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GLOBAL

1- Saltier Arctic Sea Ice Linked to Ozone Depletion, Pollution: NASA

"The change in sea ice composition also has impacts on the environment"

The rising of the sun in the high latitudes of the Arctic unleashes "explosions" of the chemical bromine which can lead to ozone depletion and the release of toxic mercury into the environment, say NASA scientists. (FILE PHOTO)

It's not just that older, thicker sea ice is disappearing in the Arctic Ocean — its sea ice also getting saltier. And NASA scientists say the increase in the saltiness of sea ice is having an impact in the atmosphere. Scientists can best see this impact as the sun returns to the high latitudes in March.

Then, the presence of younger, saltier ice in the Arctic Ocean appears to intensify the release of bromine, a chemical element, into the atmosphere.

That release can lead to the depletion of the Earth's protective layer of ozone and to the deposit of toxic mercury in the Arctic, according to a new NASA-led study.

The connection between changes in the Arctic Ocean's ice cover and chemical processes is due to the interaction between the salt in the sea ice, cold temperatures and sunlight, the study says.

Here's how it works: when the sun rises above the High Arctic horizon in March, the salty ice releases bromine into the air. This release starts a cascade of chemical reactions called a "bromine explosion."

Bromine then reacts with a gaseous form of mercury, turning it into a toxic pollutant that falls to Earth's surface — in the Arctic.

Bromine also can remove ozone from the lowest layer of the atmosphere.

A team from the United States, Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom, led by Son Nghiem of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., produced the study, which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Geophysical Research- Atmospheres*.

Its members combined data from six NASA, European Space Agency and Canadian Space Agency satellites, field observations and a model of how air moves in the atmosphere to link Arctic sea ice changes to bromine explosions over the Beaufort Sea to the Amundsen Gulf.

"Shrinking summer sea ice has drawn much attention to exploiting Arctic resources and improving maritime trading routes," Nghiem said in a NASA release. "But the change in sea ice composition also has impacts on the environment. Changing conditions in the Arctic might increase bromine explosions in the future."

The study was undertaken to better understand the nature of bromine explosions, which first were observed in the Canada's Arctic more than 30 years ago.

Nghiem's team used mountain ranges in Alaska and Canada as a "ruler" to measure the altitude at which the explosions took place.
In the spring of 2008, satellites detected increased concentrations of bromine, which were associated with a decrease of gaseous mercury and ozone.
After the researchers verified the satellite observations with field measurements, they used a model to study how the wind transported the bromine plumes across the Arctic.
Their model, tracing air rising from the salty ice, tied the bromine releases to recent changes in Arctic sea ice that have led to a much saltier sea ice surface.
The sea ice surface is saltier because younger ice is much saltier than its older counterpart. This ice contains more "frost flowers "—clumps of ice crystals up to four times saltier than ocean waters—providing more salt to fuel bromine releases.
Nghiem said if Arctic sea ice continues to be dominated by younger saltier ice, and Arctic extreme cold spells occur more often, bromine explosions are likely to increase in the future.
Nghiem is back in the Arctic this month to investigate bromine explosions and their impacts, as part of NASA's Bromine, Ozone, and Mercury Experiment.
SOURCE: Nunatsiaq News, 2 March 2012, **http://bit.ly/xpO8o7**

2- Green Gases to Flood the Environment in The Near Future

It has been recently revealed in a report that there might be a serious rise witnessed in the emission of the greenhouse gases in the time to come. These findings were revealed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. If the rates of pollution continue at the same pace, there might be dire consequences faced by the people in the time to come. The world is going to be flooded with more emissions and this shall definitely tend to have a negative impact on the surroundings. The depletion of the ozone layer has always been a problem for the world, and in the time to come, the problem is only set to worsen.
"Unless the global energy mix changes, fossil fuels will supply about 85 percent of energy demand in 2050, implying a 50 percent increase in greenhouse gas emissions and worsening urban air pollution", said the firm, based in Paris They were further of the view that the situations might seem to worsen the most till the year 2050, and this would tend to case a lot of destruction of the natural make up of the world, and spoil things for humanity.
The resources are depleting quickly and it's a matter of time before man is going to have to make very tough decisions about his e3xistence in the near future.
It remains to be seen how the world government will take notice of the situation and whether r not they shall help the scenario from worsening further. If the estimates are to be believed, there is going to be real trouble faced by the people in the time to come, and this something that needs to be fough6t while there is still something that can be done.

SOURCE: French Tribune, 16 March 2012, Submitted by Anatole Kassovitz**,** **http://bit.ly/HpgLgn**

3- CFC Ban Successful - Healing Ozone Layer Lowers UV Exposure, Report Finds

A new scientific study has confirmed that the healing of the ozone layer is also reducing people's exposure to harmful UV rays from the sun. It will still take years before the ozone layer recovers entirely, but the string of positive news continues.

For decades, the threat continued to grow: The protective ozone layer 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) above the planet was thinning, opening a path for exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Even though experts are not in agreement today on the extent of the problem, it is certain that the radiation increased the risk of skin cancer.
The sustained damage to the ozone layer had been caused by aerosol spray cans and refrigerators emitting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). In 1987, the United Nations responded, banning the manufacture and use of CFCs and other substances under the Montreal Protocol. Since then, the hole in the ozone layer has been shrinking.
In autumn 2010, scientists reported the first success, saying the ozone layer had begun to heal. Now a new study shows for the first time that the healing of the ozone layer is also actually improving the health situation for people. Carcinogenic UV rays on the ground have also been diminishing in recent years, researchers led by Christos Zerefos at the Research Centers for Atmospheric Physics and Climatology at the Academy of Athens in Greece conclude in their **study**, published by the scientific publication *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*.
"The results are encouraging," said Markus Rex, a respected ozone expert at Germany's Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Potsdam. The fact that the ozone layer in the regions researched has become thicker is a result of the successful Montreal Protocol, he added.

Cleaner Air Means Greater UV Exposure

The study findings are based on data collected between 1990 and 2011 at 12 measuring stations located in Europe, Canada and Japan. The stations measured the intensity of solar rays in numerous wavelengths and at a number of altitudes. Zerefos said it was good news that fewer dangerous UV rays were now beaming down on heavily populated areas, adding that the data also applied to regions where the measuring stations are not located.
The scientists have concluded that the ozone already began healing slightly in 1995. Ironically, during the

same period, the fact that more stringent environmental protection measures were implemented in many countries led to cleaner air, thus opening the way for people to be exposed to greater amounts of dangerous UV rays.
But since 2007, that effect of cleaner air and greater exposure to UV rays has been surpassed by a healing ozone layer, Zerefos and his colleagues concluded. They believe 2007 marked a turning point for the protective layer in the atmosphere. Compared to that year, today there is between two and four percent less UV B exposure on the ground. UV B rays can penetrate deeply into the skin and, in high doses, are considered particularly dangerous.

