

UN Environment convenes the First International Conference on Sustainable Marine and Fisheries Refrigeration Technologies for Ozone and Climate Protection



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Bangkok, 6-8 April 2017 - The Ministry of Industry, Thailand and UN Environment OzonAction, hosted the International Conference on Sustainable Management of Refrigeration Technologies in Marine and Off-Shore Fisheries Sector from 6 to 8 April 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. This first International Conference of its kind was co-organised by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Dr. Somchai Harnhirun, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Thailand officially opened the three-day international conference in which governments, international organisations, and industry experts came together to discuss for the first time in an international forum, the great importance of moving towards non-ozone depleting, low global warming energy efficient and refrigeration technologies in the mobile marine and fisheries sector.

The official opening was followed by addresses from Ms. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director (UN Environment); Ms. Sheila Hayter, Treasurer (ASHRAE); Mr. Didier Coulomb, Director General (IIR); Mr. Yury Sorokin, Industrial Development Officer (UNIDO) and Ms. Christine Wellington-Morre (UNDP).



Dr. Somchai Harnhirun, in his address highlighted that refrigerant technologies are essential and considered as “blood” required for the operation of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment, which have been used not only for comfort purposes, but also in food cold chains for reasons of food security. He informed the conference that there is still work to be done in the Marine and Off-Shore fisheries sector for enabling countries to meet their commitments under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and thereby contributing to global ozone and climate protection.

Ms. Dechen Tsering in her address, thanked the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and in particular, the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), for bringing this urgent and important subject of marine refrigeration management into the international focus. She mentioned that recent reports of the Montreal Protocol Technical and Economic Assessment Panel indicate that over 70% of global fleets are still reliant on HCFCs (Hydrochlorofluorocarbons) – a major ozone depleting substance. Furthermore, in light of the recent amendment of the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Rwanda, which calls for global action to phase down the high global warming chemicals, HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), she added that the conference discussions would be pertinent to developing countries in preparing their dossier for ratification of the amendment.

180 participants, including 47 government representatives, attended this international conference. The deliberations during the conference ranged from maritime Montreal Protocol implementation and compliance; adoption of energy efficient, ozone and climate friendly refrigeration technologies in marine vessels; data gaps; off-shore vessels servicing sector challenges; standards and strategic action plans.

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All presentations to this event are available on the conference website:

<https://www.ashrae.org//membership--conferences/conferences/ashrae-conferences/marine-2017>