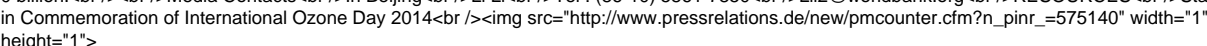




China Announces Major Reduction in Ozone Depleting Gases on International Ozone Day

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World Bank works with China to help fulfil its obligations under the Montreal Protocol
China announced the closure of five hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) production lines, resulting in the phase-out of 58,864 tons of HCFC production, reduction of HCFC production capacity by 88,000 tons and elimination of over 93 million tons of CO2 equivalent in greenhouse gas emissions. The announcement was made at an event commemorating the International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer. The event was attended by senior representatives of the Government of China, the Ozone Secretariat of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and the World Bank. HCFCs targeted for elimination are ozone depleting substances (ODS) with global warming potential (GWP) that are used principally in refrigeration, air-conditioning and the manufacture of foam products. Chinas reduction means a major leap forward for the Montreal Protocols global HCFC phase-out targets: the announced closure of HCFCs production lines by 2015 accounts for nearly 16 percent of the total HCFC production that China has agreed to close by 2030. Management and phase-out of ODS in the production sectors is the most effective way to achieve elimination. Through quotas management, Chinas HCFC production in 2013 was reduced by 8.38 percent over the baseline year (2009-2010 average), and consumption reduced by 9.14 percent over the baseline year, said Vice Minister Zhai Qing of Chinas Ministry of Environmental Protection. "This is an important step and a significant milestone in the first stage of Chinas HCFC phase-out effort. However, there remain many difficulties and challenges on the way ahead, he said. "We just completed freezing of HCFC, and the pressure for its phase-out is increasing. We have to put in greater efforts in developing and expanding the use of sustainable substitutes. The theme of this years International Ozone Day - the Mission Goes On - reflects the need to continue the global efforts in protecting the ozone, he added. Since April 2013, the Government of China, in concert with the World Bank Group, has been working with enterprises on the first stage of Chinas HCFC production sector phase-out plan, itself part of a larger strategy to completely eliminate the countrys production capacity of ozone depleting substances by 2030. This stage is supported by an USA \$95 million grant from the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLF), which disburses against verified annual reductions of HCFC production levels. "China is a key player in the Montreal Protocols HCFC phase-out objectives, said Bert Hofman, World Bank Country Director for China. "Todays announced decrease in Chinas HCFC production is a major step in the direction of meeting Chinas Protocol obligations ahead of schedule. It also generates major benefits in the battle against climate change: The reductions equate to taking approximately 19.5 million cars off the roads, or eliminating annual emissions from 24 coal-fired power plants. "As China is the single biggest producer of HCFCs today, such early achievement is laudable, explained Tina Birmpili, the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat of UNEP. "Under its HCFC strategy, China will phase out its HCFC production, contributing not only to protect the ozone layer but also to mitigate climate change because HCFCs are also powerful greenhouse gases. The funds from the MLF will cover the incremental costs of the phase out, but clearly Chinas own effort and contribution is the key. China and its people will be putting in a lot of work and effort. China has a unique opportunity to proceed with its production sector project in a manner that demonstrates leadership in ensuring the success of the Montreal Protocol," she said. The first stage of Chinas HCFC production closure effort will also yield important climate co-benefits that result from avoided CO2 emissions, through cessation of production of high-GWP HCFCs, as well as from elimination the related off-gases of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC-23) at two of the enterprises. The five enterprises include Yingpeng Chemical Co., Ltd., Zhejiang DongYang Chemical Co., Ltd., Jiangsu Blue Star Green Technology Co., Ltd., Hangzhou First Chemical Co., Ltd., and Yantai Zhongrui Chemical Co., Ltd. These actions form part of a long-standing, ongoing partnership between the Government of China and the World Bank that has, over more than two decades, helped ensure the fulfilment of Chinas obligations under the Montreal Protocol ahead of schedule. Over the years, results achieved have encouraged cooperation between research and production, supported trade and competitiveness in China and beyond, enhanced awareness regarding environmental sustainability, and contributed important co-benefits through climate change mitigation. This partnership has phased-out more than 219,000 tons of ODS from various sectors and also resulted on avoided emissions of 885 million tons of CO2 equivalent which compares to eliminating the annual emissions of more than 186 million passenger vehicles. Since 1987, the mission of The Montreal Protocol has been to protect the ozone layer. While much success has been achieved, the 197 Parties to the Protocol currently face a phase-out schedule for remaining ozone-depleting chemicals that stretches to 2040. The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol was established in 1991 to assist developing countries meet their Montreal Protocol commitments. Managed by an Executive Committee with equal membership from developed and developing countries, the Fund has, to date, approved activities including industrial conversion, technical assistance, training and capacity building worth over US \$3.0 billion. Media Contacts
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Statement in Commemoration of International Ozone Day 2014


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