

**Joint project of the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
United Nations Development Programme and GEF
"Initial Implementation of Accelerated HCFC Phase Out in the CEIT Region - Uzbekistan"**

**MINUTES
The first meeting of the Project Board**

Venue: Conference hall of UNDP, Tashkent, 41/3, Mirabad street,

Date: December 22, 2014

Starting time: 16:00

15:55-16:00 Registration of participants

16:00-16:10 Welcome notes

Mr. Farid Garakhanov

*Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP in
Uzbekistan*

Ms. Dotsenko Nadejda

*National Project Coordinator,
Head of the Main Department for Atmosphere
Air Protection of the State Committee for
Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan*

16:10-16:40 Overall information about the project:
goals, objectives, duration, total budget
and management

Mr. Abror Khodjaev

Project Manager

Introduction with the results of HCFC
Phase-out project activities during 2014

Discussion

16:40-16:55 **Coffee Break**

16:55-17:25 Presentation of HCFC Phase-out project
Annual Work Plan and Annual Plan of
Action for 2015

Mr. Abror Khodjaev

Project Manager

Discussion

17:25-17:40 Discussion and decision making

Project Board Members

17:40-17:50 Conclusions and closure of the 1st Meeting
of Project Board

Ms. Dotsenko Nadejda

*National Project Coordinator,
Head of the Main Department for Atmosphere
Air Protection of the State Committee for
Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan*

The list of participants and Resolution of the first Project Board meeting decisions are given in Annex 1 and Annex 2 respectively. .

COURSE OF THE MEETING

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Abror Khodjaev, Project Manager welcomed all participants and expressed them his gratitude for taking part in the first meeting of the Project Board. He introduced the agenda and objectives of the first meeting of the Project Board, and then passed the floor to Ms. Nadejda Dotsenko, the National Project Coordinator, and Head of the Main Department for Atmosphere Air Protection of the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Ms. Nadejda Dotsenko, National Project Coordinator, Head of the Main Department for Atmosphere Air Protection of the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan, welcomed all participants of the first meeting of the Project Board (list of participants is given in Annex 1) and expressed a hope for joint and efficient work within the framework of this project during 2015-2016. She noted that the project is aimed at elimination of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) use, providing the country with technical and financial assistance to contribute to and enable the process as well as supporting the Republic of Uzbekistan in fulfillment of the undertaken obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which has been adopted by all countries of the world. Ms. Dotsenko also particularly noted that Uzbekistan is the Party to Article 2 of the Montreal Protocol that is, according to the Protocol, meant that Uzbekistan is referred to the developed countries in transition, and should eliminate consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), including HCFCs by 2030.

Ms. Dotsenko invited the members of Project Board to get acquainted with the project' activities, which will be implemented throughout the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, noting that particular project components are aimed at strengthening human and technical capacities of the State Customs' Committee, re-equipping some enterprises to enable them further use of ozone-friendly substances that do not deplete the ozone layer and have lower global warming potential.

Mr. Farid Garakhanov, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Uzbekistan thanked Ms. Dotsenko for her welcoming speech, and also welcomed the participants of the meeting. He stressed then the importance of the first Project Board meeting which enables establishing contacts and interlinks among all stakeholders and contributes to efficient implementation of project activities, monitoring and evaluation of project work and results, coordination of activities and decision-making process. Further he emphasized that the project work plan designed for next year (2015) is subject to adjustments to be done to reflect the changes might occur during the annual implementation cycle. Mr. Garakhanov noted the project activities already implemented, and expressed a hope for increasing paces and scale of project activities in 2015. He also noted that the obligations of the Republic of Uzbekistan to meet the requirements of Montreal Protocol are fulfilled timely and even ahead of the required schedule, and expressed a hope that such good practice will be maintained in the future. Mr. Garakhanov pointed out that all required support, including technical assistance, capacity development and training of project staff, knowledge management (e.g. publications of knowledge products) is granted and will be provided in compliance with the highest international standards, based on which United Nations Development Program operates.

Mr. Abror Khodjaev presented the general project information, including annual targets, objectives, duration, budget, management methods, and peculiarities of interactions between the regional and national components, as well as project achievements in 2014.

Further Mr. Khodjaev informed about the activities planned for 2015, and the expected outcomes. He particularly focused on those related to project cooperation with national partners such as the State Customs' Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan (SCC), Tashkent State Technical University, the company «AZN Techno» and JSC «Yo'lreftrans». Mr. Khodjaev noted the project plans to support public and private enterprises dealing with installation, repairing and maintenance of refrigeration equipment through providing specialized equipment and training for those enterprises' staff. Mr.

