

## **DENR-EMB joins the 35<sup>th</sup> celebration of the World Ozone Protection Day**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) joins the global celebration of the 35 years of the Vienna Convention and the ozone layer protection on September 16.

The World Ozone Protection Day celebrates collective decisions and action, guided by science, to solve major global crises. In this year of the coronavirus pandemic that has brought such social and economic hardship, the ozone treaties' message of working together in harmony and for the collective good is more important than ever. The slogan of the day, 'Ozone for life,' reminds us that not only is ozone crucial for life on Earth, but that we must continue to protect the ozone layer for future generations.

According to EMB Director, Engr. William P. Cuñado, the Philippines has stayed true to its commitment to the Montreal Protocol by implementing its obligations on the phase-out of the consumption of Carbon Tetrachloride (CTC), Methyl Chloroform, Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), and Halons, all of which are potent Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS).

“Since 2019, the Philippines has accomplished 35% reduction of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) consumption, the last remaining ODS, by encouraging the local manufacturers of Refrigerators and Airconditioners to shift from using R-22 (HCFC-22) to R-32 (HFC-32) or R-410A (HFC-410A) as cooling agents to these manufactured appliances,” Cuñado said.

Cuñado also said that this idea was eagerly accepted by Concepcion-Carrier Airconditioning Company, Koppel Philippines, Toshiba Philippines, and Hitachi Philippines who undertook the change of refrigerants in their production line and stopped the use of HCFC-22.

“For this year, we are at the roadmap of fifty percent (50%) reduction of HCFC consumption. All EMB Regional Offices were already directed to religiously implement the phase-out schedule set by the Montreal Protocol,” Cuñado added.

The Philippines also supports the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol which came into force on 1 January 2019. This amendment will work towards reducing hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs), which is greenhouse gas with powerful climate warming potential damaging the environment.

EMB is currently working out the collection of Certificate of Conformity (COC) from different partner agencies before endorsing it to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) for the official ratification of the Kigali Amendment by the Office of the President. For now, EMB is still waiting for the last COC to be issued by the Land Transportation Office.

In 1985, the world's governments adopted the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Under the Convention's Montreal Protocol, governments, scientists and industry worked together to cut out 99 per cent of all ozone-depleting substances. Thanks to the Montreal Protocol, the ozone layer is healing and expected to return to pre-1980 values by mid-century.###