

Chairman's Summary

Stakeholders & Country Consultation Meeting for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, in Mongolia

The Country Consultation & Stakeholders' Meeting for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was held at the Ulaanbaatar Hotel in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 23-24 August 2003 to discuss how to strengthen the Mongolian policy and prevent illegal trade of ozone depleting substances (ODSs) to protect the ozone layer. The meeting, organised jointly by Mongolia, Japan and UNEP, was attended by 39 participants of which 26 national participants including the Director of the National Ozone Unit and its staff, members of the National Ozone Committee, representatives of the Customs General Administration and representatives from other Customs Departments (Heads of northern & southern customs departments); and 12 international participants from UNEP, the Government of Japan, international experts, a consultant and representatives from the People's Republic of China. Due to unforeseen obstacles the representatives from the Russian Federation were unable to attend this meeting as planned.

Prof. Adysuren.Ts, Director of the National Ozone Unit, chaired the meeting. He opened the first day identifying the objectives of the meeting. The first day of the meeting was divided into two sessions. Mrs. Enkhtuya. S, a Lecturer of the Customs General Administration, chaired the first session, while the second session was chaired by Ms.Batkhisig.Ts., Senior Officer of the National Ozone Unit of Mongolia.

Prof.Adyasuren chaired the second day of the meeting , which was devoted to Country Consultations.

A number of international and national participants made presentations on illegal trade prevention and CFC phase-out in Mongolia on the first day. In the morning session of 23rd August, participants had intensive discussions on measures for effective prevention of illegal trade between Mongolia, China and Russia. During the first session of the meeting, key issues for group discussions on illegal trade were explained in English and Mongolian to the participants.

Participants raised the importance of joint collaboration for controlling illegal trade through, for example, exchanging information on ODS trade, particularly, between neighbouring countries.

The Chinese Representative, Mr. Liu Yi, General Director of SEPA in China, requested UNEP to urgently take the lead to initiate a regional network for information exchange and to take coordinated action to prevent illegal trade.

From the morning session the following recommendations were made.

- **Information exchange between Mongolia and its neighbors**

1. China will provide Mongolia with the list of producers of CFC, Halon, Carbon Tetrachloride, Methyl Bromide, Methylchloroform and HCFC.
2. At the beginning of each year, Mongolia will inform China about the importers that have received an import quota for that year.
3. China will ensure that all products containing ODS (containers for ODS substances and ODS-based equipment) for export are correctly labeled in the English language, and are provided with the correct certificates during shipment.
4. China will inform Mongolia about the standard packaging for ODS containers
5. Japan agreed to cooperate in information exchange, especially for information on the use of CFC in air conditioning systems in second hand cars exported to Mongolia.
6. Mongolia and China will inform each other of the contact details of an officer who can be contacted for issues related to trade of ODS and ODS-based equipment.
7. Mongolia will inform the Russian Ozone Officer of the conclusions on information exchange between Mongolia, China and Japan, and will request Russia to agree and conform to the conclusions and recommendations.

- **Future cooperation between Mongolia and its neighbors**

Mongolia and China agreed to continue discussions on illegal trade issues in future. To this end, the following actions will be taken:

8. A Task Force on control, monitoring & prevention of illegal trade between Mongolia and China will be created. Initially, the Task Force will consist of the Ozone Officer and a senior Customs Officer from both China and Mongolia.
9. The Task Force will have the first meeting in October 2003 at the latest. Such a meeting may be organised on the occasion of the South Asia - SEAP Regional

Workshop for Ozone Officers and Customs Officers, Thailand, 13-15 October 2003.

10. In its first meeting, the Task Group will discuss the following issues:
 - a. Membership of the Task Force
 - b. Terms of Reference
 - c. Schedule of further meetings
 - d. Other issues as decided by the Task Force
11. Mongolia will inform Russia of the establishment of such Task Force and invite Russia to become part of it.

- **UNEP's role**

12. Mongolia and China will copy all information exchanged to UNEP ROAP. They will inform UNEP of the TOR, membership and main conclusions and recommendations of the Task Force.
13. UNEP is requested to ensure that countries of the SA and SEAP networks are informed about the Mongolia-China initiative and will provide time during the October 2003 WS for OO and customs officers to discuss this initiative.

- **Actions at the National level**

The following further actions were identified:

14. The customs training as initiated through the implementation of the RMP, and institutionalised in the refresher courses for customs officers is desirable to be continued so as to ensure that customs officers are aware of the latest developments on trade in ODS and ODS-equipment.
15. Mongolia, with assistance from UNEP, will look into the possibility of strengthening the Customs' capacity and capability of analysing ODS by , for example, by making the National Chemical Laboratory available for customs services. The possibility of acquiring more CFC identifiers should also be considered
16. Mongolia, with assistance of Japan and UNEP, is in the process of analysing its policy and regulations on ODS and identifying amendments needed to strengthen and improve its ODS policy and regulations. This analysis should also focus on elements needed to ensure law enforcement.

