

China-ASEAN Meteorological Forum SHUN Chi-ming

On 11 and 12 September, at the invitation of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), I attended the first China-ASEAN Meteorological Forum in Nanning, Guangxi. In my capacity as Chairman of the World Meteorological Organization's Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology, I gave a presentation to the management of the ASEAN meteorological services on the future development and challenges of aeronautical meteorology. The "Nanning Initiative on China-ASEAN Cooperation in Meteorology" was approved during the forum, laying the foundation for long-term meteorological cooperation between China and ASEAN countries within the framework of the "Belt and Road" initiative. My proposal for including aeronautical meteorological services in the "Nanning Initiative on China-ASEAN Cooperation in Meteorology" was also endorsed at the meeting.



Mr. SHUN (right) meets Dr ZHENG Guoguang, Administrator of CMA (middle), and Ms JIAO Meiyun, Deputy Administrator of CMA (left), during China-ASEAN Meteorological Forum



Jack MA delivers the opening speech at CAEXPO

Additionally, I attended the opening ceremony of the 13th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and was enlightened by many inspiring speeches. Among them, the one given by Jack MA was worth pondering over: "In the past industrial age, we turned people into machines. In the future era of data, we will turn machines into people. In the age of data, small can be very powerful.... Alibaba's success is the success of more than 12 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) ... which shows that 'small is beautiful, small is powerful, small is wonderful'. With a big heart and an open mind to embrace new technology and globalization, even a small country or a small company can become extremely powerful and wonderful."

The Observatory's short videos hit 10 million views

YEUNG Hon-yin, YEUNG Kwok-chung

During the summer, the cumulative views of Observatory's YouTube video collection surpassed 10 million (11,846,433 as at the end of September 2016)! The increase in the past couple of years was particularly significant, rising by several folds to nearly 7.6 million and accounting for more than 60% of the total views.



"Cool Met Stuff" is the result of collaborative efforts



The Observatory's YouTube video channel

Since the channel's launch in 2009, the Observatory's short videos have been very popular. After the introduction of three viewing options – "Weather On-Air", "Cool Met Stuff" and "Central Weather Briefing" at the end of 2013, both the quantity and quality of the videos have been greatly improved to meet the public demand of more meteorological knowledge and weather information.

The public education video series "Cool Met Stuff" covers a wide range of subjects with diverse components, including graphic animation, beautiful cloud photos, news clips and overseas footage. To better address the needs of the general public, we collaborate with scholars, experts, social organisations and government departments to produce the shows.



"Friends of the Observatory" 20th Anniversary

天文台之友
Friends of the Observatory



Voluntary docent have been guiding Observ



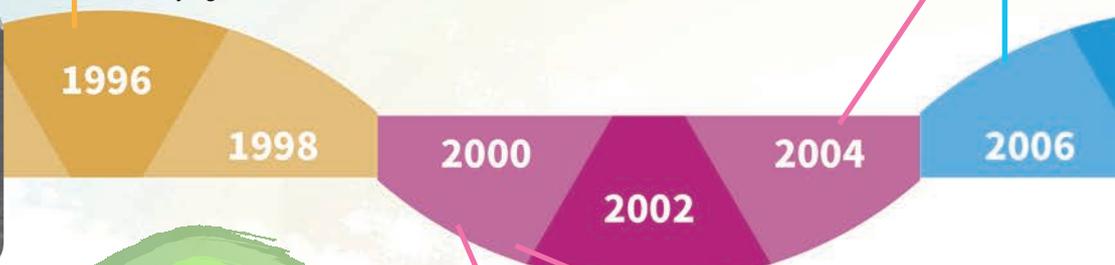
First issue of the Friends of the Observatory Newsletter published

Established in 1996, "Friends of the Observatory" aims to enhance communication between the Observatory and the public for a better understanding of the work of the Observatory. Over the past two decades, many have joined our activities, and the number of members has increased from several hundreds initially to over 10,000 at present. Voluntary docents of the "Friends of the Observatory" offer assistance in greeting more than 2,500 visitors to the Observatory every year, playing an important role in the "Guided Tour of the Hong Kong Observatory".

