

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CEDB(CIT)313**

**(Question Serial No. 4610)**

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:

Regarding “analysing meteorological data and computing the future weather by numerical modelling”, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) How many senior scientific officers, scientific officers and technicians are there in the 4 branches under the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) according to its organisation chart and staff establishment, and what is the expenditure for staffing provision involved? Please illustrate in detail with an organisation chart.
- (2) How are eligible senior scientific officers selected to present weather reports on TV news programmes in the morning? Please explain its significance and necessity.
- (3) What were the expenditures on enhancement of weather forecasts and forecasting techniques in the actual provisions for 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, the revised provisions for 2015-16 and the estimate for 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun (Member Question No. 55)

Reply:

- (1) The number of Senior Scientific Officer, Scientific Officer and technician posts under the establishment of the four branches of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) is given in the following table. The relevant organisation chart is given at Annex.

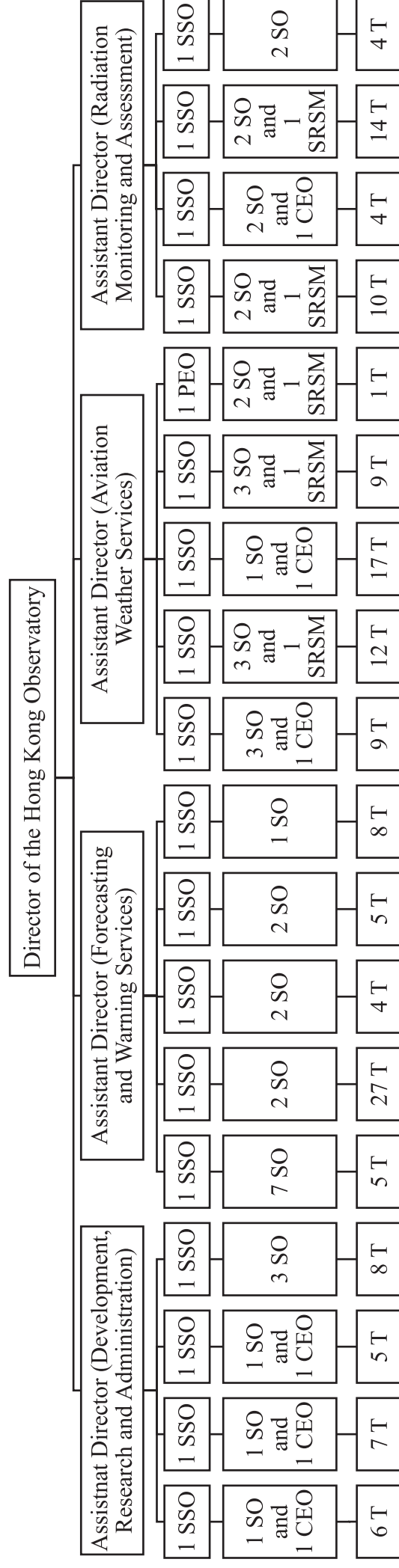
	Number of Posts under Establishment (as at 29 February 2016)			
	Development, Research and Administration Branch	Forecasting and Warning Services Branch	Aviation Weather Services Branch	Radiation Monitoring and Assessment Branch
Senior Scientific Officer	4	5	4	4
Scientific Officer	6	14	12	8
Technician (including staff of Experimental Officer, Radar Specialist Mechanic, and Scientific Assistant grades)	29	49	54	35

The estimated expenditure for personal emoluments of HKO in 2016-17 is \$188,897,000.

- (2) HKO produces its own morning and evening TV weather programmes. The programmes are broadcast through TV stations, and made directly available to the public through the “MyObservatory” mobile application and HKO’s webpage. Interested HKO professional staff, including Senior Scientific Officers, serve as programme presenters after audition and training. The programme presenters aim to provide reliable and updated weather information in a professional manner to the public.
- (3) HKO will keep abreast of the latest development to enhance its forecasting techniques, and continue to exchange experience with meteorological institutes around the world over a whole range of subjects in weather monitoring, prediction and warnings. This is part of HKO’s on-going work and only involves existing manpower. As the relevant expenditure has been subsumed into the actual expenditure and estimates for HKO of the respective years, it is difficult to quantify it separately.

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Organisation Chart of the Hong Kong Observatory (as at 29 February 2016)



## Legend:

SSO – Senior Scientific Officer

SO – Scientific Officer

T – Other technicians of Senior Experimental Officer, Experimental Officer, Radar Specialist Mechanic ranks and Scientific Assistant grade.

PEO – Principal Experimental Officer

CEO – Chief Experimental Officer

SRSM – Senior Radar Specialist Mechanic