

THE NATIONAL CFC PHASE OUT PROGRAMME WORKSHOP

**03 JANUARY 2003
RENAISSANCE PALM GARDEN HOTEL
PUTERA JAYA**

***OPENING SPEECH BY HAJAH ROSNANI IBARAHIM
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MALAYSIA***

Distinguish participants,

Our guests and experts from overseas,

Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good morning and selamat pagi.

Let me first extend my sincere welcome to everyone who is present here this morning. It is indeed my great pleasure to be invited to address this National CFC Phase Out Programme Workshop.

This occasion indeed marks another major milestone of Malaysia's effort to phase out Ozone Depleting Substances or ODS in short.

On a personal note, this occasion also gives me an opportunity to associate with and to get to know better the major players of Government Agencies and stakeholders that had contributed significantly to the preparation of this National CFC Phase Out Programme. Today we are here to witness the fruit of our effort. The National CFC Phase Out Programme was approved by The Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol at its 35th Meeting held in Montreal, Canada on the 4th of December 2001. A total of US 11.517 million dollars was agreed upon by the Executive Committee for the implementation of the nine-year CFC Phase Out Programme to be undertaken independently by the Government of Malaysia.

Our courage, effort and our sincere commitment shown in carrying out our duty not only to protect the earth and our environment but also our commitment towards the international environmental agreements i.e. the 1985 Vienna Convention and the 1987 Montreal Protocol through this National CFC Phase out Programme has also gained praises from the international communities.

We have indeed taken a bold step ahead of all the Article 5 or the developing countries. We could do this because we have a strong and good working relationship among the public and private sectors under the spirit of Malaysia Incorporated and Smart Partnership. We have a strong commitment and we have the confident. The credit is ours to cherish. "Of course we must not forget to thank our experts from the World Bank for their invaluable input and support in making this programme a success."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

By now we all should have understood well enough that CFCs which are widely used as refrigerant in cooling systems are the major Ozone Depleting Substances and their releases into the atmosphere will have a thinning effect on the ozone layer in the stratosphere. Decreased ozone concentration in the stratosphere means a thinner ozone layer that could result in more ultraviolet – B (UV-B) radiation entering the lower atmosphere and reaching the earth's surface. The harmful effects of the UV radiation is well understood by all of us and needs no further explanation here.

Realising the causes and the impacts of the ozone layer depletion, Malaysia has been and still is very proactive in its effort to support the international collaborative effort that protect the ozone layer. We had ratified the 1985 Vienna Convention for the protection of ozone layer; the 1987 Montreal Protocol on the substances that deplete the ozone layer; the 1990 London Amendment to the Protocol; the 1992 Copenhagen Amendment to the Protocol; and very recently we had ratified two more amendments, that is the 1997 Montreal Amendment and the 1999 Beijing Amendment. With these actions, Malaysia has ratified all the amendments and is recognized as one of the first few countries to have done so.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following the ratifications of these international environmental agreements, Malaysia had put in place a set of Policies and Strategies to serve as a guide in her course to fulfill the commitment to the Montreal Protocol. Malaysia's first Country Programme was formulated and was approved by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in February 1992. That was an eight-year (1992-2000) Ozone Depletion Substances (ODS) phase out programme aiming at phasing out ODS consumption in all the ODS-dependent manufacturing sectors. Under the First Country Programme, Malaysia has successfully obtained **US 36 million dollars** financial assistance from the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol for various ODS Phase out projects and activities. So far we have succeeded in the total phase out of Halons and **5,213 ODP tons** of ODS from the manufacturing sectors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have done well so far. We are ahead of the schedule to phase out the consumption of CFC in the manufacturing sectors.

But we could not be complacent with our achievement because we have a large ODS consumption in the servicing sectors and the Small and Medium Enterprises that were not taken care off right from the start of coming into force of the Montreal Protocol.

The refrigeration and mobile air-conditioner servicing sectors are the most difficult sectors to be dealt with because by its nature they are very large with many small users and it involves the general public and small enterprises. This sector is not entitled to any investment funding assistance from the Multilateral Fund.

We recognize the importance of the SMEs and the servicing sectors that play a major role in our economic development and the phase out strategies must be carefully considered especially at this current economic situation. In many cases, direct financial assistance to the end-users without proper policies and strategies in place will achieve little to reduce CFC consumption. Different techniques, policies and strategies will be needed to ensure a smooth ODS phase out in these sectors. Effort deeded may also be enormous.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was with this in mind that this National CFC Phase Out Programme or (we can call it) the Country Programme Update Study was initiated. The study was aimed at:

- Assessing the current status of CFC consumption especially in the SMEs and refrigeration and mobile air-conditioner servicing sectors.
- Identifying essential sectors that still require supply of CFC.
- Establishing suitable and practicable dates for total CFC phase out in each sectors.
- Developing policies, strategies, sector phase-out plan, regulations and cost estimation to carry out the phase out programme.
- Changing the modality of funding mechanism so as to ensure maximum flexibility in utilization of fund obtained to achieve the National objectives set for total CFC phase out.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was made to understand that today's the Workshop will deliberate on:

- Our commitment to the compliance of the Montreal Protocol as we are now in the compliance period of the Montreal Protocol (2001-2010).
- The activities to be carried out during the National CFC Phase out Programme period (2002-2010).
- The roles and functions of each related Agency and Stakeholder in the National CFC Phase out Programme.
- The formulation of National CFC Phase out Work Plan for 2002 and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your presence and participation in this workshop today shows that you are committed. Your sincere contributions and deliberation today will have great impact on the success of this Programme.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all the Agencies and individuals that have given full cooperation to the Department of the Environment in carrying out the activities in relation to the Montreal Protocol obligations. Our success thus far, attributes to supports and commitment of the private and public sectors to phase out CFCs as early as possible before the mandatory date of 2010.

It is my fervent hope that we will move forward and continue to work together in achieving our goal in meeting our obligations to the Montreal Protocol and help play our small role in preserving the Ozone Layer.

On this note, I once again, would like to thank the staff of Ozone Protection Unit under my Department, the experts from the World Bank Environment Department and Alam Sekitar Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. for organizing this Workshop and to all the resource persons and participants who sacrificed their precious time to be here today and wish you all a fruitful workshop.

Thank you.