

News Report on International Ozone Day, 2010 National Ozone Unit, Sri Lanka

The National Ozone Unit (NOU) of Ministry of Environment Sri Lanka celebrates international ozone day to mark the preservation of ozone layer, on 16th September in every year. Year 2010 is remarkable for all global communities because the 25th anniversary of establishing the Vienna convention is commemorated in this year. The NOU has organized several events for marking this day as very important for environmental friendly people. Three day awareness program was conducted in May for school teachers in all divisions of Wayaba Province, aiming in preparing students for quiz, oratory and painting competitions on topics related to ozone layer protection. Honorable Minister of Environment participated for the 1st day of the awareness program and he emphasized the importance of this type of educational programs to enhance the knowledge in protection the global environment. First round and quarter finals of quiz and oratory competition were conducted for school students successfully in cooperation with the Wayaba Provincial Ministry of Education. Students from 110 schools participated at these competitions. The final competitions are scheduled to be held in mid of August in order to select the winners for awarding the prizes at the Ozone day celebration. NOU has made arrangements to broadcast these competitions through Sri Lanka Broadcasting cooperation and telecast by Dialog TV channels.

Selecting groups of students from schools through a competition for painting important messages in respect of ozone layer protection, on a public wall has been planned to conduct at the end of August.

Launching a commemorative stamp and first day cover for 25th anniversary of Vienna convention, is the significant event for this year ozone day celebration. Therefore, in collaboration with Ministry of Posts & Telecommunication, NOU decided to launch 2 stamps. One based on art selected the school student competition and the other based on art selected from professional artists. Two paper advertisements were published in this regard, calling arts to select suitable art for commemorative stamp. In addition to this, best 9 paintings have been selected under 3 age categories and merit awards will be presented at the Ozone day celebration. High response was shown by school students for this competition and excellent knowledge about importance of ozone layer protection was illustrated by this paintings. Selection were already made for by an independent panel of judges.

Following activities will be in the agenda on celebration of Ozone Day on 16 September 2010

- Launching of 2 commemorative stamps and first day cover for 25th anniversary of Vienna convention, 10th anniversary of MLF and phasing out of strong ozone depleting substances with the participation of Honorable Minister of Environment and Honorable Minister of Posts & Telecommunication
- Launching of 3 new publications
- Distribution of docket consist of awareness materials among the participants
- Distribution of "T" shirts printed with a awareness theme on ozone layer protection
- Presenting the Awards for school competition winners
- Video presentation on Vienna convention and ozone layer protection
- Performing a "ozone bardic" by school students
- Displaying of banners around the venue with ozone layer protection messages
- Publish paper supplements on international ozone day
- A discussion on TV by Director NOU, about the International Ozone day and the 25th anniversary of Vienna convention