

# OZONews

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## 1- Watching the Antarctic Ozone Hole

Scientists at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) are tracking a developing ozone hole over the Antarctic using data from the GOME instrument aboard ESA's ERS-2 satellite. Their maps and atmospheric profiles show that the hole appeared and began to grow in mid-August, and has now spread to cover an area of about 25 million km<sup>2</sup>, with nearly 25 million tonnes of ozone lost. This extraordinary view of the emerging phenomenon in the Antarctic atmosphere is a product of a unique service developed by KNMI and ESA scientists, which harnesses satellite monitoring to high-speed computing to deliver global ozone maps processed in only a few hours. Monitoring the Antarctic ozone hole was only one of the reasons for developing the rapid delivery service. "The main reason for making this service available is to enable the creation of improved weather forecasts," says Ronald van der A, a senior project scientist at KNMI. "Ozone moves with the wind in the high atmosphere - we call it a stratospheric tracer. Because we can generate these three-dimensional profiles quickly, we can create moving maps from a series of snapshots, and so start to model the behaviour of the stratosphere much more accurately. We can also see events developing quickly, so if we spot a hole appearing, we can alert local scientists who can then monitor the event hour by hour using equipment carried aboard specially-launched balloons, called sondes." Scientists emerging from their winter isolation at Antarctic bases to launch sondes will monitor the growth of the hole alongside their colleagues at KNMI who are using the GOME fast delivery service. The next few weeks will tell whether the 2001 hole overtakes previous years in extent or depth.

**Full Text @:** <http://www.alphagalileo.org/ReadNotice.cfm?releaseid=7357>

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**Source:** AlphaGalileo, 18 September 2001

## 2- Police Arrest CFC Smugglers

KITAKYUSHU - Police on Saturday arrested a used-car dealer in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, on suspicion of conspiring with two already arrested suspects in an attempt to smuggle a type of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) into Japan, police officials said. Masashi Miyachi, 28, was arrested on a charge of violating the Customs Law, which prohibits the import of CFCs, after turning himself in at a Kitakyushu police station. However, he denied the charge, they said. Miyachi had been wanted as a suspected accomplice of Yuichiro Nakazono, 33, unemployed and with no fixed address, and Kenji Araki, 40, president of a car sales company in the town of Okagaki in the southwestern Japan prefecture.

The three are suspected of attempting to smuggle from China to Japan some 36,000 cans each containing 310 grams of CFC 12 by falsely stating the cargo contained a CFC substitute, the officials said. The cargo arrived at a container terminal in Kitakyushu on June 25. CFC, an industrial chemical used in refrigeration systems, air conditioners, solvents and other products, causes damage to the ozone layer, and its production and import have been banned under international agreements. The production and import of CFCs have been banned in Japan since late 1995, but authorities say the products are smuggled in from developing countries where CFC production is allowed. (Kyodo News)

**Full Text @:** <http://www.japantoday.com/e/?content=news&cat=2&id=83099>

**Source:** JapanToday.com, 24 September 2001

## 3- Manufacturers Back DENR on ODS Phaseout

Local manufacturing companies are strongly supporting the move of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS) which cause a number of diseases including

skin cancer. The DENR has launched a program that would discourage the use of old refrigerators, air-conditioning units and fire extinguishers. The most common ODS are chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, methyl chloroform and carbon tetrachloride. These contain chemicals such as chlorine, fluorine, bromine, carbon and hydrogen which are mostly used in refrigeration, air conditioning, foam blowing in fire extinguishers and building insulation, cleaning old electronic components and other aerosols and as solvents. Ozone depletion reduces the protection of humans, animals and plants against ultra violet radiation which causes skin cancer and cataracts. It also slows the production of phytoplankton, a primary food source of fish larvae and fingerlings. DENR secretary Heherson Alvarez said his department has successfully implemented a 500 metric ton reduction scheme of ODS consumption each year starting in 1994 from 4,295 metric tons to only 2,093 metric tons in 1999. However, ODS has surged again to 2,909 metric tons last year, an increase of 815 metric tons from 1999.

**Source:** The Manila Bulletin, 23 September 2001

@: <http://www.mb.com.ph/BSNS/2001-09/BS092305.asp>

#### 4- Ghana Concerned about Rising CFC Consumption

The Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Dr. P.C Acquah has warned that the rising levels of Ghana's chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) consumption may result in sanctions and trade restrictions by the international community. In a speech delivered on his behalf at a seminar for importers and retailers in Accra yesterday, he expressed worry at the country's inability to reduce her consumption by 50% by 2005 in accordance with the Montreal Protocol Agreement. Available statistics showed that the figure of 48.68 tonnes in 1997 rose to 50.33 tonnes in 1998. There was however a reduction in 1999 during which 43.6 tonnes was recorded. In 2000 the figure shot to 47 tonnes. The Montreal Protocol Agreement requires Ghana's consumption level to fall below 36 tonnes by July 1999 but this does not seem to be in sight, he said. In his estimation Ghana would be on course if it is able to shed off about 12 tonnes of CFC consumption to meet the freeze level of 35.6 tonnes. Mr. J.B Hasford, National Consultant on the Ozone Project complained that infiltration into the country of low-quality CFC has compounded the problem. He has therefore advised importers to seek EPA clearance when bringing refrigerants into the country.

**Source:** All Africa, By: Fred Abrokwa, 18 September 2001

@: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200109180299.html>

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