

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CEDB(CIT)264**

**(Question Serial No. 4235)**

Head: (168) Hong Kong Observatory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (1) Weather Services

Controlling Officer: Director of the Hong Kong Observatory ( Dr. CHENG Cho-ming )

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please provide the expenditure of the Community Weather Information Network (Co-WIN) in 2019-20 as well as the objectives and specific estimates for promoting Co-WIN in 2020-21.

Please list the details of the initiative of the Hong Kong Observatory to deliver weather services through social networking platforms, and the estimated expenditure involved in 2020-21.

Please state the details of the Observatory's enhancement of media weather services and the estimated expenditure involved in 2020-21.

Please provide the total number of downloads of the mobile application "MyObservatory" since its launch. Please provide the expenditure for the Observatory's regular updating of its mobile application "MyObservatory" in 2020-21.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 201)

Reply:

The Community Weather Information Network (Co-WIN) is a public education initiative taken by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) in collaboration with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Members of the network share weather observation data through an internet platform for real-time public dissemination. In 2020-21, Co-WIN will continue to organise "Weather Observation Investigative Study and Weather Photos Competition" to encourage students to undertake first-hand weather observations, so as to enhance their knowledge of weather and climate.

In 2020-21, HKO will continue to make use of its Facebook page to enhance public awareness of weather and climate issues and promote understanding of various geophysical phenomena and HKO's services through text, photos and videos. The Instagram platform will continue to focus on the sharing of photos and videos, especially on weather and atmospheric optical phenomena of interest to the public, meteorological instruments and other relevant information. Furthermore, HKO will also continue to utilise various social media platforms including YouTube, Twitter, Sino Weibo and WeChat to provide weather services (including weather programmes, weather reports, warnings of hazardous weather and earthquake messages), as well as to promote weather observation and meteorological education.

In 2020-21, HKO will continue to provide the media with its self-produced television weather programmes and "Cool Met Stuff" public educational video clips. HKO will also continue to produce public educational video clips on extreme weather and climate change to further enhance public awareness of disaster prevention.

The total number of downloads of "MyObservatory" mobile app from its launch to end-February 2020 is about 8.2 million. HKO will update the mobile app from time to time.

The provision of weather services (including the related public education) through the various channels above is part of HKO's day-to-day work. As the expenditure required has been subsumed under the regular provision for HKO, it is difficult to quantify the amounts separately.

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