Agra, 24 May 2017 - The first ever Ozone2Climate (O2C) Technology Roadshow following the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and the UN Environment (UNEP) OzonAction’s Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) in association with the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Manufacturers Association (RAMA), Indian Polyurethane Association (IPUA), Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), GIZ and UN Development Programme (UNDP). The Technology Roadshow was organised for the first time as part of the annual Network Meeting for Ozone Officers of South Asia organized in Agra, India from 23-26 May 2017, with financial support from the Montreal Protocol’s Multilateral Fund.

The Technology Roadshow was inaugurated by Mr. Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the presence of Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Dr. Dechen Tshering, Regional Director, UN Environment Asia Pacific Office, Mr. Eduardo Ganem, Chief Officer, Multilateral Fund Secretariat, Ms. Tina Birmpili, Executive Secretary, Ozone Secretariat, Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedoule, Head, UN Environment OzonAction, and Mr. Jaco Cilliers, Country Director, UNDP, India.

The O2C Technology Roadshow had 13 exhibitors that promoted ozone and climate-friendly alternative technologies to hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector. The Technology Roadshow showcased current refrigeration and air conditioning equipment designed to be more energy efficient, hence with a double benefit of saving money for consumers, and with a much lower impact on the environment. Over 200 refrigerant technicians, national Ozone Officers, business representatives and government officials attended the Roadshow.

Delegates from 20 countries and industry visited the 2017 exhibition and this was the first time the Ozone2Climate Technology Roadshow was organised as a part of any annual network meeting. Ozone
Officers from 13 South Asia network countries visited the Technology Roadshow and gained information on state of the art HCFC/HFC alternative technologies. While HCFCs are already being phased out through the Montreal Protocol, under the Kigali Amendment, which was recently agreed by all Parties to the treaty in December 2016, countries have also committed to phase down HFCs according to an agreed timetable. This requires the introduction of alternative technology by all countries.

The Industry Roundtable was attended by leading ozone and climate global technology providers and industry representatives from Daikin, Godrej, Honeywell, Expanded Polymer Systems Private Limited, SRF Limited, Voltas Limited, Foam Specialties Private Ltd., Bluestar Ltd. and Birla Aircon.

Along with the Technology Roadshow, UN Environment also organised the annual Network Meeting for South Asia Ozone Officers from 23 to 26 May 2017. The meeting will focus on current policy and technology updates on ozone and climate friendly alternatives to HCFCs and HFCs specifically post Kigali amendment, linking the HCFC phase out to future HFC phase down, the implications of Kigali amendment for the network countries and challenges and opportunities from a policy and technology perspective.

Inaugurating the Roadshow, Mr. Ajay Narayan Jha, said, “The Ozone2Climate Technology Roadshow has been put together to showcase technologies which are based on non-Ozone Depleting Substances with low Global Warming Potential. This exhibition allows the participants of the meeting to have hands on feel on the technology option and their techno-economic viability. These are excellent initiatives and add lot of value to the meeting.” Speaking about the context of the Roadshow as part of the annual network meeting, he added, “Network meetings create an opportunity for the Ozone Officers not only to share knowledge and experiences in the implementation of ODS phase out activities in a sustainable manner, but also in meeting the various compliance obligations by the countries under the Montreal Protocol.”

Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle highlighted UN Environment’s CAP which provides significant support to Article 5 (developing) countries with meeting and sustaining their obligations under the Protocol. “The National Ozone Officers Network meetings are a flagship of the CAP and offer a forum for exchange of experience and knowledge transfer among National Ozone Officers,” she said. Organising O2C Technology Roadshow along with the network meeting represents an innovative approach by the South Asia network to bring the state of art technology to the policy makers, she added.

“The refrigeration and air conditioning sector has become a cornerstone of modern life providing the essential foundation for public health, food security, industrial processes and human comfort. National Ozone Officers play a critical role in advising their governments on designing national roadmaps for ozone and climate friendly technology choices,” Ms. Nair-Bedouelle said.

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