



Mrs Carrie LAM (centre), the Chief Secretary for Administration; Mr Eddie NG (second from left), the Secretary for Education; Mr WONG Kam-sing (second from right), the Secretary for the Environment; Mr Godfrey LEUNG (left), the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development; and Mr SHUN Chi-ming (right), the Director of Hong Kong Observatory, officiated at the opening ceremony of "Climate Change – Our Response" roving exhibition.



Mrs Carrie LAM, the Chief Secretary for Administration, and Mr SHUN Chi-ming, the Director of Hong Kong Observatory, took selfies and expressed commitment to taking action on climate change.

"Climate Change - Our Response"

Exhibition for 10th Anniversary of "Science in Public Service" Campaign

LAM Ching-chi

Led by the Hong Kong Observatory, "Science in the Public Service (SIPS)" is a joint campaign by more than 50 government departments and collaborating organizations that aims to promote the application of science and technology in the provision of public services. Its 10th Anniversary this year coincides with the signing of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Government of the HKSAR has also established the Steering Committee on Climate Change, and under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the committee coordinates government action and formulates long-term strategies to combat climate change.

A roving exhibition running from June to November this year on "Climate Change – Our Response", organized as part of the SIPS campaign, was launched at the Hong Kong Central Library on 2 June.

"The exhibition is very meaningful, especially with the participation of various government departments in collaboration with community partners," said Mr Kenny OR, founder of Little Green Feet Parent-Child Reading Club, one of our collaborating partners. "It demonstrates the importance of joint public effort to combat climate change. Children were most impressed by a hologram showing global warming from 1850 to 2100, and were attracted to the interactive selfie showing commitment to combat climate change. It really made them think how to act without delay, even if they were only small steps in daily life."



Children from the Little Green Feet Parent-Child Reading Club recite stories on environmental education at the launch ceremony.



"Climate Change - Our Response" website



Video: ARM (Adaptation, Resilience, Mitigation) and Act



Video: The Tolling of Climate Alarm Bells



Climate Change Stakeholder Engagement Forum

CHOY Chun-wing



On 12 July, the Observatory participated in the Climate Change Stakeholder Engagement Forum in Central Government Offices, attended by more than 600 stakeholders from various sectors on joint measures to combat climate change.

During the forum, the Observatory and collaborating partners shared two examples of such joint effort. The Observatory joins hands with CLP Power to provide electricity consumption forecasts, so that property management personnel can plan ahead for energy-saving measures. The other example is the Tai O Storm Surge Alert, jointly operated with other government departments including the Home Affairs Department and the Drainage Services Department.

Weather Experts Gather in Hong Kong for International Nowcasting Symposium

CHEUNG Ping



More than 150 weather experts from various countries and regions attended the World Weather Research Programme 4th International Symposium on Nowcasting and Very-short-range Forecast 2016 (WSN16) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), held in Hong Kong from 25 July to 29 July. The symposium was jointly organized by the Hong Kong Observatory, the Hong Kong Meteorological Society and the Institute of Environment, Energy and Sustainability (IEES) of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

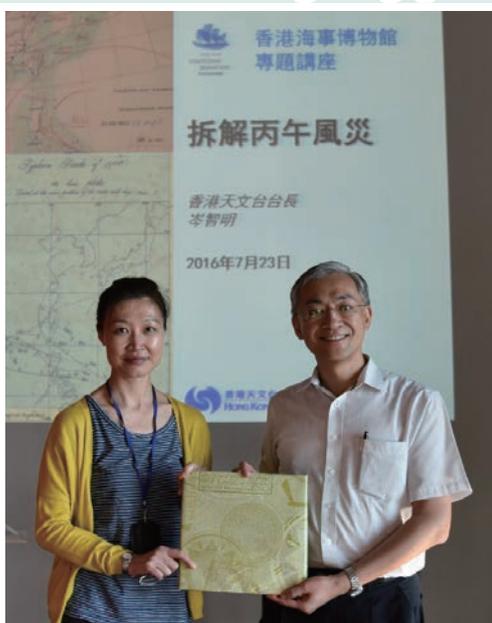
In the Midst of Storm: Hong Kong's Early Typhoons

Daniel YEUNG

Typhoons have significantly affected people's lives and livelihoods in the past. Apart from contributing several items for display in the "Hong Kong's Early Typhoons" exhibition organized by the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Mr SHUN Chi-ming, the Director of the Observatory, also talked about the 1906 Typhoon, one of the deadliest typhoons in Hong Kong's recorded history, at the exhibition. The typhoon resulted in more than 10,000 deaths, with over 3,600 vessels destroyed or damaged.

