

ASIAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ALTERNATE TECHNOLOGIES FOR ODS PHASE-OUT, BANGKOK (THAILAND), MARCH 1-3, 1999

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES: 18 (INCLUDING 5 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE NAM S&T CENTRE)

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 45

1999 was a landmark in the history of the Montreal Protocol. From this year July onwards the developing countries began to implement their commitments under the Montreal Protocol starting with a freeze in the consumption and production of CFCs. With over US \$850 million allotted to projects in developing countries through the Multilateral Fund, close to 120,000 metric tonnes of ozone depleting substances (ODS) were to be phased out. Up to 50,000 metric tonnes of ODS were already eliminated till 1999. The Asia and Pacific region took a lead in adapting ozone friendly technologies from developed countries. 1999 was also a landmark in the history of the Kyoto Protocol, as this was the last year before the Clean Development Mechanism (COM) became operational. The COM was designed to encourage North-South cooperation to mitigate climate change. Some of the gases which are substitutes for the ODS controlled under the Montreal Protocol are greenhouse gases whose emissions are to be controlled under the Kyoto Protocol.

In continuation of the ODS workshops held in New Delhi, India in February 1995 and in Pretoria, South Africa in October 1997, respectively reported under Item III.8 and Item III.12 above, the NAM S&T Centre organized an Asian regional workshop on Alternate Technologies for ODS Phase-out in Bangkok, Thailand during March 1-3, 1999 jointly with the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). While APCTT and NAM S&T Centre sponsored their respective member countries from the Asian region, UNEP funded most of the other participants. The participation of the workshop included the entrepreneurs and government officials in the Asia-Pacific region as also the technical and policy experts from seven international organizations actively engaged in facilitating a North - South technology cooperation, viz. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNEP, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Multilateral Fund Secretariat in Canada and APCTT to discuss lessons learned in technology transfer under the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of the Montreal Protocol substances that deplete the ozone layer. These 18 countries respectively were Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, PDR of Laos, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Thailand and USA, besides the member countries of the NAM S&T Centre Bangladesh (Dr. Md. Abdus Sobhan of the Department of Environment), India

(Mr. Atul Bagai of the Ministry of Environment and Forests), Indonesia (Ms. Kusmulyani Sugiarto of the State Ministry for Environment), Malaysia (Ms. Norlin Jaafar of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment) and Vietnam (Dr. Dao Duc Tuan of the Vietnam Hydrometeorological Service). Apart from Mr. R.M. Shende Chief, Energy and OzoneAction Unit of UNEP and Prof. Ogunlade Davidson, the Co-Chairs of the leading assessment bodies from the two climate protection treaties – the Montreal Protocols Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) and the Kyoto Protocol's IPCC - participated in the workshop to synthesize the private sector experience.

Selected case studies were presented during the event, which provided a forum for technology recipients from developing countries and technology providers from developed countries to present their unique perspectives on the experiences and lessons learned during implementation of industrial conversion project and replace ozone depleting substances (e.g. chlorofluorocarbons) with ozone friendly-technology. The projects were realized with financial and technical assistance provided by the Multilateral Fund. Representing industries that manufacture domestic refrigerators, compressors, insulating foams, foam mattresses, aerosol sprays, electronics circuit board and components required for car air-conditioning identified the challenges faced by them, the elements leading to the success of industrial technology cooperation and the lessons learned from these experiences. Prof, Davidson, Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) mentioned that the world for the first time has experienced industrial technology cooperation under the financial mechanism of the Montreal Protocol. This hands-on experience of the private sector and the governments in Asia and Pacific will be useful to the Parties of the Climate Change Convention where such mechanisms are still evolving.

The workshop culminated with a round table discussion chaired by Dr. Steve Andersen, Director of Strategic Climate Projects in the Atmospheric Pollution Protection Division of US EPA and Co-Chair of UNEP's Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP). It discussed how to make technology transfer more successful and agreed on certain actions that would start the process of understanding the interrelated issues between the two climate protection treaties. Technology collaborators stressed the need to assess the country specific customer requirements, training in adapting to new technologies and exchange of information on technology options before making the final decision.