



Press Releases/Information Notes



INFORMATION NOTE

China, Fiji, Jamaica and Senegal Win Award for Outstanding Ozone Layer Protection Work

Paris, France - 21 November 2003: China, Fiji, Jamaica and Senegal are this year's winners of a prestigious international award -- the 2003 Outstanding National Units Ozone Award -- recognizing excellence in the government's implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The National Ozone Units (NOUs) of those countries have demonstrated leadership of their national programmes to protect the Earth's upper atmosphere from the effects of man-made ozone depleting substances such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride, and methyl bromide.

NOUs are the government agencies in developing countries that are responsible for developing, implementing and reporting on their national strategies to comply with the [Montreal Protocol](#). As key actors under this multilateral environmental agreement, NOUs are the focal points for national implementation activities and coordinate international assistance on this issue. The [Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol](#) provides financial and technical support to establish and operate the NOUs.

The awards were presented to representative of the winning countries during the 15th Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol in Nairobi on 13 November. The MOP President, Sri Lanka's Environment and Natural Resources Minister Rukman Senanayake, announced the winners and the awards were presented by His Excellency Moody Awori, Vice President of Kenya, Newton Kulundu, Kenya's Minister of Environment, Shafqat Kakakhel, UNEP's Deputy Executive Director, and Marco González, Executive Secretary of the UNEP Ozone Secretariat.

Organised by the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund every 3 years, this award affords us the opportunity to publicly appreciate the outstanding work done by the "best of the best" - the National Ozone Units (NOUs) who confront the daily challenges of implementing the Montreal Protocol in their countries. Without the dedicated efforts of the NOUs, the work of this treaty could not get done and the success of the Protocol could not have been what it is today. This award provides special recognition to those NOUs who have stood out from the rest in terms of their performance, commitment and enthusiasm. The awards are also meant to encourage friendly and positive peer competition between NOUs and encourage others to achieve the same - or even higher - levels of excellence in the months and years to come.

All developing countries that operate under Article 5 of the Protocol were invited to submit nominations. The selection panel for this award comprised representatives of the [Multilateral Fund Secretariat](#), the [Ozone Secretariat](#), [UNDP](#), [UNEP](#), [UNIDO](#) and the [World Bank](#).

The following highlights present the accomplishments of the winning NOUs:

CHINA

National Ozone Unit: State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA)
China is the largest producer and consumer of ODS in the world today. China's NOU has made remarkable overall progress in phasing out both consumption and production of ODS in a coordinated manner, in spite of a rapidly evolving economy. By the end of 2002, China had phased out over 27,000 ODP tonnes of CFC consumption (a 47% decrease compared to the baseline) and almost 15,000 ODP tonnes of CFC production (a 31% decrease compared to the baseline). China has prepared more than 200 single projects and nine sectoral phase-out plans, and it has a sectoral production plan that encourages enterprises to phase out ODS ahead of time. China has also adopted innovative approaches to mainstream the Montreal Protocol in its national environmental policy and created nation-wide awareness.

FIJI

National Ozone Unit: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

Fiji was the first Article 5 country to achieve total CFC phase out in 2000 and has since maintained zero consumption. Under the guidance of the NOU, Fiji has accomplished this through organizing refrigeration and customs training, establishing an industry association for refrigeration training, introducing a certification system, and institutionalizing the Montreal Protocol issues in the curricula of local institutes. Fiji's NOU has been one of the earliest members of the ODS Officers Network of South East Asia and the Pacific, supported by Sweden. It has pro-active in the region and shown a leadership role in helping other Pacific Island States with their ODS phase out activities.

JAMAICA

National Ozone Unit: National Environment and Planning Agency

Jamaica has successfully implemented its National Phase-out Programme and due to the implementation of quota system, the country's CFC consumption will be phased out by 2005. Jamaica's NOU has been a key partner in the production of outstanding awareness materials under the regional awareness project, such as radio programmes, videos, and exhibitions and it has been very active in helping its neighbors in the region. It is a strong member of the Caribbean Regional Network of ODS Officers and shared information with other Caribbean countries in the development and implementation of country programmes. Jamaica has had innovative efforts in refrigerant management, methyl bromide alternatives and made substantial efforts to control illegal ODS trade.

