

REPORT ON THE EVENTS CONDUCTED IN UZBEKISTAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OZONE LAYER AND 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTREAL PROTOCOL

Celebration of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer within the framework of the joint project of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Ecology and Environmental Protection, the United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan and the Global Environment Facility "Initial Implementation of Accelerated Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase Out in the Countries with Economies in Transition (CEIT) – Uzbekistan" (HCFC joint project) has already become a good tradition.

Events, which are celebrated on the occasion of this date, unite school and university students, environmental advocates, representatives of private sector, NGOs, Government, mass media and ordinary citizens of the country.

From 8 to 29 September 2017 the HCFC joint project, with support of the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection, UNDP in Uzbekistan and a number of partners on international and local level, organized series of events on the occasion of this festive date.

1) Opening of the Training Center for Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Sector Technicians under Tashkent State Technical University (8 September 2017)

Establishment of the Training Center is another step in strengthening the Department of "Refrigeration and Cryogenic Engineering" of Tashkent State Technical University, which was re-opened in 2015. The main tasks of the Center are: to improve the qualification of engineering and technical workers in the refrigeration industry, conduct practical training sessions on installation, welding, maintenance and vacuuming of cooling and air-conditioning systems and demonstrate best practices in maintenance, installation and repair of climate control equipment.

As it was noted by the management of the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection often representatives of international companies approach the Committee on the question of organization of training of specialists to meet high environmental requirements and standards. Now, thanks to the establishment of the Training Center, it became possible to constantly improve the qualifications of specialists in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector and to attract the interest of national companies in the process of training and re-training of their technical staff.

The new Training Center is also open for students, who, in addition to the university curriculum, can enhance their knowledge and skills through practical training. It is to note that teachers of the "Refrigeration and Cryogenic Engineering" Department will be actively involved in the work of the center. In the future, it is also planned to invite refrigeration specialists from international companies with the aim of exchanging experience and conducting interactive and practical sessions.

During the opening of the Training Center, the presentation of new handbook for refrigeration specialists "Basics of Refrigeration Engineering and Maintenance of Refrigeration Systems" was held too. According to the authors of the handbook, it received positive feedback from the specialists of similar training centers as well as associations of refrigerationists in Armenia, Turkmenistan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Macedonia. Some of these specialists even expressed desire to have it translated into their native language.

Also within the framework of the event modern equipment for the recovery and recirculation of refrigerants as well as necessary tools and office equipment for the organization of the training sessions were presented.



2) Wrap-Up of Event of the International Photo Contest Dedicated to the Ozone Layer Protection and Climate Change (11 September 2017)

The joint project of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Ecology and Environmental Protection, the United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan and the Global Environment Facility "Initial Implementation of Accelerated Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase Out in the Countries with Economies in Transition (CEIT) – Uzbekistan" and joint project of Center for Hydrometeorological Service under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan and UN Environment "Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme in Uzbekistan" in the beginning of June proposed the idea on organization of the International Photo Contest dedicated to the issues of Ozone layer protection and climate change. The proposal was approved by the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Ecology and Environmental Protection and the Center of Hydrometeorological Service under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It was supported by UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, "OzonAction" branch of UN Environment on international level and UNV in Uzbekistan on local level.

The International Photo Contest was given the start on 10 July 2017 and ended on 11 September 2017, on the occasion of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer and 30th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol.

The contest was held in two categories, i.e. "Ozone Layer and I" and "Climate Change in My Eyes" and consisted of three stages. It was organized to raise public awareness on climate change and ozone layer protection issues, and to promote careful attitude towards the environment around the world.

The contest attracted attention of 155 countries of the world and 285 entries were received from 60 countries, such as: Australia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bhutan, the UK, Germany, India, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Macedonia (FYROM), Mozambique, Moldova, Mauritius, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, the USA, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uzbekistan, France, etc. Significant support in dissemination of information on the photo contest was provided by nature protection authorities of foreign countries, including Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Diplomatic missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad were also actively engaged in dissemination of information.

"UzWaterAware" project implemented by Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia joined as the partner of the contest and issued its special nominations which celebrate the importance of rational use of water resources in the context of global climate change. UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, international partner of the contest, issued its special nomination called "Women and Ozone Layer", which acknowledges the role of women in Ozone layer protection activities.

On 11 September 2017 official announcement ceremony of the winners of the International Photo Contest was held at Art Gallery of Uzbekistan, one of the notorious exhibition spaces of the country, with participation of representatives of governmental organizations, NGOs, international organizations and mass media.

The selection of winning photos was conducted by the jury panel consisting of 5 international experts of the United Nations, who devoted their activities to solving global and regional problems in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development. Notably, jury members, on the occasion of the announcement of the winners, recorded their short video messages, which were demonstrated to the participants of the event on 11 September 2017.

