

**Minutes of the Coordinating Committee Meeting for the
Implementation of Montreal Protocol in Sri Lanka**

**National Ozone Unit,
State Ministry of Environment**

Date and Time : 27 August 2015 at 10.00 am

Venue : “Saptha Parisara Mandapaya”, State Ministry of Environment

Present:

Mr. Vajira Narampanawa, Secretary, State Ministry of Environment
Mr R. A. R. R Rupasinghe, Additional Secretary, State Ministry of Environment
Mr. N.K.G.K. Nemmawatte, Additional Secretary (NR), State Ministry of Environment
Mr. Gamini Gamage, Additional Secretary (Environment), State Ministry of Environment
Mr. Asitha K. Senevirathne, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industry & Commerce
Mr. Lalith Chandrapala, DG, Department of Meteorology
Mr. G.M.J.K. Gunawardana, Senior Assistant Secretary/ Director (NOU), State Ministry of Environment
Mrs. J. Krishnamoorthy, Additional Director General, Dept. of Technical Education Training
Mr Ajith Silva, Director (Policy Planning), State Ministry of Environment
Ms. Lumbini Kiriella, Legal Officer, State Ministry of Environment
Mr. L.D.N. Kumarasiri, Chief Internal Auditor, State Ministry of Environment
Ms. N.R. Nissanka, Accountant, State Ministry of Environment
Mrs. Shanthini Thiruneelakandan, Director, Consumer Affairs Authority
Mr. M. Paskaran, Director, Sri Lanka Customs
Mr. S.U.K.Rubasinghe, Director, Tertiary Vocational Education Commission
Mr. Shantha Karunaratne, Director/ Principal, CGTTI
Mr. S.P.K. Amarasinghe, Chief Engineer (Training), CGTTI
Mr. Jayantha Edirisinghe, Tea Commissioner, Sri Lanka Tea Board
Dr. J.A. Sumith, Research Officer, Office of Registrar of Pesticide (ROP)
Mrs. A.S. Beling, Senior Deputy Director (Environment), Board of Investment (BOI)
Mr. K.B. Sachith S. Fernando, Assistant Director, National Planning Department
Mrs. I.K. Warushamanna, Assistant Director, National Plant Quarantine Service (NPQS)
Ms. Pavithri Peiris, Assistant Director, Sri Lanka Tea Board
Mr. D.M. Yahampath, Assistant Director, Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka
Mrs. Vishaka Hidellege, Assistant Country Director, UNDP
Mr. M.M.M. Senevirathne, Coordinating Officer -Technical (NOU), State Ministry of Env.,
Mr R. W Dharmawardana, Technical Officer (NOU), State Ministry of Environment
Ms. Shyara Bastianez, Program Associate, UNDP
Ms. Dhanushki Abeyratne, Program Analyst, UNDP

Mr. U. Poorna Nalin, Data Manager, Import and Export Control Dept.,
Ms. Kusalika T. Vithanage, MPO, Sri Lanka Tea Board
Ms. Ramya Wickramasinghe, Admin. & IT Officer (NOU), State Ministry of Environment
Ms. Rupika Bakmeedeniya, EMO (NOU), State Ministry of Environment
Mr M.G.M. Prassana, Program Assistant (NOU), State Ministry of Environment
Mr. Dilan Kulandarachchi, Development Officer (NOU), State Ministry of Environment
Ms. Prabashi Samaraweera, Development Officer (NOU), State Ministry of Environment

Mr. Vajira Narampanawa, Secretary of the State Ministry of Environment chaired and welcomed the members of the Coordinating Committee who were present at the meeting. According to the Agenda item, he invited Mr. G.M.J.K. Gunawardana, Senior Assistant Secretary/ Director, National Ozone Unit (NOU) to make presentation on NOU activities, progress of Projects during January to July 2015 and planned activities for the rest of the period of year.

Mr. G.M.J.K. Gunawardana, Senior Assistant Secretary/ Director, National Ozone Unit (NOU) thanked members for accepting the invitation and for attending to this second CC meeting of 2015. He briefed the Committee on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer and establishing of Montreal Protocol, because some members who presented from several institutions were new. Subsequently, Director - NOU continued with presentation beginning with the physical & financial progress of activities that have been carried out up to 31st July this year under the main projects. He further explained about the planned activities for the rest of the period and expected budget revisions/ rephrasing of unutilized funds under HPMP/ UNDP Project.

