

আন্তর্জাতিক ওজোন দিবস

১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০০০

International Ozone Day
16 September 2000পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর
Department of Environment

আকাশ অক্ষত রাখুন

নিজেকে রক্ষা করুন, রক্ষা করুন ওজোন স্তর

Save Our Sky: Protect Yourself; Protect the Ozone layer

সিএফসি-মুক্ত ফ্রিজ, রিফ্রিজারেটর,
এরোসল ব্যবহার করুনUse CFC-Free Fridge,
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Ministry of Environment and Forest
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Save Our Sky: Protect Yourself; Project the Ozone Layer

Today, the 16th September, is the International Ozone Day. Since 1995, this day is being observed as declared by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The day is being celebrated all over the world with a view to raising global awareness on ozone layer depletion and its negative impact on the biosphere and also for the control on ODS use. The government and the people of Bangladesh are also observing this significant day in a befitting manner as elsewhere in the world. The theme of the day for this year has been: "Save Our Sky: Protect Yourself; Protect the Ozone Layer".

The atmosphere surrounding the earth is a blanket of gaseous materials. It consists of a number of segments, one of which is the stratosphere. It is situated at ten to fifty kilometers above the earth's surface. A pungent pale blue poisonous gas called ozone exists in this layer. Ozone is a molecule made up of three oxygen atoms. Though it spreads over quite a large area, the distribution is so thin that if the molecules of ozone were collected together they could have formed a skin around the earth - no thicker than that of an orange.

Importance of the Ozone Layer
The ozone layer protects us from the harmful effects of solar ultraviolet (UV) rays. Any significant decrease of ozone in the stratosphere would result in a higher incidence of UV-B radiation. As a result, plant and animal life of the earth and quality of air will be adversely affected. Depletion of ozone layer is associated with developing of skin cancer, eye damage and suppression of immune system in human body. Crop production and aquatic as well as marine foodchain is also affected due to ozone layer depletion. The absorption of UV-B by the ozone layer also creates a source of heat, playing a key role in the temperature regime of the atmosphere.

International Concern for the Protection of Ozone Layer
In 1974, a scientific research pointed out that ozone layer had been in a process of gradual depletion due to the continuous emission of chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere. Ozone hole was first detected by British Antarctic Survey Team in 1985. Through the initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), "Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer" was adopted in 1985. And the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer" was signed in 1987 for the protection of ozone layer through control of the use of ozone depleting substances.

At the heart of the Montreal Protocol, lies the control measure on the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances e.g., chlorofluorocarbons, halons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, methylchloroform and methylbromide within a stipulated timeframe. Ozone Depleting Substances are largely produced and consumed in developed countries. It has, hence, been agreed that developed nations should be the first to phase-out CFCs, carbon tetrachloride and methylchloroform by 1st January 1996, halons by 1st January 1994 and hydrochlorofluorocarbons by 1st January 2030. For special needs of countries operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 (mainly developing countries) with an annual consumption of less than 0.3 kg per capita, Montreal Protocol allows them a ten-year grace period for total phase-out. The Protocol has been amended in London, in 1990, Copenhagen in 1992, Vienna in 1995, Montreal in 1997 and Beijing in 1999. Bangladesh is among the 165 Parties to the Protocol.

Promotion of Ozone Layer Protection in Bangladesh
Bangladesh accessed to the Montreal Protocol on 2nd August 1990 and ratified its London and Copenhagen amendments in March 1994 and December 1995 respectively. Bangladesh is operating under Paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol. According to the Protocol, control measures have to be imposed on the import and consumption of CFCs from 1 July 1999. From that time consumption of CFCs should not exceed the average consumption of CFCs in 1995, 1996 and 1997.

