



**Joint Network Meeting of Ozone Officers of South Asia and Southeast Asia and the Pacific:
“An inclusive approach for connecting stakeholders”**



Goyang City, 10 March 2015 – The “Joint Network Meeting of Ozone Officers of South Asia and Southeast Asia and the Pacific” has commenced today, in Goyang City, with National Ozone Officers (NOOs) from 21 countries. The meeting hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea is being organised as part of the UNEP Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) funded by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

Countries present in the meeting are: nine countries of the South Asia NOOs Network (Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Iran, Republic of Korea, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal and Sri Lanka), 11 countries of the Southeast Asia and the Pacific Network (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam) and Fiji representing the network of Pacific Island Countries. Japan is the developed country partner of the South Asia network that is also attending the meeting.

For the next two days, the group will share national experience with the aim to remain in compliance with the national control measures under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. This universally ratified multilateral environmental agreement sets time-bound deadlines to phase out ozone depleting substances (ODS) by the Parties such as a 10% reduction of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in 2015 and a 35% reduction by 1 January 2020. The meeting also includes contemporary issues on the agenda such as sustainability training on good practices for the refrigeration servicing sector, monitoring the use of pre-blended polyol, and key considerations for the update of the technology and policy regulatory frameworks on the ozone and climate friendly alternatives refrigerants.

Mr. Eduardo Ganem, Chief Officer of the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, urged for governmental actions to advance further on the phase-out by quoting a Korean proverb: 오늘 걷지 않으면 내일은 뛰어야 한다, meaning “If you don’t walk today, you will have to run tomorrow”.



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer – which has served as a framework for efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone layer - is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, Ms. Tina Birmpili, spoke of unprecedented contributions that the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol have made towards environmental protection and human well-being, including over 2 million cases of skin cancers to be prevented by 2030.

Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Head of OzonAction Branch of UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, spoke of Project Genesis – a new beginning in the current era of HCFCs phase-out – that calls for continued innovation to remain in compliance with the Montreal Protocol, new responsibilities under the HCFC phase-out and how to stay ahead with an ever-dynamic panorama of technology advancement and policy developments concerning the Montreal Protocol.

Representing the host country Government, Mr. Byung-Nae Yang of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy commented on the merit of networking among the countries since ODS phase-out requires “collective intelligence and action”. The Republic of Korea has controlled ODS production and import rigorously since 1992 and in 2014, reporting on ODS export too became mandatory. Another progressive/important initiative was the establishment of a local Fund imposing compulsory tax known as **ODS Levy to producer and importer of ODS** under the management of the Korea Specialty Chemical Industry Association (KSCIA). The fund is used for developing alternative technology and replacing ODS use in small and medium-sized enterprises.

Other events and meetings running concurrently this week in Goyang City are the Ozone2Climate Technology Roadshow (10 - 13 March), the Ozone2Climate Industry Roundtable (12 March) and the Workshop on Promoting Public Procurement of Climate Friendly Alternatives to HFCs in Asia Pacific (13 March) jointly organized by the United States Environment Protection Agency (US EPA) and the UNEP Compliance Assistance Programme.

For further information:

Mr. Hyunwoo Park
Assistant Director, Metals and Chemicals Division
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy
402, Hannuri-daero, Sejong-si
339-012, Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 44 203 4288,
Email: phw0505@motie.go.kr

Mr. Atul Bagai
Senior Regional Network Coordinator for South Asia Network
UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Tel: +66 2288 1662
Email: atul.bagai@unep.org

Mr. Shaofeng Hu,
Regional Network Coordinator for Southeast Asia and the Pacific Network,
UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,
Tel : +668 4700 2260,
Email: shaofeng.hu@unep.org