

Speech by Dr CHAN Pak-wai, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory

23 March 2026

Very happy to meet all of you at this annual press briefing. Before reporting on the core services in the Hong Kong Observatory, let me first introduce my Assistant Directors. They are:

- (1) Mr LEE Lap-shun, Assistant Director responsible for radiation monitoring and instruments,
- (2) Ms SONG Man-kuen, Assistant Director responsible for climate and geophysical services,
- (3) Mr CHAN Sai-tick, Assistant Director responsible for aviation weather services, and
- (4) Mr Cheng Yuen-chung, Assistant Director responsible for public weather services.

Today, 23 March, is the World Meteorological Day, with the theme “Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow” this year. In line with the theme, the Observatory has been dedicated to enhancing our weather monitoring and forecast capabilities, and to promoting public awareness of climates change, hoping that everyone can collaborate to cope with extreme weather events.

According to the World Meteorological Organization’s assessment, 2025 was the second or third warmest year on record globally. Locally, 2025 was the sixth warmest year on record. In particular, October 2025 was exceptionally warm, breaking the records of monthly mean temperature, monthly mean minimum temperature, and number of hot days and hot nights for October. Hong Kong also experienced the

warmest winter on record from December 2025 to February 2026, with the winter mean temperature reaching 19.3 degrees, 2.0 degrees above the normal. In addition, there were five Black Rainstorm Warnings, breaking the annual number on record since the rainstorm warning system began operation in 1992. 14 tropical cyclones necessitated the issuance of tropical cyclone warning signals, the highest annual number since 1946.

Looking ahead to 2026, it is expected that there is a possibility of developing into El Niño in the second half of this year. In Hong Kong, taking into consideration a number of factors including the developments of El Niño, climate model predictions and objective guidance, the tropical cyclone season in Hong Kong is expected to start in June or later and cease in October or before this year. There will likely be about 4 to 7 tropical cyclones coming within 500 kilometres of Hong Kong during the year, which is near normal. In general, El Niño will increase the likelihood of extreme heat in many parts of the world and in the ocean. With the possibility of El Niño development later this year and the continued warming of the climate, the annual mean temperature in Hong Kong is expected to be above normal this year with a high chance of reaching the warmest top 10 on record. The annual rainfall in Hong Kong is expected to be near normal, ranging from 2,100 millimetres to 2,700 millimetres. However, Hong Kong would still be affected by rainstorms and localised heavy rain. Members of the public are reminded to be prepared for the rain and tropical cyclone seasons.

Now, let me introduce the continual enhancement of the Observatory's various services. In order to keep members of the public informed of the changes in coastal sea levels, the HKO launched a new webpage for the trial version of "Coastal Sea Level", providing total water level forecasts for the next 12 hours for 14 existing tide stations in Hong Kong. In addition to astronomical tides, the forecast also includes sea

level anomalies caused by storm surges associated with tropical cyclones and other meteorological factors, such as monsoons. The Realtime Tides charts on the “MyObservatory” mobile application have also been enhanced with the total water level forecast information, facilitating planning of activities near the shore and allowing for appropriate advance precautionary measures against seawater inundation when the situation warrants.

The coastal sea level forecasts do not include wave effects such as overtopping waves. However, considering wave overtopping as one possible cause of sea flooding in coastal regions, the HKO will include forecast information on overtopping waves in the tropical cyclone warning bulletins to alert members of the public of the direction of the coast that may be affected when significant overtopping waves are expected to affect Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, following the launch of Greater Bay Area weather information on the “MyObservatory” mobile application at the end of 2024, the HKO will introduce progressively a trial version of location-specific weather information for cities in the Republic of Korea and Thailand in the second half of this year to provide current weather and weather forecasts. Users can stay updated on the latest official local weather through the “MyObservatory” app even when they are travelling in these countries to better prepare for their travel plans.

To strengthen information dissemination service to assist the public to cope with the hot and humid weather, the HKO will launch on its website Hong Kong Heat Index data, which reflects the combined effect of temperature, humidity, wind speed and solar radiation of more districts in the second quarter of this year.

