

# How you can help to save ozone layer — DoE director

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**KOTA KINABALU:** The people and the manufacturing industry are advised to implement the responsibility of saving the ozone layer.

Sabah Department of Environment (DoE) director Tunku Khalkausar Tunku Fathahi said dependence on government agencies in the effort was limited and the involvement of local communities in implementing the responsibilities was required in order to be able to pass down the environment to future generations.

“As a consumer who contributes to global warming, we are all responsible for saving the ozone layer,” she said, adding that environmental preservation and conservation efforts were a shared responsibility.

“Air-conditioners and refrigerators need to be maintained and well operated to prevent leakage of cooling gases

that may diminish the ozone layer.

“For manufacturing industries using ozone depleting substances (ODS), they need to be ready to exchange technology so that the products they produce are ozone and environmentally friendly.

“Whereas parties involved in the construction of new buildings should be ready to install air conditioning systems using alternative materials to HCFC (Hydrochlorofluorocarbons),” she said, adding that the campaign could be exposed and equipped with information on efforts being done to protect the ozone layer.

Khalkausar said in her speech during the Ozone Layer Protection Awareness Campaign which was held at the Outdoor Development Centre (ODEC), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here, yesterday.

The event was organized

by DoE in collaboration with UMS and launched by UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin in conjunction with the World Ozone Day Celebration 2018.

World Ozone Day 2018 is celebrated on September 16th every year with this year’s theme, “Keep Cool and Carry On: The Montreal Protocol”, which carried a message of continuing efforts to protect the ozone layer to slow the impact of climate change and maintain a comfortable and sustainable life.

According to Khalkausar, the natural ozone layer in the Earth atmosphere which resides about 16 km above the Earth surface up to 50 km above the Earth surface, are important layers to protect life on earth from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation and the thickness of the layer should be maintained.

However, the ozone layer is

threatened due to the excessive usage of ODS and effects of thinning of the ozone layer could cause skin cancer, cataracts and disorders of the food chain, she added.

The ODS such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) and HCFC are widely used in air-conditioners and refrigerators apart from Halon in fire extinguishers and cleaning substance of Methyl chloroform and carbon tetrachloride (CTC) while methyl bromide (Mbr) used in agriculture against pests, quarantine and wood-based products treatment.

About 100 students from five institutions participated in the campaign, namely UMS, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Kota Kinabalu Polytechnic, Industrial Training Institute (ILP) and Mara Skills Institute (IKM).

The industry sector was also



**Kamarudin planting a tree at the event during the Ozone Layer Protection Awareness Campaign at UMS, yesterday.**

involved in the event which includes Petronas Sabah and Labuan, Quality Nature Sdn. Bhd. and NCT Forwarding & Shipping Sdn Bhd while Sabah

Environmental Protection Department and eight other environmental organizations also participated in supporting the event.