

New Heights in International Cooperation

CHAN Pak-wai



Thermometer shed of the Observatory in the 1950s

From 25 May to 6 June, Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory and Mr CHAN Pak-wai, Senior Scientific Officer, attended the World Meteorological Congress in Geneva, Switzerland. Held once every four years, the congress determines the general policies, strategies and long-term plans for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Mr SHUN attended the event in the capacities of the Permanent Representative of Hong Kong, China with WMO and President of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM), and led discussions on the developments of aeronautical meteorological services in the next decade. The congress noted the good progress of the work of CAeM, particularly the implementation of quality management system for aeronautical meteorological services by its members. Aeronautical meteorology will remain a strategic priority of WMO in the next four years, whereas the congress has approved a new Aviation Research Demonstration Project proposed by and developed under the leadership of the Hong Kong Observatory.

Under the new Global Framework for Climate Services, the congress has adopted a recognition scheme for long-term observing stations. In particular, centennial observing stations will be commended. Based on the recognition mechanism, the Observatory's headquarters will be among the first centennial observing stations recognised by WMO.

Meanwhile, the congress has accepted proposals put forward by Hong Kong, China to enhance the two WMO websites, World Weather Information Service (WWIS) and Severe Weather Information Centre (SWIC), hosted by the Observatory for the provision of authoritative weather forecasts and warnings to the public. At present, 166 WMO members contribute weather information to:



WWIS



SWIC

Rewarding Trip to Taiwan

LI Ping-wah

In late May, a 15-member delegation of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) and the Hong Kong Meteorological Society visited meteorological and academic organisations in Taiwan for the first time. The visit was marked by an official meeting between Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of HKO, and Mr SHIN Tzay-Chyn, representative of weather organisation. During the trip, the delegation visited the Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction, the Department of Atmospheric Sciences of the Taiwan University as well as the Research Centre for Environmental Change. Apart from identifying areas of cooperation, namely meteorology, climate and earthquake, the two sides have also exchanged insights and views on disaster response operations and climate change research among other areas.



HKO delegation visiting Taiwan's weather organisation with members of the Hong Kong Meteorological Society