



**American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and
Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)
&
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**



Press Release

**Launching the Programme of Work of the International Cooperation
Agreement between UNEP & ASHRAE**

Kuwait 5 October 2009

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched a joint Programme of Work in margins of the Annual ASHRAE Conference of its Region-at-Large, which held in Kuwait during 3-5 October 2009, to activate the International Cooperation Agreement previously signed between the two organizations;

This cooperation agreement aims to achieve several international goals, such as; the sustainable phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in refrigeration and air- conditioning applications; climate benefits of using ODS alternatives including aspects of energy saving in buildings; as well as facilitate the transfer and adoption of suitable technologies in developing countries.

The launched program of work will include several practical steps, with a specific time-frame in order to ensure effective implementation of the agreement. For example; it is agreed that a specialized online training programme on ODS and its alternatives, for the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector, will be made available for free to all professionals; in addition to benefiting of international Distinguished Lecturers (DL) program of ASHRAE in regional and national activities carried out by UNEP in developing countries; as well as explore ways to support relevant research on alternatives and applications supporting energy-saving concepts. Both organizations will cooperate, as well, in organizing specialized conferences for refrigeration and air-conditioning stakeholders.

The program of work also covers series of activities related to dissemination of refrigeration and air-conditioning standards and guidelines related to environmental and energy saving issues, along with facilitating the provision of technical support to developing countries develops its own required national standards and guidelines.

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