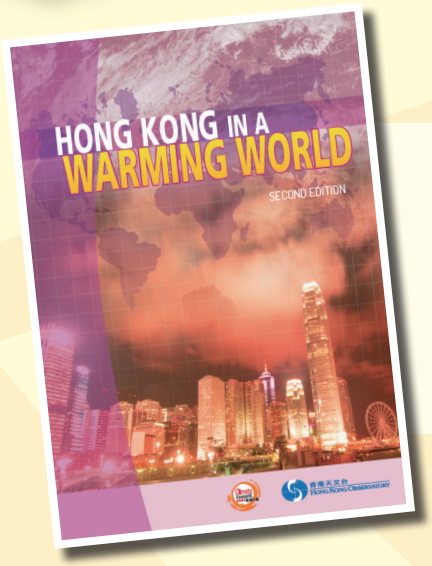
Public Information and Education

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.

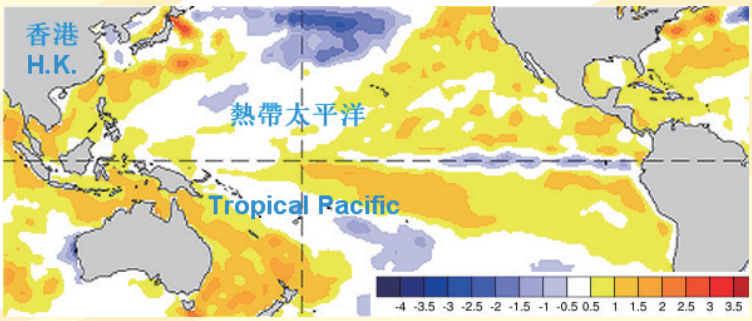
A Farewell to El Niño

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.