In order to implement the Montreal Protocol and consequent commitment to phase-out the use of ODSs, the Government of Bangladesh undertook a reconnaissance study on import and consumption of ODSs in 1993 and, based on the study, a detailed Country Programme was drawn in 1994. In accordance with the Country Programme, four project proposals were prepared and submitted to the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund (MLF) for financial assistance. Projects were Institutional Strengthening for the Phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances; Aerosol Sector Phase-out; ODS Phase-out in Large Refrigeration Units; and Training for Technicians Engaged in Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Service Sectors. Out of four aforesaid projects only the first two were approved by MLF. In pursuance of commitment to phase-out ODSs within the stipulated period, Ozone Cell was constituted within the Department of Environment in 1995 and National Technical Committee on ODS (NTCODS) headed by Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest.

The project 'Institutional Strengthening for the Phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances' became operational on 1 March 1996 and was successfully completed on 28 February 1999. Phase-II of the Project became operational in March 1999. The following activities were undertaken under 'Institutional Strengthening for the Phase-out of ODS' project from March 1996 till the date.

Data Update Survey on Import and Consumption of ODS for the year 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997.

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Khondoker Rashidul Huq
Director General
Department of Environment

Reporting of Data on ODS import and uses to the Montreal Protocol Secretariat.

Publication of information brochures, both in Bangla and in English.

Organization of Seminars in 1999 and 1997 on the eve of observance of International Ozone Day. Holding the seminar in 1998 was dropped due to the unprecedented and devastating floods that affected the entire country during the year.

A local Economic Consultant was engaged to analyze the economic implications of ODS phase-out in Bangladesh with a view to evolving a policy and institutional framework for implementation and monitoring of the Country Programme.

A local Legal Consultant was also engaged by the government for formulating a legal framework for phase-out of ozone depleting substances in Bangladesh.

The consultants submitted the reports after necessary improvements and updating through holding consultative workshops. These workshops were widely participated by relevant policy and decision levels of the Government, the judiciary, members of the legal professions, NGOs, mass-media, various professional bodies related to academic pursuits in the field of ozone depletion and trade associations. The reports have been under active considerations of the government.

Co-ordination was accomplished with ACH Ltd. for phase-out of ODS in Aerosol sector. A project entitled "Conversion to CFC-free Technology at ACH Ltd." to this end was implemented by the Department of Environment.

Launching of awareness campaign was made targeting importers, users and technicians engaged in repair and service shop of refrigerators and air conditioners. An awareness campaign was launched among the importers and users of ODSs about the negative impacts of ozone layer depletion throughout the country.

Observance of International Ozone Day in 1997 coincided with 10th Anniversary of the Signing of Montreal Protocol. The Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of Bangladesh undertook various programs on the day which include, inter alia, holding a seminar, publication of a poster and a brochure and bring out special supplements in various national dailies. The Bangladesh Betar had broadcast a special programme highlighting the significance of the day.

Awareness campaigns were launched, on World Environment Day 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999. Result the importance of ozone layer conservation. Brochures and Posters distributed in the Environmental Fair organized by DOE on these occasions.

A nation-wide painting competition was organized in August, 1998 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises. About eight hundred children belonging to large age group of 16 years and below had participated in the competition.

Observance of International Ozone Days in 1998 and 1999 was



Prime Minister
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

I welcome the initiative to observe the **International Ozone Day** in Bangladesh. Our government is firm to protect environment. The government had signed a number of protocols and conventions including the Montreal Protocol to achieve this goal.

The 'Ozone Cell' and the 'National Technical Committee on Ozone Depleting Substances' (NTCODS) under the umbrella of the Ministry of Environment and Forest are actively engaged in implementing the Montreal Protocol. I hope country's scientists and technologists will help innovate, apply and utilize indigenous technologies as substitutes to ozone depleting substances through their creativity and wisdom. I believe, we would be able to review the progress of implementation of our commitment to preserve environment and be able to formulate future programmes in this regard during the observance of the day.

I wish all success of the programmes of the day.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh live forever

Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister
Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh.



Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

The International Ozone Day is being observed in Bangladesh since 1995. The theme of the day for the current year is "Save Our Sky: Protect Yourself; Protect the Ozone Layer". This theme highlights the significance of saving the ozone layer from depletion thus in saving the human race and the biosphere.