On communication with the public, the HKO is committed to sharing a wide range of weather information and scientific knowledge through various social media

platforms. In response to the advancements in artificial intelligence, the HKO will gradually utilise AI technology to assist in video production of “Weather Family”, such as festival weather outlooks, in order to enrich the content and enhance presentation quality.

To enhance students’ interest in meteorological science, the HKO will collaborate with the Hong Kong Meteorological Society to organise the “Young Weather Presenter” competition in the second half of this year, inviting local upper primary students to participate via their schools. Through the competition, students can deepen their understanding of weather, enhance their scientific communication skills, and raise the awareness of climate change. Outstanding participants will have the opportunity to represent Hong Kong in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao “Young Weather Presenter” competition held in Guangdong, where they can learn and exchange ideas with students from the three places.

Let me pause here. If you have questions, my Assistant Directors and I will try our best to answer. Thank you!



測今日氣象

護明白家園

Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow

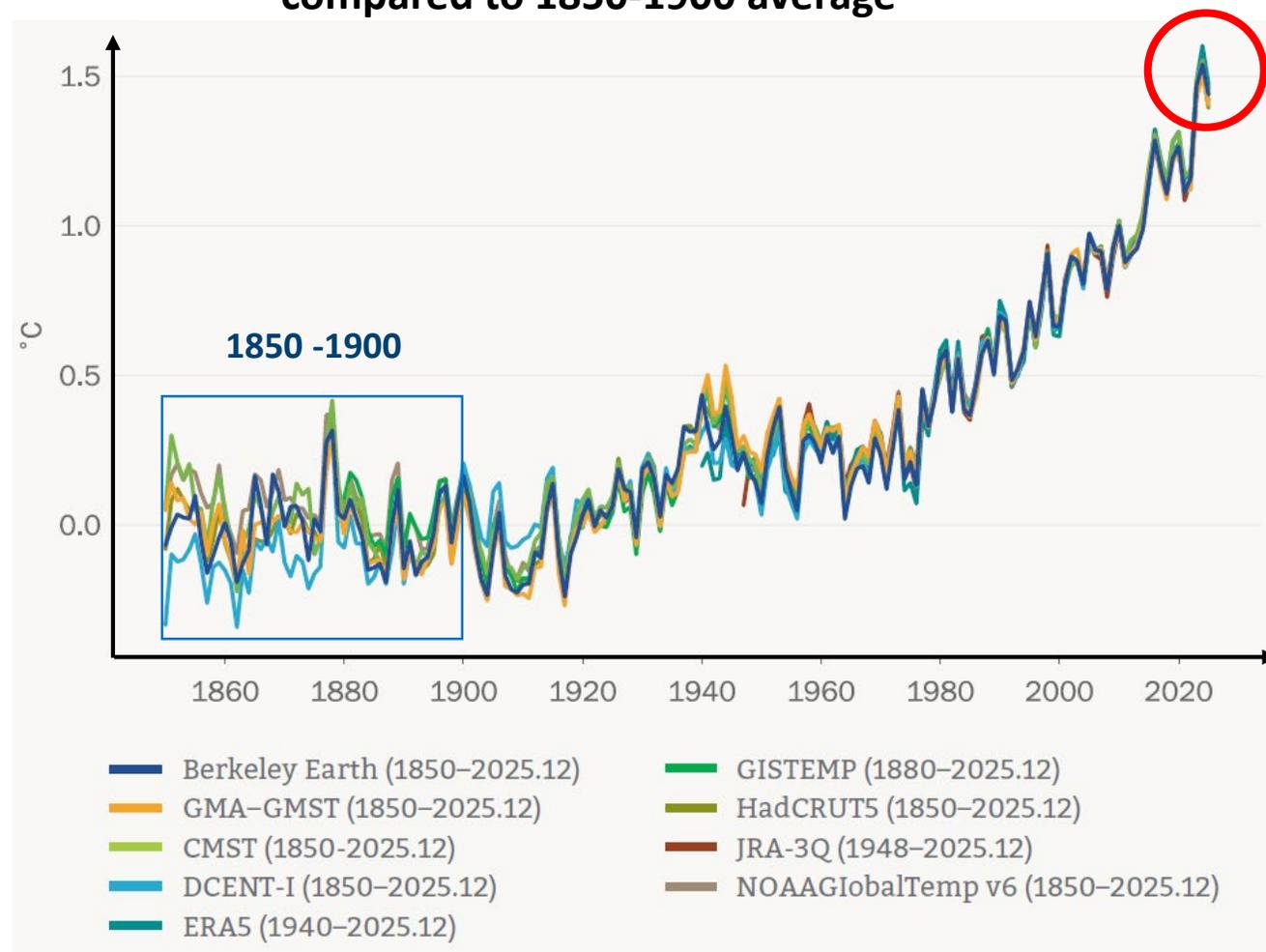
世界氣象日
World Meteorological Day
23.3.2026

