



Insights from the Past

# Blackhead Point Signal Tower in Tsim Sha Tsui

LUI Wing-hong

Blackhead Point in Tsim Sha Tsui (present-day Signal Hill Garden) played an important role in the history of the Hong Kong Observatory. Since 1885, the Observatory had used the time ball at the Marine Police Station (present-day 1881 Heritage) to provide time checks to ships in the Victoria Harbour. In 1908, the time ball signal service was moved to the second-generation tower at Blackhead Point. At the same time, tropical cyclone signals were hoisted next to the time ball tower to provide warnings to marine vessels. The two services continued until 1933 and 1961 respectively. In 2015, the Blackhead Point Signal Tower was declared a monument by the HKSAR Government. On 21 November 2015, Mr SHUN Chi-ming, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, gave a talk on the history of the signal tower at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre. The event was attended by more than 100 participants.



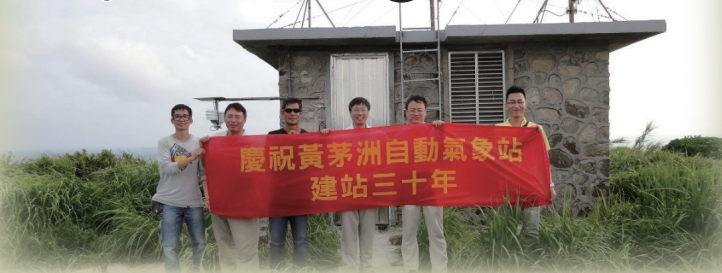
Blackhead Point Signal Tower in the past (left) and present (right)



Mr SHUN Chi-ming, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, gives a talk on the history of Blackhead Point Signal Tower at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre.

## Huangmao Zhou Automatic Weather Station Celebrates its 30th Anniversary

CHAN Ying-wa



Staff of the Hong Kong Observatory and Guangdong Meteorological Bureau perform maintenance work at the Huangmao Zhou automatic weather station in July 2015.

In 1985, the Hong Kong Observatory and the Guangdong Meteorological Bureau jointly established an automatic weather station in Huangmao Zhou, located 50 km south of Hong Kong. The year 2015 marked the 30th anniversary of the weather station, and the Observatory dedicated an episode of "Cool Met Stuff" to celebrate the occasion. Through interviews with Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, and Mr LIANG Jianyin, Deputy Director of the Guangdong Meteorological Bureau, the episode covered in great detail the history and importance of the weather station. Additionally, the Observatory published a special blog article on the background and features of the Huangmao Zhou automatic weather station in its role as an outpost in monitoring inclement weather in the vicinity of the Pearl River Delta region.



Observatory's  
Blog



Cool Met Stuff

## 2015 – A Year of New Records

LEE Tsz-cheung, LEE Sai-ming

2015 became Hong Kong's warmest year on records, with the annual mean temperature reaching 24.2 degrees Celsius. The mean temperatures hit record-high figures in June, November, summer (June to August) and autumn (September to November). On 8 August, the Observatory registered a new record-high maximum temperature of 36.3 degrees.

The record-breaking temperatures in summer and autumn were attributed to a number of causes, including higher-than-normal sea temperatures in the northern part of the South China Sea, exceptionally strong subtropical ridge of high pressure in June and less cold air from the north in November. In addition, the long-term rise of temperatures due to global warming and local urbanisation mean records for temperatures on the high end would be more easily broken. The strong El Niño over the equatorial Pacific imposed short-term influence on the atmospheric circulation, creating anomalous weather patterns on a regional scale.



Hong Kong's six warmest years since records began in 1885