

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CEDB(CIT)304**

**(Question Serial No. 1478 )**

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:

The revised estimate of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) for the weather services for 2015-16 was \$243.1 million, which is 2.6% higher than the original estimate of \$236.9 million. In addition, the estimate for 2016-17 has further increased to \$250.3 million. Would the Government please advise this Council of the following:

1. The revised estimate for 2015-16 was increased by 2.6%. What are the reasons?
2. The estimate for 2016-17 is 5.7% higher than the original estimate for 2015-16 and it is mentioned in the Estimates that 3 posts would be created in HKO. What are the posts? Regarding the increase in non-recurrent expenditure, what are the details?
3. The percentages of forecasts perceived as accurate by the public have always remained below 80%, apparently lower than that of the accurate forecasts as assessed by ship captains and airline operators. What are the reasons? Will there be any measures to raise the percentages of forecasts perceived as accurate by the public? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

1. The revised estimate for 2015-16 was increased by 2.6%. This mainly reflects the results of the 2015-16 civil service pay adjustment and 2013 pay level survey.
2. In 2016-17, the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) will create two posts in the rank of Senior Experimental Officer to provide aviation-specific meteorological information services at the Hong Kong International Airport, and one post in the rank of Executive Officer II to provide general administrative support to HKO. Regarding the increase

in non-recurrent expenditure, it mainly reflects the updating of the ambit of the Subhead 661 “Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)” as set out in the Introduction to the Estimates and the increased requirement for scheduled replacement of minor plant and equipment.

3. The percentages of forecasts perceived as accurate by the public, ship captains and airline companies represent the respective subjective impression assessment made by the three groups in response to telephone surveys or questionnaires. Since the content, time horizon and areas of interest given in the weather forecasts to various user groups are different, and the user groups’ requirements are not the same, the respective subjective impression assessments cannot be compared directly.

HKO will keep abreast of the latest development to enhance its forecast techniques. HKO will continue to exchange experience with meteorological institutes around the world over a whole range of subjects in weather monitoring, prediction and warnings.

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