

Report on the ceremony of:

International Ozone Day, 33rd Anniversary of Montreal Protocol & 35th Anniversary of Vienna Convention

On the occasion of the “International Ozone Day, 33rd Anniversary of Montreal Protocol & 35th Anniversary of Vienna Convention”, the Iranian National Ozone Unit (NOU) organized an online (webinar) ceremony due to the spread of corona virus, on September 15, 2020.

In addition to the participation of NOU’s director and officers at the ceremony, the representatives of Implementing Agencies of UNDP, UNIDO, GIZ, I.R.Iran’s Customs Administration and provincial ozone cells officers also took part online.

The 2020 slogan of the International Ozone Day “Ozone for Life, 35 years of ozone layer protection” has been selected by Montreal Protocol Secretariat.

At the opening ceremony, and following the recitation of Quran, Dr. Ebrahim Hajizadeh Director of the Iranian NOU while welcoming the participants to the International Ozone Day, presented his speech on the brief history of the Montreal Protocol and Vienna Convention and its amendments while delivering a detailed report on the achievements and projects implementation in Iran.

Phasing out 9800 tons of ODSs in 1378 manufacturing units and their continuous periodical monitoring by NOU provincial ozone cells, %35 success in HCFCs phase out and fulfillment of the country’s commitments to the Montreal Protocol decisions; and imposing laws and regulations for annual import quota system in cooperation with the related organizations were among the parts of NOU activities as pointed out by Dr. Hajizadeh.

Implementing the 2nd phase of HCFCs phase-out Management Plan document, depleting ODS in foam and refrigerator sector, organizing workshops, reviewing Kigali amendment etc. were also referred to by NOU Director as the future activities.

UN Secretary General message, António Guterres, was then read out by the UNDP representative in Iran. The message pointed to the Vienna Convention achievement for protecting the Ozone Layer and successful substitution of %99 ODSs which resulted in Ozone recovery as well as preventing the global warming. He then added that Kigali amendment can play a big role in this regard. UN Secretary General in his message while pointing to the ramifications of Covid-19 outbreak, asked the members to cooperate to protect Ozone Layer.

Dr. Tajrishi, Deputy Head of DoE for Human Environmental Affairs was the next speaker. While welcoming all the participants to the International Ozone Day Webinar, Dr. Tajrishi wished health and good days for all the Iranians specially those who live in red conditions of Corona virus-affected provinces.

He then emphasized on the Vienna Convention global success and Montreal Protocol in phasing out %99 of global ODSs and added that this achievement was made possible only with the cooperation of the governments, peoples and private sector.

Pointing to the 2nd stage of HCFCs phase-out Management Plan, Dr. Tajrishi said that by implementing this plan, we entered another stage of ODS phase-out as well as transfer of ozone-friendly technologies and technical assistance to the industrial units to fulfill the country's commitments for the completion of ODS phase out by 2030.

In the end, Iran Deputy Head of DoE for Human Environmental Affairs while congratulating International Ozone Day, appreciated all the related organizations' attempts for implementing Montreal Protocol decisions.

In the second part of webinar, the representatives of Implementing Agencies of UNDP, UNIDO, GIZ as well as the representative of the I.R. Iran Customs Administration delivered their speeches.

UNDP representative in Iran, while pointing to the activities made by his respective Agency, gave a brief report on cooperation between UNDP and I.R of Iran through the Iranian NOU for the implementation of projects under the Montreal Protocol.

Next speaker was Ms. Dr. Javan Shahraki UNIDO representative in Iran who emphasized on the critical significance of Ozone Layer for the preservation of life on Earth. Successful protection of Ozone Layer will help the realization of sustainable development objectives she added.

UNIDO representative in Iran stated that UNIDO activities in Iran resulted in phase out 48.92 tons of R141b as well as 281 tons of R12 depleting gases.

The representative of GIZ Implementing Agency in Iran Eng. Saadatfar was the next speaker who read out the message of GIZ Program Director Mr. Bernard Zigel.

GIZ Program Director in his message reiterated that during the past 20 years Germany encouraged the use of natural foams and refrigerants as the only suitable solution for the industries particularly in Iran that enjoys sufficient natural sources, qualified engineers, and kind people.

Pointing to the issue that some of the substituted substances are still dangerous to the environment and cause global warming, he added that it is essential to extend our activities to identify the emission of the fluorine gases under the international climate protocols as well as national programs.

The representative of I.R. Iran Customs Administration Ms. Noorbakhsh was the last speaker of the ceremony. Pointing to the cooperation between Iran Customs administration and NOU, she said in order to realize the Montreal Protocol goals, the Customs Administration put its emphasis on training its officers to prevent fake and smuggled goods passing the borders. She then delivered a brief report on the workshops held in this case and the future programs.

In the last part of ceremony, the provincial ozone officers exchanged their useful experiences and views on the ozone protection activities.

After the webinar, educational and promotional packages including posters of this year's World Ozone Day, customs booklets and posters, flash memory containing educational items and animation items, hats, car sunshades, masks and gloves for the representatives of Ozone provincial officers and their general managers were sent to the provincial centers. The rest of the packages were distributed among the stakeholder organizations.