Khodjaev outlined plans on establishing centers that will be engaged in the processes of recovery, recycling and regeneration of refrigerants, including concrete steps to be undertaken within the project and aimed at establishing and further capacity building support to the National Association for the Refrigeration and Air-conditioning (RAC). He also pointed out that project will make several demonstrations of small-scale destruction of unwanted ODS' stockpiles and wastes through procurement of the advanced specialized equipment.

Mr. Khodjaev also informed participants about other project activities which include monitoring, training, adaptive approach to project management and awareness raising. He informed that an independent mid-term evaluation of the project is planned for the second half of 2015, based which findings recommendations on how to increase efficiency of project implementation will be developed.

In conclusion, Mr. Khodjaev noted that the presented work plan and expected outcomes may seem ambitious but he expressed a hope through joining efforts of project team and national partners, project will implement in full those ambitious plans and timely achieve the expected results.

Mr. Abduvakkos Abdurakhmanov, Head of Environment & Energy Unit, UNDP in Uzbekistan welcomed all participants and made some additions to the Project Manager presentation emphasizing that this project is a grant project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). UNDP and the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan are partners in the project implementation. He also stressed importance of this project and that today's Project Board meeting is one of the key formats of joint partnership. Mr Abdurakhmanov said that at such meetings (will be held at least once a year, and/or several times, if required) project reports on its achievements and present and discuss planning for the next year. He stressed that this forum is the main tool for enabling strategic management of project activities and providing recommendations on how to optimize project implementation process. Mr. Abdurakhmanov, on the behalf of UNDP CO, expressed readiness for providing all support to the project team.

Ms. Nadejda Dotsenko noted the importance of comprehensive support and assistance from the government agencies and involvement of private sector. She pointed out that almost 62% of the project GEF funds are allocated for procurement of equipment for selected enterprises and companies dealing with refrigeration and air conditioning. She also noted the importance and need for competent and objective assessment of the enterprises-recipients of equipment to identify and document their capacity in efficiently and effectively usage of the equipment, received through the grant funds.

Ms. Dotsenko also noted the importance and significance of pilot projects, within which the options of transition to use of ozone-friendly substances that do not contribute to climate change instead of those depleting the ozone layer will be demonstrated. She emphasized that this activity is in line the global trend on shifting to use of ozone-friendly substances having lower global warming potential.

Ms. Dotsenko once again drew attention of all participants to the technical schedule of project implementation. This schedule includes monitoring on what is efficiency of selected enterprises and organizations in terms of their contributions into each particular activity/action.

In conclusion, she stressed the need to address the issue of banning the import of refrigeration equipment containing HCFCs into the country at the legislative level. Ms. Dotsenko also emphasized the role of the State Tax Committee' bodies in conducting inspections of businesses community in the country to address the problem of handling ODS and ODS-containing equipment, which is imported illegally.

Further, the meeting participants moved on discussing the project results achieved in 2014, and activities planned for 2015.

Mr. Mumin Turayev, a member of the Project Board, Third Secretary of the Office for Cooperation with the structures of the CIS and SCO at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan posed a question on when the National Association of Refrigeration equipment and Air Conditioning will be established and operational?

Ms. Dotsenko clarified that such professional associations shall be established on the voluntary a voluntary basis and this shall be initiated by the interested enterprises and companies. Activities of those associations include awareness raising and exchange of experiences among professionals working in refrigeration equipment and air conditioning sectors. She noted that similar national associations have been already established and are operational in Belarus and Tajikistan. In Uzbekistan, process of establishing RAC has been initiated and is underway. During this process a number of legal and financial issues have to be sorted out. She also informed that the first meeting of the initiative group dealing with the national RAC was conducted and a zero draft of its statute was discussed to collect feedback to finalize.

Mr. Kudratulla Karimov, Member of the Project Board, PhD, Associate Professor of the Tashkent State Technical University under the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan asked a question related to the presented project work plan for 2015: How much time is allocated for trainings tailored for the enterprises modernization and how training of technicians will be organized?

Mr. Abror Khodjaev explained that first the corresponding curricula will be developed jointly with the specialists from the Tashkent State Technical University. Next, groups of trainees will be formed and training schedule will be set up based on the volume of curricula and how the trainees are good in uptake of the training materials. Finally, detailed training program will be designed.

Mr. Mumin Turaev was wonder whether it is more profitable to procure ozone-friendly substances comparing with ozone depleting substances that are actually in use.

Ms. Dotsenko informed that prices of HCFC are 6 times cheaper than the cost of ozone-friendly substances. However, ozone-friendly substances that are successfully used in medicine and industry are available in Uzbekistan. Those include ammonia and propane-butane mixture. Currently, careful consideration of pros and cons related to use of ozone-friendly substances shall be undertaken jointly with the Ministry of Health and Agency "Uzstandart". She pointed out that local enterprises will be selected for demonstration projects focusing on use of ozone-friendly technologies expressed their readiness and commitments for full support and co-financing in introduction and promoting use of ozone-friendly substances that are available and authorized for use in Uzbekistan.