The harmful consequence of greenhouse effect on the world environment is being aggravated by the ozone layer depletion. Resultant effect has been gradual adverse impact on the environment and the ecosystem. Like all other countries of the world, Bangladesh, too, is being severely affected.

The Government of Bangladesh has signed the Montreal Protocol with a view to controlling the import and use of ozone depleting substances. The Department of Environment is currently implementing a project with a view to making aerosol sector free of ozone depleting substances (ODS). It is hoped that ODS use in Bangladesh will be reduced by 60% during the current year.

The Department of Environment has also taken up a recovery and recycling project to restrict the use CFC-12 a major ODS and its unnecessary release to the environment. As a result, the need of import of CFC-12 will soon be reduced.

People's participation along with these government endeavors toward saving the ozone layer is, in my opinion, an extremely necessary process. All citizens in their individual capacity may contribute significantly in the protection of the ozone layer by limiting their purchases to CFC-free Fridge and aerosols, which are available in local markets of Bangladesh. This will substantially help in protecting the ozone layer.

I wish the International Ozone Day all success.

Mamun-Ur-Rashid
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

in servicing of various ODS-based equipment.

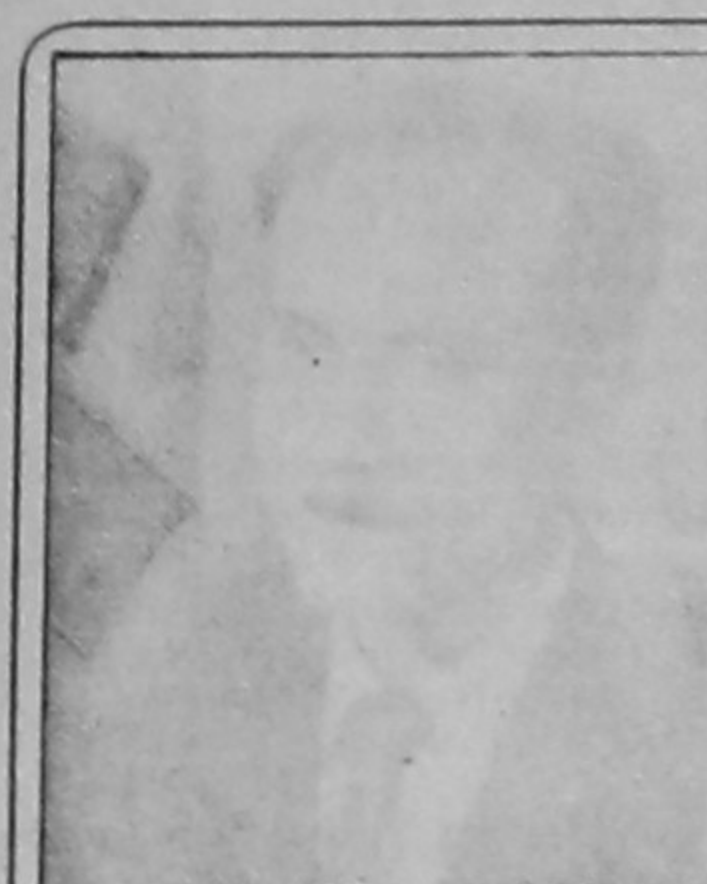
ODS Consumption during 1995-1997

Surveys were conducted on the ODS consumption patterns in Bangladesh corresponding to the years 1995, 1996 and 1997. According to the surveys Bangladesh consumed 305.80, 687.73 and 914.63 M.T in 1995, 1996 and 1997 respectively.