Threat of Exposure Persists

But even if the danger has been reduced, the all-clear signal hasn't been given yet. Ozone expert Rex warns that dangerous exposure is still possible in Europe and in the northern parts of Asia and North America, particularly during the spring. In recent years, the unusually strong cooling of higher levels of the atmosphere has in several instances led to an extreme, but temporary loss of ozone in the higher latitudes. And in 2011, the areas where the ozone layer had disappeared lurked several times over Europe.
In 2011, scientists spoke for the first time of an ozone hole in the north that was five-times the size of Germany. Until then, ozone depletion had been primarily isolated to the South Pole. It's colder above the snowy wasteland of the Antarctic, and at minus 78 degrees Celsius (-108 degrees Fahrenheit), the ozone begins to recede. Below this threshold the CFC destruction begins, accelerated by the springtime sun.
Researchers are baffled as to why the upper atmospheric layers are now also cooling off so quickly in the north too. It seems certain that exhaust from cars and factories have contributed to the temperature drop: Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, which warm air near the earth's surface, actually cause cooling in upper layers of the atmosphere. Still, this "inverse greenhouse effect" explains only part of the cool down.
Only when all of the CFCs have disappeared from the air will the destruction stop -- but that will still take decades, according to the World Meteorological Organization.
SOURCE: SPIEGEL ONLINE, 16 March 2012, By Axel Bojanowski, **http://bit.ly/wLsVy6**

4- Japan Shares Space Station SMILES Via Atmospheric Data Distribution

Did you panic when you heard in recent news that two massive solar flares from the Sun were hitting Earth's atmosphere? The coronal mass ejections, or CMEs, typically produced by solar flares might pose a danger, if not for Earth's protective atmosphere and magnetosphere. Using International Space Station research and technology, scientists continue to learn more about the atmosphere, adding important new data to the collective understanding of this important defensive veil.
Atmospheric gasses, held in place by gravity, surround our planet and keep us safe from extreme temperatures, ultraviolet radiation, and the vacuum of space. Meanwhile, the magnetic fields generated by and surrounding Earth -- the magnetosphere -- help to shield us from the ever-present, solar wind-increased radiation events resulting from CMEs.
The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, developed a high-precision technology that resides outside the station, mounted on the Japanese Experiment Module-Exposed Facility, or JEM-EF, as part of an investigation to study the chemical makeup of Earth's middle atmosphere. Known as the Superconducting Submillimeter-Wave Limb-Emission Sounder, or SMILES (**http://smiles.tksc.jaxa.jp/**), this hardware uses a superconducting detector cooled down to 4 Kelvins (-269 degrees Celsius) and is the first of its kind in space
A cooperation between JAXA and the Japanese National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, or NICT, made the development of SMILES possible. Their combined objective was to use this space station technology to demonstrate highly sensitive submillimeter-wave "the ozone layer."
The ozone layer helps to protect life on Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation, and is destroyed by trace atmospheric constituents such as chlorine and bromine that can be produced from human-made refrigerants, solvents, and other compounds. The data collected by SMILES improves our understanding of how these trace atmospheric constituents impact the ozone layer.
A select set of research groups received observation data from SMILES, unique for its high sensitivity detection of atmospheric chemistry. The use of this data can help scientists find answers to questions of climate change, including ozone and global warming research. While SMILES is no longer collecting data, the hardware continues to run as a technology test on orbit.
A recent press release from JAXA announced that the confirmed high-precision data from this study, compiled during a 6 month period ending in April 2010, is now available for release to the public. The SMILES data includes 11 types of atmospheric minor elements, such as chlorine compounds and ozone. This knowledge helps to expand scientific understanding of the atmosphere's chemical makeup, specifically in the stratosphere and lower mesosphere.
SOURCE: ScienceDaily, 20 March 2012, **http://bit.ly/GCbMb6**

AFRICA

5- Froid industriel une nouvelle réglementation dès janvier 2013

Du réfrigérateur d'un ménage aux plus grandes unités industrielles, le HCFC circule partout. Ce sigle

«barbare» est celui d'un gaz frigorifique à effet de serre avéré. Le HCFC n'est pas par conséquent épargné par le droit international de l'environnement.
A partir de janvier 2013, les quotas d'importation vont certainement se réduire. Car il va falloir se préparer à une première échéance. L'objectif d'une élimination progressive commence par une réduction de 10% du HCFC en 2015. Fournisseurs de climatisation professionnelle ou résidentielle, de froid industriel et de ventilation devront s'y mettre.
Est-ce qu'on sera dans les temps? Tout en faisant valoir son statut de précurseur, Ventec Maroc rappel le précédent des gaz R11 et R12: «Bien avant l'interdiction à l'importation émise par le ministère de l'Industrie et du commerce, nous avons opté à l'époque pour le gaz frigorifique R 407 C», déclare son directeur de développement marketing et communication, Saad Eddine Tazi.
Ayant ratifié le protocole de Montréal et la convention de Vienne en décembre 1995, le Maroc se doit donc de suivre la vague écologique. D'autant plus que Rabat a adhéré aussi au protocole de Kyoto en 2002. Le tout pour faire en sorte de maîtriser le taux d'émission à effet de serre. Deux types de gaz sont déjà passés à la trappe: le R11 et le R12. «Plus question d'en importer sur notre territoire. Seule exception, les quantités de service utilisées par exemple dans les appareils médicaux des hôpitaux publics. Il faut de plus une licence d'importation…», précise Redouane Alioua, président de l'Association marocaine des professionnels du froid.
Considéré moins polluant par les experts, le R22, qui a remplacé les gaz de première génération, «n'est pas interdit». Mais il est soumis à son tour à une licence d'importation. Comment se passe la procédure? «Il faut d'abord avoir l'avis du ministère de l'Industrie, du commerce et des nouvelles technologies. La réponse est généralement émise en 48h suite à une saisine faite par le Commerce extérieur. Ce dernier demeure l'interlocuteur direct des importateurs», explique un ex-responsable au sein de la division des industries chimiques et pharmaceutiques. Celle-ci relève du ministère de l'Industrie qui dispose d'une liste de produits. L'accord dépend donc de leur nature et de leur statut d'importation.
Quant à l'élimination progressive du R 22, «tout le monde en parle, mais personne n'a de réponse. Celle-ci devrait venir du département de tutelle», estime Ventec Maroc. Autant dire que les importateurs attendent que le ministère de l'Industrie prenne les devants en transposant les engagements internationaux en arrêtés. Ce qui se traduirait par une baisse des produits faisant usage de ce type de gaz. L'éventuelle absence d'une réglementation spécifique serait un obstacle pour aller plus vite. Car, en termes de progressivité, l'Union européenne a des antécédents réglementaires. «La réglementation thermique 2012 prolonge celle de 2005. Plus connue par RT, elle couvre la consommation énergétiques, répertorie les produits (classe A, B ou C)…», précise la direction marketing de Ventec Maroc. Il y a donc un enjeu énergétique pour nos 32 millions de consommateurs: qualité, prix et… facture énergétique. C'est aussi un cas pratique pour la convergence réglementaire avec l'UE. A cet égard, Rabat a eu droit à 2 milliards de DH fin février dernier au titre de son Statut avancé décroché en 2008.
Dans le cas d'espèce, l'adoption de la voie européenne finirait par barrer la route au made in China en particulier. Surtout pour la climatisation résidentielle: de 180.000 à 220.000 unités selon des professionnels.
Le Maroc figure dans la liste des nations visant à éliminer définitivement le HCFC (gaz frigorifique) en 2040. Date fixée aux pays en voie de développement par le protocole de Copenhague. Celui-ci accorde par ailleurs dix ans de moins aux pays industrialisés pour abandonner un gaz jugé «nocif» pour la couche d'ozone.
Le Maroc s'était doté d'une loi relative à la lutte contre la pollution de l'air. Sur ce point, il faut dire que dès mai 2003, la législation nationale en matière d'environnement a été étoffée: protection et mise en valeur de l'environnement, études d'impact sur l'environnement… Une législation plus ou moins momifiée lorsqu'on constate l'application qui en est faite. Un seul exemple suffit: les pots d'échappement qui asphyxient nos villes.
SOURCE : L'Economiste, Maroc, Édition N° 3733 du 2012/03/05, **http://bit.ly/H3EGU5**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