Thanks to popular public support, "Friends of the Observatory" continues to grow. The Observatory appreciates the support from all of you, and for staying with us, come rain or shine!



Inauguration ceremony of "Friends of the Observatory"



Voluntary from "Friends of the Observatory" participated in the Volunteer Movement of the Social Welfare Department in 2001

"Friends of the Observatory" activity in 2000 - Meteorological Camp



Thanks for your dedication to the Observatory and interest in our work over the past 20 years. Your support enables us to grow continuously!

— SHUN Chi-ming,
Director of the Hong Kong Observatory

Through communication and interactions, we have built up deep friendships. I wish the "Friends of the Observatory" prosperity and continued success!

— LAM Chiu-ying,
ex-Director of the Hong Kong Observatory

Over the past 20 years, the Friends' enthusiasm and dedication have been an encouragement to and source of positive energy for the staff of the Hong Kong Observatory!

— LEE Boon-ying,
ex-Director of the Hong Kong Observatory

Core members of the "Friends of the Observatory" demonstrate their cooperation and team spirit. Wishing the "Friends of the Observatory" tremendous success and long-lasting friendship among its members!

— LEUNG Wing-mo,
ex-Assistant Director of the Observatory



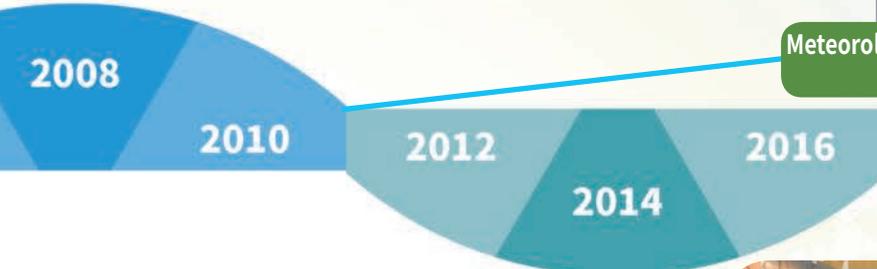
Members from "Friends of the Observatory" participating in the "Guided Tour of the Hong Kong Observatory" since October 2004.



The 10th anniversary celebration of "Friends of the Observatory"



Meteorological Day Camp – celebration of 15th anniversary of "Friends of the Observatory"



The "Friends of the Observatory" organises diverse activities, such as tours, seminars, and volunteer opportunities during the Open Day of the Observatory and other relevant events, to pass on meteorological knowledge and raise public awareness of weather and climate change.



Friends of the Observatory linking up with Sky Dragon



The Observatory's Dragon Boat Team "Sky Dragon" was established in 2015. This year, "Friends of the Observatory" joined the team's training sessions. After taking part in the Cheung Chau Dragon Boat Race in June, the team participated in Vigor 2016 Mini Dragon Boat Races, held in Sai Kung on 18 September. With more than 2,000 participants cheering from a large crowd of onlookers on a sunny day, the race was bustling with noise and excitement.

The fun in dragon boat racing lies in the team spirit, from the drummer at the front to the helmsman at the back with the paddlers working in unison and harmony in between. We hope that the "Friends of the Observatory" and the "Sky Dragon" will continue the partnership in the coming years to share the joy in dragon boat racing.

Milestone



Weather Notes
http://www.hko.gov.hk/forecaster_blog/index_uc.htm

天氣隨筆

- 重陽天氣如何？還看秋季颱風
2016年10月06日
- 國慶日定時定點天氣服務
2016年10月03日
- 颱風登陸後的一號風球
2016年09月28日
- 鮎魚真的會襲港？
2016年09月23日

The Observatory Launches 'Weather Notes'

LEE Lap-shun

The Observatory launched a new platform - 'Weather Notes' webpage – in September, to discuss various weather-related topics in succinct manner for an easier understanding of the topics discussed. In addition to the webpage, the articles are also available on the Observatory's Weibo, Twitter and WeChat pages.

