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UNEP Welcomes New National Ozone Officers of Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu

Bangkok, 30 June 2015 – UNEP – OzonAction in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) has welcomed new National Ozone Officers who will help three Pacific Island nations fulfil their obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The new National Ozone Officers from Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu have joined their National Ozone Units (NOUs) and taken on their new challenges in the first half of 2015.

Kiribati



Ms. Taomarie Baraam is the new National Ozone Officer in the Republic of Kiribati and joined the Environment & Conservation Division (ECD) of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development. Ms. Baraam was part of the team implementing the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) and has also worked as a national Assistant-Chemical Officer with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) project. Ms. Baraam graduated from the University of the South Pacific Fiji in 2014 with a Bachelor of Environmental Science (Chemistry). She can be contacted at: taomarieb@environment.gov.ki

Papua New Guinea



Ms. Anita Poesi joined the Conservation & Environment Protection Authority as the National Ozone Officer for Papua New Guinea (PNG) in January 2015. Her first responsibility is dealing with matters related to the country's HPMP and promoting public awareness of the importance of phasing out ODS, especially in dealing with the industry sector.

“We need to engage better control on the type of refrigerants and equipment being imported and ensure relevant good/safe practices are being adhered to. The awareness will also involve promoting the introduction of natural alternatives. I believe an effective awareness campaign and appropriate plus timely legislative applications will assist in ensuring a more economical and easy conversion for PNG in 2025” Ms. Poesi said.

Ms. Poesi holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Technology, Lae, PNG. She has worked in a variety of roles in the private sector related to administration and human resources management. Ms. Poesi can be contacted at: anitapoesi909@gmail.com

Tuvalu



Ms. Setapu Asenati Resture, joined the NOU of Tuvalu in April 2015. Her primary responsibility is to conduct outreach programmes for communities and schools in the outer islands of Tuvalu, to support national compliance with obligations under the Montreal Protocol, focusing on maintaining a working relationship between stakeholders, especially the customs department. Before joining the ozone family, Ms. Resture taught at the Fetuvalu High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and in Mathematics and Economics, and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Mathematics from the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. She also has a Master of Arts in History from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Ms. Resture can be contacted at: pugasia@gmail.com

The new National Ozone Officers will further strengthen the work of the Montreal Protocol family. UNEP OzonAction takes this opportunity to also sincerely thank their out-going predecessors: Ms. Regina Rotitaake (Kiribati), Ms. Karen Anawe (Papua New Guinea) and Ms. Masikiga Elisala (Tuvalu) for leading their countries in the national implementation of the Montreal Protocol, thereby contributing to the protection of the global commons - the stratospheric ozone layer.

The **National Ozone Officer** is the government focal point for management of national commitments under the Montreal Protocol. The national ozone officer and supporting team have a key role in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol by developing projects, managing strategies, reporting data and working with national and international institutions.

The 74th Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol underscored the importance of institutional strengthening projects and NOUs, characterizing these as key to the success of the Montreal Protocol.

UNEP OzonAction realizes the crucial role of national ozone officers in the protection of the ozone layer and will continue supporting them with knowledge, tools and cooperation needed to perform their tasks.

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