

Ozone Officers from South Asia, South East Asia and West Asia Discuss Key Montreal Protocol Issues in Beijing



BEIJING, 8 April – Forty-eight National Ozone Officers (NOOs) from South Asia, South East Asia and West Asia attended the Joint Network Meeting in Beijing on 8th April 2018. The Joint Network Meeting was held back-to-back with ‘Ozone2Climate’ Technology Roadshow and Industry Roundtable, and organized by UN Environment’s OzonAction in collaboration with the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office for China, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (FECO MEE). Network meetings are a part of an ongoing service of OzonAction’s Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) to support network countries in implementing their Montreal Protocol commitments. The Network meeting was financially supported by the Protocol’s Multilateral Fund.

The Joint Network Meeting was opened with welcome remarks from Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Head of UN Environment’s OzonAction, Mr. Yu Lifeng, Deputy Director General of China’s FECO MEE, and Mr. Tu Ruihe, Head of the UN Environment China Office. Dr. Nair-Bedouelle welcomed the Ozone Officers from the three networks and encouraged them to share experiences and knowledge for achieving their obligations under the Montreal Protocol. Dr. Nair-Bedouelle stated that “The challenges are immense, where the Kigali Amendment for HFCs would enter into force from 2019 and at the same time, countries have to achieve 35% reduction in HCFCs from their baseline by 2020. Joint Network Meetings such as these provide the NOOs a forum to learn from best practices and achieve the collective goal through south-south cooperation.” She also thanked especially FECO MEE for their warm hospitality.

Mr. Lifeng welcomed the Ozone Officers to Beijing and stated that “As an active player in the undertaking of global environmental governance, China will continue to honor its due international obligations, strengthen international cooperation, join hands with international community to build a clean and beautiful world, and protect our common homeland.” Mr. Ruihe commended the efforts of the ozone officials, UN Environment and FECO MEE in demonstrating success in environment protection. He emphasized the deep appreciation and

value of UN Environment's partnership with the Chinese Government on ecological and environmental conservation. He said, "UN Environment has been working with China on greening of the One Belt One Road Initiative." Ms. Tina Birmpili, the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, presented to the Ozone Officers the key issues that will be considered by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol at their upcoming 40th Open-Ended Working Group in July 2018.

The Joint Network Meeting followed-up on the recommendations and discussions of the First Inter-Regional Thematic Workshop & Regional Network Meetings for National Ozone Officers held earlier in January 2018 in Paris, and particularly focused on aspects related to the challenges in the refrigeration servicing sector, lessons learnt from HCFC phase-out activities and foreseeable barriers for HFC phase-down in the future. The three networks also discussed possible opportunities for south-south cooperation in strengthening cross-border enforcement, developing technician certification systems, developing/adopting standards for handling flammable refrigerants and advancing import/export information sharing between countries through the informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC) mechanism. There were also two parallel sessions where the South Asia/South East Asia and the West Asia networks discussed specific topics relevant to their respective networks such as major country updates, Kigali enabling activities, technician training, enforcement capacity building and technology selection trends.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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