



Press Note

Land-locked Kyrgyzstan and its unlocked ambition

International Ozone day.

Safeguarding the ozone layer and protecting the climate system

Bishkek, 16th September 2016, Ahead of the impending international agreement to amend the Montreal Protocol, Kyrgyzstan has begun the phased reduction in consumption of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by taking their national inventory and review. HFCs are dangerous global warming gases having global warming potential thousands of times more than carbon dioxide.

At the same time Kyrgyzstan has officially set on march accelerated phase-out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) to match the schedule fixed for the developed countries as per the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer. HCFCs are the only ozone depleting gases constituting less than one percent of total ozone depleting gases still remained to be phased out. Kyrgyzstan will now phase out HCFCs by 2020, though Protocol allows Kyrgyzstan to do so by 2030.

'International Ozone Day is the occasion to celebrate and award the past achievements and push the paddle for super fast actions on remaining tasks under the Montreal Protocol that will help in safeguarding the ozone layer and global climate system. We in Kyrgyzstan are proud that we are able to do exactly that on 16th September, ' said Mars Amanaliev, head of the national ozone unit of Kyrgyzstan's State Agency of Environment and Forestry. ' Accelerated phase out of HCFCs, in addition to helping in early recovery of the ozone layer, helps Kyrgyzstan to effectively fight illegal trade in ozone depleting substances in the region', he added.

Rajendra Shende, Chairman TERRE and former Director at UNEP were the chief guest for 2016 events on international ozone day when above announcements were made.

At the inauguration of International Science Conference organized at Kyrgyz State University, certificates of appreciation signed by Tina Birmpili, Executive Secretary of UNEP, were presented by Mr. Shende to well known and distinguished scientists Dr. Toktomyshev, Prof. M. Orozaliev and Dr.V.Sinyakov. They were engaged in pioneering ozone layer research work since 1979 and were instrumental in establishing the ozone and climate monitoring research station at Issyk-Kul, the only such station between Ural Mountains and Pacific Ocean.

'We have been benefitted in our career by the UNEP's training for the technicians in alternative refrigerants. We feel that future batches will continue to take advantage of such training for restoring ozone layer and climate.' said one of the two top performing technicians trained last year and who were presented with awards by Mr. Shende. Teaching aids and tool kits were handed over to the vocational training institute for refrigeration technicians in Bishkek as a part of the capacity building assistance from the multilateral ozone fund through implementing agencies-UNEP and UNDP. 50 technicians attended the event.

250 graduate students from Osh Technological Institute in city of Osh and 200 secondary school students from three schools in capital city of Bishkek participated in workshops and awareness activities on Ozone layer protection and its linkages with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) during the day.

' *Land-locked Kyrgyzstan harbors unlocked ambition in safeguarding the ozone layer and climate system. Small countries are making giant contribution to sustainable future* ', said Mr. Shende while delivering the concluding speech on 'Ozone Sweet Dream and Climate Wake Up Call' at the American University of Central Asia . END

Notes for editors

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: In 1994, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Since 1995 every year States were invited to devote the Day to promote activities in accordance with the objectives of the Protocol and its amendments.

The theme for the 2016 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer to be marked on 16 September is: ***Ozone and climate: Restored by a world united***

The theme is complemented by the tagline: ***Working towards reducing global-warming HFCs under the Montreal Protocol***

Ozone Layer: The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas in stratosphere, protects the Earth from the harmful rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.

The Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer: Signed in 1987 and now ratified by all the countries in the world, this universal treaty has been considered as single most successful example of the Multilateral Environmental Treaty. The phase-out of controlled uses of man-made ozone depleting substances and the related reductions have not only helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change; furthermore, it has protected human health and ecosystems by limiting the harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the earth.

Organizers: Ozone Center of the State Agency of Environment and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republican Center of Ecology, Local History and Tourism under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic. TERRE Policy Centre of India was knowledge partner.

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