

Weather Information for Astronomical Observation

New Services from the Observatory

Dickson LAU

The Hong Kong Observatory teamed up with the Hong Kong Space Museum and the Department of Physics of the University of Hong Kong (Figure 1) to launch trial operations of the "Weather Information for Astronomical Observation" webpage in March earlier this year. Providing stargazers with a platform for researching the weather at astronomical observation hot spots in Hong Kong so that they can better plan their astronomical activities, the webpage includes brightness measurements of the night sky, weather observation information, digital weather forecasts and images of the sky at popular places such as Cape D'Aguilar, Shek Pik, the Hong Kong Space Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui and the Astropark and iObservatory in Sai Kung. In addition, it offers real-time star maps and other useful astronomical information (Figure 2) for amateur astronomers.



Figure 1

The "Weather Information for Astronomical Observation" webpage can be found at http://www.weather.gov.hk/gts/astronomy/astro_portal.html

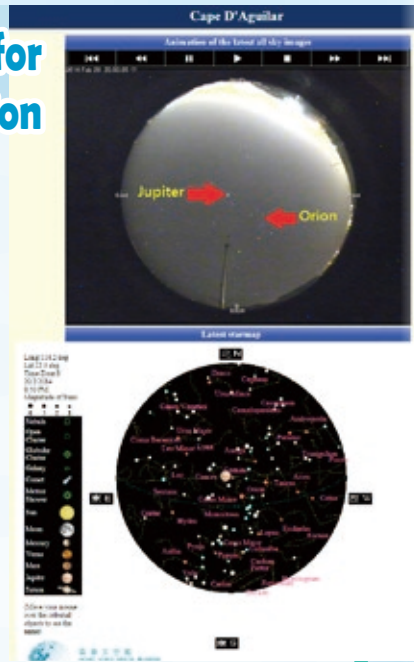


Figure 2

Virtual Tour of the "Hong Kong Observatory - Under the Same Sky 130 Years" Exhibition



Virtual Tour of the Hong Kong Observatory – Under the Same Sky 130 Years Exhibition

Daniel YEUNG

Jointly organised with the Hong Kong Museum of History and held between 10 July and 2 September last year (2013), the Hong Kong Observatory – Under the Same Sky 130 Years exhibition proved hugely popular, attracting over 140,000 visitors in total.

In March 2014, the Observatory launched a virtual tour of the exhibition so that members of the public who did not have an opportunity to see it last year or who would like the chance to re-visit it could view the exhibits online.

http://www.weather.gov.hk/hko_virtualtour/vtour/vtour_e/index.html

Cool Met Stuff

Linus YEUNG

Can you tell the difference between fog and cloud? Under what weather conditions will you be able to see a magnificent sea of clouds? How are the seasons divided? Why would pilots encounter "CAT" in the sky – is it cold wind or a cold front? Where in Hong Kong will you experience the lowest temperatures and be most likely to see frost? Why is it much colder in the New Territories than in the urban areas under a clear sky at night? Why does it feel much colder when it is windy, or is that just an illusion? The Observatory's brand new TV programme "Cool Met Stuff" has answered all these questions over the past few months.

Broadcast every Friday since it premiered on 3 January 2014, Cool Met Stuff provides viewers with a wealth of information as the programme's presenters take a break from run-of-the-mill weather programmes. Stepping out of the Observatory studio, they have filmed special weather conditions "up on the mountain (Tai Mo Shan) and down in the village (Ta Kwu Ling)", visiting the airport and various communities for feature stories along the way. The popular programme has received wide acclaim from the public, and as of early April Cool Met Stuff has attracted some 110,000 views on YouTube – that's over 8,000 for each episode. The most popular episode has recorded more than 15,000 hits!



In addition to watching Cool Met Stuff live on TV, members of the public can also view the programme on the "MyObservatory" mobile app, the "Cool Met Stuff" channel on the Observatory's website or the Observatory's YouTube channel. For the TV schedule of Cool Met Stuff, please visit

<http://www.hko.gov.hk/video/weatheronair.htm>