In addition, live broadcast over Facebook page of UNDP in Uzbekistan was conducted and the participants of the contest from around the world were able to watch the whole event live.

According to final selection, the winners in the category of "Ozone Layer and I" became:

1. Lusine Torosyan (Armenia)
2. Shamsieva Khurshidakhon (Uzbekistan)
3. Viktorija Joveva (Macedonia (FYROM))

The winners in the category of "Climate Change in My Eyes" became:

1. Moniruzzaman Sazal (Bangladesh)
2. Naveed Ali (Pakistan)
3. Azamat Markarimov (Uzbekistan)

The winner of the special nomination "Women and Ozone Layer", issued by UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, became Rabemanantsoa Andry from Madagascar.

The winners of the special nominations by the “UzWaterAware” project, implemented by the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia became: Ecaterina Herta (Moldova), Pranab Basak (India), Anvar Ilyasov (Uzbekistan), Khubutiya Rusidan (Uzbekistan), and Azamat Matkarimov (Uzbekistan).

On 11-16 September there was photo exhibition as well, which was open for everyone. School and university students during these days were able to visit the exhibition hall of Art Gallery of Uzbekistan. In addition, on 15 September 2017 a special excursion was organized for the representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Uzbekistan, which was led by Mr. Bakhrom Kuchkarov, Chairperson of the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection.

To see the photos submitted by the participants of the contest, please visit virtual gallery at www.envcontest.uz.



3) Mass Media Tour to the Companies and Enterprises Supported by the joint Project (12-13 September 2017)

The third event on the occasion of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was mass media tour to Syrdarya, Jizzakh and Samarkand regions with the aim of getting acquainted with the activities of companies and enterprises supported within the project, dealing with servicing, repairing and maintenance of the refrigeration equipment.

It bears mentioning that since commencement of the project 125 sets of service equipment were handed over to about 100 companies and enterprises to improve their quality of services, 16 sets of analytical equipment - to customs authorities to prevent attempts to illegally import or export equipment or goods containing banned refrigerants. In addition creation of 5 Refrigerant Recirculation and Reclaim Centers was supported.

The important feature of the project is that it cooperates with both large companies and small service centers, with which journalists were able to get acquainted by visiting 4 different sites, which were part of the media tour.

The first site in the media tour was JSC "Yo'lreftrans". It is the only railway company in the Central Asian region specializing in transportation of fruit and vegetable and perishable goods with the largest refrigerated park and staff of more than 200 people. In the city of Syrdarya a study tour was organized for the journalists in the territory of this company.

LLC "Jizzax Elektron Servis", which is engaged in the repair, installation and maintenance of refrigeration equipment, became the next site of the visit in the city of Jizzakh. Employees of the company, like others, actively participate in the trainings, conducted by the project.

In Samarkand, a group of journalists visited 2 sites: IE "Tkachenko Nikolay Sergeyeovich" and LLC "Mironkul Meva". Last year, IE "Tkachenko Nikolay Sergeyeovich" was provided with the equipment and tools for safe extracting of refrigerants. Nowadays it is successfully used in the activities of the service center.

The last site in the programme of the tour was LLC "Mironkul Meva", which specializes in shock freezing of fruits for long-term storage. Within the framework of the HCFC project, the company was provided with new service equipment.



4) Launch of the Upgraded Air-Conditioning System in the Republican Research Center of Emergency Medicine (29 September 2017)

On 29 September 2017 in the Republican Research Center of Emergency Medicine (RRCM) took place official launch of the renewed centralized air-conditioning system operating on natural refrigerants. The event was also attended by experts dealing with implementation of international conventions funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), GEF coordinators and representatives of public organizations from Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, Russia and Central Asia, who came to Tashkent within the framework of an expanded regional workshop of the GEF.

The event was organized by the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Ecology and Environmental Protection, United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan and the joint project “Initial Implementation of Accelerated Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase Out in the Countries with Economies in Transition (CEIT) – Uzbekistan” with support of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This even became the last one in series of events, which were held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

It is to note that one of the directions of the joint project is implementation of demonstration projects, which show the use of alternative, environment-friendly technologies working on non-Ozone depleting substances with low global warming potential. One of such projects was aimed at replacing two old chillers of the air conditioning system of the RRCM, working on Ozone depleting refrigerant R22 to two new low-charge chillers operating on natural refrigerant – ammonia (NH3).

Preparatory work for implementation of the demonstration project lasted for more than a year. Johnson Controls International spol. s.r.o., Czech Republic, according to the contractual obligations, took the responsibility for provision, preparation and installation of the new equipment and for conducting special training for technical staff of the RRCM on maintenance and operation of the equipment.

