

**UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund****UNEP Implements Innovative Partnerships for Ozone Layer Protection**

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CAIRO, EGYPT, 23 November 1998 - The OzonAction Programme of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) announced innovative partnerships that it has forged with international organizations and bilateral agencies to assist developing countries and Countries with Economies in Transition (CEITs) in protecting the ozone layer and the global environment. These partnerships demonstrate UNEP's unique role in creating the enabling conditions to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and promote environmentally sustainable technologies.

The partnerships have resulted in the cost-effective reduction of ODS and will continue to build upon the initial successes.

Collaboration with Sweden in Supporting Southeast Asia and Pacific (SEAP) Network of ODS Officers

Since 1991, the government of Sweden has provided financial and technical assistance over and above what is required by the Multilateral Fund to UNEP for the creation and operation of the SEAP Network. Members of the Network share experiences among themselves and with their counterparts in developed countries to assist in formulating policies to take decisions on ODS phase out. In meeting the targets of the Montreal Protocol, countries like Thailand and Malaysia are ahead of schedule.

Collaboration with Finland to Assist non-Party Countries

Since 1991, Finland has provided financial support over and above what is required by the Multilateral Fund to UNEP for assisting countries that are not Parties to the Montreal Protocol in developing programmes to phase out ODS. As a result, a number of developing countries have ratified the Protocol and are able to formulate their phase-out strategies without further delays.

Collaboration with New Zealand

In 1998, the government of New Zealand is supporting UNEP's efforts to assist Pacific Island Countries (Parties and non-Parties) to prepare their Country Programmes and phase-out plans. This regional approach will mainstream Small Island Countries and assist with future steps in implementation.

Collaboration with Netherlands, Japan, Italy and Germany

In 1997 and 1998, the Governments of Netherlands, Japan, Italy and Germany provided financial support through UNEP to developing countries and CEITs for the the following initiatives:

- Netherlands: Hydrocarbon Study
- Japan: Case studies on Alternative Technologies
- Italy: Workshop on Methyl Bromide Alternatives for North Africa and Southern European Countries

Partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to Promote Alternatives to Methyl Bromide

UNEP and FAO will work together to facilitate the phase out of methyl bromide and promote the adoption of ozone-friendly and environmentally friendly alternatives in the agricultural sector. Through this joint initiative, UNEP and FAO will utilize their existing networks and information channels to assist countries in developing and adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems to replace methyl bromide for soil fumigation uses.

NOTE TO JOURNALISTS:**About the Montreal Protocol**

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is the international environmental agreement that has galvanized global cooperation to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The Protocol was signed by 24 countries in 1987 and as of August 1998, has been ratified by 168 countries or Parties to the Protocol. A number of ozone-depleting substances (chlorofluorocarbons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform and halons) have already been

phased out in developed countries, except for about 10,000 tonnes used as essential uses.

About UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme

Since 1991, the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme in Paris has been strengthening the capacity of governments (especially National Ozone Units) and industry in developing countries to make informed decisions on technology and policy options that will result in cost-effective ODS phase-out activities with minimal external intervention. The Programme accomplishes this by delivering a range of need-based services, including:

Information Exchange

To enable decision makers to take informed decisions on policies and investments. Information and management tools already provided for developing countries include the OzonAction Information Clearinghouse (Oaic) diskette and World Wide Web site, a quarterly newsletter, sector-specific alternative technologies and policy guidelines.

Training and Networking

To provide platforms for exchanging experiences, developing skills, and tapping the expertise of peers and other experts in the global ozone protection community. Training and network workshops builds skills for implementing and managing phase-out activities and are conducted at the regional level (support is also extended to national activities). The Programme currently operates seven regional and sub-regional Networks of ODS officers comprising more than 80 countries, which have resulted in member countries taking early steps to implement the Montreal Protocol.

Country Programmes, Institutional Strengthening and Refrigerant Management Plans

To support the development of national ODS phase-out strategies and programmes, especially for low-volume ODS-consuming countries. The Programme currently assists 74 countries in the development of their Country Programmes and implements Institutional-Strengthening projects for 50 countries. The Refrigerant Management Plans will assist Low-Volume Consuming Countries (LVCs) in achieving integrated phase out of CFCs in the refrigeration sector.

For more information please contact:

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[Back to the Press Releases page](#)

