

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CEDB(CIT)311**

**(Question Serial No. 2771 )**

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 2016-17 estimate for Programme (1) Weather Services is \$250.3 million. Please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) The Government plans to set the percentage of forecasts perceived as accurate by the public at 78% and that of accurate forecasts as assessed by ship captains and airline operators 96% and 98% respectively. On what basis are these 3 figures arrived at? Will the provision be used to increase the percentage of forecasts perceived as accurate by the public? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (2) Will the Government also consider to provide information on “apparent temperature”? If yes, will additional provision be required? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

- (1) 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. The minimum levels that the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) plans to achieve for the three user groups targets for 2016 were determined based on the trends in the respective subjective impression assessments.

HKO will keep abreast of the latest development to enhance its forecasting techniques, and continue to exchange experiences with meteorological organisations around the world on matters such as weather monitoring, forecasts and warnings.

- (2) At present, there is no global standard for apparent temperature. HKO will make reference to overseas practices in studying whether to introduce an index appropriate for Hong Kong. HKO will carry out the work with existing resources.

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