環境省
Ministry of the Environment

OECC

Montreal Protocol MOP38 Side Event

Refrigerant Circular Economy at a Crossroads: Ten Years after Kigali, Will Refrigerant Banks Become Future Emissions or Valuable Resources?

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

Date and time: 18:00 - 20:00, 3 November 2026 (CAT Kigali)

Venue: Room: AD12-A, MOP38

Format: In person/Online https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82923249059

Organizers: Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC)

EXPECTATION OF THE SIDE EVENT

-KEY CHELLENGES AND ACTIONS FOR SOLUTION-

While the transition to alternative refrigerants continues, large amounts of refrigerants remain in existing equipment. As we mark ten years since the Kigali Amendment, the next major challenge is not only "what refrigerants we use," but also "how we manage the refrigerants already in use." In other words, **Our Next Challenge is What to Do with Existing Refrigerant Banks**

As demand for cooling continues to grow, the volume of refrigerants contained in equipment will increase further. Without proper management, these refrigerant banks could become a significant source of future emissions through leakage during equipment use and releases at the time of disposal. **If Left Unmanaged, Refrigerant Banks Will Become a "Future Source of Emissions"**

By ensuring the proper recovery, reclamation and reuse of existing refrigerants, we can not only prevent their release into the atmosphere but also reduce the production and consumption of newly manufactured refrigerants. In this way, recovered and reclaimed refrigerants can help reduce demand for virgin refrigerants and contribute to the HFC consumption phase-down under the Kigali Amendment. **Once Recovered, Refrigerants Become Not Only "Emission Reductions," but also a "Resource" that Can Replace Demand for New Refrigerants**

The Ministry of the Environment, Japan has begun developing models for refrigerant recovery and reclamation in Malaysia and Viet Nam. The challenge is to ensure that these initiatives do not end as one-off pilot projects but evolve into economically viable and self-sustaining systems in which costs can be continuously covered and reclaimed refrigerants are effectively used in the market. This requires an integrated approach covering policies and institutional frameworks, technologies, human resources, logistics, quality management, traceability, cost-sharing mechanisms, and market development. **We Want to Move Beyond from Pilot Projects to a Self-Sustaining System**

Bringing together experiences from Japan, Malaysia, Viet Nam, industry, international organizations and other partners, the event will discuss concrete measures and respective roles for transforming "future emissions" into "circular resources." Through this discussion, the event aims to set out a Shared Vision for the next decade of Lifecycle Refrigerant Management (LRM) that can lead to concrete next actions. The Side Event will discuss our efforts for **Shaping the Next Decade of LRM Together**

DRAFT PROGRAMME		
Time	**Session**	**Speaker(s)**
18:00–18:30	**Networking with refreshments**	
Setting the Scene		
This session sets the scene for the next decade of Lifecycle Refrigerant Management (LRM), presenting Japan's vision for building a circular economy for HFC refrigerants through public-private partnership and highlighting the policy, market and implementation challenges that must be addressed to move from individual initiatives to scalable and sustainable systems.		
18:30–18:40	**Strategic Blueprint of the Public-Private Partnership to Build a Circular Economy for HFC Refrigerants**	**Mr. Satoru Iino** Director, Office of Fluorocarbons Control Policy, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Ongoing Efforts and Lessons Learned from Key Players		
The speakers will share experiences from Japan, Malaysia and Viet Nam in developing the legal, regulatory, institutional and societal frameworks needed to advance LRM. They will highlight their respective approaches to creating enabling systems for refrigerant recovery, reclamation, reuse and proper end-of-life management, including the roles of government.		
18:40–19:10	*Accelerating efforts by the Governments* ● **Japan** ● **Malaysia** ● **Viet Nam**	**Mr. Masashi Terasaki** , MOE, Japan **Mr. Ryan Ooi Chean Weai,** Department of Environment Malaysia, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Sustainability, Malaysia **Ms. Nguyen Dang Thu Cuc**, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viet Nam
The speakers will highlight the role of the private sector in turning LRM into practical and scalable solutions. It will explore key technological aspects while sharing progress and lessons learned from advanced LRM model projects in developing countries. Drawing on hands-on experience from industry, the session will identify practical challenges and solutions for moving beyond pilot projects and establishing technically reliable, economically viable and sustainable LRM systems, contributing to a circular economy for refrigerants.		
19:10–19:20	*Accelerating efforts by the Private Sector* ● **Technology Aspects of Refrigerant Management** ● **Updates and lessons from advanced model projects on lifecycle refrigerant management in developing countries**	**Ms. Miyuki Tsuji** Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association (JRAIA) **Ms. Miki Yamanaka,** Daikin Industries Ltd.
This session will explore how international cooperation can support countries in developing and scaling up LRM. By taking up ODS/HFC bank inventories, the collaborative activities such as the Friends of Kigali, and Japan's the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) and the Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management (IFL).		
19:20–19:35	International cooperation programmes ● **UNIDO's ODS/HFC Bank Inventory** ● **CCAC Friends of Kigali** ● **Japan's International Cooperation (JCM and IFL Activities)**	**Ms. Liazzat Rabiossi** , UNIDO **Ms. Oznur Ozturk,** CCAC **Mr. Makoto Kato**, OECC

DRAFT PROGRAMME		
Time	**Session**	**Speaker(s)**
Panel Discussion		
Building on the experiences shared by governments, industry and international partners, this panel will discuss what it takes to move LRM from policies and model projects to sustainable, market-based systems. The Panelists will identify the respective roles of governments, industry and international partners, as well as priority actions needed to turn future emissions into circular resources and scale LRM over the next decade of the Kigali Amendment.		
19:35–19:55	**Panel discussion: Scaling LRM from policy and model projects to sustainable, market-based systems**	All speakers Moderator: **Mr. Makoto Kato,** OECC
Closing		
The closing session will bring together the key messages and insights from the event and set out a Shared Vision for the next decade of LRM. Building on the experiences of governments, industry and international partners, it will highlight a common direction for transforming refrigerant banks from future sources of emissions into circular resources. The Shared Vision will emphasize the need to scale LRM through coordinated action across policy, technology, markets and international cooperation, contributing simultaneously to global emission reductions, implementation of the Kigali Amendment, and the transition towards a circular economy for refrigerants.		
19:55–20:00	**Shared Vision for Global Emission Reduction and Circular Economy via LRM**	**Mr. Satoru Iino** Ministry of the Environment, Japan