According to a re-analysis of the only extant weather data, the typhoon was actually a "midget" typhoon, with high winds extending to only about several tens of kilometres from its centre, in contrast with the typical size of several hundred kilometres. In the absence of weather radar and satellite systems, it was indeed a great challenge to observe such a tiny typhoon at the time.

Director SHUN giving a talk about the 1906 Typhoon at the exhibition on 23 July. The exhibition is held from 15 July to 25 September 2016 at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum.



Milestones

The Observatory is developing a new version of "MyObservatory" app for the iOS platform on Apple Watch. New services include: real-time weather information such as air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed at the current or selected location; maximum and minimum air temperature forecasts for the day; forecasts at 3-hourly intervals of weather, temperature and relative humidity, 9-day weather forecast for Hong Kong and tidal information. The updated version for Apple Watch is expected to be available during the third quarter this year.

An Updated Version of "MyObservatory" App for Apple Watch

OR Ming-keung



Enhanced

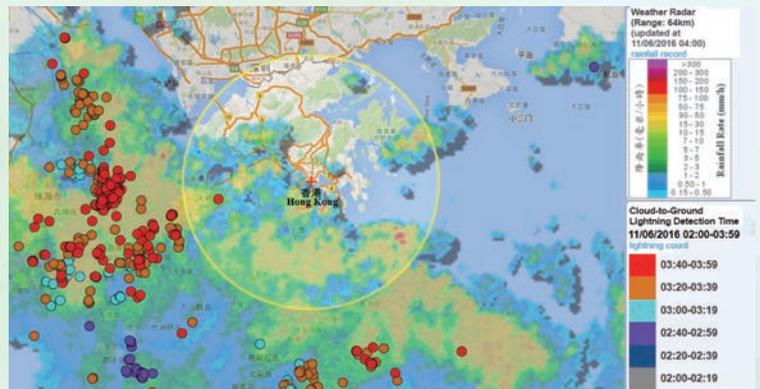
"Location-specific Lightning Alert" Webpage



CHAN Siu-wai

The Observatory launched a beta version of the "Location-specific Lightning Alert" webpage for this year's rainy season.

Members of the public can specify a lightning alert region in Hong Kong or in the vicinity of the Pearl River Delta. When a lightning stroke is detected within the specified region, an alarm will alert users. The webpage provides outdoor activity sites, geographical information and simple arithmetic tools, helping users to monitor the development of thunderstorms around their current locations.



Mr TSUI Kit-chi (left), Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, receiving the trophy during the awards ceremony.

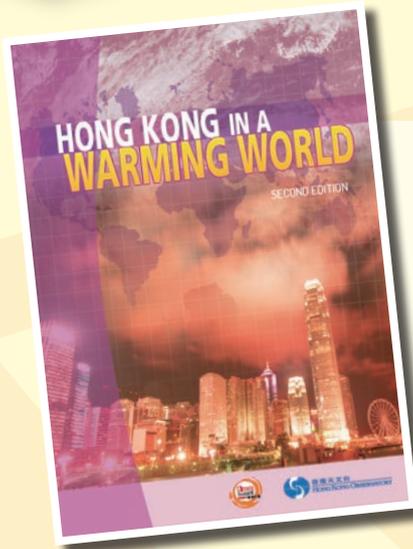
Observatory Awarded "Manpower Developer" Status for the First Time

LAM Ching-chi

In April, the Observatory was awarded the status of "Manpower Developer" by the Employee Retraining Board, in recognition of its continuous efforts of training and development to ensure professional and technical competency. The main assessment areas covered learning culture, resources planning, training and development system and performance management. The Observatory won the award for the first time after going through two stages of assessment.



