

“Weather Chit Chat with Young People”

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Mr SHUN Chi-ming (left), Director of the Observatory, and Mr LI Chan-wing (right), media veteran, debunk weather myths at the special session of “Weather Chit Chat with Young People”.

Continuing its focus on “Weather and Climate: Engaging Youth”, the theme of World Meteorological Day 2014, the Hong Kong Observatory held a special session of “Weather Chit Chat with Young People” on 10 May that attracted over 200, mainly student, participants. In their fascinating interactive presentations, Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of the Observatory, and media veteran Mr LI Chan-wing debunked a number of myths that have grown up around various climate change and extreme weather phenomena, including the peculiar-to-Hong-Kong conspiracy theory “Li’s Force Field” (which satirizes the issuance of tropical cyclone warning signals as based on economic rather than meteorological reasons), and the misconception of strangely shaped hailstones as several photos online suggested. Agreeing that weather forecasts may not be 100% accurate, but emphasising the need to respect scientific data, Mr Shun advised the youngsters to seek the truth, look beyond the surface and be more discerning about rumours. Last but not least, the Director encouraged them to get involved in weather observation themselves and to share their photos of the weather and their own observation reports on the webpage (www.co-win.org), mobile phone app (iCWeatherOS) and social network page (www.facebook.com/icwos) of the Community Weather Observing Scheme. The participants in the event all agreed that they had learned a great deal from the session and gained a better understanding of the topics that had been discussed.

