MESSAGE FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DR. SUMIT ARORA

It gives me immense pleasure to release the fourth issue of our monthly newsletter. I hope that the information and contents in the newsletter will provide a deep understanding about the voluntary and in-voluntary activities undertaken by APSWDP.

This edition will highlight the active participation of our three members in United Nations High Level Virtual Meetings and The Climate Reality Global Training. The self-driven momentum is a motivation to our team intended to work hard amid all the challenges. I am extremely delighted that Mr. Anshu Kumar has contributed his ideas on Ozone Layer and Climate Change.

I congratulate all the members of editorial team for their support in preparation of this issue. With these words, I take this opportunity to invite short write-ups from our esteemed members which will be published in our forthcoming issues.
During the month of July 2020, APSWDP has released two of its policies namely Volunteer Policy and Internship/ Block Field Work Policy. The former aims at engaging volunteer task force, whereas the latter intends to provide knowledge and deep understanding about the crucial areas of Social Work. As a result, the association has evolved its first partnership with the Department of Social Work, Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani (Haryana) for conducting Virtual Summer Internship Course 2020 for 19 students pursuing their Masters in Social Work (MSW), Semester-II.

The main objectives of this Virtual Summer Internship Course 2020 is to take the students of Masters in Social Work (MSW) to a journey passing through transactional learning, acquiring of knowledge and skills, understanding between theory and practice and from volunteerism to professionalism.

Besides, a four week comprehensive practice based curriculum has been designed for the students by introducing virtual technical sessions of 15 hours. Ranges of experts have been invited to take sessions on social work profession (methods, values, ethics), social work skills, urban poverty, disaster management, livelihood, UN system and its values, introduction to UN Volunteers, Young Professional's and Consultants.

Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati, Director (Hon.) - Policy and Administration, APSWDP has been shortlisted to participate in the first ever Climate Reality Leadership Corps: Global Training (through virtual mode) from 18th July 2020 to 26th July 2020, organized by The Climate Reality Project founded by the former US Vice President and Noble Laureate Al Gore. Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati is an alumni of Green Campus Programme of The Climate Reality Project India and now a master trainer. He will be representing APSWDP at different forums, nationally as well as internationally.

APSWDP has previously nominated Dr. Sumit Arora, Mr. Navneet Trivedi, Mr. Karamvir Singh and Mr. Youdhvir Singh in the year 2015 to attend similar training that took place in New Delhi. In year 2009, Mr. Vivek Trivedi, Founder of APSWDP was the whistle blower and the first one to be shortlisted for attending this training held in Melbourne, Australia.

The quintet of these five Climate Leaders has taken this Climate Reality presentation to more than ten thousand persons in past 11 years. The presentation has been imparted at the level of schools, colleges including engineering & medical, universities, government departments, private sectors, corporate houses and veterans associated with Rotary Club. In addition, Advocacy programmes, Teachers Training programmes, Plantation drives and Exhibitions were also organized by these Climate Leaders.
APSWD was invited to nominate guest speakers in an online webinar on the occasion of Swachhta Pakhwada under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) organized by Indian Oil (CSR), Punjab State Office, Chandigarh. Dr. Sumit Arora took a detailed presentation on Single Use Plastic on 11th July 2020 whereas Mr. Vivek Trivedi took a detailed presentation on Engaging Community and Behaviour Modification on 13th July 2020. The online sessions were attended by the employees of India Oil from North Region of India. The Webinar was presided over by Mr. Sujoy Chaudhary, Executive Director, Indian Oil, Punjab State.

Mr. Vivek Trivedi has represented APSWD in the virtual CSO Workshop Series ‘Communication Challenges and Opportunities in the COVID-19 Era’ organized by Department of Global Communications (DGC) of the United Nations in partnership with the Global NGO Executive Committee. The workshop focused on the tools and techniques of effective communication for NGOs and transforming NGO communication, from conversation to advocacy & action and social Policy.

