

EMB-NCR spearheads ODS and HFC Training for Dealers, Resellers, and Service Providers; POD facilitates discussions



The Environmental Management Bureau-National Capital Region conducted a training for the ODS & HFCs Dealers, Resellers, and Service Providers for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol & Overview of the RA 6969 Implementation Rules and Regulations on September 19-20, 2024, at the EMB Central Office, DENR Compound.

The Philippine Ozone Desk presented different and important topics, such as Ozone Science, Implementation of the Montreal Protocol and

its Amendments, Project Implementation and Updates, and Refrigerant Identifier Demonstration and What Gas Application Presentation.

The highlight of the two-day event was the presentation of Ms. Kathrine Viñegas, national expert in Gender and Environment, about Gender and Environment Nexus, Global Commitments and National Policies on Gender, and Practical Tips for Mainstreaming Gender in Montreal Protocol Projects.

Relating to ozone-depleting substances, Ms. Viñegas

highlighted that women are more vulnerable to ODS when exposed, as they store more environmental pollutants than men in their tissues. This exposure may also cause reproductive health problems, and a significant part of the chemical burden experienced by mothers can be transferred to their babies through gestation and breastfeeding.

Ms. Viñegas presents the country's commitments that put importance to women's rights, including the UN Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

that the Philippines ratified in 1981 and reports every four years, the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), which served as a blueprint for advancing women's rights, and the country reports to BPfA every five years, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly the SDG five that hopes to achieve gender equality.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted in 2019 the Enhance Gender Action Plan (GAP) to advance knowledge and understanding of gender responsive climate action. GAP's priority areas include capacity building, knowledge management, and communication, gender balance, participation, and women's leadership, coherence,



gender responsive implementation and means of implementation, and monitoring and reporting.

On the United Nations Environment Programme's 84th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Funds (MF) for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the parties drafted operational policy on gender mainstreaming for MF-supported projects, including a gender responsive approach, the collection and reporting of sex disaggregated data, affirming the importance of gender mainstreaming in MF-supported projects, and requesting bilateral and implementing agencies to apply gender mainstreaming and report gender-relevant information.

Locally, the Philippines mandates the equal rights of women; as stated in the 1987 Constitution, the state recognizes the role of women in nation-building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men. The Republic Act 9710 of 2019 or the Magna Carta of Women, Executive Order 273 of 1995 approving and adopting the Philippine Plan for Gender Responsive Development (PPGRD), and Philippine Commission on Women Memorandum Circular 2011-01 are some of the policies that protect the rights and welfare of women.

Ms. Viñegas also provided practical tips for mainstreaming gender in the Montreal Protocol, such as gender categorization, gender analysis, analysis of



findings, risk assessment, logical framework, and gender responsive budgeting in project formulation. In project implementation, Ms. Viñegas recommended having an implementation team and collaborating with stakeholders. Lastly, for monitoring and evaluation, monitoring

gender results, evaluating gender results, building case studies, and communicating gender results.

In the Philippines, leaders who champion the Montreal Protocol are women. OIC Assistant Secretary for Environment and concurrent EMB

Director Jacqueline A. Caancan, CESO III, is the Overall Project Director, while OIC Assistant Director Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul serves as the Overall Project Coordinator for ODS phaseout and HFC programs under the Montreal Protocol.

