

Guangdong and Hong Kong Step up Co-operation in Meteorology

LEE Fung-ying

Following the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference held in Guangzhou in November 2014, the Hong Kong Observatory and the Guangdong Meteorological Bureau signed a new "Co-operation Agreement in Meteorological Science and Technology". Guangdong and Hong Kong began their meteorological collaboration in the early 1980s, and since then the two sides have jointly established automatic weather stations and organised annual technical exchange activities. Taking this co-operation to a new level, the recently signed agreement sets out to deepen and broaden the collaboration between the two sides in meteorological science and technology and to intensify the already extensive exchanges in areas such as numerical weather prediction modelling, weather forecasting and warning, climate change study and atmospheric measurements. Further developments in meteorology are anticipated in both regions as a result of the expanded collaboration.



Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (left), and Mr ZOU Jianjun, Acting Director-General of the Guangdong Meteorological Bureau, sign the "Co-operation Agreement in Meteorological Science and Technology".

HKO Urges Response to Climate Change

LEE Sai-ming

In late November last year, Hong Kong hosted the third International Conference on Climate Change, ICCC 2014, which focused on "Urban Adaptation to Climate Change" as its main theme and at which a number of climate change experts, policy makers and business leaders shared their knowledge and experience. The Observatory briefly introduced the influence of climate change on Hong Kong and the risks it would bring with it for the territory.

Mr John Englander, a renowned marine scientist and leading researcher into sea level rise, was invited to visit the Observatory, to offer useful suggestions for the Observatory's research in this area and its predictions on rises in the sea level affecting Hong Kong.



Mr John Englander (standing) hosts a talk at the Hong Kong Observatory.



Mr MOK Hing-yim explains the influence of climate change on Hong Kong at the conference.

2014 Television Weather Programme Review

Linus YEUNG



Collaboration



Mr. SHUN Chi-ming (centre), Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, presents souvenirs to judges Mr Cuson LAW (second from left) and Ms Mary CHEUNG (second from right).

Winners:

Best Presenter Award



Ms Sandy SONG



Mr Linus YEUNG

Remarkable Improvement Award



Miss Olivia LEE



Miss LEE Fung-ying



Mr TSOI Tze-shun



Mr KONG Wai

Best Programme Award: Disastrous Typhoon Wanda



Outstanding Creativity Award: Sea Level Rise Imminent!



Best Story Award: Polar Vortex



Best Script Award: Watch Out for Tides!

The Observatory reformed its media weather services in late 2013 when it launched "Weather On-Air" and the weekly educational programme "Cool Met Stuff". Both programmes have received enthusiastic responses over the past year, and the heart-warming messages that the public have sent us have given the production team immense encouragement. We owe much of our broadcasting success to the training and advice provided by renowned image consultant Ms Mary CHEUNG and famous DJ Mr Cuson LAW. The two instructors joined Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, to form a panel of judges for this year's awards that commend and encourage staff involved in our television weather programmes. The panel's verdict rewarded the presenters of "Weather On-Air" for their new image and for delivering outstanding performances, and praised "Cool Met Stuff" for offering audiences meteorological knowledge in an accessible format. The awards were presented at the Observatory's Christmas party on 24 December 2014.



Weather On-Air

HKO and CLP Jointly Launch "Saving Energy through Weather Watch"

LEE Tsz-cheung

To increase public awareness of climate change and enhance measures to conserve energy, CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP) and the Hong Kong Observatory have teamed up to launch the "7-day Energy Forecast" based on the HKO's 7-day weather forecast. A new feature of CLP's "Meter Online Service", the energy forecast helps property managers plan energy saving measures in order to reduce electricity consumption in periods of hot weather. The "7-day Energy Forecast" initiative has delivered remarkable results, proving that technology and partnership can successfully drive behavioural changes and turn awareness into action to combat climate change.



The "7-day Energy Forecast" feature of CLP's "Meter Online Service" (courtesy of CLP).

New HKO Docents

Ken WONG



Historic building docents of the Observatory share their experience at the end of the training course.

