International Ozone Day

16th September 2021

Environmental Quality Cell (EQC), Jamia Hamdard in association with Business and Employment Bureau celebrated 'International Ozone Day' on 16th September 2021 by organizing a Hybrid Webinar at Hamdard Archives, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi.



The program started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Dr. Mohd. Ahmed Naeemi, Department of Islamic Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jamia Hamdard. Prof. (Dr) M.Z. Abdin (Chairman, EQC) in his welcome address thanked all the speakers, Deans of Schools, HoDs, Unit heads and august gathering for attending this important event. He talked about the importance of Ozone layer and the harmful effect of Ultra Violet radiations on human body and environment. He said that Ozone layer acts as Nature's Umbrella in protecting planet earth and it is our responsibility not only to protect this Umbrella but to also create awareness about it. Prof Abdin informed the gathering that the theme for this year International Ozone Day is "Montreal Protocol –Keeping Us, Our Food and Vaccines Cool"

Padma Shri and Padma Bushan awardee, Dr Anil P. Joshi from Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO), Dehradun began his lecture explaining how the universe was formed and what role oxygen and methane played in the formation and evolution of organisms. He emphasized that apart from celebrating these days, we should make firm determination and take an oath to protect the environment. Along with GDP, we also need to focus on individual and state accountability towards nature and protection of environment.

Dr. Reema Pant from Techno Hub Laboratories, Dehradun spoke on the topic "Earth without Ozone is like a house without a roof". She discussed the entire journey of thirty six years from the signing of Ozone declaration and Geneva Protocol up to now. Dr Reema Pant discussed the formation of stratosphere, ozone layer and evolution of human kind. She informed that Ozone layer above stratosphere is three millimeter thick, which keeps us safe from UV rays and the thickness varies depending on the seasons, solar flares and distance from the Sun. The Ozone layer breaks down and builds itself and the break down is prominent in Arctic and Antarctic regions. The break down is more in winters in Antarctic due to Polar stratospheric cloud. She said everyone has to play their role to preserve and protect nature. Nations have agreed to phase out the usage of CFCs as a result we are slowly regaining the lost Ozone layer.

Dr Govind Singh from O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana spoke on the "Success of Montreal Protocol: Lessons for overcoming the climate crisis". Dr Singh started his lecture explaining the polar vortex effect due to which the ozone layer has depleted over the South Pole. But the condition has improved considerably since 2015 because of the huge effort taken at various levels and this can be called a success story. Explaining in detail Dr Singh further said that the Montreal protocol is one of the most successful protocols in the history of United Nations having being ratified by all the member nations of the UN. It was adopted on 16th September 1987. It regulates production and consumption of Ozone depleting substances. CFCs usage was reduced in

a phased out manner with HFCs. But later it was found that HFCs were potent greenhouse gases and hence, was adding on to the climate crisis. The Montreal protocol was amended to add HFCs in the list of substances, which would not be manufactured. Dr. Singh opined that the success of Montreal protocol should be replicated in fighting the climate crisis.



Prof. Tasneem Fatima from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, spoke on the topic "Ozone: Why do we care?" She began her lecture emphasizing that educational institutes have to play a leading role in creating awareness about the Ozone layer. She said essay competitions, poster competitions, expert level discussion and research should be conducted in finding out the solution for maintaining Ozone layer and role of media in disseminating activities should be brought together. Prof Fatima explained about the chemical mechanism of Ozone depletion in the Stratosphere and the dangerous consequences of depletion of Ozone layer which would result in increase in UV-B and UV-C radiation reaching the earth's surface causing skin cancer, decrease in immunity, decrease in photosynthesis and nitrogen metabolism. She further said that India phased out the use of CFC in 2008 and as a signatory to the

Kigali agreement, India has a deadline to start working on cutting off its HFC emission by 15% of the 2014-26 levels by 2047. Highlighting the role played by the government, she said that as a step towards maintaining Ozone layer, Govt. of India has asked all financial institutions and banks not to fund establishments using Ozone depleting substances. With the support of United Nations Development Program (UNDP), India could completely phase out production and consumption of CFCs, carbon tetrachloride and halon two years ahead of schedule.

Dr. Ghazala Habib from Indian Institute of Technology Delhi spoke on "New dimensions in the environment conservation with emphasis on effect of aerosols, particulate matter and precursor gases environment". Her talk dealt with three major questions; Pollution and its effects on human health and ecology, emission of precursors in Indian subcontinent and how can we increase our understanding of emission of precursor gases. Dr. Ghazala pointed out that NOx emission is very high in South East Asia. Anthropogenic sources are the major contributors towards Ozone formation and during lockdown the Ozone formation decreased considerably in northern hemisphere, but in major Indian cities Ozone increased due to clear sky. She emphasized that Ozone formation can be controlled by controlling the precursor gases coming out of the anthropogenic sources. She said one challenge which India faces is to spatially distribute the emission since due to economic diversity the usage of cooking fuels etc. is not uniform throughout the country. Dr. Ghazala informed that her team is working on measuring the emission factor from various sources in India. She finished her lecture by pointing out that large discrepancies between model simulation and satellite data indicates the need of improving model inputs including particle properties and emission estimates.



Prof (Dr.) Afshar Alam in his Presidential remarks discussed about the need of creating awareness regarding Ozone preservation. He said Sustainable Development Goal number 17 highlights the importance of strong global cooperation and partnership in dealing and solving various issues. Prof.Alam talked about the various methods of reducing Ozone depleting substances such as recycling old Air Conditioners, not to damage cooling circuits which contains ODS etc. On this occasion, the honorable vice-chancellor announced that the Environmental and Quality Cell (EQC) of Jamia Hamdard under the chairmanship of Prof. M.Z.Abdin is doing a commendable work in not only creating awareness about environmental protection but also taking concrete steps in planting trees, waste management and efficient use of energy resources and to meet and full fill the future needs and responsibilities EQC would be upgraded to the 'Center for Environmental Quality and Sustainable Development'.

Mr. Shoukat Mufti in his Vote of Thanks informed about the Business and Employment bureau, which was started by the founder of Jamia Hamdard, Late Janab Hakeem Abdul Hameed Sahab to offer vocational training and other opportunities to the weaker sections of the society. He thanked all the speakers, dignitaries and audience for their active participation in the event to make it successful.

This event was covered by news media and attended by more than 100 participants comprising of Teachers and Students.

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International Ozone Day celebrated at Jamia Hamdard



New Delhi, Sep 16 (UNI) September 16 is observed as 'World Ozone Day' across the world to spread awareness about the depletion in the Ozone layer and find possible solutions to preserve it.

Jamia Hamdard celebrated the occasion with a ceremony where Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri Dr. Anil P. Joshi (HESCO, Dehradun) attended as the chief guest. Mr Joshi spoke about the responsibility of the

state and the individual in maintaining a healthy environment. He emphasised that along with economic growth we should pay attention towards environmental issues as well. Among the other speakers, Dr. Reema Pant (OPC, Dehradun) highlighted the role of industries in finding alternative sustainable solutions. Prof. (Dr) Tasneem Fatima (JMI, New Delhi), Prof. (Dr) Gazala Habib (IIT, Delhi) and Dr. Govind Singh (O.P Jindal University, Haryana) discussed about various ways of educating young minds regarding the Ozone layer and also spoke about





The program ended with National Anthem followed by High Tea.