



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
National Environmental Protection Agency



**Afghanistan Ozone Programme**  
**Cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Work, Social Affairs,  
Martyred and Disabled**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**9 March 2007**

A Cooperation agreement was signed between the Afghanistan Ozone Programme – National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and the Ministry of Work, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled on 22 February 2007.

Under the agreement, the Ministry of Works, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled will provide office space for the establishment of refrigerant technician training centers within its existing vocational training centers in Kabul, Herat, Mazar – e- Sharif and Kandahar.

The Afghanistan Ozone Programme is funded by the Multilateral Fund Secretariat for the implementation of Montreal Protocol in Afghanistan. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Government of Germany (GTZ – Proklima) will provide the necessary training material and equipment for the four training centers.

Professional Afghan refrigerant technicians will receive technical training with regard to good practices in refrigeration services, use of recycling and recovery machines for refrigerants and retrofit technology for switching over from R-12 refrigerants, which are famous Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) to R-134a (alternative to R-12 and a non-ODS).

The project has been approved under the National ODS Phase out Plan for Afghanistan, under which Afghanistan has to reduce its reported ODS consumption of 179 metric tonnes in 2004 by 100 % until 2010.

The Afghanistan Ozone Programme with technical assistance from UNEP and GTZ-Proklima will train about 300 refrigerant technicians until 2010 and will – after agreement on use and maintenance - provide around 145 recovery and recycling machines to refrigerants service workshops around the country.

The cooperation between NEPA and the Ministry of Works, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled enhances the goal of mainstreaming environmental considerations and a sustainable approach into the curricula of governmental vocational training centers. Post 2010, the refrigerant technician training centers will be officially handed over to the Ministry of Works, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled for future refrigerant trainings.

**For further information and interviews, please contact:**

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