2025年是全球有記錄以來第二或第三暖的一年。

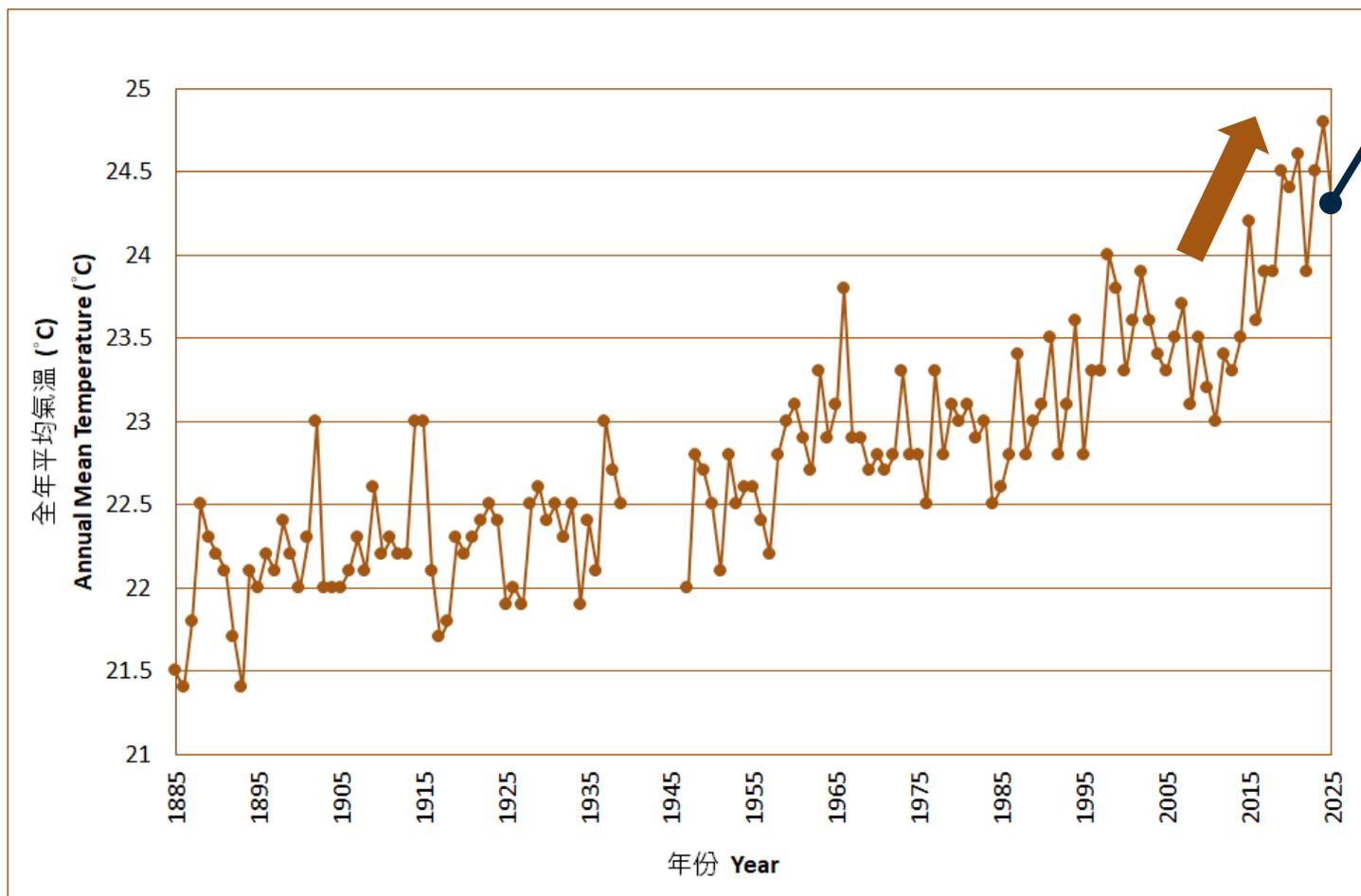
2025 was the second or third warmest year on record globally.