The Observatory and the Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage (CACHE) joined hands to organise the "Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) Historic Building Docent Training Course" to help individuals interested in history become HKO docents specialising in its historic buildings. These docents will now be able to give the general public, especially the younger generation, a greater insight into the old Observatory, a declared monument with 130 years of history including the 1883 Building. They will also increase public awareness of heritage conservation.

The Observatory also trained a new group of "Friends of the Observatory" docents to offer members of the public joining the guided tour of the Observatory a fresh perspective of the Observatory and its work.

The feedback from the two activities was fantastic, with the new docents all feeling that the training had broadened their horizons and enhanced their skills, and they were full of praise for the instructors for sharing with them stories that gave them a deeper understanding of the Observatory.



CACHE



Guided tour of HKO

"Friends of the Observatory" docents learn to introduce the ecology of groves at the Observatory.

Hong Kong Observatory Calendar 2015 "Reporting Weather Together under the Lion Rock"

Daniel YEUNG



The Hong Kong Observatory Calendar 2015 attracted an amazing response from the public when it was published in late November last year, and record-breaking sales meant it was completely sold out by mid-December. We would like to thank the public for their support as well as the contributors for generously sharing their beautiful weather photos with us.

Reminder from the HKO and the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association:

Get Ready for Cold Weather

LI Kin-wai



Mr CHAN Sai-tick, Acting Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (right), and Ms LEUNG Shuk-ye, Chief Executive Officer of the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association, introduce the enhanced "e-See Find" mobile app that now includes weather information.

The Observatory and the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association (SCHSA) held a joint press conference in December 2014 to urge members of the public to make proper preparations for cold weather and to explain the impact of low temperatures on the health of senior citizens and people with chronic diseases. With the assistance of the Observatory, SCHSA has upgraded its existing "e-See Find" app with the addition of real-time weather information provided by the Observatory. Using the app, caregivers can get timely news on approaching changes in the weather and get ready to provide help and support for the senior citizens that they are responsible for.

Development

New Weather Station in Kai Tak Runway Park

The automatic weather station at Kai Tak Runway Park.

CHOW Siu-wing

The Observatory's new automatic weather station at Kai Tak Runway Park was inaugurated on 17 December 2014. Located near the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, the weather station not only enhances the regional weather service provided to the public, but also enables overseas visitors arriving in Hong Kong by cruise ships to find out the current temperature and other useful information. The latest weather reports can be accessed on the Observatory's "Regional Weather" webpage and its mobile version of the website or by calling the Observatory's "Dial-a-Weather" service on 187 8200.



Regional Weather in Hong Kong



Mobile version of the website

"Educational Resources" Webpage Gets a New Look

YEUNG Ho-kee

The Observatory's "Educational Resources" webpage has been revamped in October 2014 with a new content categorisation system that makes it easier for members of the public to locate information on meteorology, earth science, radiation and many other subjects. They can also access new articles on the "HKO e-bulletin on Educational Resources" webpage, which is updated every quarter.



