

International Ozone Day, 2010

National Ozone Unit, Maldives

The National Ozone Unit (NOU) of Ministry of Housing and Environment of Maldives celebrates international ozone day to mark the preservation of ozone layer, on 16th September every year. This year is a significant year for us as we have embarked our journey into the phasing out of HCFC 10 years ahead of the actual date set by the Montreal Protocol. With this spirit the NOU have put together an outstanding roster of events to mark this remarkable day.

To kick-start this day an official news release will be broadcast on all the local TV channels and radio stations, along with a special news report on the Ozone Day. Additionally, a panel discussion on the HCFC phase-out will be broadcast on the local channel MNBC 1 during prime time. Members in the panel discussion will include an importer of ODS, a customs officer and a staff member from NOU.

At school level a debate will be held amongst the students of the Centre for Higher Secondary Education on Ozone Layer Protection Vs Environmental Protection. An Environmental Awareness session for all the schools in the capital, Male', will be conducted on 18th September 2010 to create more awareness among school children. This one-day session includes presentations on Environmental Health, Climate change, Ozone layer and Biodiversity. In addition to these activities, schools have taken the initiative to conduct school level activities among students. These include; essay writing, a drawing competition, etc.

A special edition of "Phemphis", an Environmental Newsletter, will be released with a special message from UNEP and the Minister of Housing and Environment Mr. Mohamed Aslam. One of the most significant events of this celebration will be the starting of the "Annual Ozone day bicycle Race" the purpose of this is to make people aware of the harmful gases the vehicles releases in to the atmosphere and create more understanding about the Ozone Layer. This event is scheduled for 25th September 2010.

A booklet '25 Important Questions & Answers everybody should know about the Ozone Layer' will be released on 16th September 2010. In addition to this, an internal ozone quiz will be conducted amongst the staff of MHE on 5th October 2010 to create awareness and increase knowledge on ozone layer depletion.

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12 September 2010