

Insights from WMO Port Meteorological Officers Workshop

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The Port Meteorological Officer (PMO) of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) attended the Sixth International Port Meteorological Officers Workshop (PMO-6) organised by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 16 and 18 March 2021. The workshop was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 150 participants from 57 countries and territories attended the workshop.

The PMO network provides a way to ensure that standard procedures proposed by WMO are followed throughout the whole Voluntary Observing Ship fleet in every country, and that the data produced are homogenous and comply with the WMO standards.

The role of the Port Meteorological Officer (PMO) contributes directly to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Scheme. PMOs are focal points for ship-based observations, and play a key role in the operations of the Voluntary Observing Ship Scheme (VOS) through the following activities:

- (1) ship recruitment;
- (2) training provided to marine observers on VOS;
- (3) checking and calibrating the instruments onboard;
- (4) collecting metadata and delayed mode data (e.g. from e-logbooks);
- (5) advising or assisting in meteorological matters upon request by shipmaster;
- (6) providing feedback to shipmaster on data quality and usage; and
- (7) coordinating deployment of instruments from ships.

PMO-6 aimed at involving countries more in PMO activities, updating PMOs with recent developments in standard reporting software (TurboWin+), VOS metadata protocols, station identifiers, and the new developments on the VOS website. The workshop also proposed some recommendations covering a wide range of topics including standards and best practices, VOS metadata, Ship Observations Team unique identifiers (SOT-IDs), and sea ice observations.

The workshop not only enriched PMO's knowledge and techniques to perform their routine duties, but also provided them with the opportunity of keeping abreast of the latest development in international marine meteorological and oceanographic programs.



WMO representatives chaired the PMO6 Workshop in March 2021.