

Maldives Celebrates International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer



Maldives celebrated International Ozone Day on 16th September 2008. Ozone Day celebrations started with the release of a stamp set by the President of the Maldives, His Excellency President Maumoon Abdul Gayyoom. The special "first day release stamp set" was presented to the President by the Deputy of Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Mr. Abdullahi Majeed. The stamp set was designed by Environment Research Centre and Maldives Post Limited. The pictures chosen for the stamp set were the best four drawings chosen from a poster drawing competition held for primary students in a previous year to celebrate the ozone day.

The ceremony was also attended by the Director General of Environment Research Centre Mr. Hassan Moosa, Managing Director of Maldives Post Limited, Mr. Ahmed Shafeeq Mohamed, Minister of Transport and Communication, Mr. Mohamed Saeed and Executive Secretary to the President, Dr. Ahmed Shareef.



Subsequent to the release of the stamp set, opening of the 'Ozone Resource Corner' at Environment Research Centre's library and the release of an informative book on Ozone, the "Ozone Vaahaka" were also part of the celebrations. This resource corner was opened by the Deputy Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Mr. Abdullahi Majeed. "Ozone Vaahaka" was released by the Deputy Director General of Environment Research Centre, Mr. Farooq Mohamed Hassan. The book aims to increase public awareness on ozone depletion and the work done by the Montreal Protocol for the protection of the ozone layer. At the opening, the Deputy Minister expressed his views that the Ozone Corner and the book will be very useful resources to the public as well as to students to increase their knowledge on ozone related issues.



The next major activity of the day included a Children's Evening held at Artificial Beach. There were several activities at the evening including face painting, giving information, coloring characters from the Ozzy Ozone comic, displaying of an ozone message tree and playing of a snake and ladder game. The evening was aimed to increase the knowledge of children and parents on the importance of the ozone layer and the benefits we gain from it. A quiz programme was also shown on Television Maldives where children passing by on the road were asked questions in relation to ozone. Presents were given to children who answered the question correctly.

The media played an important part in contributing to the day's activities. Ozone songs were broadcasted by Voice of Maldives, Television Maldives, Capital Radio and HFM throughout the day. In addition to this, Ahmed Muruthaza and Mariyam Sama of Environment Research Centre gave live interviews on TVM about Ozone layer, the Montreal protocol and on the activities of the day. Similarly, a radio show was conducted where it was open to the public to call and ask question about the ozone layer and the International Ozone Day. The day ended with a special report on ozone day at the 8 o'clock news on TVM.