Second Edition of the Hong Kong in a Warming World Pamphlet



SHAM Fu-cheung

The Observatory published the second edition of the "Hong Kong in a Warming World" pamphlet, providing updates of the likely future climate scenarios for the world and Hong Kong after the Paris climate summit (COP21). The pamphlet also highlights information on important indicators of climate change and action to combat climate change, and points out that even with the current emission reduction pledges countries have made, we must still work harder to achieve the target set by COP21. While we should make every effort to reduce carbon emissions, we also need to be prepared for climate change adaptation.



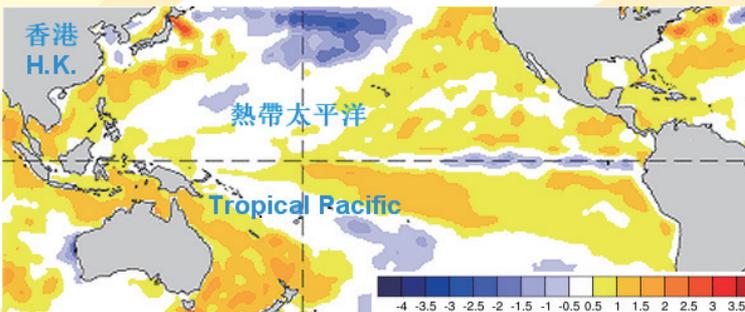
A Farewell to El Niño

SHAM Fu-cheung

The longest and strongest El Niño event since 1950 weakened during early months of the year, and there was a return to normal conditions in May. Based on the latest oceanic observations as well as forecasts by a number of climate models around the world, it is likely that La Niña will start to develop in the latter half of the year.

Data indicate that when La Niña is active during August to October, more tropical cyclones are likely to affect Hong Kong. La Niña in autumn and winter brings lower temperatures to Hong Kong.

Of course, the weather in the latter part of this year still depends on the actual development of La Niña as well as the influence of other factors. For more information on El Niño and La Niña, please use the QR code on the right.



Sea surface temperature anomalies during 1–28 May 2016, in degrees Celsius. (Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA)

Announcement on Localized Heavy Rain

LEE Lap-shun

The Observatory launched the "Announcement on Localized Heavy Rain" (ALHR) service in July. When heavy rain affects individual districts but does not reach the criteria for a Red or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal, the Observatory will issue the ALHR based on the rainfall recorded, and indicate the affected districts and the rainfall recorded. The "Special Announcement on Flooding in the northern New Territories" (SAFNNT) and ALHR are operated based on the recorded rainfall amount, when rainfall of 70 millimetres or more is recorded in an hour in individual districts. SAFNNT applies to the northern part of New Territories, whereas ALHR is applicable to other areas.





Collaboration

The 20th Anniversary of "Friends of the Observatory"

LEE Fung-ying, WONG Tak-kan

The "Friends of the Observatory", established in August 1996, currently has over 10,000 members. It organizes diverse activities, such as tours, seminars, and volunteer opportunities on the Open Day of the Observatory and other relevant events, to pass on meteorological knowledge and raise public awareness on weather.

As this year marks the 20th anniversary of "Friends of the Observatory", we will jointly organize a stargazing evening camp with the Space Museum in October for members to meet and chat. Don't miss out if you are interested.

"Sky of Silver Age"

Photo Competition

LEE Tsz-cheung

The "Sky of Silver Age" Photo Competition, jointly organized by the Observatory and the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association (SCHSA), was successfully completed. The competition received high-standard submissions that vividly captured the changing seasons and the evolving colours of the clouds in the sky. The award presentation ceremony was held on 11 June, with Mr SHUN Chi-ming, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, and Ms LEUNG Shuk-ye, the Chief Executive Officer of SCHSA, presenting award certificates to the winners.