"Educational Resources" Webpage



HKO e-bulletin on Educational Resources

Colourful Clouds

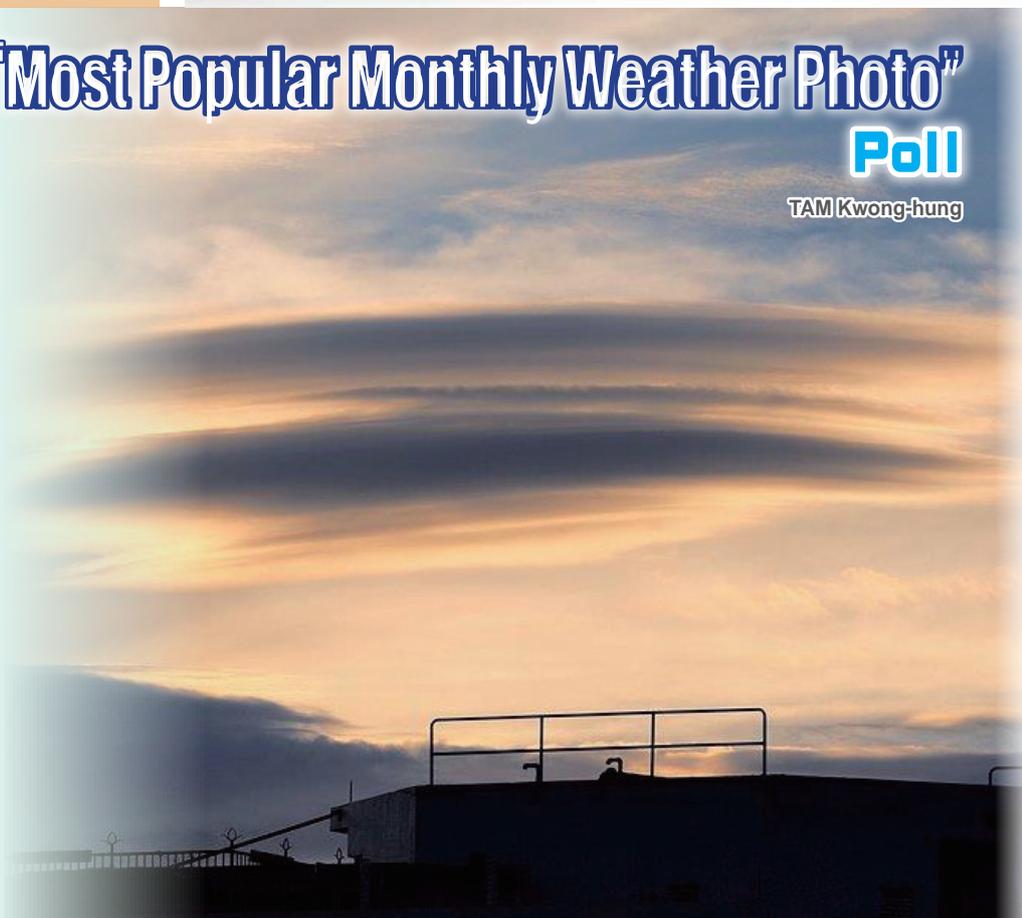


To encourage members of the public to pay attention to changes in the weather and to share their weather photographs, the Community Weather Observation Scheme (CWOS) recently organised a competition on social media called "Most Popular Monthly Weather Photo 2014" (<https://www.facebook.com/icwos>). The deadline for submissions was 10 January 2015. The results will be announced in March.

"Most Popular Monthly Weather Photo" Poll

Poll

TAM Kwong-hung



Fallstreak Hole

LEE Fung-ying



Photo taken by Dr LEE Tsz-cheung at the Hong Kong Observatory .

On 19 January, a fallstreak hole appeared in the sky over Hong Kong as a band of altocumulus clouds passed by in the morning. What is a fallstreak hole? Altocumulus or cirrocumulus clouds contain water droplets that, despite circulating at sub-zero temperatures, remain unfrozen. Even a slight disturbance in the surrounding air current, for example when an aeroplane flies past, can cause the droplets to become ice crystals, and when these crystals fall they leave behind a fallstreak hole.



"Fallstreak Hole",
Cool Met Stuff



How many types of clouds are there?



Clouds are divided by height into three groups: low cloud, medium cloud and high cloud group. The three groups are further divided into ten types of cloud based on their particular features.

HKO Side Lights



Between November and December 2014, the Hong Kong Observatory Staff Club organised a "Magic and Balloon Art Workshop". Open to staff and their families, the workshop gave everyone a relaxing break from work.



On 3-5 November 2014, the Hong Kong Observatory hosted the roving seminar of the Typhoon Committee under the joint auspices of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the World Meteorological Organization, which this time focused on "Warning Communication" as the theme.



On 26 November 2014, 10 students of the Christian Alliance Cheng Wing Gee College joined the Hong Kong Observatory's "Job Shadowing Programme" to gain an insight into the different jobs and functions at the Observatory. They were highly appreciative of the career development tips they received from their hosts.



