



Dial-a-Weather: 1878200 http://www.hko.gov.hk

56

Observotory Director Re-elected as President of WMO's Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology

The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr SHUN Chi-ming, was re-elected President of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM) of the World Meteorological Organization

(WMO) at the Commission's 15th session held in Montreal, Canada, in July 2014. Following his re-election, Mr Shun thanked his supporters, in particular his colleagues at the Hong Kong Observatory, and highlighted the vital work of the Commission's experts in the development of aeronautical meteorology.

Aviation and Weather

'Most people think of aviation weather as the turbulence they occasionally experience on board a flight. But in fact, the weather also has to be taken into account in aircraft landings and takeoffs as well as general airport operations. The development of the world's first LIDAR wind shear alerting system by the Hong Kong Observatory provides a good example of important work in this area,' explained Mr Shun. With air traffic in the airspace over Hong Kong increasing, the Observatory is constantly looking to enhance its severe convection weather forecast services, so that air traffic controllers can plan ahead and quickly adjust air traffic flow to minimise the impact of inclement weather. After Typhoon Kalmaegi struck Hong Kong in September, these enhanced services enabled flights to be resumed smoothly and efficiently. At the same time, the Observatory has actively promoted the use of this type of service in the international arena. The service received recognition at the July session of the CAeM and will soon be phased in at airports around the globe.



Observatory director Mr Shun delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the 15th session of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology. Alongside him is Mr David Grimes, President of the World Meteorological Organization.



Mr SHUN (fifth from right) together with Mr SHEN Xiaonong, the Deputy Administrator of the China Meteorological Administration (fifth from left), and delegates from China, Hong Kong and Macau following his re-election as President of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology of the World Meteorological Organization.

International Vision

Mr Shun goes on to describe how the rapid development of 'big data' in recent years means that it has become easy to obtain large volumes of weather information on the Internet. However, the aviation industry cannot always tell whether this information is accurate. The Observatory has therefore invested a great deal of effort in establishing a quality management system for aeronautical meteorological services, while providing training and support to help more countries improve service quality and ensure aviation safety.

Future Plans

Accompanied by the rapid advances in information technology, the increase in air traffic volume has resulted in airspaces becoming even more crowded. As a consequence, Mr Shun believes that aviation safety and related meteorological services need to be further enhanced. In addition to new services that support air traffic control, the Observatory is currently working with airlines to develop an 'electronic flight bag' meteorological application that can be used in cockpits. The Director stresses that while state-of-the-art aeronautical meteorological services are being developed, a balance needs to be achieved that will also allow developing countries to benefit from the progress being made in this area.



1