



OzonAction

A newsletter dedicated to the protection of the ozone layer and implementation of the Montreal Protocol

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VIEWPOINT

Czech Republic Minister Hails Implementation Progress in Central and Eastern Europe



The Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Libor Ambrozek, has hailed the Montreal Protocol as 'a wonderful example of how it is possible to seek an alliance between the latest scientific research and policy-making' and 'an inspiration for the other global environmental conventions and protocols.' He also praised his country's implementation achievements as a role model for other countries in the region.

The Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties is taking place a few days after the fifteenth anniversary of the 'Velvet Revolution' of 17 November 1989, when radical political, economic and social changes were accompanied by emphatic advances in the country's environmental prospects. Czechoslovakia became a Party to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol

on 30 December 1990 and the Czech Republic took up these challenges in its own right on 1 January 1993, as a newly independent state.

During the 1980s, Czechoslovakia had been among the biggest producers and consumers in Central Europe of substances regulated under the Protocol. The Czech Republic had made great strides in intervening years towards implementing technical support and investment projects backed by the Global Environment Facility. By the mid-1990s it had met its core phase-out obligations and it was the first country in its region to accept all the new globally-agreed reduction and implementation targets set by the London, Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing Amendments. The willingness and active commitment shown by the Republic's commercial, industrial and refrigerated transport sectors are to be praised for their willingness and active commitment to introduce new, ozone-friendly technologies and products, which has been successful.

Now these sectors are able to export their highly sophisticated non-ozone depleting technologies to other countries on a commercial basis and also to provide assistance in the preservation of the ozone layer through the Republic's Official Development Assistance system. The Czech Republic is sharing its experience with economies in transition in Eastern European and developing countries, through cooperation with UNEP and UNIDO and by other means. The Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol have proved highly resourceful over the years. Last November's encounters were an opportunity for the Czech Republic to re-dedicate its commitment to completely phase out ozone-depleting substances and share experiences with other Parties.

However, let us not forget that we still face a number of challenges. We should promote the protection of the ozone layer in a more integrated manner, as recommended by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Parties want to make their efforts to protect the

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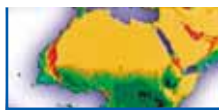
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environment more efficient, they should share experiences and lessons learned in the process of implementation with all players involved in other multilateral agreements covering issues like climate change, chemicals, waste management and transboundary movements of chemicals and hazardous wastes.

SPECIAL FEATURE

NO TIME FOR FANFARES AS MONTREAL PROTOCOL TACKLES ITS NEXT HURDLES

The Montreal Protocol is often hailed as the most successful of multilateral environmental agreements, but this accolade creates a false impression that the problem of ozone layer depletion has already been solved. In reality, some formidable challenges still stand in the way of the treaty's full implementation, explains Marcial Levaggi, Chairperson of the Multilateral Fund's Executive Committee on page 6 of this issue.



Africa

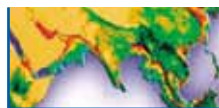
Mozambique Meeting Urges Pan-African Integration

The 10th Meeting of the Ozone Officers Network for English-Speaking African Countries (ODSONET/AF-E) took place in Maputo, 11-14 May 2004. Hosted by the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs of the Republic of Mozambique, the meeting's main goal was to assess the state of the implementation of the Protocol in Africa's Anglophone countries. Attending were ODS officers from 22 countries and representatives of the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, the World Customs Organisation, GTZ-Proklima (a bilateral cooperation agency), and AFRICON (a consultancy firm conducting a study of the Protocol's financial mechanism). Vice-Minister H.E. Francisco Majaia described implementation activities in Mozambique involving all sectors. An Institutional Strengthening Project is being applied as part of a National Action Plan which also calls for regular monitoring and reporting on ODS consumption trends, developing and delivering training programmes, public awareness campaigning and the drafting of ODS legislation. These activities have already resulted in appreciable reduction in ODS consumption, said the Vice-Minister, and proposals for ratifying the Montreal and Beijing Amendments are before Parliament. On a more cautious note, Mr Majaia called on UNEP for help in conducting a national survey on methyl bromide (MB) in response to the marked growth in cultivation of tobacco and cut flowers in Mozambique and an associated increase in MB consumption.

Other recommendations of the Maputo meeting included calls urging implementing agencies and bilateral agencies to work with countries to develop Business Plans and to consult with countries before submitting projects to the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund (ExCom). On customs training, the meeting highlighted the need for strategic selection of would-be trainees and for more and better training of national trainers. Moves to boost collaboration between customs authorities and ozone officers in regional trade blocs were also urged, to improve the flow of information, especially know-how on controlling illegal ODS trade. Steps to harmonize ODS regulations at sub-regional and regional levels were also recommended, along lines similar to work currently underway in Francophone Africa, with appropriate adaptations. Closing the meeting, Mr Majaia singled out a recommendation on using the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) as a forum for raising awareness of Montreal Protocol issues at political level, promising to raise the issues at the next AMCEN meeting in Tripoli, Libya. Further meeting of the ODSONET/AF-E group is planned for 2005 in Arusha, Tanzania.

