

OZONE DAY 2010

Message by Hon. Mohamed Aslam, the Minister of Housing and Environment on the occasion of World Ozone Day 2010

This year's theme 'Ozone Layer Depletion: Governance and Protection at Their Best' highlights the importance of national compliance and strong commitment around the world to the protection of the Ozone layer.

The Montreal Protocol has achieved a unique status among the existing multilateral environmental agreements through universal participation and has been regarded as the most successful agreement in achieving goals and targets in protecting the environment. It has provided substantial global warming reduction benefits, thus helping to manage the twin challenges of ozone layer protection and the climate system.

Today, as we celebrate the Ozone Day, we are again reminded of the great challenge ahead of us in saving the planet. The road ahead is not easy, but with continued support from the associated agencies we have no doubt about achieving our targets.

Maldives has declared its commitment to phasing-out the Hydrochloroflourocarbons (HCFCs) by 2020, 10 years earlier than the actual accelerated phase-out schedule agreed by the member countries. This schedule in Maldives is aligned with the carbon neutrality plan of Maldives, aiming to achieve dual benefits by eliminating Ozone depleting substances and also reducing carbon emissions.

Total phase-out of HCFC will contribute to eliminating 130,000 Mt equivalents of CO₂ emission, which is estimated to be 20% of total carbon emissions of Maldives.

The steps that the Maldives is taking with regard to the environment are bold and unconditional and hope to be inspirational to other nations as well. Our commitment to mitigate climate change underlines how crucial it is especially for low lying island states and other vulnerable nations to ensure that action is taken in time to avoid wiping out of entire civilizations in small island states and many other vulnerable countries.



The High Level Round Table Dialogue on the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) and its contribution to carbon neutrality in Maldives held in June this year helped to reaffirm the government's commitment to achieving HCFC phase-out by 2020, to get the endorsement of various Government ministries and private organizations involved in the HPMP implementation plan, and to garner the much-needed support from industry leaders and policy makers.

With the involvement of relevant stakeholders we have now formulated a road map to implement the HPMP and are geared towards achieving the set targets. With the help of the HPMP Steering Committee which was recently formulated by the President, we are now set to take further relevant measures to control HCFC consumption.

We are truly grateful to MLF, UNEP, UNDP and the regional office for their continued support and assistance in implementing ozone related projects. We also appreciate the continued support and co-operation from the member countries in implementing activities under the Montreal Protocol.