SENEGAL

National Ozone Unit : Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Assainissement

Senegal has implemented comprehensive policy setting and effective quota system. Senegal developed in 1996 ODS reduction plan and impressive ODS reduction from 187 tonnes in 1997 to 60 tonnes in 2002. Senegal conveys Montreal Protocol messages to other African countries through high-level political fora. Senegal has extensive public awareness activities such as publications, awareness materials, and a monthly radio programme. Senegal is a strong network member and assists other countries in the region through south-south cooperation. It has ensured the continuity of NOU over time. Demonstration project in retrofitting of domestic refrigerators by hydrocarbons was an innovative activity undertaken by Senegal, which was financed by bilateral assistance from Switzerland.

In addition to the award certificates, UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme and the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA) will organise a study tour in Canada for the winning NOUs in 2004.

Additional information about the NOU Awards is available on the OzonAction Programme's website at www.uneptie.org/ozonaction

For more information:Winning NOUs:

CHINA: Mr Liu Yi, Director, Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), No 115, Nanxiaojie, Xizhimennei, Beijing 100035, China, Tel: (86 10) 6615 1775, Fax: (86 10) 6615 1776/1762, Email: nepafeco@public.bta.net.cn

FIJI: Ms Nirupa Ram, Project Officer, ODS Unit, Department of Environment, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, P.O. Box 2131, Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji, Tel: (679) 331 1699/069, Fax: (679) 331 2879, Email: ozonefiji@connect.com.fj OR nirupa_r23@hotmail.com OR nram@govnet.gov.fj

JAMAICA: Mrs. Veronica Alleyne, Ozone Officer, National Environment and Planning Agency, 10 Caledonia Ave., Kingston 5, Jamaica, Tel: (1 876) 754-754 7 to 54/51 /7522 (direct line) , Fax: (1 876) 754-7599/95, Email: valleyne@nepa.gov.jm OR nrcapcwm@nrca.org

SENEGAL: Mr Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla, Coordonnateur du Programme de Pays Ozone, Directeur Adjoint de l'Environnement et des Etablissement Classés, Ministère de la Jeunesse, de l'Environnement et de l'Hygiène Publique, 106 rue Calmette, B.P. 6557, Dakar, Etoile, Senegal, Tel: (221) 8 22 62 11/8210725, Fax: (221) 8 22 62 12, Email: denv@sentoo.sn OR denv@telecomplus.sn OR rmcoly@sentoo.sn

Organisation of the awards:

Mr. Rajendra Shende, Head UNEP DTIE Energy and OzonAction Branch, Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai Andre Citroen, Paris 75739 Cedex 15, France or Tel: (33.1) 44.37.14.50, Fax: (33.1) 44.37.14.74, email: ozonaction@unep.fr, www.uneptie.org/ozonaction

About the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

The mission of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics is to help decision-makers in government, local authorities, and industry develop and adopt policies and practices that:

- are cleaner and safer;
- make efficient use of natural resources;
- ensure adequate management of chemicals;
- incorporate environmental costs;
- reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment.

The UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE), with the Division Office in Paris, is composed of one centre and five branches:

- The International Environmental Technology Centre (Osaka), which promotes the adoption and use of environmentally sound technologies with a focus on the environmental management of cities and freshwater basins, in developing countries and countries in transition.
- Production and Consumption (Paris), which fosters the development of cleaner and safer production and consumption patterns that lead to increased efficiency in the use of natural resources and reductions in pollution.
- Chemicals (Geneva), which promotes sustainable development by catalysing global actions and building national capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the improvement of chemical safety world-wide, with a priority on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC, jointly with FAO).
- Energy and OzonAction (Paris), which supports the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and promotes good management practices and use of energy, with a focus on atmospheric impacts. The UNEP/RISØ Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment supports the work of the Branch.
- Economics and Trade (Geneva), which promotes the use and application of assessment and incentive tools for environmental policy and helps improve the understanding of linkages between trade and environment and the role of financial institutions in promoting sustainable development.
- Coordination of Regional Activities Branch (Paris), which coordinates regional delivery of UNEP DTIE's activities and ensures coordination of DTIE's activities funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

UNEP DTIE activities focus on raising awareness, improving the transfer of information, building capacity, fostering technology cooperation, partnerships and transfer, improving understanding of environmental impacts of trade issues, promoting integration of environmental considerations into economic policies, and catalysing global chemical safety.

For more information contact: UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics 39-43, Quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15, France, Tel: 33 1 44 37 14 50; Fax: 33 1 44 37 14 74, E-mail:
unep.tie@unep.fr; URL: <http://www.uneptie.org>