Contact: Rwothumio Thomiko, UNEP ROA,
email: Rwothumio.Thomiko@unep.org

>> COMPLIANCE NEWS



Asia

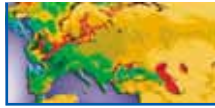
China Leads the Campaign to Outwit Illegal ODS Trade in Asia

Efficient control of illegal ODS trade relies on good regional and global information exchange and cooperation between countries. Over the past year, China's commitment to curbing such trade throughout Asia has taken on the dimensions of a leadership role in strengthening regional cooperation to fight this shared problem. China sent high-level delegations to Mongolia and Nepal in August and September 2003, to compare notes and exchange knowledge between all three neighbours on control and enforcement measures. Cooperation initiated during the Mongolia Dialogue led to the creation of a Task Force in which China participates actively through annual meetings. Important outcomes of this ongoing cooperation include the regular exchange of information on a range of concerns between Nepal, China and India as well as between Mongolia and China on registered importers and exporters. At the fringes of the Cooperation Workshop for Customs and Ozone Officers of SEAP and SA countries in April 2004, China engaged in bilateral discussions on the control of trade in ODS with India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Mongolia, Nepal and Sri Lanka. This hands-on approach was taken one step further when China invited the Ozone Officer from Sri Lanka to Beijing on August 2004 to explore ways of improving bilateral coordination on ODS trade issues between countries around the

region based on past experience. Its importance was further enhanced by the participation of a representative of the Asia Pacific Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO/AP), which has its office in Beijing, guaranteeing a region-wide scope for decisions on steps towards joint controls. Both sides agreed on the urgency of improving bilateral cooperation on management of ODS imports and exports by exchanging trade data. RILO's experiences of detecting cases of smuggling provided a wealth of practical precedents. Another focus of discussions was how to build the capacity of local authorities to tackle illegal ODS trade in China. In July 2004, 70 senior officers of the anti-smuggling bureau of China's customs service gathered in Zhangjiajie, Hunan, China to participate in a two-day training workshop designed to improve their knowledge of the battle against illegal trade in ODS. This workshop formed part of a Policy Training Project for local authorities of China implemented by UNEP which aims to equip about 3,000 officials from different local authorities with upgraded knowledge on ODS. An on-line training facility will also be set up to provide sustainable and free remote training services.

Contact: Atul Bagai, UNEP ROAP,
email: bagai@un.org





Europe and Central Asia

End-User Incentives Lead the Way to Safe Refrigeration in Georgia

Two years ago Georgia was one of two countries (with Ghana) chosen to pilot an Incentive Programme for End-Users in Commercial/Industrial Refrigeration and Transport Refrigeration Sub-Sectors, supported by UNDP. The programme was designed to encourage Georgian enterprises in target sectors to replace or permanently retrofit existing refrigeration equipment with cooling systems requiring zero-ODP or low-ODP refrigerants. Two years on, the Programme has helped 12 enterprises make phase-out gains worth some 1,500 kg of CFC-12. Significantly, two companies (the factory E. Keburia Ltd and the Individual Enterprise Elizbarashvili) have retrofitted installations without financial help from the Programme,

the country's first self-financed conversion initiatives. Jointly with the Georgian Refrigeration Association, Georgia's National Ozone Unit has produced a CD-ROM that surveys refrigeration equipment installed in all 12 participating enterprises, alongside calculations of the most favourable thermodynamic and economic gains that can result from replacing or retrofitting each type of equipment. It also offers detailed accounts of activities undertaken as well as a photo gallery of equipment replaced or retrofitted and the steps taken to destroy existing R12/R502 compressor plants, in line with the Multilateral Fund decisions.

Contact: Mikheil Tushishvili, National Ozone Unit of Georgia, email: geoairdept@caucasus.net

Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Moldova get equipped for the critical year 2005

Heads of National Ozone Units and national experts in refrigeration, methyl bromide phase-out and public awareness from Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova participated in an interactive experience-sharing meeting in Kyrgyzstan from 27 to 31 July 2004. Organized by the Ozone Centre of Kyrgyzstan and UNEP's Compliance Assistance Programme, it was the first gathering of the "Georgia – Kyrgyzstan – Moldova - UNEP" Contact Group, established under the Regional Ozone Network for Europe and Central Asia.

The meeting provided the participating countries with an opportunity to discuss implementation details of various projects set out in their respective country programmes; share success stories and lessons learned; and seek advice from their counterparts on problems encountered.

It was agreed that achievements of the three countries would be of interest and value to the other Network members and should thus be broadly disseminated in the region. These include, inter alia, the introduction of a computerized training programme for refrigeration technicians in Moldova; field trials of chemical and non-chemical methyl bromide alternatives for soil fumigation (metam sodium, dazomet, biofumigation and steam) in Georgia; and the operation of a mobile refrigerant Recovery&Recycling Centre in Kyrgyzstan.

Proximity of the three participating countries to ODS-producing states puts them under the threat of growing

illegal trade in ODS and ODS-containing equipment. The participants urged UNEP to take immediate action to bolster customs cooperation in order to control and reduce illegal ODS traffic in the region.

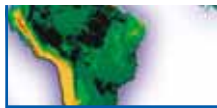
The Contact Group meeting equipped the participating countries with new ideas, viable approaches and tested methodologies to help them achieve their compliance targets in the coming critical year. This already yielded first results, such as:

- Kyrgyzstan established an action plan to speed up its RMP implementation and kick-started its project on methyl bromide alternatives;
- Moldova and UNDP are developing an incentive programme for end-users taking into account related experience of Georgia;
- Consultations are ongoing to help control ODS traffic in Central Asia through the establishment of customs cooperation between Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and China. This innovative approach of country-to-country assistance was highly rated by all participating countries, which agreed to introduce a proposal at the next Network meeting to regularize the work of contact groups.

