

Programme Report

General Awareness Programme

at

Municipal Council, Rathnapura

06th March 2014



Conducted by

National Ozone Unit

Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy, Sri Lanka

In collaboration with

**Rathnapura Saddharmalankara Piriven Vidyayathanaya and
Zonal Educational Division, Rathnapura**

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Programme Objectives.....	4
Expected Outcomes	4
Methodology.....	5
Participants.....	5
Resource Persons.....	5
Agenda.....	6
Important Events.....	7

Introduction

The ozone layer which is situated 15 to 30 kilometers above Earth serves as a shield against the harmful ultraviolet B radiation emitted by the sun. Ozone is a highly reactive molecule that contains three oxygen atoms. It is constantly being formed and broken down in the stratosphere

Presently the ozone layer is deteriorated due to release of pollution containing chemicals such as chlorine and bromine. Such deterioration allows large amounts of ultraviolet B rays to reach Earth, which can cause skin cancer and cataracts in humans and harm to the animals as well.

Extra ultraviolet B radiation reaching Earth also inhibits the reproductive cycle of phytoplankton, single-celled organisms such as algae that make up the bottom rung of the food chain. Biologists fear that reductions in phytoplankton populations will in turn lower the populations of other animals. And also changes in the reproductive rates of young fish, shrimp, and crabs as well as frogs and salamanders exposed to excess ultraviolet B.

Concerned scientists and global community gathered in Vienna in 1985 to discuss the ozone depletion & related issues. As a result of this initiated Vienna convention was established. In 1987, Montreal protocol on ODSs was formed as a legal instrument to the Vienna convention. Sri Lanka ratified to the Montreal protocol on 15th December 1989. To date 197 countries have ratified to the Montreal protocol and it is considered as the most successful Environment treaty that has been ever established.

After formation of Montreal protocol, it was able to limit the production and consumption of ODS significantly. As a result of it whole world was able to avoid global warming potential by 135 billion tones equivalent to CO₂ emission through the past 26 years.

Sri Lanka Commitment

In compliance with the accelerated phase out of ODS programme introduced by the Montreal protocol, Sri Lanka was able to achieve the target two year in advance (in 2008) by banning import of CFCs to Sri Lanka completely. Sri Lanka has banned 54 out of 96 ODSs chemicals by special Gazette Notifications issued in time to time.

The remarkable milestones of Sri Lanka successes are awarding **Implementation Award** to Sri Lanka in 2007 as the best country which implements Montreal protocol regulations and receiving the **Award of Appreciation** for Sri Lanka for its contribution towards Ozone Layer Protection. This award was presented by

Mr. Marco Gonzolez, former Executive Secretary of Ozone Secretariat, at the International Ozone Day Celebration 2012.

Since Sri Lanka ratified to Montreal protocol in 1989, Multilateral Fund extend financial and technical support through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) for all activities implement by the NOU. Further, External Resource Department, Import & Export Controller's Department and Sri Lanka Customs render great assistances to the NOU in this endeavour.

At present NOU has launched several projects to control the use of Hydrofluorocarbons (HCFCs) that have Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) as well as Global Warming Potential (GWP). Therefore HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) was implemented in Last Year and Ministry of Environment has introduced a new Quota system from 1st January 2013 for all imports of HCFCs.

Sri Lanka has given prominence to make aware of government officers, industrial community, technicians, media persons, health sector, school children & teachers about the importance of preserving it, because they are playing a vital role in implementing regulations & policies of Montreal Protocol. Therefore NOU conduct Seminars & workshops for aforementioned groups throughout the island in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Programme Objectives

To help the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, by continuing efforts to achieve the goal of protecting the ozone layer and assure co-benefits in climate change for future generations.

Expected Outcomes:

By the end of the programme, it was expected to achieve:

- Awareness needed to prevent leakages of ODS for ozone layer protection and climate change and Natural disasters.
- Enhance the knowledge of Action Plan & the Multilateral Environment Agreements & country obligations.

Methodology

Ozone friendly technologies, substitutes and best environmental and ozone friendly practices have been introduced together with massive capacity building and awareness programmes which contribute substantially towards the reduction of ODS & greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate global warming potential.

According to the experience conducting seminars is more productive than distribution of publications. According to the action plan NOU has organized an Awareness Programme among school children & piriven monks in Rathnapura district. This programme was organized by the National Ozone Unit in collaboration with Rathnapura Saddharmalankara Piriven Vidyayathanaya and Zonal Educational Division, Rathnapura.

Programme was enriched with cultural dances performed by the dancing troops of Saddharmalankara Piriven Vidyayathanaya

Venue : Municipal Council Auditorium, Rathnapura

Date : 6th March 2014

Participants

There were nearly 400 Piriven Monks & school children attend for the workshop. The participants were invited from Rathnapura Municipal Council area.

Participants List is attached in *Annex 1*

Resource Persons

- Mr. G.M.J.K. Gunawardene, Director, National Ozone Unit
- Mr. S. Gunarathne, Environment Management Officer, National Ozone Unit
- Mr. R.W. Dharmawardana, Technical Officer, National Ozone Unit
- Mr. Anuruddha Thennakon, Environment Management Officer, Bio Diversity Division

Agenda

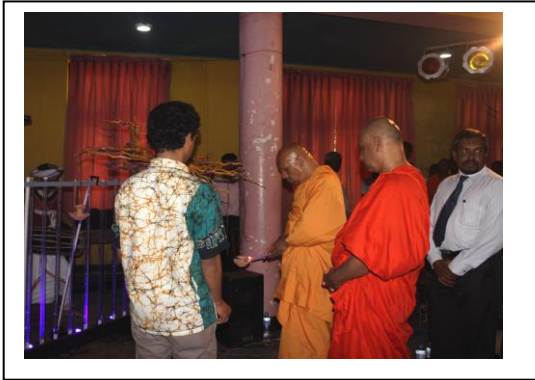
**General Awareness Programme among Piriven Monks & School Children
conducted by National Ozone Unit, Ministry of Environment &
Renewable Energy, Collaboration with Rathnapura Saddharmalankara
Piriven Vidyayathanaya and Zonal Educational Division, Rathnapura**

Municipal Council Auditorium, Rathnapura

Date : 6th March 2014

- 08.00 am Registration of Participants
- 08.10 am Perform the tradition of lighting the oil lamp & Playing the Ozone Song
- 08.15 am Welcome Speech by Chief Incumbent of Pirivena
- 08.20 am Describe the Objectives of the seminar
Sarath Gunaratne, Environment Management Officer, National Ozone
Unit, Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy
- 08.30 am Scientific information about the Ozone layer & Environmental treaties
cause by Ozone layer depletion
G.M.J.K. Gunawardana, Director, National Ozone Unit,
Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy
- 10.30 am Tea break
- 10.45 am Playing the video on 'Ozone Depletion & Climate change'
- 11.00 am Presentation on the Ozone layer depletion, Climate change and Natural
disasters. Mr. R.W. Dharmawardana, Technical Officer, National Ozone
Unit, Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy
- 12.00 pm Presentation on Ecosystem Management & Wetlands
Mr. Anuruddha Thennakon, Environment Management Officer, Bio
Diversity Division, Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy
- 01.00 pm Presentation on the Action Plan & the Multilateral Environment
Agreements under the obligations to the Montreal Protocol
Sarath Gunaratne, Environment Management Officer, National Ozone
Unit, Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy
- 01.55 pm Q & A session
- 02.00 pm Vote of Thanks & end of the programme

Important Events



Lighting the oil lamp



Welcome Speech



Describe the Objectives of the seminar



Presentations



Cultural Events



Audience