The largest ODS consuming sector in Bangladesh had been the aerosol sector. As per 1997 survey, there was only one aerosol producing company, i.e. ACH Ltd. consuming about 60% of total ODS used in the country. For phase out of this important sector, a project entitled "Conversion to CFC-free Technology in the Manufacture of Aerosol Products" was implemented by the Department of Environment. About 60% of ODS uses is expected to be reduced by this project. As per survey report of 1997, it is also estimated that about 2.3 million

commercial and domestic refrigerators containing CFCs are in use throughout the country. A developing country like Bangladesh can hardly afford to discard such a large number of refrigerators. To prevent leakage of CFCs to the atmosphere, a project on recovery and recycling of Refrigerant undertaken by the Government under MLF assistance. Recycling will reduce demand for new production/import and meet the domestic need.

The Government is now at the stage of examining the existing laws to determine the nature of legislation and regulation required to phase-out ODSs in Bangladesh. In the interim period, till such legislation is in place, existing laws are being used to prohibit any new industry from being set up using ODS as raw materials. The Government also considers imposing ban on import of the



President
People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

I am glad to learn that the International Ozone Day is being observed in Bangladesh as part of a global programme.

The impact of depletion of Ozone Layer is more or less spread over in all the countries of the world depending upon their location. Bangladesh falls within the impact zone of the Ozone Layer depletion. Protection of the Ozone Layer is of utmost necessity in ensuring the existence of plants and animals in the world. Bangladesh has been a signatory to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and has been working toward its effective implementation.

I wish every success to the International Ozone Day.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed
President
People's Republic of Bangladesh



State Minister
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

Ozone is a vital issue of a grave significance. It is inextricably linked with the existence of life and continuance of the Planet Earth. The depletion of Ozone layer around the Earth and gradual warming of weather may prove critical for the beautiful gift and miracle that we have and what is called "life". In this vast universe, so far life is noticed only in our globe and we must ensure that it survives and continues.

In the recent weeks, we have seen in the newspapers that a wide lake has opened up in the North Pole and such opening is a first instance in 50 million years. It was also reported that the temperature rose to 4th centigrade in Alaska and Siberia. Today Sea-ice is 40% thinner and covers 6% less area than in 1980. In the layer of Ozone, a big hole is noticed almost equal to the size of the United States.

We know, there is a strong correlation between the increase in temperature and the amount of green house gases present in the atmosphere and our activities greatly increase the amount of the green house gases. Carbon Dioxide, Chlorofluorocarbons, Methane, and Nitrous Oxide-all together contribute to global warming & Ozone depletion. The Ozone, which is surrounding the earth in its upper atmosphere as the protective shield about 12-25 kilometers from the earth's surface is constantly hampered & dented by the green house gases.

It may be mentioned here that only one meter rise in the sea level which is likely within the next 100 years will inundate quarter of Bangladesh driving quarter of population homeless and without agricultural lands.

What is vitally important and particularly focused is that lot of the abuse done to the nature is self-inflicted by us and due to human activities and still we can rise to the task. We have over-loaded the atmosphere with Carbon Dioxide, Chlorofluorocarbon and green-house gases.

Today the peril that we are facing is indeed alarming and that may consume us all before we can even predict. Despite the great danger that Ozone depletion & environmental factors are posing, the resources that are allocated to combat the crisis are conspicuously inadequate and that looks indeed small compared to trillions spent during the cold war days.

In the 21st century, the greatest challenge facing us is evolving an intelligent and far-sighted management of the earth and its resources and strike a balance between human consumption and human development. This is the question of sustenance of the earth, its life-support systems and functions. We talk of human rights. The earth's right to exist is only a natural extension of human rights. While combating environment degradation and a war to save the world and the life, we globally must not miscalculate and subject ourselves to narrow interests.

Thank you
Joi Bangla

H.N. Ashequr Rahman
State Minister
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Save Our Sky: Protect

ODS-containing appliances and introducing licensing system on ODS import. Thus, Bangladesh is expected to remain in full compliance of the Montreal Protocol.