On 29 November 2014, the Observatory organised the first Workshop for Ambassadors of Weather Observation, during which participants enhanced their knowledge of cloud types, weather elements, meteorological equipment and how weather reports were compiled.



Staff of the Hong Kong Observatory took part in the Lifeline Express CCB (Asia) Charity Run/Walk 2014 held in Sai Kung in late November 2014.



On 1-5 December 2014, the Hong Kong Observatory organised an international workshop on "Data Assimilation and Mesoscale Ensemble Forecasting" for the Voluntary Cooperation Programme of the World Meteorological Organization.



On 20 December 2014, the Hong Kong Observatory organised a Tree Planting Day, so that staff and their families could play a part in greening the city.



The Hong Kong Observatory organised a Christmas party on 24 December 2014 for staff and their families to celebrate the festive season together.



Outdoor activities are heavily dependent on the weather. On 3 January 2015, the Hong Kong Observatory organised a public talk entitled "Outdoor Activities and Weather", during which Mr Ben OR, Scientific Officer, introduced a variety of weather phenomena that affected outdoor activities and showed participants how to prepare properly for such weather using the information provided by the Observatory online.



For details of the activities, please visit:
<http://www.hko.gov.hk/wisnew.htm>
<http://www.hko.gov.hk/hkonews/indexe.htm>



Staff Up Close

Director Commends Outstanding Colleagues

On 24 December 2014, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory presented letters of commendation to a number of staff in recognition of their outstanding work and excellent performance:

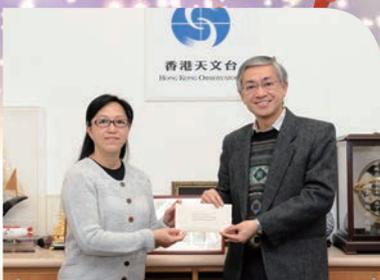
“Friends of the Observatory” Committee Passes the Baton



The new “Friends of the Observatory” committee has elected three executive directors: Ms YAM Kwan-mei (fourth from left, back row), Mr POON Lai-shun (fifth from left, back row) and Mr LAU Ho-tai (first from left, front row), who will work with Scientific Officer Ms LEE Fung-ying (fourth from right, back row) to help committee members promote the Observatory’s public educational activities.

Observatory staff who received words of thanks and commendations from the public or organisations during October to December 2014:

- (Senior Scientific Officer) Dr LEE Tsz-cheung , Ms Sandy SONG
- (Scientific Officer) Mr CHOY Chun-wing , Mr LEE Kwok-lun, Dr Daniel YEUNG
- (Senior Experimental Officer) Mr Paul HO
- (Experimental Officer) Mr CHENG Tsz-lo, Mr LUN Siu-hung
- (Senior Scientific Assistant) Mr FUNG Kwok-chu
- (Scientific Assistant) Mr CHEN Yung



Ms YEUNG Pui-yi (left) was promoted to Chief Scientific Assistant on 23 October 2014.

Staff Promotion



Mr Dickson LAU (left) was promoted to Senior Experimental Officer on 3 November 2014.

Letter of Commendation

Senior Scientific Officer

Mr LEE Lap-shun, Mr LEE Sai-ming, Dr LEE Tsz-cheung , Ms Sandy SONG, Mr TAM Kwong-hung

Acting Senior Scientific Officer

Mr WONG Wai-kin

Scientific Officer

Dr HO Chun-kit, Mr HON Kai-kwong, Mr HUI Tai-wai, Mr LEE Kwok-lun, Dr LAM Hok-yin, Mr WOO Wang-chun

Senior Radar Specialist Mechanic

Mr YAU Lai-kin

Radar Specialist Mechanic

Mr IP Wing-sing

Chief Experimental Officer

Mr LUI Wing-hong

Experimental Officer

Ms CHENG Yuen-yuen

Scientific Assistant

Mr CHEN Yung, Ms WONG Hiu-kam

Senior Draughtsman

Ms NG CHAN Kam-chu

Programmer

Mr WONG Kam-ming

Analyst Programmer II

Miss Serene WONG

Artisan

Mr YU Siu-man