

Ladies and gentlemen, today marks another milestone achievement for the National Ozone Unit and by extension the Government of Grenada.

At the 62nd Meeting of the Executive Committee (of which Grenada has a permanent seat for 2010 -2011), Grenada's HPMP was among the first of three Latin American and Caribbean Countries to receive approval for funding.

Today we are the second of such countries to launch this project. Clearly, this is an indication that we are certainly among the leaders of our region in the global effort to phase out ozone depleting substances.

The Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer was adopted on September 16th 1987 and entered into force on January 1st 1989.

Grenada acceded to the Montreal Protocol on March 31st 1993. Subsequently, Grenada has ratified all of the amendments to the protocol.

Ultimately, the aim of the Montreal Protocol is to phase out the production and consumption of all Ozone Depleting substances. The reason for this must be related to the fact that these ozone depleting chemicals depletes stratospheric ozone and allow unacceptable amounts of harmful ultraviolet (UV-B) rays to reach the earth's surface. Over exposure to these UV-B rays leads to skin cancer, eye cataracts, weakened immune systems, affect plant growth and production, accelerated the degradation of materials, affects plankton in aquatic environment and contribute towards global warming

Even as Grenada is considered a very low volume consuming country, we still maintain our commitment to this global cause. Developed and developing countries worldwide have therefore made a commitment when they ratified the Protocol to rid the planet of these substances.

As a developing country, Grenada over the years has benefitted tremendously from the technical and financial support provided by the financial arm of the Montreal Protocol.

One can go as far back as 1999 when the first MOU was signed between the GOG and UNEP to provide much needed financial assistance to conduct the work required by the Montreal Protocol.

More recently in 2006, Grenada launched the Terminal Phase out Management Plan to phase out CFCs by the year 2009. This program was a tremendous success and resulted in Grenada being able to successfully phase out these CFCs by the year 2006.

Over the last decade, just over EC 2 million dollars have been approved for projects for Grenada.

Although today the focus is on HCFCs, it will be remiss of me not to mention some significant achievements made by the National Ozone Unit of Grenada in the fight to phase out ODS. I beg your indulgence for a brief moment to mention just four notable achievements:

1. Under the TPMP we have been able to train the vast majority of technicians in Grenada in Good Refrigeration Practices and alternative ozone friendly technologies.....
2. 80% of the customs department have received training in monitoring and control of trade in ODS.....
3. The establishment of 17 recovery and recycling centres island wide where equipment is made available free of cost to technicians to recover and recycle refrigerants and fourthly.....under the HPMP more would be established
4. The formation of a registered association of technicians, GRAVA
5. The establishment of a scholarship program for 10 students to pursue refrigeration and air-conditioning at TAMCC. This program is in its first year and every year 10 student will benefit from this program for the next 5 years.

Developing countries having successfully phased-out CFCs in 2010 are now required to phase out another group of Ozone Depleting chemicals with a significantly lower ozone depleting potential known as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

At the nineteenth MOP in Montreal, Canada in 2007, parties agreed to accelerate the phase out of the production and consumption of HCFCs. It was agreed in Decision XIX/6 that Article V countries would firstly freeze consumption in the year 2013 base on the average of 2009 and 2010 consumption. Further, countries are required to reduce consumption by 10% in 2015, then by 35% in 2020, 67.5% in 2025 and phase out by 2030 allowing 2.5% for servicing from 2030 – 2040.

In the preparation of this project a comprehensive survey was conducted in Grenada. The survey revealed that HCFC were consumed only in the refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing sector in the country. The survey also indicated that that only one type of HCFC was consumed and that is R-22 refrigerant. This was found to be used in the servicing of domestic and commercial air-conditioning and a small amount in commercial refrigeration equipment. From the results of the survey and the subsequent analysis and in consultation with the stakeholders, the Government of Grenada agreed to a baseline figure of 15.8 metric tonnes. The project has four major components which will be elaborated later on by the Project Consultant, Mr. John Telesford.

From a national perspective, the phase out of HCFC is going to pose new and different challenges than that of the phase out of CFCs. Among the many challenges anticipated are:

1. The availability of suitable low global warming potential (GWP) alternatives for all applications
2. A much larger volume of gases to control and the institutional capacity to adequately monitor the control mechanisms
3. The future of the funding mechanism to support monitoring during and after the phase out
4. The availability of ODS destruction technologies for all of the recovered unusable gases.
5. The policy and legislative support to drive and enforce the phase-out activities

The National Ozone Unit would like at this time to recognize the contributions of the various individuals and institutions that have contributed in making this project a reality today. We recognize the project consultants lead by Mr. John Telesford for the development of the survey tool and preparation of the project. We also recognise the two other consultants , Mr. Michael Mitchell and Mr. Henry Frederick who conducted the survey. We salute the facilities owners, supervisors and RAC technicians for providing the bulk of the information and whose co-operation was critical during the survey process. The UNEP ROLAC office for their guidance and technical support in reviewing the project. The permanent secretary at the Ministry of Finance for the political and institutional support delivered, the staff at the Energy Division who have assisted in all stages. Most of all, we extend our eternal gratefulness to the multilateral fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and its executive committee for approving this project and providing funding to the tune of US \$210,000.

As I close, the NOU is poised to surpass the achievements under the TPMP. We stand fully committed to restoring our very fragile stratospheric ozone to pre 1980 levels as we seek to secure our environment and protect the climate system for future generations.