

OzonAction Hosts the Ozone Officers' Network Meeting for Pacific Islands Countries in Bangkok



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12 April 2017, Bangkok – Government officers responsible for compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in the Pacific Islands gathered in the bustling metropolis of Bangkok, Thailand from 9-12 April 2017 to exchange experiences and plan their next steps under this landmark multilateral environmental agreement. The Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers (NOOs) of the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) Officers was organized by UN Environment's OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) in collaboration with the Government of Thailand. Given the importance of fisheries and marine issues to the PIC economies, the meeting was held back-to-back with the [International Conference on Sustainable Management of Refrigeration Technologies in Marine and Off-Shore Fisheries Sectors from 6-8 April 2017](#). The Network meeting included participants from 13 PICs, the Ozone Secretariat, the Multilateral Fund Secretariat (via skype), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and other regional experts. The meeting was financially supported by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

In keeping with the approach of OzonAction's Regional Networking services for Article 5 (developing) countries and supporting national ownership of the Montreal Protocol processes, the Network meeting provided a platform to share ideas and experiences, and best practices related to the national implementation of this multilateral environmental agreement. NOOs addressed Montreal Protocol compliance management, PIC regional and national Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) phase-out management plans (HPMPs), national mechanism/approaches/preparation

towards the ratification of the Protocol's Kigali Amendment on Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) phase-down, national surveys on alternatives to ozone depleting substances, etc. The meeting also addressed the CAP services delivered to the PICs in 2017 and the planning for 2018. These services were taken in consideration to the special sustainable developmental challenges of the member States belonging to this network: all members are Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and four are also classified as Least Developed Countries. All PIC Countries are fully in compliance with their national commitments under the Montreal Protocol.

In the joint opening address, Dr. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director of the UN Environment Asia and the Pacific Office, elaborated on the recent development of the Montreal Protocol: *"In UN Environment we now see a window of opportunity to scale up action under the Montreal Protocol. More recently, nations agreed to the Kigali Amendment under the Montreal Protocol and committed to cut the production and consumption of HFCs by more than 80 percent over the next 30 years. Indeed, the recent Kigali Amendment could well be regarded as the single largest contribution the world has made toward keeping the global temperature rise "well below" 2 degrees Celsius, the target agreed in Paris. As representatives of governments, development agencies, businesses and civil society we must work to ensure that these global commitments are met"*. Dr. Tsreing congratulated the PIC countries for bringing into international attention the urgent subject addressing refrigeration technologies and requirements to move towards non-ozone depleting substance, low-global warming potential (GWP) alternatives in the marine and fisheries sectors. Fisheries are one of the largest industries for the PIC countries and refrigeration technologies are essential for post-catch management.

The PIC network called on UN Environment OzonAction to continue supporting the safe adoption to ozone-friendly, energy efficient and low-GWP alternatives and in both the land- and marine-based fishery sectors. The meeting agreed on the need to have stronger institutional and human resources, continued capacity building and trade enforcement including prevention of illegal trade in controlled commodities as requirements for sustaining the Montreal Protocol obligations. Specific to the needs of the PIC countries, OzonAction will seek to support mechanisms for the development and implementation of standards/guidelines/codes of practice for the refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing sectors. For the PIC countries, all refrigeration and air-conditioning technologies for land or marine are imported. In keeping with life cycle technology management, ozone officers agreed to collect national data on unwanted refrigerants and to work with OzonAction in seeking options for safe disposal.

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