6- Regional Efforts to Eliminate Ozone Depleting Substances

Ozone officers from the English-speaking Caribbean and Haiti are meeting in Dominica over the next three days to further strategise in the regional effort to eliminate Ozone depleting substances.
Addressing that meeting on Tuesday, Dominica's Minister for the Environment Kenneth Darroux said while his country does not produce such substances, it still has an important role to play in helping preserve the Ozone layer.
He said that approach was important because "we small island developing states are particularly vulnerable to the detrimental effects of ozone depletion", and the many health and other problems associated with this.
Dr Darroux later told Dominica News Online that Dominica has been successful in phasing out chlorofluoro carbons – CFCs, and was also tackling hydro-fluoro carbons (HFCs).
"We don't produce them, we don't manufacture them but we use them in refrigerating … we don't import refrigeration and air condition units which use CFCs," the minister said.

Dr Darroux said there were “fridges” in households which use hydrofluoro carbons, but that the government was trying to phase these out as well.
He says a key strategy focuses on the customs area.
“We’ve worked with the customs, the police, and everybody else to ensure that when those units come in they are properly inspected to make sure that they meet the necessary compliance,” he said.
The Dominica-convened meeting of Ozone officers has the support of several agencies and organisations including the Ozone Secretariat, the Multilateral Fund and the United Nations Environmental Programme – UNEP.
SOURCE : Dominica News, 27 March 2012, **http://bit.ly/H6D44M**

7- Reuniones de conceso para establecer los mecanismos de registro y control de los HCFC

La Unidad Nacional de Ozono (UNO) del Ministerio de Salud (MINSA), como responsable de la ejecución de actividades para la eliminación de las SAO en Panamá, ha iniciado su Plan de Gestión para la Eliminación de HCFC (HPMP), me-diante la distribución de las cuotas la importación de los HCFC y la aplicación de controles a los equipos que utilizan estas sustancias.
En los meses de enero y febrero 2012 se han realizado va-rias reuniones de trabajo, tanto con los importadores de ga-ses refrigerantes, como con los de equipos de climatización y refrigeración. Esto con el propósito de discutir y consensuar el calendario de reducción anual de los HCFC, la distribución de las cuotas de importación de gases HCFC y el registro de las importaciones de equipos.

Tal como lo indica el Protocolo de Montreal, en el año 2013 se hará el congelamiento de la línea base (a 24.77 TON PAO) y luego en el 2015, la primera reducción del 10%. A partir del año 2017, sin embargo, se aplicarán reducciones de consumo anual del 5% hasta completar la meta en el año 2030.
Para la distribución de cuotas de consumo se acordó que todas las empresas que aportaron al establecimiento de la línea base 2009-2010 serán consideradas “EMPRESAS TRADICIONALES” y les corresponderá el 88% de la cuota. Las empresas que no aportaron a la línea base o que se inscribieron después del año 2010 pasarán a conformar el grupo de “EMPRESAS NO-TRADICIONALES” con una cuo-ta de consumo del 12%.
Por otra parte, para el control de las importaciones de equi-pos que contienen SAO se establecerá un sistema de pre-autorización en aduanas (o “impide”), el cual permitirá que la UNO/MINSA mantenga un registro actualizado de las empresas y de las cantidades que se están importando.

En seguimiento a estas actividades, se programa en los próximos meses elaborar el borrador de la normativa que establecerá de manera oficial los compromisos y procedimientos y realizar el correspondiente proceso de discusión y consenso de todas las partes involucradas.
Contacto: Ing. Augusto Mendoza, Coordinador de la UNO/MINSA
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NORTH AMERICA

8- First-of-Its-Kind HFC-Free Grocery Refrigeration System Uses Glycol and CO2

Hill Phoenix, manufacturer of commercial refrigeration equipment, recently helped Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Markets to open a new GreenChill Platinum Award-winning store in Folsom, CA - a store that reduces refrigerant use by 98% and eliminates HFCs. GreenChill is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Partnership with food retailers aimed at reducing refrigerant emissions and decreasing their impact on the ozone layer and climate change.
While a typical supermarket in the United States uses about 3,500 pounds of refrigerant, the new store in Folsom uses just 70 pounds. This 98% reduction in refrigerant use helped it earn GreenChill's highest award.
"The Folsom store is a fantastic example of the innovation that can be accomplished when government works together with businesses in a voluntary partnership to protect the environment and save money at the same time," said Deborah Jordan, Director of EPA Region 9's Air Division. "We are proud to be involved in this very successful project."
The new store uses Hill Phoenix Second Nature medium temperature fixtures and walk-ins running on glycol, as well as low temperature fixtures and walk-ins running on C02. Glycol and C02 are environmentally friendly, natural alternatives to harmful HFC refrigerants.
Henry Pellerin, director, marketing programs for Hill Phoenix said the grocery effectively eliminated HFCs from the store's refrigeration system by using medium temperature glycol to condense the low temperature CO2--a function typically achieved using HFC refrigerant.