Special Matters discussed at the Meeting

- **Planned activities and budget lines allocation for celebration of International Ozone Day (IOD) – 16 September 2015**

Mr. Gunawardana mentioned that International Ozone Day (IOD) 2015 celebration is special, because this year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention for the protection of Ozone Layer under the theme of “*30 Years of Healing the Ozone Together*”. He further mentioned that NOU of the State Ministry of Environment is planning to celebrate the IOD this year under the patronage of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka at the premises of Ceylon German Technical Training Institute (CGTTI), Ratmalana and lined up several special programs and activities parallel to this important day of the ozone calendar.

He explained to the Committee the tentative arrangements and items included in agenda for celebrating this year IOD. All Island Art Competition, Competition of Newspaper articles,

display boards impressing the natural beauty of Sri Lanka to be fixed at 50 major railway stations island-wide, opening of the first reclamation center at CGTTI, declare the establishment of the Ozone monitoring center at the Meteorological Department, launching of an informative book containing articles written by professionals and experts who supported to implement the obligation of the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, present the first copy of curriculum for technical students developed with the assistance of UNEP and Tea ceremony that will be organized at the IOD celebration promoting ozone friendly tea are the of the major activities that have been proposed.

Ms. Pavithri Peiris, Assistant Director, Sri Lanka Tea Board explained the procedure of conducting a Tea Ceremony. Two cultural dances such as plucking of tea can be included to their program and mentioned about the requirement of separate place. Director, NOU agreed to provide separate place. Secretary advised to have a separate meeting to discuss further. Ms. Dhanushki, Program Analyst of UNDP mentioned that they can arrange publicity through UNDP social media. After that, he explained the budget line allocations for this event. He further informed that last year remaining funds of the National Compliance Action Plan (NCAP) will be utilized simultaneously for related activities like opening of the reclamation centers of this year IOD. Committee agreed and no objection was raised by the UNDP and Ms. Hidallage mentioned that they will be looking to change of budget lines of NCAP accordingly.

- **Implementation of the Reclamation Centers**

Director, NOU briefly explained what are the reclamation centers and reclaiming process of recovered refrigerant. He stated that approximately value of equipment for each centre is Rupees 3.0 million and to 7 Technical Colleges have already been delivered. Places of Reclaim centres are CGTTI Moratuwa, Galle, Kurunegala, Batticaloa, Badulla, Vavunia, Polonnaruwa and Kandy. He further mentioned that the first Reclaim Centre will be opened at CGTTI on 16th September by H E the President parallel to the IOD celebration.

In addition to the above, following points were taken for the discussion; rate for 1kg of reclaim refrigerant, rate for hiring of recovery equipment and accessories for 1 week, report progress to NOU and payment for duty officers. Secretary advised Director, NOU to have a broader dialogue with Treasury and relevant institutions and prepare a methodology to charge reasonable fee for the service. Mrs. J. Krishnamoorthy, Additional Director General of the Department of Technical Education and Training mentioned that they were not aware on that matter and before deciding the rates and other things need to aware on that matter. Therefore, Secretary advised Director, NOU to organize a meeting with relevant parties to discuss that

matter in detail and Director agreed to call a meeting with participating Department of DTET, Principals of the Technical Colleges and other relevant parties before commencement of opening the centres

- **Progress of Development of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Curriculum for technical and Vocational Training**

Mr. Rubasinghe, Director of the Tertiary Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) briefed to the Committee about the procedure of preparation the training curricula. He mentioned that, mainly 3 documents i.e National Competency standard, Competency Based Training Curricula and Assessment Resource Criteria should also prepared for issuing certificated in RAC sector.

He further agreed to submit final document to NOU of this Ministry within 2 weeks and before submitting final document hope to submit it to Development Committee for validation. Secretary advised Mr. Rubasinghe to translate it to Tamil and Sinhala also. Mr. Gunawardana mentioned that this document will officially be launched at the IOD ceremony and UNEP is providing financial assistance for this endeavour.

- **Establish UV Monitoring Station**

Mr. Gunawardana stated that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has gifted an UV Monitoring Station to Sri Lanka. He further explained that the importance of establishing that station in Sri Lanka and hope to install that unit at the Department of Meteorology. Earlier plan was to set up at one of the State Universities facilitating to do research. However WMO prefers installing at the Meteorological department because can be maintained it easily without any interruptions. By establishing it, Sri Lanka will be able to measure ratio of UV- A, UV-B and can determine ozone concentration over the country.