17. Mongolia will identify other important stakeholders for law enforcement, such as police, environmental inspectors, etc. and take actions for their greater involvement in law enforcement.
18. All companies dealing with ODS or ODS-based equipment (refrigeration & AC servicing, sale and installation of halon fire extinguishers) should better be certified by the Ministry of Industry & Trade.
19. Mongolia will intensify its activities in awareness raising.

Opening the plenary session on the first day of the meeting, Mr. Bolat, Vice Minister of Nature and Environment of Mongolia gave his speech on behalf of the Minister of Nature & Environment. In his speech, he explained that identifying the roles and responsibilities of different actors to control and monitor ODS international trade and to prevent illegal trade needs to be discussed.

Mr. Hamanaka, Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, said in his speech that Japan attaches a great deal of importance to the transfer of their expertise and to the facilitation of networking among stakeholders at the national as well as the regional level.

Mr. Liu Yi, General Director from SEAP in China, emphasised the importance of international cooperation to combat illegal trade, and strongly supported the Mongolia Dialogue as an example to be followed by countries in the Region. Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of UNEP congratulated Mongolia on its proactive initiative.

During the second session, actions to be taken for phasing out ODS consumption & lessons learned from other developing countries were presented for discussion. Participants pointed out the need for careful policy planning to support the scheduled target year for phase out of ODS, to deal with the current demands of CFCs in the country.

The conclusions and recommendations from the second session include the following:

Policies to be Included in the National Action Plan for the ODS Phase-Out of Mongolia

At the policy session of the country consultation meeting for the protection of the ozone layer (23rd and 24th August, 2003), the future policies to be proposed in the National Action Plan of the Mongolian Country Programme Update were discussed and following issues and comments were raised as the meeting's recommendations to be added to the present policies.

1. A suggestion was made that the target year of terminal phase out of CFC should be set carefully in consideration of the time needed to convert industrial and commercial refrigerators to non-ODS equipment;
2. Investigation into CFC demand in Mongolia should be carried out as the basis for future policy planning;
3. Financial / technical assistance for conversion from ODS-based equipment to alternative technologies should be provided.
4. As a measure to facilitate the control of the ODS import, limiting the number of entry ports where import of ODS and ODS-based equipment is allowed should be considered;
5. All the entry ports should be provided with portable CFC identifiers;
6. Environment inspectors should be stationed at entry ports;
7. Special training for environmental inspectors should be provided for the purpose of preventing atmospheric release of ODS;
8. In consideration of the difficulty in screening liquid substances for ODS, which cannot be done with portable CFC identifiers, laboratories should be made available for the customs uses;
9. International cooperation in licensing, labeling and information exchange should be facilitated further, including information on motor vehicle manufacturers in Japan and other motor vehicle manufacturing countries (until the year that CFC-based mobile air conditioning systems had been installed);
10. The possibility of requesting exporting countries to prohibit the export of ODS-containing equipment to Mongolia should be explored once Mongolia has completely stopped the import of ODS;
11. Training for recovery and recycling should be continued to involve all the technicians;
12. Training for recovery and recycling should be extended in consideration of problems faced in the past three months of recovery and recycling operation;

13. ODS should be handled by qualified people only.
14. The NOU activities should be extended with the assistance from international cooperation.

Opened by Mr. Bolat.A, Vice Minister of Nature & Environment of Mongolia, the second day of the meeting focused especially on ozone layer protection policies and the country programme update. Presentations were made by the invited scientist Dr. Hideaki Nakane from Japan, information given by Prof. Adyasuren. Ts with special emphasis upon the overview of policies for the Ozone Layer Protection in Mongolia and obligations under the Montreal Protocol. Lessons learned from the past experience of the country consultation meeting were introduced by Mr. Wataru Ono, a Regional Consultant.

Participants discussed the policies and issues to be included in the country programme update and views and thoughts have been exchanged on this matter.

An example of an NGO's involvement for the Ozone Layer Protection presented by representatives from Japan's "Save the Ozone Network" was very much appreciated and it spurred the Mongolian NGOs' interest in involvement in Ozone Layer Protection actions.

The recommendations from the two sessions of the first day of the meeting were adopted.

Prof. Adyasuren, Director of the National Ozone Unit, welcomed the very concrete results that were achieved as a result of the consultation meeting. Japan agreed to cooperate in information exchange especially for information on the use of CFC in air conditioning systems in second hand cars exported to Mongolia. China agreed to give the list of the producers of ozone depleting substances to Mongolia. The Chinese representative, Mr. Liu Yi, also promised to ensure that in the future China would strive to label exported products in English to facilitate control.

The Country Consultation Meeting with the attendance of a neighboring country, a bilateral partner, UNEP and many stakeholders in the country became a milestone for the enhancement of cooperation for the ozone layer protection at both national and regional levels. The presence of China and Japan in the meeting showed their great commitment to the protection of the ozone layer.