Contact: Alla Metelitsa, UNEP DTIE, email: alla.metelitsa@unep.fr



Participants in the Contact Group Meeting



Latin America and the Caribbean

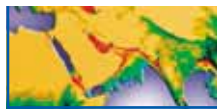
Filling the Skills Gap: Bahamas Workshop Fast-Tracks Capacity Building

On May 18-20 the Compliance Assistance Programme of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean facilitated a Training Workshop for New Ozone Officers and Assistant Ozone Officers, hosted by the Government of the Bahamas, highlighting ways to maintain the continuity of national capacity for implementing the Montreal Protocol. Over the period March 2002 to March 2004, 14 new officers from 12 English-Speaking Caribbean countries, plus Haiti, have taken on the responsibility of implementing national phase-out strategies. Several factors lie behind rapid changes of personnel in these countries, including migration of experienced officers from the region, changes in job descriptions, changes in national policy priorities, and lack of sufficient funding to continually support full-time officers. When officers are changed there are often no mechanisms for transferring human resources or adapting institutions to fill the gap, resulting in loss of continuity and a counter-productive cycle of stops, starts and restarts.

The CAP team has identified such human resource capacity problems as one of the main factors behind non compliance and project implementation delays in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in this sub-region. The Bahamas Workshop equipped officers to top up their knowledge and skills to the level required to manage implementation and compliance with

confidence. Special emphasis was placed on project management skills for delivering initiatives approved by the ExCom, notably in the realms of Institutional Strengthening and Refrigeration Management Plans. The workshop involved South/South cooperation, assigning the more senior National Ozone Officers (NOOs) of the region as trainers, and North/South cooperation with Environment Canada presenting on the science of ozone layer depletion and interlinkages with global climate change. Presentations were provided by the Multilateral Fund Secretariat which included the responsibilities of Parties on the most recent decisions of the ExCom. Participants were also introduced to linkages with the Basel Convention for Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the management of unusable ODS. A further recommendation arising from the workshop is for the Montreal Protocol CAP to prepare and publish a training manual for National Ozone Officers similar to the training manuals already published by UNEP for the training of customs officers and air-conditioning and refrigeration technicians.

Contact : Mirian Vega, UNEP ROLAC,
email : mirian.vega@pnuma.org



West Asia

Recovery and Recycling on the Agenda in Lebanon

Back-to-back with the main 2004 ODS Officers Meeting for West Asia Network which ran from 31 May to 1 June, the Regional Office for West Asia's Compliance Assistance Programme joined forces with Lebanon's Ministry of Environment to organise a technical round-table meeting on Recovery and Recycling (R&R) under Refrigerant Management Plans, at the request of several countries in the region.

Officers and experts from West Asian countries attended the meeting and five guest experts were invited from Iran, Macedonia and Sudan to present success stories in the implementation of Recovery and Recycling methodologies. Implementing agencies also recognized the importance of the

meeting. UNDP, UNIDO and GTZ presented insights gained and lessons learned in this area of concern. The Co-Chair of the Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning Technical Option Committee was also invited as a key speaker. After two days of presentations and tailored discussion sessions the meeting concluded with valuable recommendations on implementing R&R projects, covering technical aspects, policies, project management, information systems and monitoring and evaluation projects.

Contact: Abdulelah Al-Wadaee, UNEP ROWA,
email: Abdulelah.Alwadaee@unep.org.bh

Qatar Back on Track to Compliance

Qatar has demonstrated its determination to put compliance efforts back on track in accordance with decisions taken at the 15th Meeting of the Parties, by passing fresh legislation to curb ODS consumption and use, due to be enforced at the end of 2004. Other moves under way are a national survey to assess current ODS consumption trends and accelerated schedules for approving a refrigerant management plan and other projects. West Asia's Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) team, in its technical support capacity, has conducted several missions to help Qatar start up survey operations and raise awareness of compliance challenges among stakeholders. ROWA's CAP team organized a special meeting behind the scenes of the main 2004 Network Meeting between the Secretary General of Qatar's Supreme Council For Environment and Natural Reserves (SCENR),

Ozone Secretariat representatives, the Chief Officer of the Multilateral Fund Secretariat and representatives of UNIDO and GTZ. The Secretary General reiterated Qatar's commitment to the Protocol and its goals and indicated that Qatar will present a plan of action for achieving its target compliance goals till 2010, for consideration at the next meeting of the Implementation Committee.

The 32th meeting of Implementation Committee appreciated the efforts made by Qatar to return to compliance status as shown in reported data for 2003, and its timely data reporting under Article 7 of the Protocol.

Contact: Abdulelah Al-Wadaee, UNEP ROWA,
email: abdulelah.alwadaee@unep.org.bh

Customs Officers to Use New Visual Aid for Screening ODS

Customs officers have long felt the need for a quick reference tool to assist customs officers in their routine work of spot-checking imports for ODS and ODS products. CAP has developed such an aid in the form of A2 size poster containing most of the important information required, including chemical names, formulae, CAS numbers, UN numbers, ASHRAE numbers, HS Code, most popular trade names and producer

countries. The poster is published in Arabic and English. It was presented during the main ODS Officers meeting held in Beirut, Lebanon in June 2004 where it was highly appreciated by ODS Officers and participants who requested CAP to distribute them.

Contact: Abdulelah Al-Wadaee, UNEP ROWA,
email: abdulelah.alwadaee@unep.org.bh

>> SPOTLIGHT ON IRAN



Mr Fereidoun Rostami,
Manager, Environmental Research Center,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

As part of OzonAction Newsletter's regular Question and Answer series featuring actions under way in countries around the world to meet Montreal Protocol requirements, Mr. Fereidoun Rostami of the Ozone Layer Protection Unit discusses the situation in Iran, following his country's recent adoption of a National Compliance Action Plan.

Q. Iran's adoption of a National Compliance Action Plan means that the challenge of meeting the 50 per cent reduction in CFC consumption by 2005 is just around the corner. How are you planning to tackle it?

