



Features

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# 100th Anniversary of Numbered Typhoon Signals

Typhoon signals were originally hoisted for the marine community, and were subsequently widely adopted for general use. The numbered signals were first introduced in Hong Kong in 1917, to indicate wind directions and strengths associated with tropical cyclones. The system had been revised several times over the years, and the current version was adopted in 1973.

As 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the introduction of numbered typhoon signals in Hong Kong, the Observatory produces a special series of "Cool Met Stuff" public education videos on tropical cyclones, with topics including the evolution of tropical cyclone signals, historical tropical cyclone disasters, tropical cyclone-related hazards, naming of tropical cyclones and debunking of myths relating to tropical cyclones.



Cool Met Stuff on tropical cyclones

In the first episode, Mr Shun Chi-ming, Director of the Observatory, talks about the evolution of tropical cyclone warning signals over the past 100 years.



The Hong Kong Observatory and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) have jointly launched a campaign to collect historical tropical cyclone material from the public including articles, historical photos, audio recordings and videos, especially those showing damages caused by tropical cyclones in Hong Kong. The information collected will be presented in the RTHK Radio 1 programme "Climate Watcher".



Collection of historical typhoon information

## Secretary for the Civil Service Visiting the Observatory

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Mr Clement Cheung, Secretary for the Civil Service (fourth from left) and Mr Thomas Chow (third from left), with Mr Shun Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (fourth from right) and other senior Observatory staff.

Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Clement Cheung, accompanied by Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Thomas Chow, visited the Hong Kong Observatory on 7 April, to learn more about its work and to meet staff of the department. He toured the facilities including TV Studio, Monitoring and Assessment Centre and Central Forecasting Office. During a tea gathering before concluding his visit, Mr Cheung talked to staff representatives of various grades. He praised them for their effort, and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence and enhancing the services provided.