

ICC organises workshop to celebrate World Ozone Day

Our Bureau

Kolkata, Sept. 16

The Indian Chamber of Commerce organised here on Tuesday an industrial workshop on Phase Out Strategies of Carbon Tetrachloride (CTC) to celebrate the World Ozone Day. CTC, which is a powerful ozone depleting substance, is widely used in industries as a cleaning solvent mainly for electrical contact cleaning purposes. Under the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances, signed by India in 1992, all ozone depleting substances have to be phased out by December 2009.

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT

The workshop was organised to raise awareness about the negative environment impacts and health effects associated with the use of CTC in industrial applications and inform about the existence, uses and applications of alternative substances and products.

ICChad been working in partnership with GTZ Proklima on a project on implementation of Phase Out Plan of CTC in West Bengal under the Ozone Cell, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.

A report based on the findings of the survey entitled, Carbon Tetrachloride: The West Bengal Scenario, was also released on the occasion.

The survey was conducted across three districts of the State, namely, Kolkata Metropolitan area, Haldia and Hooghly.

The results of the survey indicated 52 per cent of the respondents were still using CTC for electrical contact and metal cleaning purposes while less than 16 per cent had already switched over to alternative products. An estimated 31 per cent declined to provide information, which was a matter of concern.

The workshop was addressed by Mr Harish K. Jha, ~~president~~ president of ICC and three experts from GTZ, namely, Mr Markus Wypior, Project Manager, Mr C.J. Mathew, Technical Advisor and Mr Felix Nitz, technical expert.