



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



## Timor-Leste to strengthen national capacities to phase out ODS



**Dili, 16 September 2015** – Timor-Leste marked International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer this year with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between its Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment and the State Secretary of Labor and Professional Development, to strengthen national capacities to phase out ozone depleting substances (ODS) in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector.

H.E. Mr. Contancio da Conceicao Pinto, Minister of Commerce Industry and Environment and Mr. Ilidio Ximenes, State Secretary of Labor and Professional Development signed the MoU which aims to support institutionalised training, curriculum development and capacity-building for trainers in the RAC sector. This national skill development initiative is necessary to support ODS phase-out management, in particular hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), in keeping with the country's obligations under the Montreal Protocol. All HCFCs used in Timor-Leste are for servicing of RAC equipment.

More than 100 participants, including key government officials, academics, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), industry representatives and the media joined the celebration which also marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Mr. Lorenzo da Costa, Director of the National Training Centre for Professionals and Mr. Joao Carlos Soares, Director General of Environment provided the opening remarks for the event.

*"This is the opportunity that we looking for to do the best to help our young generation to do their training before they work as professionals to have great job for their future. This is not the first time we and the ozone unit have worked together... we had sent two teachers from*

the Training centre to attend a Master Trainer in Malaysia. This is part of our commitment to reaffirm the government's position," the Director of National Training Centre for Professionals explained.



One of the world's youngest nations, Timor-Leste became a member of the United Nations in 2002 and ratified the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer* on 16 September 2009. The Southeast Asian nation has since then sustained its compliance with this international environmental agreement.

**For more information, please contact:**

Mr. Shaofeng Hu  
Regional Network Coordinator  
OzonAction  
UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific  
Tel: +6622881126; Fax: +6622883041  
Email: [shaofeng.hu@unep.org](mailto:shaofeng.hu@unep.org)