

## Chief Secretary for Administration Visits HKO

Sandy SONG

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie LAM, visited the Hong Kong Observatory, including various offices and facilities, on 8 April to gain a better understanding of the department's operation and new developments. Mrs LAM noted the popularity of the Observatory's website, mobile applications and educational programmes and recognised the department's efforts in promoting public interest and knowledge on meteorology and climate conditions. She commended the Observatory staff for delivering services in a dedicated and professional manner. In recognition of the Observatory's long-standing core values in providing people-oriented services through science, innovation and partnership, Mrs LAM said, "The weather and climate records kept by the Observatory for more than 130 years reflect the progressive development of Hong Kong as a metropolitan city, and the stories of professionalism from its staff testify to the continuing development of the Observatory as a leading meteorological service in the region."

Mrs Carrie LAM (centre), the Chief Secretary for Administration, visited the Central Forecasting Office accompanied by Mr SHUN Chi-ming (left), the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory.



## New Services by HKO

Editorial Board

At a press briefing held on World Meteorological Day, 23 March 2015, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr SHUN Chi-ming unveiled a number of new services (see below and Page 2). He also provided the projections of the annual rainfall and the expected number of tropical cyclones for this year, and emphasized the impact of climate change on Hong Kong. In particular, he reminded the public to remain vigilant against the threat of inclement weather, enhance their awareness of disaster prevention as well as gear up for climate change.



Highlights of the press briefing



## Tropical Cyclone Forecast Track Extended to Five Days

LEE Kwok-lun



Track of Wayne from mid-August to early September of 1986 (The numbers show its position at 08:00 HK Time on each day.)

The accuracy of the Observatory's tropical cyclone track forecast has improved in recent years with average accuracy of a fifth-day forecast based on objective verification at around 400 kilometres, comparable to a third-day forecast a decade ago. As such, the Observatory will extend the

The new forecast track diagram uses different representation to illustrate the uncertainty of the extended forecasts for the fourth and fifth days.

tropical cyclone forecast track from three days to five during this tropical cyclone season, so that members of the public can take precautionary measures well in advance. The uncertainty of forecast generally increases with forecast range, and in particular, the track of tropical cyclones can be rather changeable under the influence of multiple meteorological factors. For example, in 1986, Tropical Cyclone Wayne changed its course three times while approaching Hong Kong. To highlight the increased uncertainty of the fourth- and fifth-day forecasts, the new track diagram will use a different colour shading for the extended forecast range.