

## **West Asia Ozone Officers Have Lively Montreal Protocol Discussions at Dead Sea**



**29 April 2017, Dead Sea, Jordan** - The 2017 Meeting of the Regional Network of Ozone Officers of the West Asia region was organised by UN Environment's OzonAction initiative in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of Jordan from 24-27 April 2017 on the shores of the Dead Sea. The meeting provided a platform for the countries to discuss their regional policy and technical priorities related to their ongoing national programmes to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and to have detailed discussions about the new forthcoming commitments to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Kigali Amendment, which was recently agreed by all Parties to the treaty in December 2016.

The Network meeting is part of an ongoing service of OzonAction's Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) to support West Asian countries in implementing their Montreal Protocol commitments. The Network meeting was financially supported by the Protocol's Multilateral Fund.

Twenty-nine participants from the West Asian countries, the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, the Ozone Secretariat, the Multilateral Fund's Implementing Agencies (UNDP, UNIDO and World Bank) and the League of Arab States (LAS) joined the deliberations. The meeting agenda focused on the national and sub-regional policies and regulations that should be reviewed and updated to enable countries to implement their current and future obligations in addition to the technical and capacity building needs. The participants also discussed the Kigali Amendment

and the procedures to be followed by countries to complete the ratification process. Other key topics discussed included the ongoing efforts to identify feasible long term alternatives suitable for all using sectors in the region's high ambient climate conditions mainly for the foam and air conditioning sectors.

“We are very happy to host the first post Kigali West Asia network meeting to discuss current and future policy and technical challenges that we face in the region and agree necessary recommendations that will shape the region's response” said Mr. Ghazi Odat, the National Ozone Officer of Jordan.

The meeting concluded with a number of recommendations that will address the pressing issues in West Asia in relation to the implementation of the planned activities to phase out HCFCs and prepare the region to deal with the upcoming era of the phase down of hydrofluorocabons (HFCs), which are controlled under the Kigali Amendment. Specifically, the network requested all of the Implementing Agencies to compile and share information on available and effective alternatives from projects that have been completed in West Asia and other regions, particularly for projects on pre-blended polyols and foam system houses. The participants recommended the organization of specialized technical and policy meetings and workshops to facilitate smooth and complete conversion of the foam sector, and they affirmed the need for continued support with identifying feasible alternatives for the refrigeration and air conditioning sector that are suitable for high ambient temperature countries. The meeting also discussed and endorsed the suggested work plan of the Compliance Assistance Programme.

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