Mr. Lalith Chandrapala, Director General of the Department of Meteorology mentioned that he is agreeable for setting up this station, but need to know more about this equipment. He inquired about the size of the instrument, because if it is oversized, they will have to build a new place and cost is involved. For that lot of procedures have to be followed. He further requested from the Director – NOU to make arrangement to introduce responsible contact person from WMO in order clarify certain technical issues directly. Director, NOU agreed to fulfill his request. Secretary endorsed the views presented by Mr. Chandrapala and advised to make further discussions in this regard with Mr. Chandrapala

- **Distribution of Quota 2016**

Director, NOU mentioned that the 10% reduction from baseline of the quota is maintained throughout 2015 – 2019 and so, amount of quota distribution will not be changed for 2016 and it will remain as of 2015. Issuance of quota for 2015 completed successfully and up to date 80% of issued quota has been utilized by the importers.

- **Status of HFC Survey**

Mr. Gunawardana explained the Committee on status of HFC Survey. Sri Lanka replaced CFC/ HCFC with HFCs for most of the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning applications in recent past years, there is a significant increase in HFC demand due to growth in emerging markets such as leisure industry and garments industry. HFC demand and consumption cannot be accurately calculated like HCFCs, because import of HFCs is not strictly monitored, not restricted and specific regulations to control have not yet been imposed in Sri Lanka. It doesn't act as a ozone depleting substances, but it seriously contributes to global warming.

He further mentioned that, it is an independent survey has been completed and draft final report was submitted to the UNDP by Prof. Sumathipala. After reviewing the panel of experts of UNDP in Bangkok, the report was returned with the comments to make the document final. He further mentioned that, Prof. Sumathipala is addressing the comments made by experts and preparing the report for resubmitting. Financial assistant granted by the US government through UNDP.

- **Online Monitoring System for the ODS import control**

Director stated that UNEP has requested to Sri Lanka to develop an on line monitoring system instead of manual system. So, NOU has started to develop an online data system with the help of ICTA. He further mentioned that the system has to be linked with Import and Export Control Department and the Sri Lanka Customs. Mr. Paskaran, Director of the Sri Lanka Customs has agreed and Mr. Nalin, Data Manager of the Import and Export Control informed that Acting Controller General has agreed to give their support to proceed with this electronic data system. Secretary advised to Director- NOU to organize a separate meeting with relevant parties to discuss that matter in detail.

- **Possibility of including Ozone friendly Tea Logo to the sports wears of the Sri Lanka Cricket Team**

Ms. Pavithri Peiris, Assistant Director, Sri Lanka Tea Board said that this matter should be discussed initially with the Sri Lanka Cricket Board and Ms. Pavithri agreed to see the possibility of launching discussion on this matter with Sri Lankan Cricket Board and MAS holdings which makes these items. She mentioned that strict rules are governed by the ICC and Sri Lanka Cricket should make their move first.

- **Status of Methyl Bromide (MeBr) Consumption in QPS**

Mr. Gunawardana mentioned that as per the Montreal Protocol, Sri Lanka can be used MeBr only for QPS applications, So office of the Registrar of Pesticide issue recommendations for importing MeBr only for eligible importers as per the Montreal Protocol. MeBr was earlier used as a fumigant in Sri Lanka for protecting grains from pests and highly usage in tea nurseries for controlling nematodes, but after 2008, MeBr was used only for quarantine and

pre shipment purposes. He inquired about why Sri Lanka consume high amount of MeBr yearly, compare to other countries

Mr. Gunawardana requested to the relevant institutions to provide information on the fumigants used by them for fumigation purposes specially by the National Plant Quarantine Services (NPQS) and Lanka Sathosa. He further informed that the investigations should be started for tea sector within this year. Representatives from relevant institutions were agreed to provide information regarding that to the NOU.

Mr. Jayantha Edirisinghe, Tea Commissioner from Sri Lanka Tea Board mentioned that there are no issue for tea nurseries by MeBr and Mr. Sumith, Senior Research Officer of the Registrar of Pesticides explained the real situation to the Committee. He disagreed with Director's submissions. Secretary advised to Director, NOU to organize a separate discussion with respective stakeholders within a short period to discuss the issues regarding MeBr. Director agreed to hold a meeting in October with relevant parties.

Finally, Mr. Gamini Gamage inquired about the ground level ozone which has tremendous effect on agricultural crops and for increasing of asthma cases Mr. Ajith Silva mentioned that ground level ozone is comes under air pollution and it had been addressed by CEA earlier. He agreed to look into this matter.

Before summing up, Secretary again thanked to the members who were present and the meeting was terminated.

Ms. Visaka Hidellage thanked Secretary and Director- NOU for inviting them for the meeting and pledged UNDP support to NOU to continue its works according to the work plans.