A. Given the level of current consumption, the reduction will partly be achieved by completing individual projects previously approved by the Executive Committee, due to be finalized in 2004. The remaining required reduction, however, is going to be met by implementing projects in the National CFC Phase-out Management Plan (NPP) for 2004, which are already well under way.

Q. Iran is doing its best to introduce policies and enact legislation relating to ODS control but how effective are the enforcement measures?

A. Enforcement of policies and legislation calls for resources and means such as training of enforcement

personnel. Under Iran's NPP, whose implementation only began in early 2004, a number of activities, including training of customs officers, were foreseen. Two training workshops are scheduled to be held this September. Some 100 customs officers will be trained and provided with ODS identifiers. This step, I hope, will enable them to enforce the regulation speedily. In addition, we need to provide training to a number of personnel in various organizations grouped within the Iran Ozone Network (ION) at provincial level. We are in the process of finalizing plans with GTZ, the lead agency of the NPP, to provide them with the required training and the necessary tools.

Q. Methyl bromide (MB) use in Iran seems to be on the increase owing to growth in exports of agricultural products, especially nuts and dried fruits. How does Iran see compliance with MB targets shaping in the future, and what specific activities have been set on track for meeting phase-out goals?

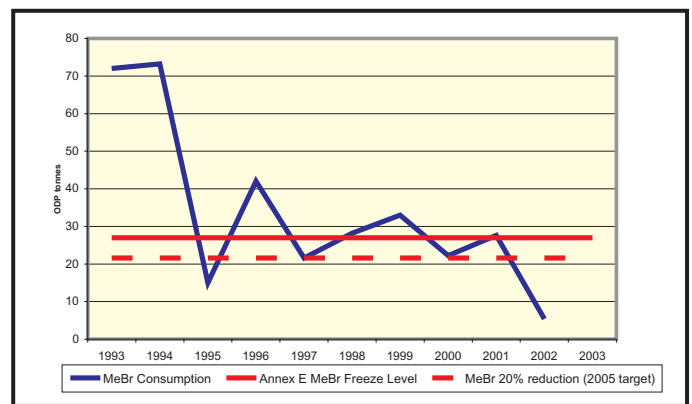
A. In discussing MB, one needs to distinguish between QPS and non-QPS use. If you look at different breakdowns of data on MB use, different conclusions may emerge. Moreover, our Ministry of Agriculture is well aware of the commitment and is phasing out MB use by introducing alternatives in a phased manner and in line with the compliance target. I should, however, mention that MB phase-out deserves closer attention, especially in the light of decisions taken by the EMOP in March 2004. If the socio-economic cost of adopting alternatives is too high, then a different scenario may emerge.

Q. Participation by the people of Iran will be vital for sustaining phase-out. As an ODS officer, what particular challenges do you face when it comes to raising public awareness and how do you aim to deal with them?

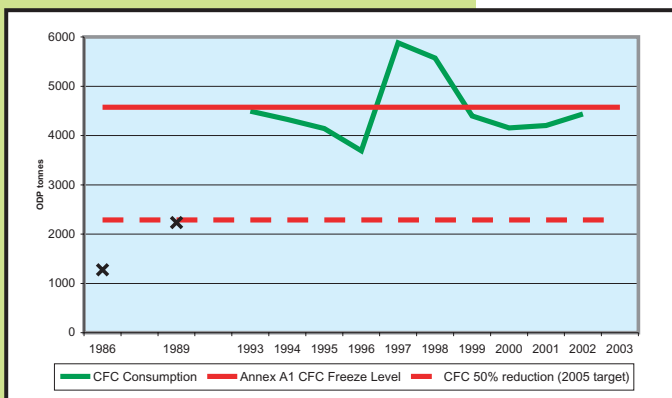
A. The public's contribution to the phase-out effort can be twofold. One side of it is encouraging purchase of ozone-friendly products and discouraging the public from buying ozone-depleting products. But there is a cost issue involved and there is a limit to what can be done in this area. We are, however, trying to gain support of the public by orienting children and youngsters to influence their parents. This is done through providing information to school children at the National Ozone Unit, publishing posters and puzzles, distributing leaflets at the annual Iran International Environment Exhibition, and so on. We have also established an Interactive Touch Screen (ITS) facility at a museum in the City of Yazd which school children and tourists regularly visit in large numbers. We hope to establish few other facilities elsewhere, if we have the finances.

Q. Can you mention examples of how participation in regional network meetings has helped you in implementing the Montreal Protocol?

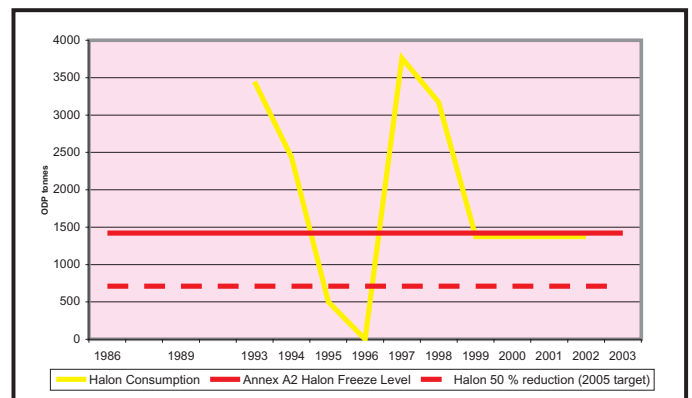
A. This is a difficult question to answer. One can always learn from the successes and mistakes of others and such experience is gained over time. A lot of information is made available at Network meetings. There is a question of interpretation but they provide an opportunity to hear from the experts and the experienced about what is expected and how it can be done.