全球年平均溫度變化 相對於1850-1900年平均

Annual global mean temperature difference
compared to 1850-1900 average



香港全年平均氣溫 ANNUAL MEAN TEMPERATURE IN HONG KONG (1885-2025)



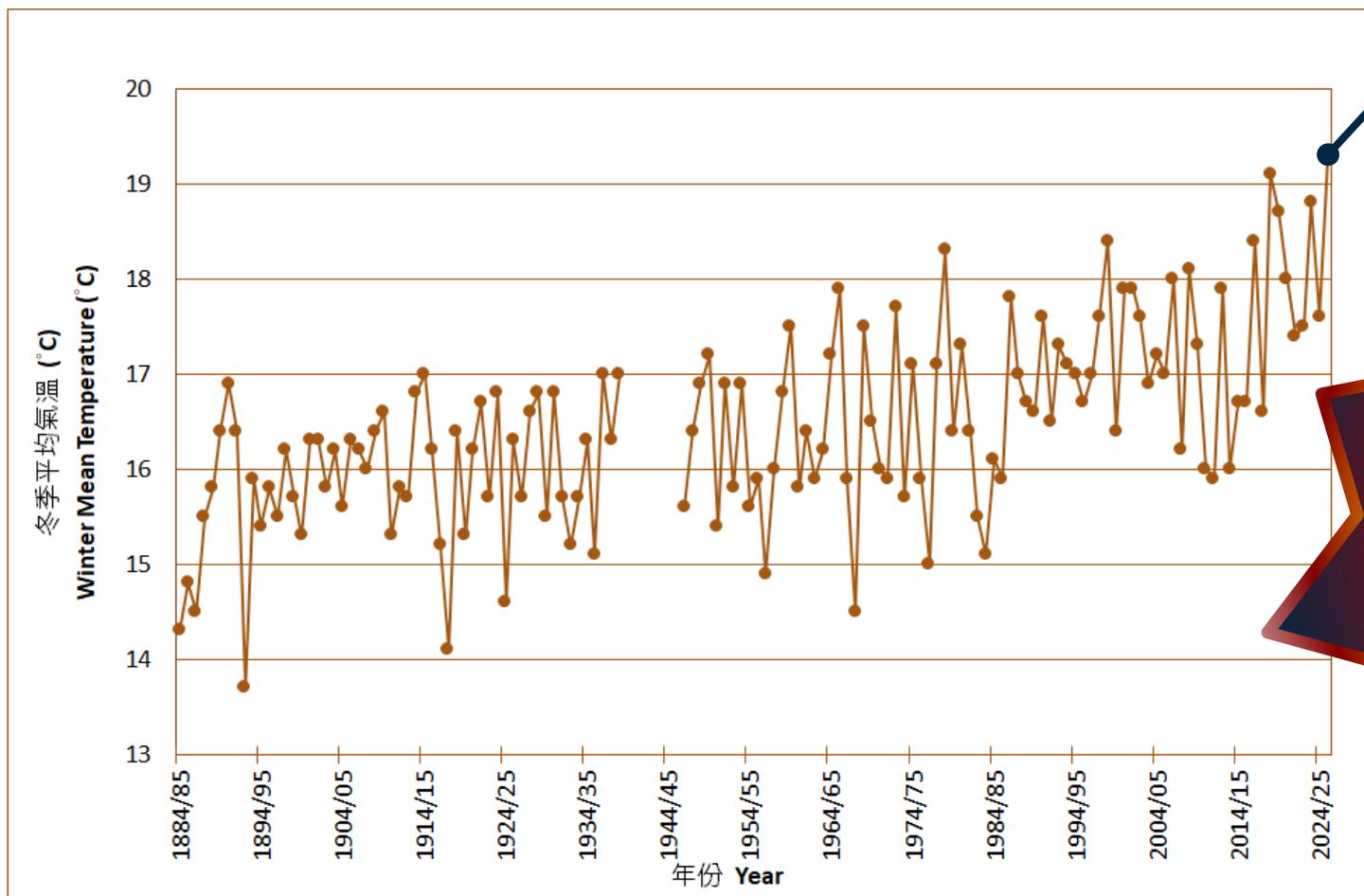
2025年為有記錄以來第六暖的一年
It was the sixth warmest year on record in 2025