"The Folsom Fresh & Easy is the only store in the nation, to date, that uses this innovative type of system," Pellerin said.
The Hill Phoenix Second Nature Compact Chiller (SNCC) uses a unique heat exchanger technology that allows engineers to design a typical medium temperature supermarket system with the lowest refrigeration charge of any commercial refrigeration system on the market. The company said it enables retailers to achieve a sustainable zero leak rate. SNCC is comprised of multiple compact chiller modules. Each module is a standalone refrigeration system, factory-assembled and run-tested prior to delivery.
SOURCE : Appliance Magazine, 21 March 2012, **http://bit.ly/GPHN21**

9- Heavy-Duty Sea-Fire Systems Protect Crew and Tugs

To meet strict international codes, the marine transportation and logistics services company Signet Maritime Corporation recently installed Sea-Fire suppression and detection systems on three new tugs.
Two of the vessels are 100' x 40' RAstar 3100 Class Terminal Support/Escort tugs. Built by Trinity Offshore, M/V Signet Stars & Stripes and M/V Signet Constellation were recently christened in Gulfport, Mississippi. The third, M/V Signet Weatherly, is a 108' x 40' 4" RAmparts 3200 ASD tug, built by Signet Shipbuilding, and was delivered March 10, 2012.
Each tug is protected by a custom-engineered, automatic Sea-Fire FM-200 fire suppression system and FireStop Detection system. An EPA-approved alternative to halon, FM-200 is safe for people and equipment. It reaches extinguishing levels in 10 seconds or less to stop combustible, electrical and flammable liquid fires. The system's fast response time adds an extra margin of safety and can result in lower repair costs.
The Sea-Fire FireStop Integrated Marine Fire Detection System monitors cylinder pressure, heat and smoke. Fire events are quickly identified via an LED light and alarm on the Zone Identification Panel. Designed as a modular system, it can be expanded to provide maximum protection for a range of applications.
"Sea-Fire's detection system is less complicated than others," said Joe Dahl, Signet Shipbuilding & Repair General Manager, "and the Extinguisher Release Panel of the extinguishing system appealed to us. When we encountered design issues, Sea-Fire was very helpful. It's a good, competitively priced system."
M/V Signet Stars & Stripes and M/V Signet Constellation are technologically-advanced tugs, specifically designed and engineered for superior ship-handling, escort and sea-keeping performance. They will provide marine services to Angola LNG Supply Services (ALSS) in the Port of Pascagoula, Mississippi.
M/V Signet Weatherly is designed for intricate rig work and ocean towing. She will be employed in Signet's expanding U.S. Gulf and overseas ship-assist and ocean-rig transport businesses. The tug has been built and classed to ABS Maltese Cross, AMS, Ocean Towing Service standards.
SOURCE: Marine Link, 22 March 2012, **http://bit.ly/GXL3nd**

SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

10- Making our Borders Safe: Asia-Pacific Region Readies Itself to Prevent a New Challenge of Illegal Trade in Ozone-Depleting Chemicals

Bangkok, 15 March 2012 – Today, Customs and enforcement experts in the Asia-Pacific region completed a four-day workshop on monitoring and control of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). The region has suffered from significant smuggling of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the past and with the imminent approach of trade control measures for the second major group of ODS - Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)- actions are needed now to prevent illegal trade growing out of control.
"As we have learned from countries' experience with the CFC phase-out, the forthcoming reduction in the supply of HCFCs is likely to lead to illegal trade in these chemicals. Hence, training for enforcement officers in the Asia-Pacific region on detection and prevention of illegal trade in ODS in coordination with the relevant national authorities for ODS control is necessary and timely," said Mr. Atul Bagai, Senior Regional Coordinator of the OzonAction Branch, UNEP-ROAP.
The Asia-Pacific region is currently the world's largest producer and consumer of HCFCs – chemicals used mainly in the refrigeration industry and the foam sector.
"In compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, countries are now faced with the challenge of phasing out HCFCs. Developing countries are required to freeze consumption of these chemicals by 1 January 2013 and ensure a 10% reduction in consumption by 1 January 2015. Since consumption is largely dependent on the international trade of these chemicals, we are now seeing that enforcement officers, particularly Customs and border control officers, have a huge role to play in the nations' efforts to phase-out HCFCs and protect the ozone layer" continued Mr Bagai.
This train the trainer workshop was organised by the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) of the OzonAction Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP). UNEP, being one of the implementing agencies of the Montreal Protocol, assists developing countries in their capacity-building efforts to comply with their commitment under the Protocol to phase out ODS.
Through a combination of lectures, discussions, field visit and hands-on exercises, the workshop provided

participants with the skills necessary to monitor and control the imports and exports of HCFCs as well as products and equipment relying on ODS. This further initiated the creation of a regional pool of trainers for ODS monitoring and control, with the aim of extending this expertise and experience to national-level train-the-trainer workshops.
“In addition to skills development on monitoring and control of ODS, this training also intended to developed a national scheme for long-term and self-sustaining training to maintain a high proportion of trained personnel within the enforcement workforce during the entire period of the HCFC phase-out. Additionally by bringing together these enforcement officers, we have started to establish a network of ODS focal points within the enforcement agencies in the countries that are well linked with the national authority for ODS control” stated Ms. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, Policy and Enforcement Officer of the OzonAction Branch, UNEP-ROAP.
Workshop participants from eight Asia-Pacific countries were joined by representatives from Regional Training Centres (RTCs), Interpol and the World Customs Organization (WCO) and other experts in ODS control.
Read more > http://bit.ly/GCReOH | See Related Photos: **http://on.fb.me/HsfFOz**

11- Remembering O_3ur Future: Bangladesh Marks the Successful Phase Out of CFCs in Asthma Medicines and Adoption of Ozone-friendly Inhalers

Dhaka, 15 March 2012 - *“Once upon a time, there was a system in this plant on this site that used a gas called Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) to manufacture Metered Dose Inhalers (MDI). For the benefit of future generations, this production facility stopped using CFCs.”*
These are the first lines in the *Plaque for the Successful Phase out of CFCs in the Manufacture of MDIs* in Bangladesh that was unveiled today in the symbolic ceremony that permanently closed down the CFC-based MDI manufacture of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited, the largest manufacturer of pressurized metered-dose inhalers (pMDIs) in the country.

