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Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
National Environmental Protection Agency

Afghanistan Ozone Programme
Training for Technicians of the Refrigeration Sector

PRESS RELEASE
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Kabul, Afghanistan: The Afghanistan Ozone Programme supported by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) will organize a five day workshop on "GOOD PRACTICES IN REFRIGERATION AND USE OF RECYCLING AND RECOVERY UNITS" from 19 – 23 May 2007 in Kabul, which will be facilitated by international experts from the UNEP Bangkok office, GTZ – Proklima – Germany and experts from the supplier company of the Recovery and Recycling Units (Agramkov). This train the trainer's workshop will focus to train 20 participants on good practices during refrigerant / air conditioning servicing; and the retrofitting of existing R-12 based refrigerant systems, which are hazardous to the environment and cause ozone layer depletion to non ozone depleting character refrigerant gases such as R-134a.

Furthermore, the Afghanistan Ozone Programme will distribute around 146 Refrigerant Recovery and Recycling units to local refrigerant service workshops in Kabul, Hirat, Mazar e Sharif, Kandahar, Paktia, Jalalabad and Kunduz to assist the refrigerant technicians to provide environment friendly services and get accustomed to modern technical equipment which is energy efficient as well.

In February 2007, the Afghanistan Ozone Programme and the Ministry of Works, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled signed a Memorandum of Understanding, under which the Afghanistan Ozone Programme will establish four refrigerant technicians training centres within the existing vocational training centres of the Ministry.

During 2007 – 2009, more than 300 refrigerant technicians will receive training in good practices in refrigeration and the use of recovery and recycling units.

The Afghanistan Ozone Programme has received this assistance with the help of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Government of Germany (GTZ – Proklima) during preparation of Afghanistan's country programme for phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances which was approved by the 47th ExCom meeting of the Montreal Protocol at a cost of 1.18 million US dollars. The 146 Recovery and Recycling machines and equipment for the four training centres recently received by the Afghanistan Ozone Programme is worth around 800,000 US dollars.

For further information, please contact:

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