香港最暖的十月
THE WARMEST OCTOBER IN HONG KONG

破紀錄事件 Record-breaking Events	新紀錄 New Record
最高十月份平均氣溫 Highest Mean Temperature for October	27.4°C
最高十月份平均最低氣溫 Highest Mean Minimum Temperature for October	25.6°C
最多熱夜的十月 Highest Number of Hot Nights in October	7日 (days)
最多酷熱天氣日數的十月 Highest Number of Very Hot Days in October	4日 (days)

*自1884年有記錄以來香港天文台總部紀錄 Recorded at HKO Headquarters since records began in 1884

香港冬季平均氣溫 WINTER MEAN TEMPERATURE IN HONG KONG



2025年12月至2026年2月
平均氣溫

Mean Temperature from
Dec 2025 to Feb 2026:

19.3°C

較正常值高2.0度

2.0 degrees above normal

有記錄以來最暖的冬季
The Warmest Winter on
Record

風雨連場的2025年 A STORMY 2025

排名* Ranking	年份 Year	黑色暴雨警告次數 Number of Black Rainstorm Warnings
1	2025	5
2	2006	3
2	2000	3

*自1992年暴雨警告系統開始運作以來
since the rainstorm warning system began operation in 1992

排名# Ranking	年份 Year	引致天文台需要發出熱帶氣旋警告信號的熱帶氣旋數目 Number of Tropical Cyclones Necessitating the Issuance of Tropical Cyclone Warning Signals
1	2025	14
2	1974	11
3	1980	10
3	1964	10

#自1946年 since 1946

2026年全年展望
ANNUAL OUTLOOK FOR 2026



風季開始
Onset of tropical cyclone season

6月或之後
June or later



風季結束
End of tropical cyclone season

10月或之前
October or before



進入香港500公里範圍內的
熱帶氣旋數目
Number of tropical cyclones
entering 500 km of Hong Kong

接近正常
4至7個
Near normal
4 to 7

2026年全年展望
ANNUAL OUTLOOK FOR 2026

全年平均氣溫
Annual mean temperature



較正常高
(達到最高氣溫紀錄首十位的機會為高)

Above normal
(a high chance of reaching the warmest top 10 on record)