The plaque, indicating complete phase-out of CFCs by Beximco, was unveiled by Prof. A.F.M. Ruhal Haque, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Government of Bangladesh. He lauded the efforts of Beximco and said, *"This is a unique achievement by a company in a LDC. This will not only help efforts of sustainable development of Bangladesh, but will also ensure competitiveness of the industry in international markets."* Mr. Nazmul Hassan, MP and Managing Director of Beximco, was also present.

“The year 2012 marks the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and the closure of CFC MDI manufacturing line in Bangladesh marks a significant milestone not only for the Montreal Protocol but also for the cooperation between the Government of Bangladesh, the pharmaceutical industry and the Bangladesh Lung Foundation in their joint efforts with the international community to protect the ozone layer,” said Mr. Atul Bagai, Senior Regional Coordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP).

The event was organized by Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd., in partnership with local organizations like the Department of Environment and the Bangladesh Lung Foundation, back to back with the annual meeting of the Montreal Protocol’s Medical Technical Options Committee (MTOC) from 14 to 16 March 2012 in Dhaka, and was attended by members of the committee, the Technical and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP), international organizations, and various government and non-government organizations.
Interacting with the MTOC members, Mr. Monowar Islam, the Additional Secretary and Director General, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh said,*“The successful completion of the project has been extremely timely and gives the government confidence to take up more challenging tasks. The support received from the international community has been invaluable to the government as well as the industry.”*

Globally it has taken more than 20 years of research and expenditure of about US$ 2 billion to develop the CFC-free MDIs. To accelerate this switch to CFC-free inhalers, UNEP, National Ozone Units, TEAP, and MTOC, through their combined effort and various national collaborations have developed support material and resources as measures to assist developing countries like Bangladesh to achieve a seamless and cost-effective transition to CFC-free MDIs.

In March 2008, 21 countries from South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific together with the CFC-based MDI manufacturing industry agreed on the Langkawi Declaration on Public-Private Partnership on Phasing-out CFC MDIs. According to Mr. Bagai, *“The declaration was the first of its kind which we believe strengthened industry-government cooperation in the smooth transition to CFC-free MDIs here in Bangladesh and the whole Asia-Pacific.”*

Dr. Helen K Tope, Principal Consultant, Energy International Australia and Co-Chair of MTOC commended the efforts of Bangladesh. She stated that *“the success of MDI conversion strategy is a historic step in*

operationalising environmental governance in Bangladesh. It demonstrates the strong commitment of the government as well as industry to come together on challenging environmental issues. The Bangladesh case is a success story for many developing countries to emulate."
Mr. Rabbur Reza, Chief Operating Officer of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and MTOC member said, *"The Multilateral Fund has enabled Bangladesh to contribute to global efforts in protecting the ozone layer without compromising on sustainable development."* He added, *"Extensive clinical trials have shown that the new CFC-free inhalers are equally safe and as effective as the old CFC-containing versions but with the added benefit of being environmentally friendly and not causing any damage to the ozone layer."*
Already many countries such as Australia and most countries in the European Union have successfully withdrawn CFC-containing inhalers from the market and exclusively use ozone friendly inhalers -the CFC-free or dry powder inhalers.

UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme's Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bangladesh's Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest and Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd also jointly organized a symposium "Goal Zero", which discussed and highlighted the successful transition of Bangladesh to CFC-free inhalers. It was attended by over 250 leading doctors and foreign delegates involved in asthma and COPD care.
Read more > http://bit.ly/H6EikD

12- Cool Habits: Regional Experts' Deliberation on Good Refrigeration Practices

Bangkok, 12 March 2012 – Refrigeration experts from 17 countries in Asia and the Pacific convened today in Bangkok City, Thailand, to kick off a four-day workshop on Harmonization of Training Material and Methodologies for Good Practices in the Refrigeration Servicing Sector organized by the Compliance Assistance Programme of the OzonAction Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP).
The workshop aims to harmonize the training materials for imparting training for the refrigeration sector in light of the new challenges brought about by the forthcoming gradual phase-out of HCFCs under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Additionally, an outcome expected from the workshop is the creation of a pool of Master Trainers at regional level who can further train technicians in their own countries, and possibly in other countries, as well.
"HCFC phase-out presents new challenges in the refrigeration sector such as minimizing the impact to the environment under Decision XIX/6 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, and issues related to the safety of alternatives and alternative technologies to HCFCs," said Mr. Atul Bagai, Senior Regional Coordinator of UNEP ROAP.
The training slides being developed are based on UNEP's Training Manual for Service Technicians, GIZ's Good servicing practices in refrigeration and other training materials being developed by UNEP. The workshop will deliberate on the contents of the training module and prepare model training templates for expert trainers which could be used, with necessary changes, to deliver similar training at country level. The invited expert participants can be utilized further by their respective National Ozone Units (NOUs) in delivering "Train the Trainer" workshops or technicians' training workshops under their approved HCFC Phase-out Management Plans (HPMPs).
Workshop participants came from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.
Read more > http://bit.ly/H3kwVZ | See related Photos > http://on.fb.me/GZKR6f

13- Beximco Pharma Marks Successful Phase Out of CFCs in Medical Inhalers

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, the largest manufacturer of pressurized metered-dose inhalers (pMDIs) in Bangladesh, has formally shut down its chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) based MDI plant.
A commemorative plaque unveiling ceremony was held at the factory premises of the company to mark this successful transition. Prof. Dr. A.F.M. Ruhal Haque, Minister for Health and Welfare, was present as the Chief Guest on this occasion who later inaugurated Beximco Pharma's state-of-the-art new MDI plant at Tongi
Nazmul Hassan MP, Managing Director of Beximco Pharmaceuticals. Major General Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Director General of Directorate of drug administration and other high official of the representatives from UNDP, UNEP, and Dept of Environment were also present on this commemorative event. Beximco Pharma is the first company in Bangladesh to manufacture MDIs in 1996 using CFCs. However, CFC gases destroy the earth's protective ozone layer, and their usage is controlled under the Montreal Protocol, an international treaty on substances that deplete the ozone layer. In line withBangladesh Govt's commitment under this treaty, Beximco Pharma proactively converted this facility to produce CFC free inhalers in the year 2011. This was made possible with Beximco Pharma's own technical skills taking financial support from the Multilateral Fund and technical assistance from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
The year 2012 marks the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and the closure of a CFC based MDI plant in Bangladesh marks a significant milestone not only for the Montreal Protocol but also for the cooperation between the Government of Bangladesh and the pharma industry in their joint efforts with the international community to protect our environment. Globally it has taken more than 20 years of research and expenditure of about US$2 billion to develop the CFC-free metered dose inhalers.

