in preserving Ozone Layer as well as entire environment.

In this year, Montreal Protocol celebrated its 27th anniversary (1987-2014) and all parties to the Protocol have come forward to celebrate this important day. Theme of the 27th anniversary was **"Ozone Layer Protection; The Mission Goes on"**. 2014 celebration had a significant importance for Sri Lanka, because year 2014 marked the 20th Anniversary of establishing National Ozone Unit (NOU) under the Ministry of Environment in 1994.

This year International Ozone Day celebration was held on 16th September at the main auditorium of 'Apegama', Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 09.00 am to 01.00 pm, under the patronage of Hon. Alhaj A.R.M. Abdul Cader, Deputy Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy as the Chief Guest. There were many distinguished participation including officials from UN Agencies, Government and Non Government institutes, six hundred students from schools and Technical Colleges were among the participants. Extensive media coverage has been arranged as promotional activity of the celebration.

Day of the Celebration (16th September 2014)



Invitees proceeded to the main hall with Kandyan Dancing group



Lighting of the Oil Lamp



Inauguration of the IOD

Activities of the event:

1. **Photograph exhibition-** this exhibition has included a selection of photographs depicting important and remarkable milestones of NOU journey during past two decades

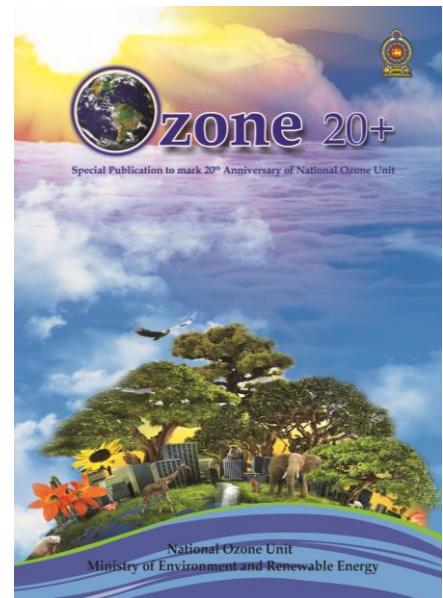


2. **Presenting the Plaques in token of Appreciation to Dr. P. A. J. Rathnasiri, (Director 1994-1999) Professor W. L. Sumathipala, (Director 1999-2010)**

In Recognition of exceptional and dedicated leadership as Directors of National Ozone Unit and their visionary guidance in implementing Montreal Protocol in Sri Lanka, mementoes were presented

3. **Launching of Souvenir publication (Ozone 20+) to mark Anniversary of National Ozone Unit.**

This is a special publication that is contended with scientific articles on ozone layer, Messages from political leadership, stakeholders, remarkable achievement gained by the NOU during past 20 years, articles describing on completed and existing projects, poems and cartoons.



4. **Launching of Online Data Base Monitoring System for ODSs linking NOU, Export and Import Control Department and Sri Lanka Customs by Hon Deputy Minister.**

Importers should obtain Import Control License from import and Export control Department to import ODSs. Presently NOU issues recommendations manually and there are some difficulties in follow-ups. NOU decided to develop an automated monitoring system integrating National Ozone Unit, Import and Export Control Department and Sri Lanka Customs to overcome these difficulties. This system is developed in three stages. 1st stage i.e the recommendation issuing process by the NOU is already completed and the 2nd and 3rd stages which are the connection of



Import and Export Control Department and the Sri Lanka Customs to the system will be completed in near future.

Financial support to develop this system is provided by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Information Communication and technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka is the designing & consulting firm of this process.

5. Donation of Equipment to mark establishment of Reclaim Centers to Technical Colleges

Since the future availability of HCFCs will be restricted with the implementation of import restriction under the HCFC phase out management plan, the NOU in collaboration with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and with the financial assistance from Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, has planned to establish eight Refrigerant Reclaim Centres in strategic locations during November 2014 - April 2015. These centres will serve for Refrigeration & Air Conditioning (RAC) service sector and the objectives of establishing Refrigerant Reclaim centres are as follows.

- Promote recovery of refrigerant to minimize the emission of refrigerant to atmosphere while servicing and maintaining of RAC systems
- Purify the Refrigerant recovered from systems
- Re-charge the purified refrigerant to the systems back. This process avoids purchase of new refrigerant and reduces the demand for new (virgin) refrigerant.

6. Donation of Computer to National Plant Quarantine to monitor QPS activities

Methyl Bromide (MeBr) is an aggressive ozone depleting chemical that is used only for quarantine and pre-shipment purposes (QPS). Other usages have been already eliminated. National Plant Quarantine Services (NPQS) of the Ministry of Agriculture is the responsible government agency for monitoring the use of Methyl Bromide in QPS purpose. NPQS extend very valuable service and support to control the use of MeBr.



