



## Observatory Enters A New Era

# New Airport Weather Radar

KONG Wai

The Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TDWR) located at Tai Lam Chung has safeguarded the airspace above Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok since it was opened in 1998, monitoring the wind shear and microbursts induced by thunderstorms and providing alerts to the airport to ensure aviation safety. A new TDWR was recently erected on a small hill near Brothers Point that will soon replace its aging predecessor at Tai Lam Chung. The Observatory is currently collecting weather data in the vicinity of the airport in order to optimise the new radar system to suit the operation for Hong Kong's local environment.



The new Terminal Doppler Weather Radar located on a small hill near Brothers Point (small figure shows the exterior of the new TDWR).



On 7 November, Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (fourth from right), Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat, Chairman of the Heung Yee Kuk (fourth from left), and Mr Edward YU Kin-keung, Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (third from right), cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony for the new TDWR.

## Milestone for aircraft weather observation in Hong Kong

SHUM Chi-tai

The Hong Kong Observatory has joined forces with Hong Kong Dragon Airlines Limited (Dragonair) since July 2014 to collect more automatic meteorological data from commercial aircraft. This data collection project is part of the World Meteorological Organization Aircraft Meteorological Data Relay (AMDAR) programme that was implemented in 2004 with Cathay Pacific Airways Limited as the Observatory's first partner. The participation of Dragonair marks a new milestone for the programme in Hong Kong. Captain Ross Taylor, the airline's Assistant General Manager (Flying), explained the reason behind the team-up: 'I am delighted that Dragonair is participating in the Hong Kong AMDAR programme. I believe our joint effort with the Observatory in this area can contribute to global aviation safety and efficiency.'



CHOY Boon-leung (left) and SHUM Chi-tai (right) of the Hong Kong Observatory together with Dragonair's Captain Ross Taylor in front of the carrier's first Airbus A330 that will provide automatic weather observations.