Facelift for the "Weather Information for Schools" Webpage

LEE Kwok-lun

The Observatory launched a new version of the "Weather Information for Schools" webpage (<http://www.hko.gov.hk/school/main.shtml>) in late August. The new webpage is enhanced with a list of regional rainfall, updated every 15 minutes. It enables schools, parents and students to obtain the latest rainfall information in their districts of interest. Icons linked to radar images, real-time and forecast rainfall distribution maps are also made available for users, to better appreciate the change of rainfall situation from district to district and to take appropriate precautionary measures.

District	15:00 - 15:15	15:15 - 15:30
Sai Kung	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Sha Tin	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
North District	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Yuen Long	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Southern District	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Kwai Tsang	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Kwai Tong	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Tai Po	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Sha Tin	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Islands District	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Tsuen Wan	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Wing Tai San	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Central & Western District	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Kowloon City	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Yau Tsim Mong	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Tuen Mun	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Yuen Long	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5
Eastern District	0 - 0.5	0 - 0.5



The Observatory Launches a Mobile Version of the "Location-specific Lightning Alert Webpage"

MA Wai-man

Location-specific Lightning Alert Webpage (Beta Version)

Cloud-to-Ground Lightning Detection Time: 2/9/2016 12:45:13:14

Weather Radar Range: 256km
2/9/2016 13:12

降雨率 (毫米/小時): 0.10 - 0.50

In light of the increasing popularity of smart phones and mobile devices, the Observatory has launched a mobile version of the Location-specific Lightning Alert Webpage (LLAW) (beta version), to enable the public to conveniently access information on lightning activity in Hong Kong and its vicinity. Users can also specify a location of interest, together with an alert region around the location.

Collaboration

The Observatory and DPRI Join Forces to Promote Awareness of Disaster Prevention

To raise young people's awareness of disaster prevention, the Observatory and Disaster Preparedness & Response Institute (DPRI) have jointly launched a Multi-media Competition. The first stage of the Competition – a Colouring Competition for primary school students on the theme of natural disaster information – was successfully concluded and the awards ceremony held on 2 October. The artworks were colourful and creative, fully demonstrating the students' understanding and experience regarding various natural disasters, including typhoons and rainstorms.

Sandy SONG



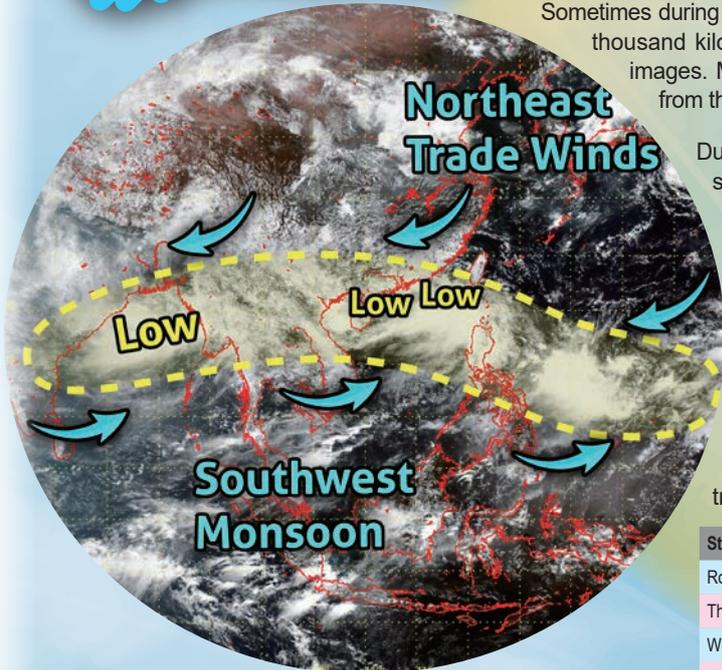
Sandy SONG, Senior Scientific Officer (fourth from the left, back row), with prize winners and other guests.



Monsoon Lows and Tropical Cyclones

YEUNG Hon-yin

Sometimes during the Northern Hemisphere summer, an elongated region of dense clouds several thousand kilometres long (the area circled by yellow dotted line) appears on the satellite images. Meteorologists call this the "Intertropical Convergence Zone", while the section from the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean is also known as the "monsoon trough".