The total cost of the demonstration project was more than USD 500 000, of which more than a half was co-financed from the budget of the joint project. The rest was financed by RRCM and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

As Abdulkhakim Khadjibaev, director general of the RRCM noted: “Our medical facility annually provides round-the-clock quality emergency medical care to more than 50 000 patients, and almost one third of them, i.e. 17 000 patients, are children. Every year the RRCM carries out more than 30 000 operations. And creation of comfortable conditions for patients staying in hospital in the conditions of our hot climate became mandatory. In fact, it is integral part of successful treatment and early recovery of our patients”.

Annually, the GEF conducts extended regional workshops in different countries with the participation of specialists dealing with implementation of international conventions, GEF focal points and public organizations. And during the launch event acquaintance with the experience of countries on the implementation of projects financed by the GEF took place.





5) Other Activities and Events

To attract active youth on the UNDP Uzbekistan page, a mini-contest "Find a billboard and send selfies" was announced, according to which, it was necessary to find thematic billboards (dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of Montreal Protocol), installed in different parts of the city and take a photo. Also, on Facebook stickers were created with the logo of the 30th Anniversary of Montreal Protocol and were shared with Facebook users.



6) Mass media coverage (8-29 September 2017)

All these events dedicated to the celebration of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer were widely covered in mass media. In total 27 articles were published in the Republican, regional and district newspapers. 42 television and 33 radio reports were prepared by the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan (on TV channels *O'zbekiston*, *O'zbekiston 24*, *Yoshlar*, *Mahalla*, *Mening Yurtim*, *Zor TV*, *UzReport*; radio channels *O'zbekiston24*, *Yoshlar*, *Mahalla*, *Oriat dono*, etc). In addition two full-length programmes ("Tafsilot" on *Dunyo Bo'ylab* channel) dedicated to the International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer and media tour, were broadcast, each approximately 20 minutes. Below is the summary table of the events conducted and some mass media sources, which covered the events.

Event	Source	Link
Opening of the Training Center for Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Sector Technicians	UzDaily.uz	https://goo.gl/2wgXFn
	Uznature.uz	https://goo.gl/sJzifk
	"Holodilniy Biznes" ("Refrigeration Business") Journal, issue No.10, 2017	https://goo.gl/DnE1MS

	“Molodej Uzbekistana” (“Youth of Uzbekistan”) Newspaper, issue No. 37	
	“Ekologicheskiy Vestnik” (“Ecological Bulletin”) Journal, issue No. 9	
International Photo Contest dedicated to the Ozone Layer Protection and Climate Change	Redpen.uz	https://goo.gl/sY6CVV
	Uzbekistan National News Agency UzA	https://goo.gl/iS9zYG
	Uzbekistan National News Agency UzA	https://goo.gl/XV7jZK
	Uzbekistan Today	https://goo.gl/eeM7Cc
	Darakchi.uz	https://goo.gl/SAigBr
	Uzdaily.com	https://goo.gl/jcWSmy
	Uzdaily.com	https://goo.gl/mE8Gok
	Sreda.uz	https://goo.gl/nmPWog
	Kultura.uz	https://goo.gl/GkA3HY
	Xinhua News Agency	https://goo.gl/iWUmq4
	Sputnik Uzbekistan	https://goo.gl/np4ZAA
	Daryo.uz	https://goo.gl/vX2kLG
	Review.uz	https://goo.gl/1nXisq
	Turkiston Press News Agency	https://goo.gl/vwmcmr
	Pr.uz	https://goo.gl/jeGdks
	Telegraf.uz	https://goo.gl/GCUhMS
	“Narodnoye Slovo” (“People’s Voice”) Newspaper	https://goo.gl/4Ccwrn
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva	https://goo.gl/ZjUSV9	
Mass media tour to the Companies and Enterprises Supported by the joint Project	Review.uz	https://goo.gl/49xCXB
	Review.uz	https://goo.gl/uFkxws
	“Pravda Vostoka” Newspaper	https://goo.gl/iZxVyf
	“Novosti Uzbekistana”	https://goo.gl/HGLsu1
	“Novosti ot Nasimova” (News from Nasimov)	https://goo.gl/XYa4sS
	Anhor.uz	https://goo.gl/aCjLfx
Launch of the Upgraded Air Conditioning System in the Republican Research Center of Emergency Medicine	Review.uz	https://goo.gl/5eZi3w
	Uzdaily.com	https://goo.gl/LmTRmk
	Uzbekistan National News Agency UzA	https://goo.gl/XMJGkF
	Uzbekistan Today	https://goo.gl/UaT3qn
	Darakchi.uz	https://goo.gl/vjWkzU
	Novosti Uzbekistana	https://goo.gl/H1Bk2D
	Kommersant.uz	https://goo.gl/xgqNuP
	Uznature.uz	https://goo.gl/pxwzKb