The award-winning images



Winner: "Victoria Harbour Covered by Fog 《維港海霧》" by Mr David CHEUNG



1st runner up: "Big Buddha Behind a Curtain 《垂簾看大佛》" by Ms LAM Miu-fong



2nd runner up: "The Earth in My Heart, magnificent clouds 《大地在心中 射雕英雄傳》" by Mr TSUI Kit-wai

Go! "Sky Dragon"

YU Choi-loi

On 5 June, the Observatory's "Sky Dragon" dragon boat team took part in the "2016 Hong Kong Macao Civil Servant Interport Small Dragon Boat Race". "Sky Dragon" finished the race strongly, setting a new team record time under very hot weather.



Four days later, "Sky Dragon" and "Friends of the Observatory" formed a joint team to participate in the Cheung Chau Dragon Boat Festival Races. Supported by colleagues and friends, the joint team qualified for the semi-final after finishing second in the group stages. After the races, the team took the opportunity to tour the Cheung Chau Weather Station (see photo).



Ask Dr Tin

Showers Jargon Explained

Showers jargon	Meaning
Showers	Brief precipitation usually from convective clouds. It is characterized by the sudden start and end of the precipitation as well as the fine weather before and after its occurrence.
Isolated showers	The rain-bearing clouds are small and isolated, resulting in showers occurring only in localized areas of the territory at a time.
Scattered showers	The rain-bearing clouds are spread out spatially, resulting in showers occurring in parts of the territory, but rain-free in other parts of the territory.
Thunderly showers	Precipitation from cumulonimbus clouds, characterized by its sudden start and end with rapid changes in the intensity of rain, accompanied by thunders and lightning.
Squally showers	Showers accompanied by brief but sudden strong or gale force winds.



Photo by Ms Janice CHOI



HKO Sidelights

Observatory Staff Commended by the Public

Observatory staff who received words of thanks and commendation from the public or organisations during April to June:

Mr LEE Kwok-lun
(Scientific Officer)

**Mr WONG Chau-ping, Mr CHAN Wing-hang,
Ms CHAN Yuk-hing, Mr YUNG Chung-hoi**
(Experimental Officer)

Ms YU Mei-fung
(Chief Scientific Assistant)

Ms MAK Man-yi
(Senior Scientific Assistant)

**Mr CHEE Shiu-chung, Ms IU Fung-wan, Ms LAM Mei-sim,
Mr LAU Ying-hong, Mr LO Chin-ming**
(Scientific Assistant)

Staff Promotions



Mr LI Luen-on (left) was promoted to Principal Experimental Officer.



Mr LI Nga-wing (left) was promoted to Senior Scientific Assistant.



On 20 and 21 April, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao annual cooperation meeting and technical seminar were held in Guangzhou. Mr SHUN Chi-ming (right), Director of the Hong Kong Observatory; Mr XU Yong-ke (middle), Director of the Guangdong Meteorological Bureau; and Dr FONG Soi-kun (left), Director of the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau, planted the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation Tree".



On 21 April, the Hong Kong Observatory won the gold prize under the "Government Departments" category and the "Most Liked .hk Website Award" in the "Best .hk Website Awards 2015". As the Observatory has received the gold award under the "Government Departments" award for three consecutive years (2013, 2014 and 2015), the organizer also presented the "Most Honourable Award" to the Observatory.



On 11 May, Mr WANG Zhiqing (fourth from right), Deputy Director General of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), visited the Observatory as head of a CAAC delegation. He is pictured here with Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (centre) and other Observatory staff in the Observatory's Central Forecasting Office.



On 12-13 May, staff of the Public Weather Service Centre of Zhuhai Meteorological Service visited the Observatory.



On 17-18 May, Mr LI Qiguo, Deputy Director General of the Air Traffic Management Bureau of China, led a team of experts to visit the Observatory. A biennial senior management meeting on aviation meteorology was held during the visit.



On 28 June, the Observatory and the Environmental Protection Department delivered the first joint talk on climate change for around 180 students and teachers at the Lung Cheung Government Secondary School.



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