“Protecting our atmosphere for generations to come”

years of the Montreal Protocol 25
Male’, 16 September 2012 –

Today is World Ozone Day. Activities to mark the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer were held in Male’ yesterday.

A children’s evening was celebrated in Republic Square, and 25 students selected by the Swimming Association of Maldives swam from Male’ Atoll Funadhoo to Male’ carrying balloons with the Ozone Day theme.

The event was graced by His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Waheed and Madam Ilham Hussain. President Waheed awarded certificates to the participants of the swimming event, as well winners of the inter school essay writing competition held to mark the day.

A plaque in recognition of the participation of Maldives in the Montreal Protocol was presented on behalf of the Ozone Secretariat by Ms. Zeba Bukhari, the Representative of UNICEF to HE President Waheed.

This year’s International Day is celebrated under the theme "Protecting our atmosphere for generations to come".

Hailed as the most successful treaty in UN history - for achieving universal ratification and meeting its targets ahead of schedule, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer will be celebrated its 25th anniversary.

The Protocol, which was ratified by 197 countries, has enabled reductions of over 98 per cent of all global production and consumption of controlled ozone-depleting substances.

The Protocol also oversaw the global phase-out of chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs) by 2010. Global observations have verified that atmospheric levels of key ozone depleting substances are going down and it is believed that with implementation of the Protocol’s provisions the ozone layer should return to pre-1980 levels by 2050 to 2075.

A bicycle race to mark World Ozone Day will be held on 29 September 2012.