Mr. Saidkasim Sakhopov, National Officer on Partnership Building, UNDP Uzbekistan asked a question about JSC «Sino» that has launched production of refrigeration equipment: what equipment do they use during the manufacturing process, and do they have initiated any activity aimed at transition to use of alternative ozone-friendly substances?

Ms. Dotsenko reported that to date, import and use of HCFCs are legally permitted in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Nevertheless, local enterprises are requested to consider transition to use of use of ozone-friendly substances instead of ozone depleting ones as in the nearest ODS-based technologies that negatively affect the ozone layer and global warming will be banned globally. JSC «Sino» manufactures refrigeration equipment through using ozone-friendly technologies but still having a high global warming potential. To produce the export competitive and in-country demanded products, a wide range of economic, environmental and social issues to be considered and managed.

Mr. Bakhtiyar Abduganiev, a member of the Project Board, Head of the Central Customs Laboratory of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan noted that the State Customs Committee has already gained sounds practical experience in this field, and has developed and tested efficient tools and approaches to tackle the issues. During the past years, 300 customs' officers have been trained, and the equipment has procured and effectively exploited. They have also succeeded in prevention of ODS smuggling. In 2013, twelve staff-members of the Committee were awarded for their contributions to this activity by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Moreover, seven officers have been awarded with honorary medals by UNEP in 2014. Mr. Abduganiev expressed a hope for furthering cooperation within the framework of the project in 2015 and beyond.

Ms. Dotsenko stressed the importance of cooperation with the State Customs Committee in successfully achieving the expected results. She also highly praised the constant progress in strengthening the partnership and cooperation with the Committee.

Mr. Farkhat Saydiyev in addition came up with the following proposal: since the State Customs Committee does not exercise control over the domestic markets (as this is the prerogative of the State Tax Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan) refrigeration equipment, containing ODS prohibited for import can be found at local markets that is. According to the available information, some imported products containing ODS prohibited for imports, did not pass inspections conducted by the State Committee for Nature Protection and the State Customs Committee. In such cases, the State Tax Committee's support is crucial for preventing in-country sale of illegally imported equipment and appliances containing ODS.

Mr. Bahtiyor Abduganiev clarified that the Customs Committee uses a mechanism: marking imported products by identification label signs if products (refrigerators and air conditioners) contain ODS. These signs help to tax officials to determine legality or illegality of imported products. Committee also plans to strengthen the control of imported ODS.

Ms. Dotsenko stressed the need of development of a mechanism for internal interactions between the State Customs Committee and the State Tax Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at preventing import sale of products containing ODS in local markets. She emphasized that every year Uzbekistan reports to the international community about level of in-country consumption and illegal import of ODS. In the case of non-compliance with Montreal Protocol requirements, the country may be sanctioned, which, in turn, could adversely affect the image of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Mukhtor Mamatisayev, Member of the Project Board, Senior State Tax Inspector of the State Tax Committee of Uzbekistan posed a question from the consumer's view: is it possible to re-equip an existing appliances containing ODS, or is there a need to buy new equipment that does not contain ODS?

Ms. Dotsenko explained that all available equipment containing ODS is used and will be used until expiring their lifecycle (full moral and physical deterioration). Further, next step is to develop a program on collection and disposal of obsolete ODS-based equipment as well as organize and conduct trainings followed by certification of trained professionals specialized in repairing and maintenance of refrigeration equipment. They will provide then qualified assistance in replacing ozone-depleting substances with ozone-friendly ones, including those that are permitted for import.

Mr. Abror Khodjaev thanked everyone for their active participation and presented a draft Resolution of the Project Board meeting decisions that includes the following points:

1. Recognize project activity results achieved in 2014 as satisfactory;
2. Approve the annual work plan and budget for 2015, including activities aimed at supporting and establishment of the National Association of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC), and assign the project to get approved by UNDP and GEF funding the latter from the project GEF budget;
3. Conduct the second meeting of the Project Board in the first half of December 2015.

Ms. Dotsenko proposed to the meeting participants to get acquainted with the project information attached to the handouts, and submit their feedback (comments, proposals and amendments, if any) within 10 days. **Mr. Farid Garakhanov, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Uzbekistan** posed a question: what are the concrete actions to support establishing and capacity building of the National Association of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC)?

Mr. Abror Khodjaev answered that project envisages the following:

1. Hiring a legal consultant to assist in drafting the Charter and other constituent documents of RAC;
2. Procurement of office equipment (computer, printer and stationery) to support equipping RAC Office;

3. Assisting to RAC representative in participation in the international conference that will bring together similar associations to be held in Armenia in May, 2015. It is expected that representatives of the National Associations of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning of the European Union and Central Asia will attend the conference to share experiences and best practices, and draft corresponding recommendations.


