

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CIT)268

(Question Serial No. 4321)

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:

Please provide the expenditure of the Community Weather Information Network (Co-WIN) in 2018-19 as well as the objectives and specific estimates for promoting Co-WIN in 2019-20.

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 2019-20.

Please state the details of the Observatory's enhancement of media weather services and the estimated expenditure involved in 2019-20.

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 2019-20.

Please describe in detail the damage to the facilities of the Observatory and any impacts to the Observatory's weather services when Super Typhoon Mangkhut battered Hong Kong in 2018, as well as the expenditure involved in repairing the facilities.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

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 a platform on the Internet for real-time public dissemination. In 2019-20, 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.

HKO launched the official Facebook page and Instagram platform in March 2018 to enhance the provision of weather services and public communication via social media. In 2019-20, HKO will continue to make use of the Facebook page to enhance public awareness of weather and climate and promote understanding of various geophysical phenomena and HKO's services through articles, photos and videos. The Instagram platform will continue to focus on the sharing of photos and videos, especially weather and atmospheric optical phenomena of interest to the public, meteorological instruments and other relevant information. Furthermore, HKO will 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 2019-20, HKO will continue to provide the media with its self-produced television weather programmes and "Cool Met Stuff" public education videos. HKO will continue to produce public education videos related to storm surge to further enhance public awareness on disaster prevention.

The total number of downloads of "MyObservatory" mobile app from its launch to end-February 2019 is about 7.8 million. HKO would update the mobile app regularly.

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.

Super Typhoon "Mangkhut" battered Hong Kong in September 2018, causing damages to a few meteorological instruments and facilities of HKO (such as anemometers, weather cameras, and weather stations, etc.). Nevertheless, HKO can still maintain its normal weather services, and the repair of damaged instruments and facilities has largely been completed. As the repair and maintenance of meteorological instruments and facilities are part of HKO's day-to-day work, it is difficult to quantify the amount involved separately. As regards the damage to the buildings of HKO's weather stations, HKO is following up with relevant works departments regarding the repair works and the expenses involved.

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