Country Programme Update and Equipment for Identifying ODSs: The Country Programme for Phasing-out of ODS in Bangladesh was prepared in 1994. Since then significant changes have taken

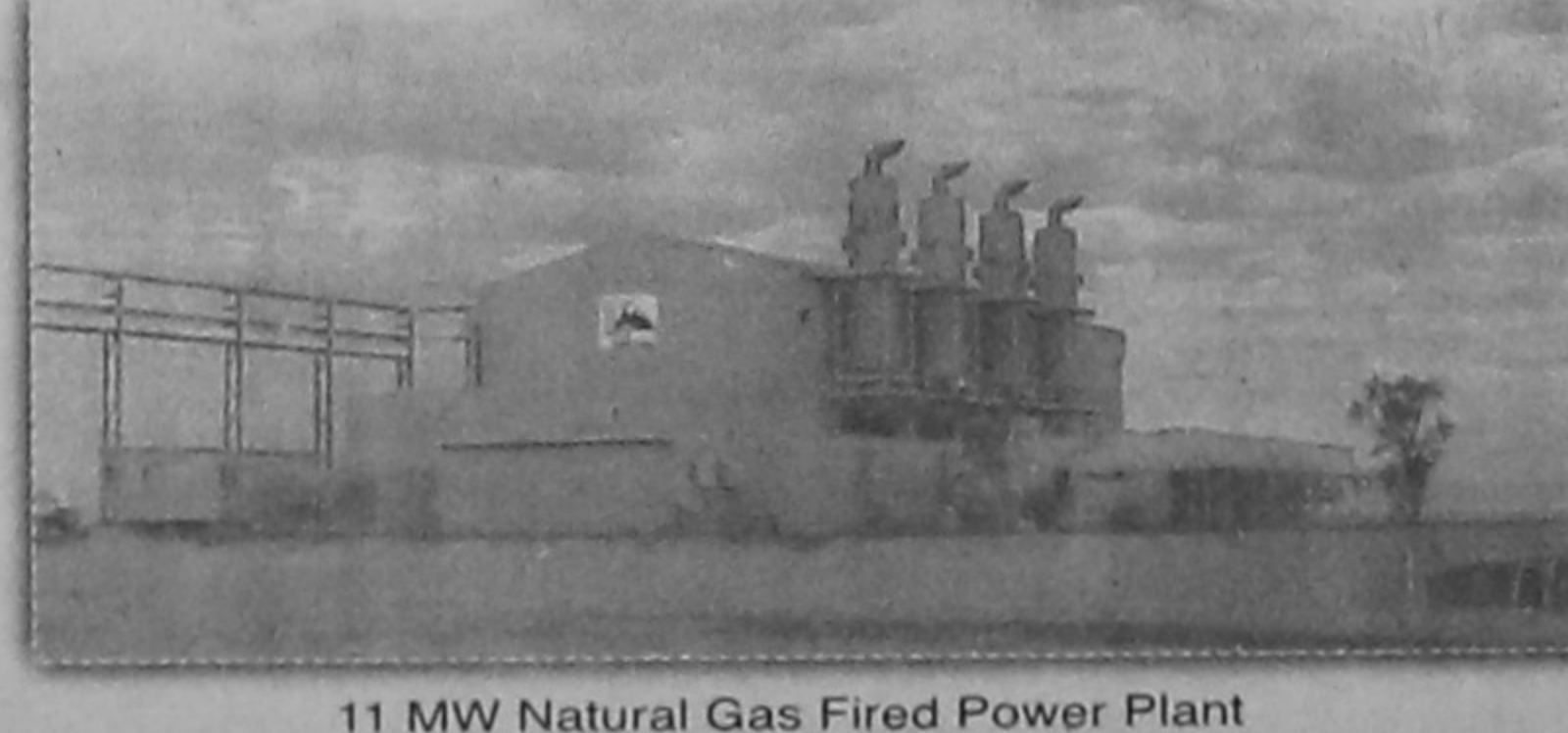
place in the global framework regulating ODS use as well as in the national scenario in Bangladesh. So it is necessary to update Country Programme urgently.

Monitoring System on ODS import needs to be strengthened to control ODS import. Equipment for identifying ODS will be required for proper monitoring on ODS.

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