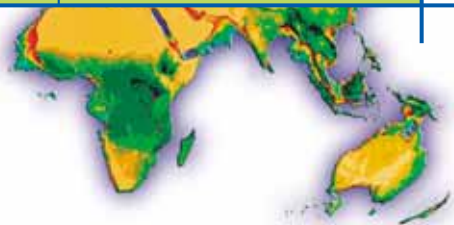
Trend in MB consumption in Iran



Trend in CFC consumption in Iran



Trend in Halon consumption in Iran



Marcia Levaggi,
Chairperson of the Executive Committee
of the Multilateral Fund

What are the challenges that stand out? One is compliance on the part of Article 5 (developing) countries with control measures called for under the Protocol. Another is the phasing-out of production and consumption of methyl bromide (MB) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). Last but not least, the provisions of the Montreal Protocol need to be correlated with those of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, to take the utmost advantage of potential synergies and to ensure that these vital agreements do not operate at cross-purposes.

Implementing the Montreal Protocol in terms of compliance by Article 5 countries began relatively recently, in July 1999. These countries are producing and consuming volumes of most kinds of ODS that correspond to their base levels. Hence they are due to start reducing production and consumption of CFCs, halons, CTCs, methyl chloroform and MB by 2005, a key deadline for Article 5 countries.

Thanks to grant backing from the Multilateral Fund (MF) reports provided by the MF Secretariat indicate that most are well on course to complying with initial and intermediate control measures. Yet there may be last-minute difficulties as ODS volumes fall to minimal levels and control efforts tail off.

Maintaining the flow of funding is therefore essential to bolstering levels of compliance in Article 5 countries. It follows that the Multilateral Fund needs more than ever to be strengthened and capacity stepped up to implement already approved projects, whose success depends increasingly on compliance with the control measures. Additionally, the work of the Imple-

>> SPECIAL FEATURE

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mentation Committee grows increasingly important for countries struggling to comply with control measures. The 'facilitative' aspect of this Committee's task will expand and so will collaboration with the ExCom to foresee and head off potential risks of non-compliance.

Turning to phase-out issues, the substitution of CFCs by other chemicals has been relatively straightforward. But in the cases of other controlled substances, the lack of effective, readily available and easy-to-use substitutes could make the freezing of consumption and production more complicated than foreseen, particularly in the cases of MB and HCFCs. There is resistance to MB phase-out in many countries where methyl bromide is consumed mainly in the agricultural sector and is hence of critical economic importance. It is a fact that industrialized countries have carried out significant reductions but for many of them the final step of reduction is problematic, witnessed by the fact that so many Critical Use Exemptions have been submitted. In some cases these countries have kept or even exceeded levels of use that correspond to the final reduction step for this substance. The impact of this situation is being felt in Article 5 countries, which have made notable progress in eliminating MB thanks to Multilateral Fund support but are currently much influenced by the 'contagion effect' and in several cases are having their own problems meeting Protocol targets.

The situation appears to be heading for a point where both groups of countries could reach a freeze of MB at virtually the same time, contradicting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities which inspired the Protocol's thinking from its outset.

As for HCFCs, though freezing production and consumption of these substances is not yet an immediate objective for the Protocol, it is essential that Parties prepare themselves for such a challenge, which will not be easy to overcome. Vital to the Protocol's success is MF financial assistance to enable Article 5 countries to meet the incremental costs of adopting substitutes and new technologies to back them up. For the time being, the policies of the ExCom exclude this possibility in relation to HCFCs, which are used in many projects as a substitute for CFCs. Furthermore, the viability of alternatives to those substances is not clearly established in all applications.

Without a doubt, approval by the ExCom of a project to develop a strategy to manage HCFCs in China is a highly positive development. The implementation of this project should be pursued with care and its conclusions carefully as-

essed as future ExCom policies are framed. The success of the corresponding control measures will itself depend vitally on technological advance to develop alternatives.

A third major challenge facing the Montreal Protocol is how to make the most of synergies with the climate change regime. Links between ozone layer depletion and the phenomenon of climate change are increasingly obvious. The reports of Assessment Panels show that the ozone layer is not only affected by the presence of bromine and chlorine in the stratosphere but that greenhouse gas emissions also contribute to ozone layer depletion. Yet so far little has been done to stimulate interplay between the two management regimes. In isolation, the Montreal Protocol is not sufficient as a tool to deal with the problem. An example of the need for co-ordination can be seen in the use of HFCs as substitutes for CFCs. The joint report which the TEAP and IPCC will present to the Parties in 2005 will be an important milestone – also hopefully a signpost to extensive collaboration between both systems.

POWER TO THE PLANET: INDIA LEADS THE WAY ON GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVES



Parveen Talha

The National Academy of Custom Excise and Narcotics (NACEN) is India's apex training organization for customs officers, with an agenda that also includes central excise, narcotics and environmental treaty compliance. In a recent interview, the OzonAction Newsletter asked NACEN's Director-General, PARVEEN TAHLA, how she thinks NACEN has changed attitudes of national customs officers to global issues.

OAN: What difference has global cooperation on ozone made to NACEN?

PT: Previously we were handling customs relations which were limited to the concerns of the country, but now Indian customs have also become globalised there have been a lot of reforms. Now we don't just look at the Indian situation but we look at the Indian situation from a global point of view. NACEN has tried to give its courses a global leaning and that means trying to change the attitude of customs officers, alerting them to the fact that Indian customs has to keep the entire world in mind while implementing national laws.