Satellite Imagery at noon on 16 August (source: Japan Meteorological Agency)

Due to the converging winds from opposite directions - southwest monsoon from the south and the northeast trade winds from the north (see blue arrows), convective activity can easily be triggered along the monsoon trough and low pressure areas can develop. The resulting phenomena are referred to as monsoon lows.

Although a monsoon low and a well-developed tropical cyclone both have rotational circulations, there are obvious differences in structure (see table). Whether the former will develop into the latter depends on the atmospheric environment, such as vertical variations in winds, transport of moisture, sea surface temperature, and high altitude divergence. The tropical depression forming over the coastal waters of western Guangdong on the morning of 17 August was an example of a successful evolution from a monsoon low to a tropical cyclone.

Structural Characteristics	Monsoon Low	Well-developed Tropical Cyclone
Rotating circulation	May have more than one centre	Has only one centre
The region of strongest winds	Usually along the periphery	Concentrated near the centre
Wind speed near the centre	Relatively low	Strongest
Cloud clusters near the centre	Developing and dissipating without much organization	Intense and persistent; and organised in spirals

Director Shun and Rebecca Lee on Climate Change

LEE Sai-ming

Climate change has become a major challenge for humanity, requiring sustained efforts to deal with the issues arising. But how serious is global warming? What are the impacts on Planet Earth and humans? And what can we do about it?

The Jockey Club Initiative GAIA, under the Chinese University of Hong Kong, organised a "Green Leadership Camp 2016" in July and aimed to train secondary students to become leaders in carbon reduction and environmental protection. The organiser invited Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, and Dr Rebecca LEE, a renowned polar explorer, to deliver climate change talks and to provide background knowledge on the subject to the participating students.



Mr SHUN Chi-ming (fourth from the left, front row) and Dr Rebecca LEE (fourth from the right, front row) with the organisers and participants of "Green Leadership Camp 2016".



Mr SHUN presented evidence for and consequences of global warming, the impacts on Hong Kong, along with information on inter-governmental cooperation to deal with the problem and Hong Kong government's work on climate change. Dr LEE shared her experience of polar expeditions and reflected on her observations of the changing climate. During the discussion session, the students discussed how to cope with the impacts of climate change. In view of the educational value of the seminar, Radio Television Hong Kong compiled an audio recording of the seminar into four segments for broadcast. The recording can also be accessed through the following link: http://www.hko.gov.hk/climate_change/audio_e.htm (Cantonese only).