Mr. Abror Khodjaev added that actually an initiative group is formed and starts to learn the relevant international experience on development of RAC statutory documents and outlining RAC activities. .

Ms. Rano Baykhanova, - **Climate Change Specialist, Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP Uzbekistan** emphasized ensuring of RAC sustainable operation upon the project implementation cycle completion shall be considered to facilitate smooth transition to use of energy efficient equipment containing ozone-friendly substances.

At the end of the meeting Ms. **Dotsenko** thanked the participants of the first Project Board meeting for their active participation and expressed a hope for successful implementation of project activities and achieving the expected goals and objectives set up for the coming year.

Approved by:


Farid Garakhanov,
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP Uzbekistan



(Signature) 24.02.15
(Date)

Approved by:


Nadejda Dotsenko
National Project Coordinator, Head of the Main Department
for Atmosphere Air Protection of the State Committee for
Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan



(Signature) 17.02.15
(Date)

Endorsed by:


Abduvakkos Abdurahmanov
Head of Environment and Energy Unit
UNDP Uzbekistan



(Signature) 19/02/15
(Date)

Prepared by:

Abror Khodjaev
Project Manager



(Signature) 3/01/2015
(Date)

List of participants of HCFC Project Board Meeting

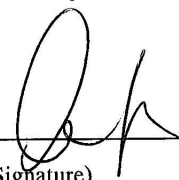
#	Name	Agency
1.	Ms. Dotsenko Nadejda	Co-chairman of the Project Board, National Project Coordinator, Head of the Main Department for Atmosphere Air Protection of the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan
2.	Mr. Farid Garakhanov	Co-chairman of the Project Board, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP in Uzbekistan
3.	Mr. Mumin Turaev	Member of the Project Board, Third Secretary of the Office for Cooperation with the structures of the CIS and SCO at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan
4.	Mr. Mirpulat Mairnasirov	Member of the Project Board, Specialist of the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan
5.	Mr. Shavkat Abdullaev	Member of the Project Board, Head of Department of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan
6.	Mr. Mustafo Khodjaev	Member of the Project Board, Head of Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan
7.	Mr. Kudrat Karimov	Member of the Project Board, Associate Professor of Tashkent State Technical University of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan
8.	Mr. Safar Pirnapasov	Member of the Project Board, Chief Specialist of the Department for Mechanization Agriculture and Agricultural Chemistry of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water of the Republic of Uzbekistan
9.	Mr. Mukhtor Matmusaev	Member of the Project Board, Senior State Tax Inspector of the State Tax Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan
10.	Mr. Bakhtiyor Abduganiev	Member of the Project Board, Head of the Central Customs Laboratory of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan
11.	Mr. Sulton Khonbabaev	Member of Board, Head of Department of the Agency «Uzstandard»
12.	Mr. Saidkasim Sakhipov	National Officer on Partnership Building, UNDP in Uzbekistan
13.	Mr. Abduvakkos Abdurahmanov	Head of Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP in Uzbekistan
14.	Ms. Rano Baykhanova	Climate Change Specialist, EEU, UNDP in Uzbekistan
15.	Mr. Darkhon Abutalipov	Programme Associate, EEU, UNDP in Uzbekistan
16.	Mr. Abror Khodjaev	Project Manager
17.	Mr. Farkhat Saudiyev	Project Technical Specialist on HCFC technologies
18.	Ms. Olga Nepomnyashaya	Correspondent, Magazine "Economicheskoe Obozrenie"

RESOLUTION
of the first meeting of the Project Board of the joint project of UNDP/GEF and
the Government of Uzbekistan
“Initial Implementation of Accelerated HCFC Phase-out in the CEIT Region - Uzbekistan
Joint Project of UNDP/GEF and the Government of Uzbekistan”
held on 22 December, 2014

1. Noted the project results achieved in 2014 and recognized them as satisfactory;
2. Approved the annual work plan and budget for 2015, including activities aimed at supporting and establishment of the National Association of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC), and assign the project to get approved by UNDP and GEF funding the latter from the project GEF budget; ;
3. Noted that the second meeting of the Project Board is planned for the first half of December 2015. The exact date shall be communicated to the members of the Project Board.

Approved by:


Farid Garakhanov
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP Uzbekistan



(Signature) 24.02.15
(Date)

Approved by:


Nadejda Dotsenko
National Project Coordinator,
Head of the Main Department for Atmosphere Air Protection
of the State Committee for Nature Protection
of the Republic of Uzbekistan



(Signature) 17.02.15
(Date)

Endorsed by:


Abduvakkos Abdurakhmanov
Head of Environment and Energy Unit
UNDP Uzbekistan



(Signature) 19/02/15
(Date)

Prepared by:

Abror Khodjaev
Project Manager



(Signature) 9/2/2015
(Date)