



Press Releases/Information Notes



Synergetic Cooperation between WHO/EPI and UNEP DTIE in the Refrigeration Sector

INFORMATION - Agreement between WHO/EPI and UNEP DTIE

Geneva-Paris, June 1998

The World Health Organization's Expanded Programme for Immunization (WHO/EPI) and the United Nations Environment Programme, Industry and Environment (UNEP DTIE), through its OzonAction Programme, launched a partnership for training activities in the refrigeration sector. The agreement for such partnership was initiated at the 1998 Technet Consultation of WHO/EPI in Copenhagen, 16-20 March 1998.

The WHO/EPI and UNEP DTIE's OzonAction Programme under the Montreal Protocol share similar overall objectives - the protection of human health.

The WHO/EPI aims to protect human health against the threat of epidemic diseases by providing safe and efficient vaccination with a maximum coverage. The provision of high quality vaccines may require transport and storage in a cold chain. Traditional cold chain equipment was based on CFC refrigerants, which will be phased out under the Montreal Protocol. Newly purchased equipment will in general be based on non-CFC refrigerants which requires the training of technicians on servicing and repair of non-CFC equipment.

UNEP DTIE's OzonAction Programme aims to protect human health against the threat of increased exposure to ultraviolet radiation resulting from the effects of ozone layer destruction. The mandate of UNEP's OzonAction Programme is to provide technical and policy related assistance to developing countries which are parties to the Montreal Protocol to enable them to phase-out ozone-depleting substances in a cost-efficient manner. In developing countries about 70% of the ozone-depleting substances are consumed as CFCs in the refrigeration sector and most of it during servicing of CFC equipment. Therefore, training of technicians on good servicing practices, including recovery and recycling for existing CFC equipment, may significantly reduce the emission of CFCs to the atmosphere.

WHO/EPI and UNEP DTIE agreed to pool their resources to assist developing countries by:

1. Exchanging information regarding relevant training activities in the refrigeration sector, network meetings and other related events.
2. Using training materials already developed by the other party.
3. Assisting each other in the preparation of training materials for service technicians in the refrigeration sector.
4. Implementing joint training workshops for trainers of technicians and for service technicians in the refrigeration sector where appropriate.
5. Establishing links between health managers and public service technicians from the ministries of health, programme managers of the WHO/EPI and the ozone officers of the National Ozone Units.
6. Using existing information channels such as newsletters, bulletins, e-mail networks to disseminate relevant information within both programmes.

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 March 1997, has been ratified by 162 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 technical publications for identifying and selecting alternative technologies, and policy guidelines.

Training and Networking

that 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 build 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 and Institutional Strengthening

that 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.

For more information about these services please contact:

UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme
39-43 quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France
Email: ozonaction@unep.fr
Tel: +33 1 44 37 14 50
Fax: +33 1 44 37 14 74
<http://www.uneptie.org/ozone/home.html>

About UNEP Industry and Environment

UNEP established its Industry and Environment office (UNEP DTIE) in 1975 to bring industry and government together to promote environmentally sound industrial development. UNEP DTIE is located in Paris. Its goals are: 1) to encourage the incorporation of environmental criteria in industrial development plans; 2) to facilitate the implementation of procedures and principles for the protection of the environment; 3) to promote preventive environmental protection through cleaner production and other proactive approaches; 4) to stimulate the exchange of information and experience throughout the world. DTIE provides access to practical information and develops cooperative activities backed by regular follow-up and assessment. To promote the transfer of information and the sharing of knowledge and experience, DTIE has developed three complementary tools: technical reports; the quarterly "Industry and Environment" review and a technical query-response service. UNEP DTIE is conducting the following main programme elements: Accident Prevention (APELL), Cleaner Production, Energy, OzonAction, Pollution Management, Tourism.

[Back to the Press Releases page](#)