Mr. Rabbur Reza, Chief Operating Officer of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and also a member of Montreal Protocol Medical Technical Options Committee (MTOC) said "Beximco Pharma, from its commitment to preserving the environment, has proactively switched from CFC based formulations to ozone benign HFA formulations for its range of medical inhalers. We are proud to be among the first few companies globally who made such transition away from using CFC gases in medical inhalers". "Extensive clinical trials have shown that the new CFC-free inhalers are equally safe and as effective as the old CFC based products but with the added benefit of being environment-friendly and not causing any damage to the ozone layer," stated Mr. Reza.
SOURCE: The Financial Express, 18 March 2012, **http://bit.ly/GZKNDt**

14- Reefer Industry Gets to Grips with Contaminated Refrigerant

VIETNAM is said to have imposed strict controls over the supply of R134a following the contaminated refrigerant scare which caused a number of explosions and three deaths in the refrigerated container industry last year. It is now known that a total of 1,181 units were serviced in Vietnam in 2011 in terminals identified as using contaminated refrigerant. All these units have been isolated and are being tested.
Two units showing chloride contamination which had no connection to Vietnam have recently found in New Zealand and some contaminated boxes in the USA were found to contain R12/R22 with no trace of methyl chloride.
This latest information was revealed at the recent Forum on Contaminated Refrigeration Systems, in Singapore. Organised by the Container Owners Association, the forum focused on the challenges to the container industry caused by the contamination of container refrigeration machinery with counterfeit refrigerant gases. Those involved in the forum included representatives from 19 shipping lines, nine leasing companies, 18 container depots together, five inspection companies, together with the four major reefer machinery manufacturers. Mark Bennett, senior vice-president, Triton Container emphasised the need for co-ordinated action across the industry as the best means of eliminating fake gas supply and identifying clean and contaminated reefer units.
Renze Elzinga of Carrier Transicold presented laboratory work being done by Carrier on the chemistry of methyl chloride (R40) contamination and concluded that it is unlikely for a repair to be economic following R40 contamination.
Mike Baldwin, president of North American depot network operator ConGlobal Industries, described the flame halide lamp test method for testing cylinders but an alternative methods using gas sniffer tubes was presented by HRS Rotterdam and RAE Benelux.
The RAE sampling kit can identify very low levels of chloride contamination, and it appears it can distinguish between contamination from R12/R22/R124 and that of R40/R142b by different colours. It can detect very low concentrations of contamination if required. There is no flame used and the test can be conducted in any environment except where there is a vacuum in the system.
SOURCE : ACR News, 1 March 2012, **http://bit.ly/H4RKpF**

See also other news from the region:

The World Television Awards 2012

The 2012 World TV Awards, organized by the AIBD (Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development) in collaboration with UNEP OzonAction Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), is now open to all broadcasters in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and the Pacific from public, private sector and freelance producers.
Deadline Extended Until 1 May 2012 **Read more >**

Beijing 2012 – 2nd Ozone2Climate Technology Roadshow and Industry Roundtable

11-13 April 2012, New China International Exhibition Center, Beijing, China
To strengthen the outputs of the well-received Roadshow and Industry Roundtable held in the Maldives last year, and to bring the latest greener technology information to the industry participating in the CRH 2012 (*China 2012 – 23rd International Exhibition for Refrigeration, Air-conditioning, Heating and Ventilation, Frozen Food Processing, Packaging and Storage*) event, UNEP and CRAA (China Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association) are jointly organizing the 2012 Ozone2Climate Technology Roadshow as part of CRH 2012. **Learn More >**

WEST ASIA

15- EmiratesGBC to Host Networking Event on Cooling Systems that Promote Sustainable Development

Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC), an independent forum aimed at conserving the environment by strengthening and promoting green building practices in the UAE, [hosted] a networking

event on March 21, 2012 to highlight the role that cooling systems have on the environment.
The independent forum, sponsored by Trane, a world leader in air conditioning systems, services and solutions, will be held at Meydan Hotel, The Ball Room, and will discuss the intricacies of cooling systems in existing buildings.
International guest speaker, Mike Thompson, Global Leader of Refrigerant Strategy at Ingersoll Rand, presented the important role of refrigerants in sustainability. Consulting engineers, architects, system operators and building owners are expected to take part in the session, which will offer a better understanding of the refrigerant technology, how it relates to system efficiency, its availability, lifecycle cost and maintenance.
Adnan Sharafi, EmiratesGBC Chairman, said: “HVAC system design is an important aspect in construction which also plays a key role in sustainability. As the most essential thermodynamic component of cooling systems, HVAC systems, using sustainable and efficient refrigeration plays an important role in delivering sustainable cooling. Emirates Green Building Council is focused on highlighting all aspects of building sustainability, and the session will provide valuable insights to all industry stakeholders.”
Several topics related to the Kyoto and Montreal Protocol; how climate change will impact the HVAC industry; understanding the complex inter-relationship between Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP) and Global Warming Potential (GWP); and intense pressure globally on high GWP refrigerants and its effect will be covered in the two-hour discussion.
EmiratesGBC is a thought leader in the industry that links stakeholder groups to interact and share best practices towards sustainable-built environment. In addition to networking events, the Council participates in major conferences and exhibitions, facilitates workshops focusing on important issues related to green building on and hosts a series of initiatives that promote industry dialogue.
EmiratesGBC is also inviting corporates and individuals, who are dedicated to sustainable solutions and practices. Members gain significant benefits that include taking part in networking events and comprehensive programmes led by industry leaders.
SOURCE: Emirates247News, 19 March 2012, **http://bit.ly/y7kcDo**

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

16- El M.Programa ECOinstaladores de Ecotic recoge 92.577 kilos de residuos electrónicos en Andalucía