OAN: What methods were used to change customs officers' perceptions and attitudes?

PT: With the liberalisation of customs laws and procedures and with centralisation, there were major changes in the fiscal policies of India. Earlier, the central concern of a customs officer was not as facilitator but as regulator. Now he was told he needed to facilitate trading activities, that he was not only there to take revenue, taxes and duties from the trader but he was also there to help the trader's business and spread his trade. With that shift to a facilitator role, many felt authority might be shifting from their hands. Our approach was to convince the customs officer that authority and power are different things. No law enforcement office has power in its own right, it only has authority to im-

plement the laws. If anyone misuses this authority or confuses it with power then that power is wrong. This is a way of telling the customs officer that so long as he knows the law is behind him and he has all the information he needs to apply it properly to ensure that taxes and duties are paid, he need never fear that authority might slip from his hands.

OAN: What do you think of Green Customs? How would it affect the role of NACEN?

PT: I am very much for the Green Customs initiative and I always think that enforcement authorities at all levels, whether Customs or any other organization like the police, should be aware of not only of immediate law enforcement duties but also of environmental imperatives. All officials should feel concern for the future of the globe. Green Customs is a very good idea and NACEN has taken it up since it was introduced by UNEP. NACEN started off by implementing laws to curb ODS and by ensuring that India and the Asia-Pacific region do not add to these troubles. It is vital that ODS are identified by customs officers and that illegal trade is monitored. Similarly now for the Basel Convention, for the Stockholm Convention and for CITES, we will try to put some research effort into how we can make training modules and start off training course that also embrace these issues.

OAN: Have you already started to train your customs officers and do you also have it in mind to offer regional training?

PT: We already started to train, we already have a training institute for ODS in the Asia Pacific region and we have been approached for training in administration and Green Customs, too. We are ready to take that on board.

OAN: What was your assessment of the meeting in Budapest (Promoting Compliance with the Trade and Licensing Provisions, OAN 47 p 8)?

PT: I was very happy to be there and I felt that those countries with economies in transition are responding very well to the Green Customs idea and as a matter of fact I would think that NACEN can also take a training role in these countries if invited.

UNIDO CASE STUDY



Among projects recently implemented by UNIDO in Indonesia with Multilateral Fund backing is one that involves the company

P.T. Trias Rantai, which produces PU integral skin shoe-soles. This conversion has a zero-ODP and is thus considered to be an end solution.

The choice of the proper blowing agent was crucial in the production of PU shoe soles as the visual aspects of the end-product are very essential. The skin has to be completely smooth and free of bubbles and other impurities. Other physical properties, such as abrasion resistance, tear strength and elongation at break are important. The water blown technology demands a higher skill of the operators, exact metering of the components and constant temperatures of the moulds.

With the installation of the new equipment the company acquired certain capacity to operate in more economical mode ... (negligible volume of scraps, and consistent quality standards of the product) while maintaining enough production capacity to cope with the market demand. Although no safety-related costs were allocated, recent European industrial and occupational safety standards were applied to the installation of the equipment.

**Contact: Mr Si Ahmed, UNIDO,
email: s.ahmed@unido.org, www.unido.org**

TECH • TALK

Tech Talk showcases commercially-available technologies that reduce or replace ODS, as well as technologies currently at the research and development stage. Without seeking to endorse any technology or product, Tech Talk covers all technologies permitted under the Montreal Protocol, including those using transitional substances (HCFCs) and not-in-kind alternatives. We welcome information and contributions from all interested parties.

FOAMS

Polyurethane Soundproofing Blocks Offer Ozone-Friendly Alternative

American Insulock Inc. is producing concrete moulds for use in building sound-walls and soundproofed buildings from polyurethane, using a prototype process that the company claims has no adverse effect on the ozone layer. Brand-named Insulock Blocks, the interlocking forms are produced using a resin that contains a 'zero-ozone-depleting' blowing agent to make the polyurethane foam up, says the launch literature. Most manufactured forms of this kind are created from polystyrene. The company claims that the new polyurethane blocks are stronger than polystyrene and offer higher heat and sound insulating values, efficient to R-30 or R-38 standards.

Contact: Enna Keller, American Insulock Inc., info@insulock.com, www.insulock.com

METHYL BROMIDE

Agrocellhone Scores over MB Fumigants in Spain and Morocco

R&D initiatives by Spanish agrochemicals company Agroquímicos de Levante (AQL) to develop potential substitutes for methyl bromide (MB) for fumigation have shown promising results from formulations of 1,3-D and chloropicrin, which can be applied to the soil by mechanical injection



Agrocellhone formulations used in the tomato fields

or (in emulsion form) by drip irrigation. The efficacy of these Agrocellhone formulations in terms of controlling soil pathogens and improving crop yield and quality, has led (says the company's literature) to their wide adoption not only in Spain and elsewhere in the EU but also in countries like Morocco, where tomatoes and strawberries are key export crops that rely on MB use. AQL says the choice of Agrocellhone formulations (injectable or emulsifiable) allows treatments to be tailored to different crops and conditions in a versatile way. Growers in Spain and Morocco have switched to Agrocellhone for more than 20 per cent of cash crop production formerly requiring MB for soil fumigation, claims AQL, and the company's short to medium term forecast sets its sights on 100 per cent substitution.