In order to facilitate monitoring activity more effectively and keeping the records, Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy has decided to donate a Computer and Accessories to National Plant Quarantine Services (NPQS).

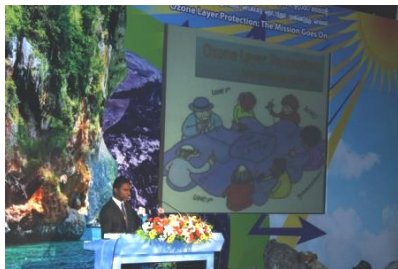
7. Distribution of Customs quick tool poster & other promotional material



8. Presentation made by a school student at Dharmaraja College Kandy on 'Protection of Ozone Layer'

9. A stage drama performed by popular artists based on 'Protection of Ozone Layer'
This item entertained audience gave a message on Ozone Layer Protection

10. Distribution of T-Shirts printed with ozone messages on publicity



Presentation made by a school student at Dharmaraja College, Kandy



A stage drama performed by popular artists

Cultural Events -

Celebration was coloured by folk dances and cultural dances by the dancing troops of Kulasiri Budawaththa Dancing team.



Special Cultural Performances at the IOD Celebration

"Deyata Kirula" (Development Exhibition)

21st to 28th February 2014, at Kuliypitiya

The Annual Exhibition of "Deyata Kirula" National Exhibition was commenced from the year 2007 and the objective of the exhibition was to expand the national development agendas to the most remote areas of the country. The guidance of His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapakshe and his concept '*Mahinda Chinthana*' the Vision for the Future has contributed to the utmost success to this magnificent event.

All the Government Ministries, Departments, Authorities, Private Sector Organizations, other Government and Non-Government Organizations and large number of individuals have participated in this glorious exhibition which was held from 21 to 28 February 2014 at Kuliypitiya of the North Western Province. Plenty of stalls and areas were allocated to educational, health, industrial, agricultural, transport, infrastructure development, environment and economic sectors to demonstrate their contributions in the development process of the country. The modern innovations as well as contribution towards a greener environment, green economic concepts and green development had been focused throughout the exhibition.

Vast knowledge on all sectors (industrial, economic, environment, social) were shared among the visitors to the exhibition. The students were enthusiastic to acquire the knowledge and upgrade their skills in modern information.

The space allocated to the Environment Ministry was utilized to its maximum and was able to attract large number of visitors. The National Ozone Unit (NOU) and the other divisions of the Ministry of Environment have immensely contributed and dedicated to spread the messages of environment protection and conservation during these 8 days.



*Deputy Minister of Environment
Opened the Environment Exhibition Area*



Distinguish Guests

National Ozone Unit of the Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy was established a stall at the “Deyata Kirula” and visitors had remarkably gathered at the demonstrations carried out by the NOU. Two Demonstration sessions per day were conducted on Recycling and Recovery Techniques for Ozone Depleting Substances and Good Practices Techniques using Ozone Friendly Technologies for AC/Ref Service Sector Technicians. Singer Sri Lanka, Abans Companies, CGTTI demonstrated their ozone friendly technological refrigeration equipments to the public at the NOU Exhibition stall.

Documentary on the protection of Ozone Layer was shown and the number of banners were displayed throughout the exhibition premises and those banners were highlighted important messages to the public regarding the conserving the Ozone Layer.



Entrance to the Environment Exhibition Area



A demonstration done on Recycling and Recovery technics for Ozone Depleting Substances and Good Practices Techniques



Stall of the National Ozone Unit



International Events - 2014

Network Meeting for South Asia Ozone Officers

27th to 30th May 2014 in Hotel Grand Oriental, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Organized by the UNEP-CA in Collaboration with the National Ozone Unit - 2014

Network meeting for Ozone Officers in different regions of the world is an annual event planned by the Ozone Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol. Generally, each member country of the particular region is invited to host this meeting aiming of building up cooperation among regional countries. Sri Lanka has been requested to host the event last year and accepted the request.

Member Countries of South Asia Ozone Officers

Network Meeting for South Asia Ozone Officers was held from 27th – 30th May in Hotel Grand Oriental in Colombo, Sri Lanka. 34 participants, from 15 Asian Countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Democratic Republic of Korea, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and 2 developed countries: Japan, United States of America participated for this meeting. United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organizations (UNIDO) and World Bank were participated as Observers.