El programa ECOinstaladores de Fundación Ecotic ha conseguido recoger en Andalucía un total de 92.577 kilogramos de residuos procedentes de aires acondicionados, que constituyen el 34 por ciento de los 273.502 kilogramos totales de este tipo de equipos que Ecotic ha gestionado en la Comunidad Autónoma durante 2011.
programa ECOinstaladores de Fundación Ecotic ha conseguido recoger en Andalucía un total de 92.577 kilogramos de residuos procedentes de aires acondicionados, que constituyen el 34 por ciento de los 273.502 kilogramos totales de este tipo de equipos que Ecotic ha gestionado en la Comunidad Autónoma durante 2011.
El programa, que tiene como objetivo dar un renovado impulso a la correcta gestión de estos residuos, acaba de entregar los **premios** de su primera edición a las **empresas** que han aportado las mayores cantidades, según una nota de la Fundación Ecotic.
En total han sido siete las empresas andaluzas galardonadas. Además del sello ECOinstalador concedido a todos los participantes que les acredita como instaladores responsables, las empresas ganadoras han sido premiadas con equipos profesionales de extracción de gases de gama alta como reconocimiento a su labor y compromiso.
En las diferentes categorías por tamaño de empresa, Inclisa S.L., Diecon Instalaciones 2009 S.L., Electro Frío Morales, Juan Carlos Aquino Caballero y Vazclima han sido las empresas premiadas entre las de menos de 15 trabajadores, mientras que Andaluza de Electricidad y Aire Acondicionado S.L. (Anelair) y Francisco Sarria, S.L. han obtenido los galardones en las categorías de 15 a 50 trabajadores y de 51 a 100 trabajadores respectivamente.
El programa ECOinstaladores, una iniciativa de Fundación Ecotic con el soporte de las principales asociaciones de instaladores de España, busca animar a los instaladores a sumar sus esfuerzos a la protección del **medio ambiente** realizando una desinstalación responsable, cumpliendo con los estándares de calidad y buenas prácticas establecidos.
Este tipo de residuos, por su especial idiosincrasia, necesita de procesos específicos de tratamiento para su adecuado reciclaje debido a la presencia en los equipos de sustancias potencialmente perjudiciales para el medio ambiente, como los aceites y los gases HFC y HCFC. Estos gases, si son liberados sin control en la atmósfera, contribuyen al agotamiento de la capa de ozono y al efecto invernadero.
SEGUNDA EDICIÓN DE ECOINSTALADORES
Tras el éxito de la primera edición del programa, Fundación Ecotic da continuidad a ECOinstaladores en una segunda edición, que se extenderá hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2012. Además, independientemente del programa, Ecotic pone su sistema integrado de gestión a disposición de los instaladores para el reciclaje de residuos de luminarias.

SOURCE: Europa Press, 14 March 2012, **http://bit.ly/Hppyvi**

See also other news from the region:

Annual ECA Network Meeting 2012, Biskek, Kyrgyzstan - State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, represented by National Ozone Center and UNEP's OzonAction Branch jointly organize the "Annual Meeting of the Regional Ozone Network for Europe & Central Asia" for Ozone Officers and representatives of refrigeration & air-conditioning (RAC sectors in the respective countries) …

Learn more > **http://on.fb.me/HsjupA**

FEATURED

Ozone Secretariat Highlights >>> http://ozone.unmfs.org/new_site/en/index.php

Report of the combined 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 23rd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

INTRODUCTION

1. The combined ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol was held at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Centre in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, from 21 to 25 November 2011. It consisted of a preparatory segment, held from 21 to 23 November, and a high-level segment, held on 24 and 25 November. The meeting was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 21 November 2011.

2. The present report reflects the deliberations under the items included on the single agenda used for the combined meeting; any references to the current meeting should be understood to denote the combined meeting of the two bodies.

The report is available from the Ozone Secretariat website in A | C | E | F | R | S

- **TEAP/TOCS Meetings – Dates and Venues for 2012** @ http://bit.ly/xIwkgj

Protecting our Atmosphere for Generations to Come

"… The year 2012 marks the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The theme for this year's celebration "Protecting our Atmosphere for Generations to Come" emphasizes the extraordinary collaboration and environmental benefits achieved by the world's governments through the operation of the Montreal Protocol.

The phase-out of controlled uses of ozone depleting substances and the related reductions have not only helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change; furthermore, it has protected human health and ecosystems by limiting the harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the earth…**"**

Quote from the letter of Mr. Marco Gonzalez, Executive Secretary, Ozone Secretariat, on the subject of the preparations for the upcoming International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, 16 September 2012.

Click here to read more > **http://bit.ly/xFoDMs**

The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol >>> http://www.multilateralfund.org

66th Meeting of the Executive Committee

The 66th meeting of the Executive Committee will take place in Montreal from 16 to 20 April 2012. Click the following link to read/download the agenda and other recently issued documents **>>** **http://bit.ly/yDOier**

Executive Committee Primer – 2012 - An introduction to the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

Click here to read/download > **http://bit.ly/HyCU7E**

Highlights from OzonAction >>> http://www.unep.org/ozonaction/

The UNEP OzonAction CAP is pleased to announce the release of two new publications related to “HS codes” and “HCFC quota systems” to assist Article 5 countries in their phase out of HCFCs:

- Establishing an HCFC import quota system - Parties to the Montreal Protocol are obliged to follow the HCFC phase-out schedules agreed upon in 2007 (Decision XIX/6). Furthermore, developing countries seeking any further assistance from the Multilateral Fund for the HCFC phase out beyond 2012 must provide confirmation that they have an enforceable national system of licensing and quotas in place for HCFC imports and, where applicable, production and exports (Decision 63/17). Since the first control measure for developing countries for HCFCs enters into force on 1 January 2013, developing countries are therefore urged to design and implement such an HCFC quota system without delay to help ensure the country's compliance with the Montreal Protocol. UNEP OzonAction CAP has developed this practical, step-wise guide to assist National Ozone Units in Article 5 countries with designing and implementing such quota systems. This 27-page guide addresses policies facilitating implementation of the HCFC phase out, principles of an import quota system, how to establish an HCFC import quota system, additional measures which may help in enforcement of HCFC import quota systems, and import quota systems for equipment containing or relying on HCFCs. It also provides examples and lessons learnt, as well as suggested formats for questionnaires and accompanying letters to be used in a survey of potential HCFC importers and exporters. The guide was written by Dr. Janusz Kozakiewicz and quality reviewed by OzonAction CAP staff.
Read/download >> http://bit.ly/H84xaZ

- Customs and Enforcement Officers Quick Guide: Changes in the 2012 HS Nomenclature for HCFCs and Certain other Ozone Depleting Substances - Since the last Harmonized System (HS) revision in 2007, trade patterns in ozone depleting substances have changed with the complete phase-out of CFCs as of 1 January 2010 (except for a few exempted uses) and the increased trade in HCFCs and HFCs as replacement chemicals. HCFCs will be phased-out by 2020 in developed and by 2030 in developing countries. Recognising this, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol requested the World Customs Organization (WCO) to revise the HS codes for HCFCs. Following this request, the Council of the WCO recommended to the Contracting Parties to the HS Convention to amend heading 29.03 of Chapter 29 with the objective of assigning specific 6-digit HS codes to the five most commonly used HCFCs, and at the same time deleting individual HS codes previously assigned to CFCs. The HS Contract Parties amended the HS code and it entered into force on 1 January 2012. As of that date, HCFCs and certain other ODS have been separately identified in the HS. This 4-page Quick Guide provides key information related to these new classifications and briefly explains the changes. The document was written by Dr. Janusz Kozakiewicz and quality reviewed by WCO and OzonAction CAP staff. It is issued as a joint publication of WCO and UNEP OzonAction.
Read/download >> http://bit.ly/HyBSIN

Follow OzonAction on >

Virtual Exhibition on Ozone and Climate Friendly Technologies - Available from OzonAction.