Contact: V. Pedrós and T. Carrera, Agroquimicos de Levante, aqlsa@arrakis.es, www.agroquimicosdelevante.es

Tripartite Agreements on the Horizon after Tehran Dialogue

Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan issued a joint communiqué after a summit in Tehran, Iran on 18 August, pledging to harmonize legislative and regulatory mechanisms for controlling trade in ODS across the borders of all three countries, to help ensure the success of their phase-out efforts. Modules on existing and forthcoming bilateral customs agreements will be introduced into customs training programmes, backed up by steps to exchange information in systematic ways between NOUs and customs authorities, about:

- Import and export registration forms and licenses;
- Exports from China and India into the region;
- Capacity building in commerce and in official sectors;
- Database facilities for tracking trade quotas, registered importers and other factors.



Participants in the Tehran dialogue

Tripartite agreements to regularize these exchanges will extend to broader sharing of such knowledge with other ECO countries, in collaboration with PEOs (Policy and Enforcement Officers), the ROAP CAP team, RILO, UNEP, GTZ and the ECO Secretariat. An ECO customs data bank will also be set up and run under the agreements. In addition, the Dialogue set the terms for arrangements under Afghanistan's ODS Phase-Out Action Plan to post customs officers from Pakistan in Afghanistan, after undergoing training programmes organized by the Pakistan

Customs Training Directorate General. Afghani customs officers will participate in the training programmes of Iran's NOU and will also be offered training facilitated by Pakistan. Documents and materials developed in Iran will be made available in versions suitable for use in Afghanistan and the NOUs of Iran and Pakistan will assist in building capacity in public awareness. Both Pakistan and Iran are considering steps to present Afghanistan with refrigerant identifier facilities.

Contact: Atul Bagai, UNEP ROAP, [email: bagai@un.org](mailto:bagai@un.org)



Multilateral Fund Secretariat: ODS Phase-out Goals in Sight

At its 43rd Meeting in Geneva in July 2004, the Executive Committee of the Multilateral

Fund (ExCom) noted that plans and funding were already in place to phase out all ozone depleting substances (ODS), apart from some 18,000 tonnes that still remained. The Article 5 (developing) countries now seem on track to meet the Montreal Protocol's 2005 and 2007 deadlines and the ExCom could now focus on successful and timely project completion. In connection with this, ExCom has boosted institutional support to very low-volume consuming countries (VLVCs).

Projects and activities totalling US\$ 31 million were approved to assist ODS phase-out in 39 countries, including plans in China, Cuba, and Serbia and Montenegro that would lead to the phase-out of over 800 tonnes of ODS.

Afghanistan and Bhutan received funding for institutional strengthening. Support for a study on the management of HCFCs in China was also approved on an exceptional basis.

Contact: Ms. Maria Nolan, Multilateral Fund Secretariat, 1800 McGill College Avenue, 27th floor Montreal, QC, Canada H3A 3J6, tel: +1 514 282 1122 – fax: +1 514 282 0068, email: secretariat@unmfs.org, www.multilateralfund.org



UNEP Ozone Secretariat: Working Group Flags Agenda for November MOP

Meeting in Geneva 13-16 July, the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (OEWG) agreed to recommend 14 agenda items for the 16th Meeting of the Parties (MOP16). The main items were nominations for essential-use CFC exemptions, and terms of reference for the replenishment study of the Multilateral Fund for 2006 - 2008. Also featured were non-CFC

chillers, the need for a system for tracking international trade in ODS, measures for curbing releases of industrial carbon tetrachloride into the atmosphere, and a review of destruction technologies. The OEWG also called for discussions at MOP16 on the equitable geographical representation of Parties on the ExCom, and on the compliance situation of VLVCs.

Contact: Mr Marco Gonzalez, UNEP Ozone Secretariat, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya, tel: +254 20 623452, fax: +254 20 623410, email: marco.gonzalez@unep.org, www.unep.org/ozone



UNEP DTIE : Ozzy Wins World Fame

The 43rd ExCom approved 27 projects for UNEP with total value of US\$ 2.2 million excluding programme support cost. Eager to share information in their national language, a group of 8 Portuguese-speaking countries met on the occasion of 24th OEWG meeting to assess Portuguese speaking African countries' needs and agree upon cooperation modalities. The meeting was facilitated by UNEP

DTIE and included UNDP and GTZ. The OzonAction programme organized its yearly planning meeting for Regional Network Coordinators and convened the CAP Advisory Group meeting in early September 2004. As part of national Ozone Day celebrations, a UNEP press release and the Ozzy Ozone video were simultaneously launched for global distribution in Barbados and Nairobi (the Government of Barbados originally developed the Ozzy Ozone character for use in its national awareness campaign). Literally millions of people viewed this UNEP product on the same day.

Contact: Mr. Rajendra Shende, UNEP DTIE, 39-43 quai André Citroën, 76739 Paris Cedex 15, France, tél : +33 1 44 37 14 50, fax : +33 1 44 37 14 74, email : ozonaction@unep.fr, www.unepic.org/ozonaction

>> News from International Agencies



UNDP: National Implementation Initiatives Move Up an Extra Gear

UNDP has out-posted two Regional Coordinators in

Beijing, China and Abuja, Nigeria and established new National Programme Management Units (PMUs), says the Programme's 2003 progress report, presented at the 43rd meeting of the ExCom. Resulting activities have led to a phase out of 5,846 ODP tonnes of ODS in 2003, surpassing each of the five previous years, and the completion of 158 projects. Also noted is UNDP's ongoing cooperation with UNEP on RMPs, as well as with Japan on phase-out activities in India and Sri Lanka. Other highlights were cooperation with GTZ and Switzerland on efforts to finalize India's servicing sector plan and with GTZ to implement Brazil's and Iran's National Phaseout Plans. The ExCom also approved an additional US\$ 6.2 million for UNDP for implementation work in 15 countries.

