



Press Releases/Information Notes



INFORMATION RELEASE

UNEP and MOPIA Team Up to Strengthen Developing Country Capacity to Comply with Montreal Protocol

Winnipeg, 29 July 2002: Today the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE) and Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA) launched an international Study Tour in the Canadian Province of Manitoba for outstanding ozone protection officials from developing countries.

"The Montreal Protocol is 'succeeding', but it is not yet a 'success'. There is much work left to do - especially in developing countries where the first control measure came into force in 1999. Those on the ground facing the day-to-day challenges of making a national ODS control strategy work still need the support of developed countries, particularly information, training, sharing of experience and a "people" network to help them understand what works, what does not work, and why. Efforts of MOPIA, apart from assisting Manitoba industry also reaches out in the developing countries to share the hard lessons that we learned. Idea is to give benefit of our experiences to these developing countries and understand their difficulties", said Mark Miller, Executive Director of MOPIA in Winnipeg while launching the study tour.

The 7-day Study Tour (26 July - 1 August) will strengthen the capacity of the visiting officials ("Ozone Officers") to more effectively implement the Montreal Protocol in their respective countries by learning from MOPIA, its member organisations, and the Canadian experience in general with ozone protection. It also provides MOPIA and its members an opportunity to better understand the conditions, challenges and capabilities of developing countries in implementing the Montreal Protocol.

The award-winning Ozone Officers are Mr. Jameel Eksail from Bahrain's Ministry of State for Municipalities Affairs and Environmental Affairs, Mr. Victor Yameogo from Burkina Faso's Bureau de l'Ozone Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Eau, and Engineer Jorge Castro from Uruguay's Ministerio de Vivienda, Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente.

The Study Tour will include site visits to various facilities that have successfully phase out ozone depleting substances (ODS) or implemented management programmes. Subjects to be addressed include CFC recovery & recycling, vehicle refrigerant recovery, large chiller management, environmental awareness, and halon training programs, sterilants, and sun awareness. Sites to be visited include those where Ozone Depleting Substances have been eliminated i.e. Manitoba Hydro Dorsey/Hydro System Control Centre, Winnipeg River Hydro Power Generating Station, Springfield Waste Disposal Ground, Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, Health Sciences Centre, University of Manitoba, Red River College, Royal Canadian Mint, Agriculture Canada Research Centre. The Study Tour will also meet with dignitaries from and within the Province of Manitoba, including the Minister of Conservation and MOPIA's Executive Committee.

This event is a follow-on to the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme's 2000 awards for outstanding ODS Officers who made significant achievements related to implementation of their national strategies to phase out ODS and ensure overall national compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The awards publicly recognise those officers are individual "success stories" who provide role models to which their peers in other developing countries can aspire. Such public recognition creates a positive competitive atmosphere that ultimately results in improved implementation of the Montreal Protocol at the global level.

After the Ozone Officers return home, they will share their experience and information with other Ozone Officer through presentations at UNEP's Regional Networks of ODS Officers, thus reaching many dozen more countries with the lessons learned in Manitoba.

"The Study Tour illustrates Canada's and MOPIA's continued willingness to share its experience, information and assistance with developing countries to support compliance with the Montreal Protocol, and the Ozone Officers commitment to learning more to ensure that their countries meet their compliance commitments under the Protocol.", said Mr. Rajendra Shende, Head of Energy and OzonAction Unit of UNEP.

This Study Tour is part of the compliance assistance services provided by UNEP to developing countries to help them meet their obligations under the Montreal Protocol. The OzonAction Programme also provides other clearinghouse

services (Training & Networking of ODS Officers) as well as assistance with the development of national ODS phase out strategies (Country Programmes) and Institutional Strengthening support.

For more information:

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Information for the Press

About The Montreal Protocol

Now in its 15th year of implementation , the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone layer is an international environmental treaty now ratified by 183 countries over the world. It aims to protect the stratospheric Ozone Layer by phasing out ozone depleting substances like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and more that 90 such chemicals. Implementation of the Protocol is proceeding very well in the developed countries. Millions of tonnes of CFCs and Halons have already been phased out in the developed countries except for few thousand tonnes needed in the essential applications . The implementation has now started in the developing countries.

The Protocol provides for the financial and technical assistance to the developing countries and provides certain grace period for them to start implementation. That grace period is now over and many developing countries have taken effective steps to comply with the Montreal Protocol.

Cooperation between developed and developing countries has been identified as the key element for the success of the Montreal Protocol. The initiative of MOPIA aims at such active dialogue between Manitoba, Canada and the countries like Burkina Faso, Bahrain and Uruguay . This cooperation is expected to provide forum of sharing of the experiences of Manitoba in implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

About the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association

MOPIA is a global leader having practical experience in industry compliance and public awareness in facilitating the phase-out of ODS in Manitoba, Canada. Such successful experience is useful for developing countries that have begun the implementation of the control measures under the Montreal Protocol.

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.



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