Learn more >>
http://www.unep.org/ozonaction/virtualexpo

Trends Analysis Updated - Consumption and production of ozone depleting substances in developing countries have been updated and include the data for 2010 (CFCs, halons, methyl bromide and HCFCs).

The data can be accessed via >> http://bit.ly/w1pqBC

READING >>>

Tipping the Balance Towards Climate Protection through the HCFC Phase-Out, OzonAction Special Issue 2011 The OzonAction Special Issue features articles from international experts on many important issues including those discussed during the Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. The topics addressed in the OASI 2011 aim at inspiring further actions to protect the ozone layer and climate system, as well as contributing to promoting 'green energy initiatives'... **Read more**

Une journée d'information sur la réglementation communautaire relative aux substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone a été organisée par le Ministère Français de l'écologie, du développement durable, et des transports et du logement, le 12 mars 2012.
Cette journée a été axée sur les obligations de déclaration, les mécanismes de licence d'importation et d'exportation et les rapports annuels. Les présentations de cette journée sont téléchargeables ci-dessous.
Pour en savoir plus et accéder aux présentations et autres documents > http://bit.ly/GXK9XW

Fertilisers Behind Increase in N2O Levels

ABC, 16 March 2012, By: Darren Osborne,
http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2012/03/16/3455453.htm

See also : **Trends and Seasonal Cycles in the Isotopic Composition of Nitrous Oxide Since 1940,** Nature Geoscience, 11 March 2012, **Read more > http://bit.ly/yUjFF6**

Arysta to Pull Methyl Iodide from U.S., Monterey County Weekly, 20 March 2012, By Sara.Rubin
Read more > http://bit.ly/GCVwlr

Commercial Plant to Start Producing Hydrogen from Woody Biomass in April

Idex Eco Energy Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Japanese oil distributor Shin-Idemitsu Co., has completed construction of the world's first commercial plant for producing hydrogen from woody biomass in Omuta Echo Town, Fukuoka Prefecture. The corporation held a plant completion ceremony on October 17, 2011. The company will start full-scale operation in April 2012, following a period of preparations that include performance confirmation tests. **Learn more > http://bit.ly/ypo0l6**

HFO-1234ze Trials to Replace HFC-134a in Aeroplane Insecticide Propeller - A company specialized in aeroplane products has recently made trials to produce a new onboard insecticide range using **HFO-1234ze** (CF3CF-CH2) as a **propellant**, to replace **HFC-134a**..
Read more > http://bit.ly/H3m32w

Termites' Home is Always Cozy without Air-Conditioning! Termites in the savanna of Africa build mounds (termitaria) in the sun. Aren't they hot? Actually, the mounds have an amazing mechanism.
Read more > http://bit.ly/H842xF

EVENTs >>>

The 30th National Pesticide Forum, Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies New Haven, CT -- March 30-31, 2012, **Learn more >> http://bit.ly/bTP1RZ**

ATMOsphere America 2012, 12 - 13 June 2012, Washington DC, The United States,
ATMOsphere America 2012, is very timely as several SNAP rulings for hydrocarbon applications have been approved just recently. In addition, the recent developments in the commercial refrigeration market in the US and Canada are expected to provide a boost for CO2transcritical refrigeration in North America.
Main theme: THE BUSINESS CASE FOR NATURAL REFRIGERANTS IN NORTH AMERICA: For the first time ATMOsphere is coming to North America. With the intention to make it THE annual meeting place for industry experts to discuss natural refrigerant trends, latest technologies and regulatory issues in the US and Canada, it is targeting around 200 decision makers from leading retailers, suppliers, associations and more. Topics for presentations and workshops will be looking at end-users (retailers and consumer brands) as well as technology providers from the commercial and industrial refrigeration, heat pump and air conditioning sectors. On the second day we will also have a session on Regulatory Issues…
Learn more / Register > http://bit.ly/HyzYrH

Related links :
- CO_2 experts to share best practices at ATMOsphere America 2012 http://bit.ly/Abje96
- SNAP rulings will be key topic at ATMOsphere America 2012 http://bit.ly/xJQTJ6
- Interview with Marc Chasserot, shecco: ATMOsphere America 2012 http://bit.ly/HyzjGs

Contact : Clemence Girard-Reydet, Events Assistant **SHECCO**, **clemence.girardreydet@shecco.com**

10th IIR-Gustav Lorentzen Conference on Natural Working Fluids (GL2012), 25–27 June 2012, Delft, Netherlands, **Learn more >>** **http://bit.ly/AdalFy**

The 103rd IDEA Annual Conference and Trade Show at the Hyatt Regency Chicago will be held from June 30 - July 3, 2012. The theme of the conference is **"Cooler, Cleaner Cities". Learn more >>** **http://bit.ly/yWuhSo**

Focus on Large Building Design and Facility Management

ASHRAE Announces Call for Papers for **2013** Winter Conference, January 26-30, Dallas, Texas. The Conference's technical program will focus on core HVAC&R tracks and, with the re-branding of ASHRAE highlighting its efforts in building technology, the Conference presents timely tracks on Large Building Design and Facility Management…. **Learn more >>** **www.ashrae.org/Dallas**

VIDEOS >>>

Join a New Video Competition: What climate & energy actions would ...

Natural Resources Defense Council (blog) - Demand in a video that governments commit to phase down HFCs and other "super greenhouse gases" under the Montreal Protocol. Over 108 countries have already ... **Learn more >** **http://bit.ly/yE0Us6**

Glover Park filmmaker connects ozone issue to climate change in documentary

Click here to learn more **>** **http://bit.ly/GJuPQ0**

WEBINARS >>>

GreenChill Webinar: Transcritical CO2 Refrigeration Systems - Thursday, March 22 at 2pm
Description: GreenChill will be hosting a webinar on March 22 that focuses on transcritical CO2 refrigeration systems for supermarkets. The webinar will be led by Rusty Walker from the Hill PHOENIX Learning Center and will build on the February 9 webinar, which provided an introduction to all types of CO2 refrigeration systems. **Learn more >>** **http://www.epa.gov/greenchill/events.html**

We invite you to visit the "**Montreal Protocol Who's Who**", &
Nominate an ozone layer protection champion from your country/region >>
http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/montrealprotocolwhoswho/PageFlip.asp
Feel free to include a link on your website

Prepared by: Samira de Gobert, *OzonAction E-Group*
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