

## **Cambodia**

Siem Reap, 29 July 2012 – The first national celebration of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Southeast Asia was appropriately held at the historical World Heritage Site Angkor Wat – a brilliantly built structure that overcame the technical difficulties of the 12th Century – which may also symbolize the obstacles and achievements the world has gone through since the Montreal Protocol was signed 25 years ago.

The event was graced by none other than His Excellency Yim Chhay Ly, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Council for the Agriculture and Rural Development, Cambodia. Senior officials and officers from international agencies involved in the Montreal Protocol also attended the celebration, including Mr. Marco González, Executive Secretary of Ozone Secretariat, Ms. Maria Nolan, Chief Officer, Multilateral Fund Secretariat, and Dr. Young-woo Park, Regional Director and Representative of UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

September 16, 2012 is the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, the multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) with 197 member-states that have committed to gradually reduce and eventually phase-out production and consumption of ozone-depleting chemicals such as CFCs and HCFCs widely used in the air-conditioning and refrigeration and in the foam sector. The Montreal Protocol is widely recognized as one of the most successful MEAs in history having achieved universal ratification and phasing out 98% of historical production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) by 2010.

Cambodia was not among the earliest to ratify the Montreal Protocol. However, Cambodia caught up very quickly after it ratified the MEA in 2001, with its strong political commitment and capable implementation management system.

Cambodia has established a good institutional framework for the coordination and implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The Ministry of Environment has been taking leadership with strong commitment in implementing this multilateral environmental agreement. The country has also established its ODS control policy/regulation, especially the ODS import/export licensing/quota system and has been enforced successfully and efficiently.

“UNEP is proud of being a part of this process. We are working as the implementing agency for various activities, namely institutional strengthening, policy development and enforcement capacity building, technicians training on good practices, and monitoring of the implementation of all national phase-out programme. During this process, UNEP has continually received close cooperation and support from the Ministry of Environment,” stated Dr. Young-woo Park, Regional Director and Representative of UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

In the last decade, Cambodia developed and successfully implemented its Country Programme and Refrigerant Management Plan, and Terminal Phase-out Management Plan, phasing out CFCs and most ODS by 1 January 2010. Cambodia was also one of the first countries in the world to develop and get approval for its HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) in 2010.

The event was also participated by top officials from the government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, namely H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth, Senior Minister for Environment, Cambodia, H.E. Sieng Nam, Member of National Assembly, Cambodia, His Excellency Dr. Sou Phyrin, Governor of the Siem Reap Province, H.E. Khieu Muth, Secretary of State for Environment, and H.E. Mr. Poultry, Secretary of State for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery. Students and other key stakeholders in Cambodia were also present to commemorate the International Ozone Day.

Eleven TV channels broadcasted for the press interview of the abovementioned event as well as the ceremony.

Cambodia will also translate the PSAs on Ozone Safe Generation into local language to show during 16 September with the Prime Minister speech on TV.