Sri Lanka National Report relevant to Ozone Research

Introduction

Sri Lanka is a developing country and annual calculated level of consumption of the controlled substances in Annex A is less than 0.3 kilograms per capita on the date of the entry into force of the Protocol. Sri Lanka ratified both the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol on 15th of December 1989. Sri Lanka has phase out CFCs, and Halons in advance of the phase-out schedule prescribed by the Montreal Protocol. Sri Lanka has been able to achieve Montreal Protocol targets on time without any complications due to successful awareness creation and legislative processes.

Recognition of Sri Lanka contribution

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol in 2007, the United Nations Ozone Secretariat awarded the Implementer’s Award to Sri Lanka, recognizing extraordinary contributions of the National Ozone Units and people whose hard work on the country level over the years has helped to make the Protocol’s phase-out goals a reality. Sri Lanka’s effort in preserving Ozone layer has been recognized and appreciated once again at the 25th Anniversary of Montreal Protocol in 2012.

Future aspects of Research

The government of Sri Lanka has now embarked on an ambitious mission to make this island the education hub in Asia. Whilst improving the existing facilities in the public universities, the government’s aim is to encourage universities to conduct more researches. Sri Lanka has 15 National Universities, 17 Higher Educational Institutes and 12 Advance Technological Institutes, to develop and implement as local and international research and training centers for knowledge. Research plays a critical role in the innovation process. It is essentially an investment in technology and future capabilities which is transformed into new discoveries.

For an example, the National Ozone Unit (NOU) has conducted a study survey on health impacts of Ozone Layer Depletion in the North – Central Province in Sri Lanka last year in collaboration with one of the State Universities. Perfect and accurate data on UV radiation was not available in Sri Lanka or within countries close to Sri Lanka in this region and therefore the study had been done based on temperature data recorded by the Meteorological Department of Sri Lanka.
Importance of establishing ozone related research facilities was realized for conducting such sensitive scientific surveys.

Sri Lanka interest for Monitoring Station

Sri Lanka has no ozone monitoring stations and Sri Lanka continue with its interest to establish a monitoring station in order to gather crucial data on pollution linked with damage to the Earth's ozone layer. It is difficult to carry out proper researches concerned to ozone depletion and monitoring activities in Sri Lanka until monitoring station is established.

Establishing a Monitoring station in Sri Lanka has many global advantages as follows.

- Sri Lanka is located at the southern most part of the continent of South Asia close to the equator
- Sri Lanka is a small island monitors or researchers can reach any part of the island conveniently within short period of time.
- Facilitating Scientists to conduct research over tropics to ascertain the prediction that the ozone layer might have fully recovered by somewhere around the 2060s as a result of past, current and future actions of Montreal Protocol.
- The climate of Sri Lanka can be described as tropical and warm. Its position between 5 and 10 north latitude endows the country with a warm climate moderated by ocean winds and considerable moisture. The mean temperature ranges from about 16 °C in the Central Highlands (2500 m above sea level), where frost may occur for several days in the December-January) to a maximum of approximately 37 °C.
- Ability to connect with regional and global atmosphere monitoring networks, since Sri Lanka has very advanced communication facilities
- Assistance from Department of Meteorology and state Universities is readily available for setting up an Ozone Monitoring Centre in Sri Lanka and maintain equipment.

Conclusion

Since there is no ozone monitoring stations in this country, Sri Lanka wishes to propose to establish a monitoring station, in Sri Lanka to gather crucial data on adverse effects linked with damage to the Earth's ozone layer and also to observe the recovery of damaged ozone layer is genuinely taking place.

In this endeavour, Sri Lanka would strongly have to depend on UNEP assistance for setting up a monitoring station or any recognized facility for research work. Further Sri Lanka expects to enhance its cooperation with UNEP in order to encourage Ozone research officers to engage with more research works in future.

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