Contact: Dr. Suely Carvalho, Montreal Protocol Unit, UNDP, 304 East 45th Street, Room FF970, New York, NY 10017, USA, Tel: +1 212 906 5004, fax: +1 212 906 6947, email: suely.carvalho@undp.org, www.undp.org



UNIDO: Investment and Support Projects Curb over 2,700 ODP Tonnes

Projects approved by the 43rd ExCom for implementation by UNIDO include preparations for initiatives in the methyl bromide sector in China and Cuba and projects for the refrigeration sector in Cameroon. Two terminal umbrella projects in the refrigeration and solvent sector in Morocco and Nigeria were also approved

for funding, as well as the National CFC Phase-out Plan for Serbia and Montenegro and an extension of the institutional strengthening (Phase II) project for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The total value of this funding was US\$ 1,534,897 without add-on costs. UNIDO also reports that the 49 investment projects which it helped to complete in 2003, together with various technical assistance and training projects, have led to the phasing out of 2,728.2 ODP tonnes. One of the completed projects, concerning the production of PU integral skin shoe soles in Indonesia, is featured on page 7 of this issue.

Contact: Mr Si Ahmed, UNIDO, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 300, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, tel: +43 1 26026 3782, fax: +43 1 26026 6804, email: s.ahmed@unido.org, www.unido.org



World Bank: China Programme Goes from Strength to Strength

The World Bank's 2003 Progress Report was submitted at the 43rd ExCom in early July. With a cumulative ODP phaseout of 139,495 tonnes, the Bank has achieved 91 percent of the total ODP to be phased out through its conversion and closure projects. Disbursement for the entire World Bank portfolio in the year 2003 is at

US\$ 472.5 million.

Also at the 43rd ExCom, a total of US\$ 18.1 million was approved to the World Bank for the second annual programme of the China CTC production sector plan and a new TCA sector plan. In addition, the ExCom approved US\$ 135,500 in project preparation funds for the pharmaceutical aerosol subsector in China.

Contact: Mr. Steve Gorman, World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433 USA, tel: +1 202 473 5865, fax: +1 202 522 3258, email: sgorman@worldbank.org, www.worldbank.org/montrealprotocol

New Publications

The National Ozone Unit of Macedonia published two new brochures: "UV Radiation: Dangers and Prevention" in Macedonian and "Depletion of the Ozone Layer: Facts and Experiences" in Albanian. The publications were shared with neighbouring countries.



Sri Lanka declared year 2004 as a National Ozone year. "Ozone Layer & Us" was published by the National Ozone Unit of the Ministry of Environment & National Resources of Sri Lanka.



This Kyrgyz language brochure "Impact of Ultraviolet Radiation on Human Health" describes in a common language main aspects of the ozone layer depletion and related consequences for the human health, including both positive and negative effects of UV radiation. Special emphasis is placed on methods of protection from harmful sun radiation.



As part of its awareness raising campaign under the Institutional Strengthening project the National Ozone Unit of Moldova has published in Romanian "The Ozone Story" booklet which is being distributed through the Ministry of Education to schools, high schools, colleges and kindergartens.



Forthcoming Meetings

33rd Meeting of the Implementation Committee, 17-19 November, 2004, Prague, Czech Republic

Second meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on MBTOC, 19-20 November, 2004, Prague, Czech Republic

Bureau of the MOP16, 20 November, 2004, Prague, Czech Republic

Preparatory Segment of the MOP16, 22-24 November, 2004, Prague, Czech Republic

High-level Segment of the MOP16, 25-26 November, 2004, Prague, Czech Republic

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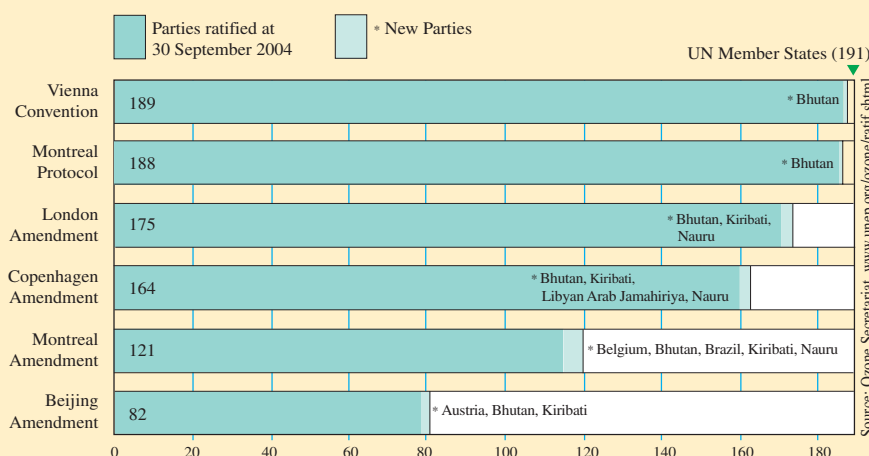
Editor: Mr Robert Lamb

Publication Manager: Ms Anne Fenner

Information Manager: Mr Jim Curlin

Photo Courtesies: Ms Alla Metelitsa

Progress in Ratification of the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments



Please send comments and material for publication to Mr Rajendra Shende, Head, Energy and OzonAction Branch, at the address below:

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY,
INDUSTRY AND ECONOMICS (UNEP DTIE)

OzonAction Programme

Tour Mirabeau 39-43, Quai André Citroën,
75739 Paris, Cedex 15, France

TEL: +33 1 44 37 14 50 FAX: +33 1 44 37 14 74

E-MAIL: ozonaction@uneep.fr

www.uneptie.org/ozonaction

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