

24 ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES REACH GOAL ZERO: 100% PHASE OUT OF CFCs AND OTHER OZONE-DAMAGING CHEMICALS

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Pokhara, 18 October 2011 – Twenty-four Asia-Pacific countries were recognized and conferred the Montreal Protocol Recognition Award on 17 October 2011 for compliance to the ozone-depleting substances (ODS) phase-out targets for 1 January 2010 set under the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The award was presented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Ozone Secretariat and OzonAction Programme during the Reception Ceremony of the three-day Joint Network Meeting of South Asia and Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ozone Officers from October 17 to 19 held in Pokhara, Nepal.

“The countries deserve acknowledgment for fulfilling their commitments to completely phase out their

production and consumption of CFCs, carbon tetrachloride and halons by 1 January 2010. The compliance of all Asia-Pacific countries has played a significant role in the success of the Montreal Protocol as the best example for multilateral cooperation to protect the environment,” said Ms. Megumi Seki, Senior Scientific Affairs Officer, Ozone Secretariat.

“We congratulate the Asia-Pacific countries for this achievement because compliance is not an easy task for governments. To attain this, governments have to synchronize their policies and legislations on ODS with programs to assist affected sectors to ensure the smooth transition to alternative chemicals and technologies,” stated Mr. Atul Bagai, Senior Regional Coordinator, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The Asia-Pacific region is very important to the international community of ozone protectors because it is home to the largest producers and consumers of ODS. China and India were the largest producers of CFCs until 2007 and 2008, respectively, and now largest producers of HCFCs globally.

“CFCs and HCFCs are not just ODS but are also powerful greenhouse gases. Research has shown that because of the Montreal Protocol, the world had avoided 11 billion tonnes CO₂ equivalent per year of greenhouse emissions,” claimed Dr. Sita Ram Joshi, Director-General of the Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology.

Following Joint Network Meeting is a two-day workshop on HCFC Phaseout and its climate and energy use linkages from 20 to 21 October, in Kathmandu organized by UNEP in cooperation with the Nepal's Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM) and India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
