



Urgent Response to Climate Change

The World Meteorological Organization has ranked 2015 the hottest year since records began in 1880. There is an obvious trend towards more extreme weather under the influence of climate change. The Observatory will actively participate in the work of the Steering Committee on Climate Change, led by the Chief Secretary of Administration, to enhance awareness of and preparedness against climate change impacts and extreme weather affecting all sectors of society.



Icing phenomenon at the top of Tai Mo Shan on 24 January 2016

Extreme Weather Review

LI Kin-wai

In January 2016, Hong Kong suffered bitterly cold and extremely rainy weather. On 24 January, affected by an intense cold surge, the temperature at the Observatory fell to 3.1 degrees, making this the coldest day over the last 60 years. Meanwhile, affected by a surge of high pressure, the mean sea level pressure rose to a record-high 1037.7 hPa.

Also during this period, an upper-air disturbance brought outbreaks of heavy rain to Hong Kong. The total rainfall at the Hong Kong Observatory in January was 266.9 mm, setting a new record for January. The 37.0 mm of rainfall recorded from 1pm to 2pm on 5 January also broke the hourly rainfall record for January.

Public Seminar on "Climate Change"



Hands up from the participants at the climate change seminar showing support for low-carbon actions



The Observatory's colleagues dressed as "Men In Black" promoting "Minimum In Burning" to combat climate change

A seminar on climate change was held on 19 March at Tsim Sha Tsui Kai Fong Welfare Association, with the theme of "Paris Climate Agreement" and extreme weather. Over 400 people attended the event, mostly young people from youth uniformed groups, youth organisations over the 18 districts, the Child Development Fund, Friends of the Observatory, Hong Kong Meteorological Society and the Community Weather Observing Scheme.

New Version of Climate Change Webpage

SHUM Fu-cheung

The Observatory has launched a revamped webpage on climate change. In addition to a summary of past climate trends and future projections, a new "Do you know ..." feature has been added to provide some essential or little-known facts about climate change. The webpage will also provide updates on the latest developments with climate change issues, such as carbon dioxide concentration, global average temperature, global sea level, and Arctic sea ice extent.

