

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & related issues compiled by: UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme

15 September 2000

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1. Project Launched To Phase Out Harmful Pesticide

The UN Environment Program, Italy's Environment Ministry and the <u>University of Torino http://www.di.unito.it/</u> Tuesday launched a new initiative to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the use of methyl bromide as a pesticide.

The announcement was made at the 2000 Soil Disinfestation Symposium in Italy.

Activities under the initiative include:

- Training courses on adopting effective methyl bromide alternatives in developing countries;
- Developing case studies on methyl bromide alternatives used in Italy and their applicability to developing countries; and
- ① Exchanging experiences among researchers, methyl bromide users and others about effective alternatives.

UNEP's Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee has identified alternatives for most of the pesticide's current uses, and many are being used successfully around the world. (UNEP release, 12 Sep).

Source: UN WIRE, 14/09/2000 - http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire/unwire.cfm#10

2. Record-setting Ozone Hole

Antarctica's ozone hole now covers an area three times larger than the entire land mass of the United States - the largest such ozone-depleted region ever observed.

Source: NASA Science News, 08/09/2000 - FULL STORY at: http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2000/ast08sep_1.htm?list

3. A Hole Lot Bigger

The discovery that the ozone hole over Antarctica is bigger than ever this year has confounded theories that its size peaked by 1998, says Jonathan Shanklin of the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge. The hole, which is created each southern spring by artificial ozone-destroying compounds, is more than three times the size of the continental US. Industrialised countries have reduced their emissions of these chemicals in

the 15 years since the discovery of the hole. But, says Shanklin, the ozone's recovery has been delayed by global warming and China's drastic increase in emissions in the late 1990s.

Source: New Scientist magazine, September 2000. http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns225660

4. Iran Spends dlrs. 40 m for Protection of Ozone Layer

Tehran, Sept 10, IRNA - Deputy head of the Department of Environment (DOE) Yousef Hojjat said here Sunday that Iran has spent dlr. 40 million in credit it received from the UN on transformation of industries harmful to the ozone layer.

Hojjat told reporters that plans are underway by DOE to control import of industries harmful to the ozone layer.

Meanwhile, Director of the DOE's Ozone Layer Protection Department Saeed Ferdowsi said the refrigerator and sponge producing industries, firefighting industries and detergents producing plants that harm the ozone layer, should improve their production system and use environment friendly equipment.

Ferdowsi said to protect the ozone layer, a department has been set up in cooperation with the DOE and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to prepare the ground for decreasing use of substances harmful to the ozone layer and provide necessary information to the public on the issue.

Source: IRNA Press Agency - 10/09/2000 -http://www.middleeastwire.com/iran/stories/20000626_3_meno.shtml

5. Hole in the Sky

A hole in the ozone layer literally means a hole in the sky. It lets in or out unwanted, unpleasant things, like ultraviolet ray, which is not good for life below on planet earth. That is what has happened miles above us in the sky, warns the scientists of NASA.

We are alarmed to learn that a depletion of the protective shield of ozone layer, spanning an area of 2 crore 80 lakh square kilometer above the North Pole (three times bigger than the United States of America) is posing to be a potential threat for the environment of the world.

We came to know about the ill effects of the depletion of ozone in the eighties first, not knowing what was the contribution of the small countries of the world to this unnatural manifestation. Certain industrial gases, including those used in refrigerators and air coolers, are reported to have caused the layer to deplete over the decades.

Already some holes of smaller size are existing over the earth, but that did not deter the industrialised countries in joining the mad race for manufacturing new commercial gadgets that need those gas to operate. It is unfortunate that smaller and developing countries are only suffering the consequences of the fall-out.

We may not see the hole in the sky, but we can understand how serious the whole issue has turned out to be. We urge the developed nations to undertake full-scale research-based investigation into the matter before our planet, the only one we have at the moment, turns into an inhabitable wasteland.

Source: The Independent Bangladesh, 10/09/2000 - http://independent-bangladesh.com/news/sep/10/10092000ed.htm#3

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