



Li Kin-wai

# A Record-breaking WINTER

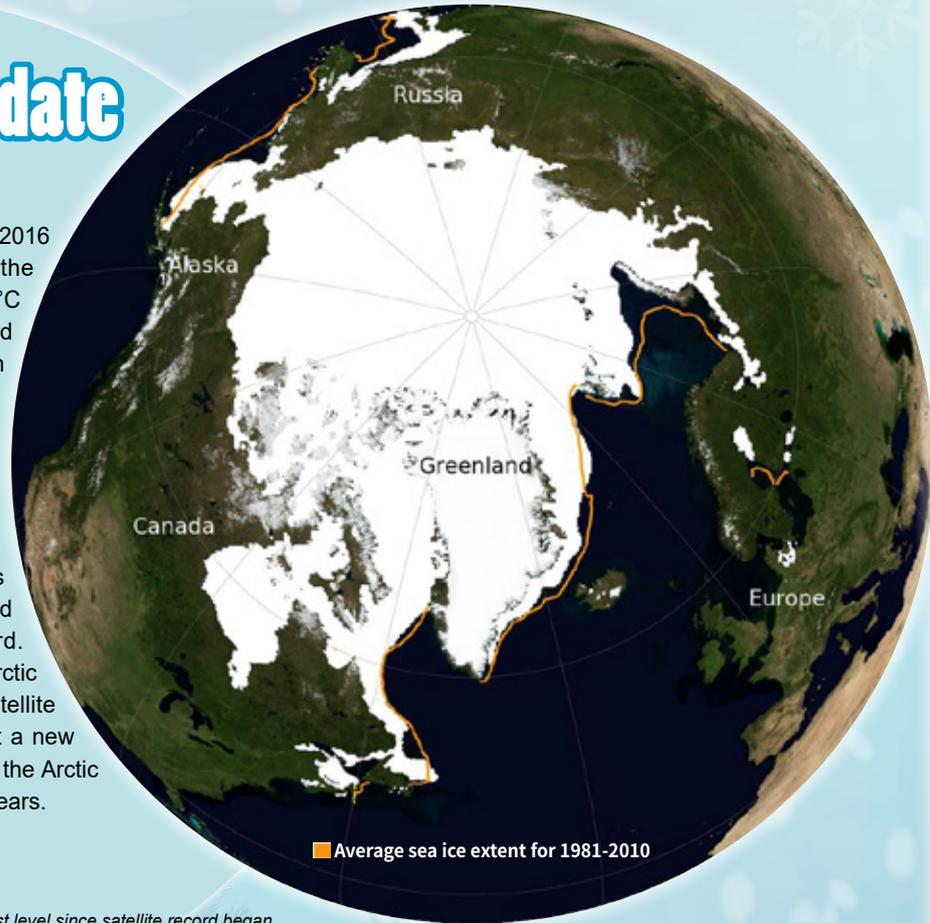
The winter (December to February) of 2016/17 was one of Hong Kong's warmest winters since records began in 1884. There were only seven cold days (with minimum temperature of 12.0°C or below) during the period. The quarterly mean temperature was 18.4°C and the mean minimum temperature was 16.5°C - equalling the previous record highs set in the winter of 1998/99. The mean temperature of 18.5°C and the mean minimum temperature of 17.0°C in January 2017 were also record highs. The abnormally warm weather was mainly attributable to the weaker-than-normal northeast monsoon affecting southern China.

## Global Climate Update

Sham Fu-cheung

The World Meteorological Organization ranked 2016 as the hottest year globally on record, with the average global annual temperature about 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels, breaking the record for the third consecutive year together with several other climate records. The global sea surface temperature was also a record high while the average sea ice extents in the Arctic and the Antarctic were the lowest and second lowest, respectively, on satellite record.

The record-breaking trend in 2016 has continued into this year: January, February and March were all the second warmest on record. The sea ice extents in the Arctic and the Antarctic reached the lowest for the same period on satellite record. The sea ice extent in the Antarctica hit a new record low, and the maximum sea ice extent in the Arctic broke the lowest record for three consecutive years.



Maximum sea ice extent in the Arctic this year was the lowest level since satellite record began



Mr Shun Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (second from left) and Mr Lee Sai-ming, Senior Scientific Officer (second from right), with Mr Tony Woo (first from left) and Ms Icy Wong (first from right), the programme hosts.



## RTHK Radio 1 "Climate Watcher"

Editorial Board

To promote public understanding of climate change and enhance preparedness to meet climate change challenges, the Observatory collaborated with RTHK to produce the radio programme "Climate Watcher". The 13-episode programme will be broadcast on RTHK Radio 1 every Saturday starting from 1 April. Guest speakers include Observatory staff, experts and stakeholders from various sectors. As one of the guest speakers in episodes 1 and 2, Mr Shun Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, briefly reviewed the damages caused by historical typhoons and rainstorms in Hong Kong. He also warned that extreme weather would be more likely to occur under the influence of climate change.