

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1466 )**

Head: (168) Hong Kong Observatory

Subhead (No. & title): ( )

Programme: (1) Weather Services

Controlling Officer: Director of the Hong Kong Observatory ( SHUN Chi Ming )

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

While the estimated financial provision for weather services of the Hong Kong Observatory in the 2016-17 financial year is 5.7% higher than the original estimate of 2015-16, the estimated percentage of forecasts perceived as accurate by the public is the same as the actual percentage of last year and the percentage of accurate public forecasts as verified by objective means has decreased from 92% to 90%. What are the reasons for this? Does the Government have plans to take measures to further enhance the provision of weather forecasts both in terms of quality and quantity? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

The percentage of forecasts perceived as accurate by the public, which represents the subjective impression assessment made by the public in response to telephone surveys, rose from 77% in 2014 to 78% in 2015, comparable to the minimum level that the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) planned to achieve in those two years (78%). For 2016, the minimum level that HKO plans to achieve remains at 78%.

The percentage of accurate public forecasts as verified by objective means rose from 91% in 2014 to 92% in 2015, higher than the minimum level that HKO planned to achieve in those two years (90%). For 2016, the minimum level that HKO plans to achieve remains at 90%.

HKO will keep abreast of the latest development to enhance its forecasting techniques to meet the challenges of more extreme weather conditions brought by climate change. HKO will continue to exchange experiences with meteorological organisations around the world on matters such as weather monitoring, forecasts and warnings.

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