



Press Release

For Immediate Release
9 October 2009

Trainers' Workshop in Hydrocarbon Refrigerants and Technology

As the focal point for Montreal Protocol activities in Belize, the National Ozone Unit in the Department of the Environment will be conducting a Trainers' Workshop in Hydrocarbon Refrigerants and Technology for technicians in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Sector of Belize. The Training Workshop is scheduled for three complete days starting on October 13th and ending on October 15th, 2009 at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City.

Senior technicians were carefully selected from across the country to participate at the trainers' workshop. Participants include individuals from the private sector, refrigeration companies, and the ITVET institutes. Technicians from the Caribbean region including Grenada, Guyana, Suriname, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Kitts & Nevis, and the Bahamas will also be attending the workshop.

The lead trainer is Mr. Daniel Colbourne, Hydrocarbon Expert from the United Kingdom. The main purpose of the workshop is to train participants on the use, handling and safety of hydrocarbon refrigerants in refrigeration and air conditioning systems. The use of Hydrocarbon refrigerants is on the rise in many other countries since the Montreal Protocol was adjusted to accelerate the phase out of R-22 and other HydroChlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). Experts are not recommending that countries make the full transition from HCFCs to Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) such as R134a, R404 or R410a since these gases have a very high global warming potential and will be addressed in the years to come.

Upon completion of the workshop, participants will be certified as trainers in hydrocarbon refrigerants, whom will assist the Department of the Environment to train other local technicians in the sector in future training workshops.

The Opening Ceremony for the training will be held on October 13, 2009 starting at 8:30 am. Through this medium, all media houses are hereby invited to attend the opening ceremony.

For further information, please contact:

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