*Distinguish Guests and Hon. Minister's, Deputy Minister's arrival,
Lighting of the Oil Lamp and Distinguished Gathering at the Inauguration of the Network
Meeting held at the Hotel Grand Oriental, Colombo*

Objectives of Annual Meeting

To Discuss relevant decision taken at the 25th Meeting of Parties of the Montreal Protocol held in Thailand from 21-25 October 2013

- To review updated scientific and technological information that support regional HCFC phase-out program
- Make decisions to improve compliance with the Protocol
- Share ideas on experiences and solutions of the problems faced by the member countries.
- Formulate methodology to enhance training of Enforcement officers to prevent illegal trafficking of Ozone depleting substances

Since Sri Lanka became party to the Protocol in 1989, it is an important member of decision-making bodies within the Protocol. It has influenced over the nature and direction of global ozone protection issues. Sri Lanka is also well represented on the various scientific and technical bodies of the Montreal Protocol.

Organizing of Network Meeting

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as an one of the Implementing Agency of the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol had taken the leading role in organizing this important event in collaboration with National Ozone Unit. Compliance Assistance Program (CAP) of UNEP with specialized staff in the regional office in Bangkok provided necessary technical and financial assistance.

Parallel Events

- Field Visit to Sri Lanka Customs on ASQUDA and Risk profiling
- Field Visit to Regnis Company's (manufactures and sells refrigerators, bottle coolers, and deep freezers) conversion in the refrigeration sector

Benefits of holding Network Meeting

- Create opportunity for effective regional cooperation to Implement Montreal Protocol regulations

- All countries in this region will be able to develop HCFC Phaseout Management Plan (HPMP) with favorable consideration of low GWP alternatives selection and policy support, in addition also training of servicing technicians training on good practices
- Outreach ozone/environment friendly activities at country level more methodically
- Promote establishing of a destruction facility in Sri Lanka for destruction of recovered ODSs.
- Help to build capacity of various stakeholders
- Develop regional Cooperation in dissemination of Information: booklets, case study, website, etc
- Approximately 40 representatives from 15 countries were participated for the meeting.

This Network meeting was financially supported by the UNEP and experiences gained through in successful conducted of that meeting in Sri Lanka was an advantage for hosting future High Level Meeting of Parties (MOP) of the Montreal Protocol.

Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy got the cooperation from Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Finance & Planning, Ministry of Mass Media & Information, Immigration & Emigration Department, Sri Lanka Tea Board and Sri Lanka Tourist Board for successful the event.

Decisions & the Conclusions of the Meeting

All ozone officers from South Asia countries and the stakeholders expressed their appreciation to the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting the network meeting as well as the Seminar on Refrigeration Association and Technician Certification and the New Ozone Officers Training. Participants acknowledged the support and efforts made by the Ceylon Tea Board (also for organizing the MB free tea ceremony during the network meeting), the Sri Lanka Customs, and Regnis Lanka PLC for their contributions to ODS phase out and valuable field visits. The countries appreciated two novel approaches adopted during this network meeting: the organization of a side event by the Environment Investigation Agency (EIA) and organization of technical sessions on investment components by the investment Implementing Agencies. The followings were the final conclusions and recommendations of the network meeting.

The meeting appreciated the efforts of Iran, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to submit their A7 and CP data in a timely fashion. The countries congratulated Sri Lanka to be the first country this year to submit their data. The meeting urges Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, DPR Korea and ROK to complete both Article 7 data and CP Progress Report as early as possible, preferably before the end of June 2014.



*Group Photograph
Network Meeting for South Asia Ozone Officers
27th to 30th May 2014, Colombo*

34th Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) Meeting 14 - 18 July, in Paris, France

The Thirty-fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 14 to 18 July 2014.

That meeting was expected to consider issues in advance of the joint 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the 26th Meeting of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol.

For this Meeting, R.A.R.R. Rupasinghe, Additional Secretary (Administration and Environment Promotion) and G.M.J.K. Gunawardana, Senior Assistant Secretary/Director (NOU) were participated representing Sri Lanka.

The 26th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

17-21 November 2014, In Paris, France

The Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the twenty-sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer met from 17-21 November 2014. Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, Tina Birmpili, Rodrigo Siles Lora (Bolivia) as President noted the contribution made by the Montreal Protocol to tackling global environmental problems and acknowledged the action of the parties in recognizing the intertwined nature of the environmental issues of climate and ozone protection. Sri Lanka pointed out that there is a way, if the world has the will to tackle major environmental issues. Over 450 participants from governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academia and industry attended the joint meeting.

For this Meeting, G.M.J.K. Gunawardana, Director and Mr. M.M.M. Senevirathna Coordinator (Technical) of National Ozone Unit were participated representing Sri Lanka.



Thematic Network Meeting of South Asia Ozone Officers

17-19 December 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

UNEP Ozone Action Program has organized a meeting of South Asia Ozone and Customs Officers focusing on hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) policy and enforcement. Participants had been updated on national efforts to regulate the use of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) including HCFCs as well as ODS smuggling. There were informative sessions on the Montreal Protocol on Substance that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its enforcement.

Controller General (Import & Export), Director - Sri Lanka Customs and Director - National Ozone Unit participated for this regional meeting.



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