全年總雨量
Annual rainfall



接近正常
介乎2100至2700毫米

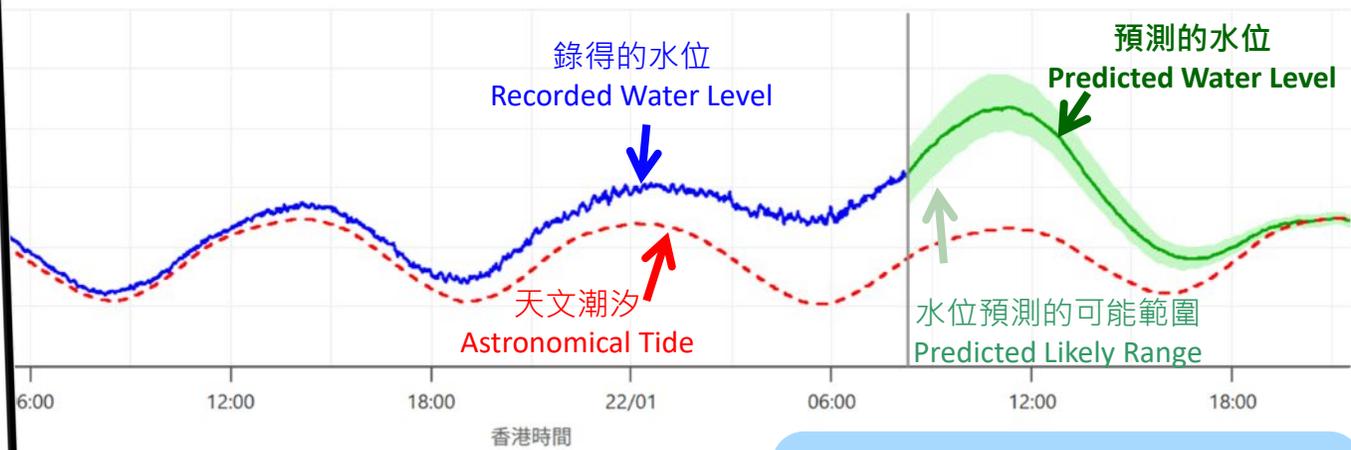
Near normal
between 2100 and 2700 mm

「沿岸海面高度」新網頁（試驗版）

New webpage for Coastal Sea Level (Trial)

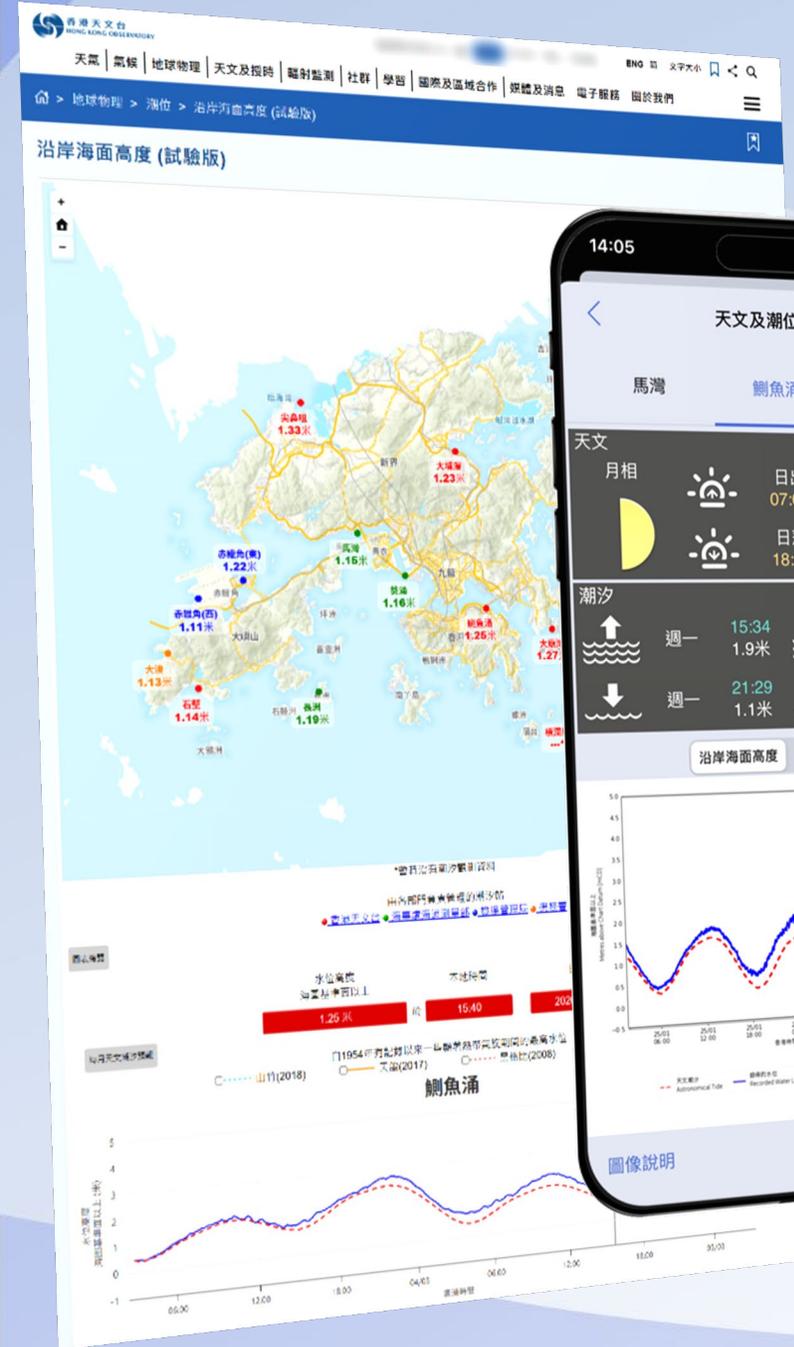
涵蓋全港14個潮汐站
Includes 14 tide stations along the coast of Hong Kong