Collaborating with EMSD to Promote Climate Change Awareness among Youngsters

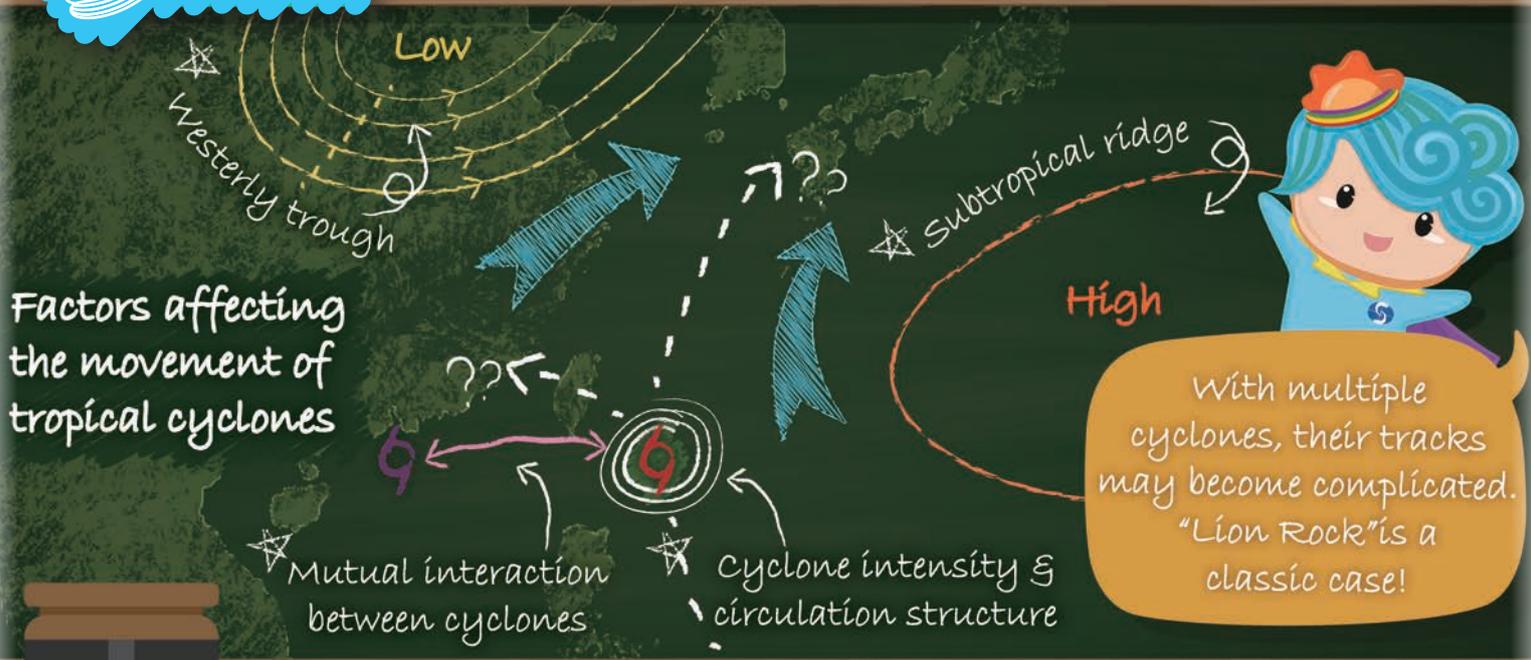
SHAM Fu-cheung

To promote awareness of climate change and knowledge of energy efficiency among young people, the Observatory joined hands with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to organise school talks and arrange for E&M Young Ambassadors to visit the Observatory on 12 August. Through these activities, climate change messages and mitigation actions were explained to the young people.





Ask Dr Tin



HKO Sidelights

Staff promotion



Mr HUI Kin-chung (right) was promoted to Chief Experimental Officer on 1 August.

Staff retirement



(From left to right) Mr LI Wai-ching, Mr CHAU Ming-sum and Mr CHIU Hung-yu retired on 26 July, 28 July and 13 September respectively.

Observatory Staff Commended by the Public

Observatory staff who received words of thanks and commendation from the public or organisations from July to September:

Mr LEE Kwok-lun
(Scientific Officer)

Mr WONG Chau-ping
(Experimental Officer)

Ms YU Mei-fung
(Chief Scientific Assistant)

Ms MAK Man-yi, Ms CHAN Siu-yung
(Senior Scientific Assistant)

Mr CHEE Shiu-chung, Mr LO Chin-ming, Ms LAI Sau-king
(Scientific Assistant)

Tai Chi Tour

NG CHAN Kam-chu



The Hong Kong Observatory Staff Association has been organising Tai Chi classes for eight years. To deepen the understanding of Tai Chi, 23 trainees went with Master KWOK to Chenjiagou, the origin of Tai Chi, for a five-day visit in August. Under a highly spiritual environment and with personal guidance from Master ZHU, the trainees found the trip very fruitful and all gained a better understanding of the essence of Tai Chi.



Subsidized Primary School Council Visited HKO

Accompanied by representatives of the Education Bureau, school principals from the Subsidized Primary School Council visited the Observatory on 30 August to exchange views on the arrangements for school operation during tropical cyclones and rainstorms.

“Life Buddies” Mentoring Scheme – Job Shadowing at the Observatory

Terence KUNG

In August, students from Buddhist Sum Heung Lam Memorial College and Lok Sin Tong Leung Kau Kui College participated in the “Life Buddies” Mentoring Scheme organised by the Commission on Poverty. Through “job shadowing” at the Observatory, the students learnt from the Observatory staff the importance of scientific professionalism and conscientious work attitude, and appreciated that enthusiasm, innovation and keeping up with times were the values to be upheld when they pursued their careers in the future.



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