(From Top to Bottom) Presenting FICCI and APSWD supported COVID-19 Warriors hampers to the head of the Transgender Community in Chandigarh, Print Media correspondents from Dainik Bhaskar, Plantation Drive under sustainable consumption by Interns Department of Social Work, CBLU, Bhiwani under the mentorship of Shri Jitender Kumar and Shri Mool Raj Assistant Professor.

**Know Your Member**

**Rakhi Sharma**

**SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL**

Ms. Rakhi Sharma is a humanitarian and development professional and have Masters degree in the field of Social Work from Punjabi University Patiala. She has expertise in Public Health sector including HIV/AIDS, Youth Development and Affairs. Presently, she is Assistant Director Youth Affairs in Haryana AIDS Control Society.

**Manish Mittal**

**SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL**

Mr. Manish Mittal is a humanitarian and development professional and have Masters degree in the field of Social Work from Punjabi University Patiala. He has expertise in Youth Development, Capacity Building and Training. Presently, he is Capacity Building Specialist in Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).
Over the past few decades, ozone layer depletion is one of the major concerns and emerged as a main environmental problem around the globe. The harmful chemical such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Chlorine, Bromine, and hydro-chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) deplete the ozone layer (O3) and affects the health of human beings. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was designed to reduce the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances in order to reduce their abundance in the atmosphere and thereby protect the Earth’s fragile ozone Layer. The original Montreal Protocol was agreed on 16 September 1987. At present, 197 countries are parties to this protocol.

The most prevalent form of oxygen is created when two oxygen atoms join together to form an oxygen molecule (O2). Ozone, on the other hand, consists of three oxygen atoms (O3). In the stratosphere, the layer of the atmosphere that contains the ozone layer, UV rays from the sun reacts with the existing oxygen molecules and breaks them down into oxygen atoms. In the reaction that follows, three oxygen atoms join together to form ozone molecules. Thus, oxygen is continually converted into ozone. The reverse is also true: some ozone is also decomposed into three oxygen atoms, which join together in twos to become oxygen molecules. In this way, a continuous equilibrium is maintained between ozone and oxygen in the stratosphere. The UV rays cause HCFCs (refrigerant used in refrigeration and air-conditioning, foam) to release chlorine radicals and the subsequent reactions between chlorine and oxygen atoms from ozone molecules. These reactions cause ozone depletion. When HCFC molecules come close to the ozone layer, they trigger a chain reaction. An HCFC molecule decomposes and releases chlorine radical when it comes into contact with the sun’s UV rays. These repetitive cycles deplete the ozone layer. Reactions by man made, ozone-depleting chemicals upset the natural ozone balance in the stratosphere, raising serious concerns. With the loss of the natural ozone shield, the Earth’s living organisms are exposed to the harmful effects of UV-B radiation. Among other effects, UV-B radiation can increase the probability of skin cancer among human beings. It can also induce eye injury, damaging the cornea and lens of the eye, which can lead to cataracts. UV radiation can also suppress the human immune system, making it prone to a number of infectious diseases. Fish and other ocean animals are affected by this radiation, since it adversely influences aquatic life, leading to decreased reproductive capacity and impaired development. Materials are also harmed by increased UV radiation, which has adverse effects on synthetic polymers, naturally occurring biopolymers and other materials of commercial interest. The material used in buildings, paints, packaging, and countless other substances can be degraded by UV-B rays, which accelerate photodegradation rates. Typical damage ranges from discoloration to loss of mechanical integrity. Increased UV-B radiation may also cause decreased crop yields and damage to forests, as well as increased cancer rates in humans.

According to experts, the world will feel the impact of global warming in the next few decades from the release of these chemicals. Increased global temperatures, combined with rising population rates, will make society more vulnerable to climate change. Higher temperatures will lead to climatic disorders, droughts, famine, floods and longer heat waves in new areas. Tropical islands and low-lying coastal areas will face the threat of being submerged by rising sea levels.

To conclude, let us save mother earth by campaigning “not to release any type of refrigerant in the atmosphere which causes ozone depletion or contributes to greenhouse gases”. We can avoid up to 0.5°C of global warming by the end of this century while continuing to protect the ozone layer.