鰂魚涌



提供未來12小時總水位預測
Provides total water level forecast up to 12 hours ahead

於天文台網頁及「我的天文台」手機應用程式推出
Launched on HKO's webpage and "MyObservatory" Mobile App



熱帶氣旋警報內的顯著越堤浪預報訊息

Significant overtopping wave forecast information in tropical cyclone warning bulletins

當預測香港有機會受到顯著的越堤浪影響時，天文台會在熱帶氣旋警報內加入越堤浪的預報訊息。

樣本
Sample

...「海有極巨浪及湧浪，岸邊亦會出現**顯著越堤浪**，尤其在東面和南面的海岸。市民應遠離岸邊及停止所有水上活動。」...

... “Seas will be phenomenal with swells. There will also be **significant overtopping waves** over the shoreline, particularly over the eastern and southern coast. Members of the public should stay away from the shoreline and not to engage in water sports.” ...



2018年超強颱風山竹襲港時相片
由 H.C. Chan 提供



2025年超強颱風樺加沙襲港時相片
由 Kwok Yung Chan 提供



「我的天文台」新增定點多個城市天氣服務 ADD LOCATION-SPECIFIC WEATHER SERVICE FOR CITIES ON “MYOBSERVATORY”

- 「我的天文台」今年下半年逐步推出韓國及泰國多個城市的定點天氣資訊試驗版
- 用戶即使在這些國家旅遊，亦能透過「我的天文台」掌握當地最新官方天氣資訊
- “MyObservatory” will introduce progressively a trial version of location-specific weather information for cities in the Republic of Korea and Thailand in the second half of this year
- Users can stay updated on the latest official local weather through the “MyObservatory” app even when they are travelling in these countries



RELEASE OF MORE DATA OF THE “HONG KONG HEAT INDEX” 推出更多「香港暑熱指數」數據

天文台會在今年第二季於網站推出更多地區的「香港暑熱指數」數據。

The Observatory will launch on its website “Hong Kong Heat Index” data of more districts in the second quarter of this year.



加入人工智能技術輔助製作短片 USE OF AI IN VIDEO CONTENTS

隨著人工智能發展日趨成熟，天文台將逐漸加入相關技術輔助製作「天氣家族」節日天氣展望等短片，使內容更豐富和並提升影片質素。

In response to the advancements in AI, the Observatory will gradually utilise AI technology to assist in video production of “Weather Family”, such as festival weather outlooks, in order to enrich the content and enhance presentation quality.



天文台
將應用

Ai

輔助製作短片



舉辦「氣象小主播」比賽 ORGANISE “YOUNG WEATHER PRESENTER” COMPETITION

香港天文台將聯同香港氣象學會於今年下半年籌辦「氣象小主播」比賽，加強高小學生對氣象科學的興趣。

HKO will collaborate with the Hong Kong Meteorological Society to organise the “Young Weather Presenter” competition in the second half of this year to enhance local upper primary students’ interest in meteorological science.

