

100th Anniversary of Numbered Typhoon Signals

Editorial Board

Typhoon signals, originally devised for the marine community, have been widely adopted for general use. In 1917, numbered typhoon signals indicating the wind direction and wind strength associated with tropical cyclones first came into use in Hong Kong for the purpose of warning the public. The system has been modified several times over the years. The current version of numbered signal system was adopted in 1973. The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the introduction of numbered typhoon signals in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Observatory has arranged exhibits at the Cheung Chau Meteorological Station, the last signal station hoisting tropical cyclone signals. Exhibits include physical objects of the tropical cyclone warning signals, as well as introduction to the evolution of the numbered typhoon signal system, the history of the Cheung Chau Signal Station and Cheung Chau's typhoon history.

On 7 June, the Observatory introduced the exhibits on the history of typhoon signals to the media. The Director, Mr Shun Chi-ming, said that the numbered typhoon signal system in Hong Kong is simple and easy, and has helped to safeguard people's lives and property from typhoon hazards over the past century. Through presenting a review of the evolution of the signal system and typhoon history, it was hoped to increase public awareness on prevention against typhoon-related hazards.



Mr Shun Chi-ming, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (fourth from right), with the guests at the Cheung Chau Meteorological Station.



Also marking the anniversary, on 13 June, Hongkong Post issued a set of commemorative stamps on numbered typhoon signals.

The Observatory will organize guided tours for registered members of public to visit the Cheung Chau Meteorological Station, so as to enhance public understanding of the evolution of the numbered typhoon warning signal system. For details, please see page 6.



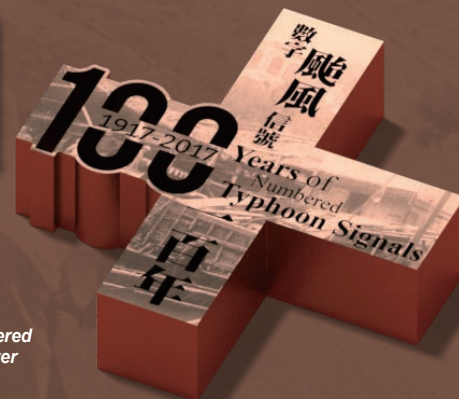
Former Chief Scientific Assistant Mr Wat Kam-sing and exhibits in the Cheung Chau Meteorological Station.

Mr Wat Kam-sing, former Chief Scientific Assistant who worked at the Observatory for nearly 40 years, also shared his experience of hoisting the physical typhoon signals. He pointed out that at the time, if there was a need to change from Signal No. 1 to Signal No. 3, he had to lower the No. 1 signal (shaped like a "T"), turned it upside down to represent Signal No. 3, and hang it on the pole again, and then changed the light signals. During severe weather, two or three people were required to do the work together.

"100 Years of Numbered Typhoon Signals" commemorative stamps, and the sales arrangement.



Cool Met Stuff - Evolution of numbered typhoon signals over the past 100 years





Features

Editorial Board

Collection of Historical Typhoon Information



The crowdsourcing campaign launched by the Hong Kong Observatory and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to collect historical tropical cyclone material received an enthusiastic response, with many people submitting invaluable information and items. In particular, envelopes with the typhoon postmark of 1948, as well as photos and personal experience of Wanda in 1962, served as vivid descriptions in both images and words. Other materials include photos, audio recordings and personal experience related to the damages caused by Mary in 1960, Ruby in 1964, Hope in 1979, Ellen in 1983, and Vicente in 2012.



Collection of historical typhoon information
(Chinese only)

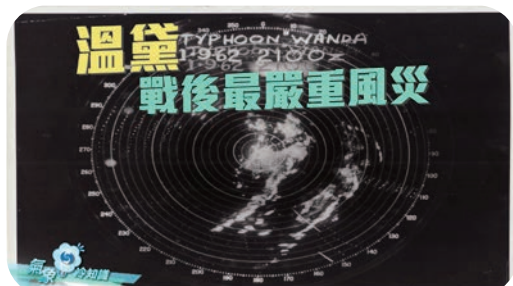
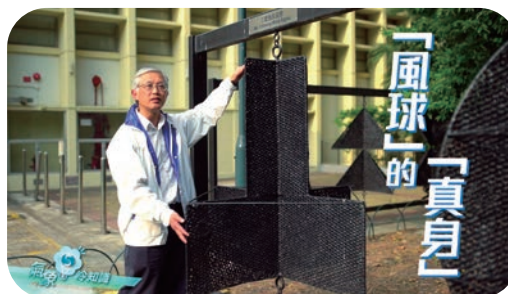
COOL MET STUFF



Videos on Tropical Cyclones

Alex Tsoi

As 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the introduction of numbered typhoon signals in Hong Kong, the Observatory has produced a special series of "Cool Met Stuff" videos on tropical cyclones, to enhance public understanding and awareness of typhoon hazards. The videos feature Mr Shun Chi-ming, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, who talks about the history of typhoons. The latest videos can be found on the Observatory's webpage and its YouTube channel, and include "Hoisting of Physical Typhoon Signals", "Most Calamitous Typhoons in Hong Kong", "Wanda - The Deadliest Typhoon in the Post-war Era", and "Ellen - The Worst in the 1980s" (in Cantonese). Please stay tuned for more videos!



(Chinese only)



New Names Adopted for Tropical Cyclones in 2017



Choy Chun-wing

In 2017, four new names have been added to the list of tropical cyclone names in the western North Pacific and the South China Sea. Details are as follows:



For details about the origin of tropical cyclone names, please watch the "Cool Met Stuff" episode "Typhoon Pineapple Bun". Mr Shun Chi-ming, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, and Mr Lam Chiu-ying, former Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, will tell you more.



Name	Meaning	Contributing country/region
Saudel	Trusted guard/soldier of legendary Pohnpei Chief Soudelor	Micronesia
Surigae	A kind of eagle	DPR Korea
Koguma	Ursa Minor, the Little Bear	Japan
Cempaka	Plant known for its fragrant flowers	Malaysia

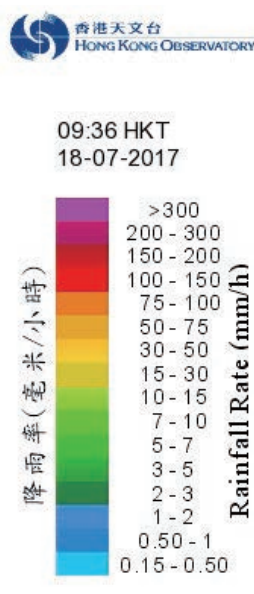
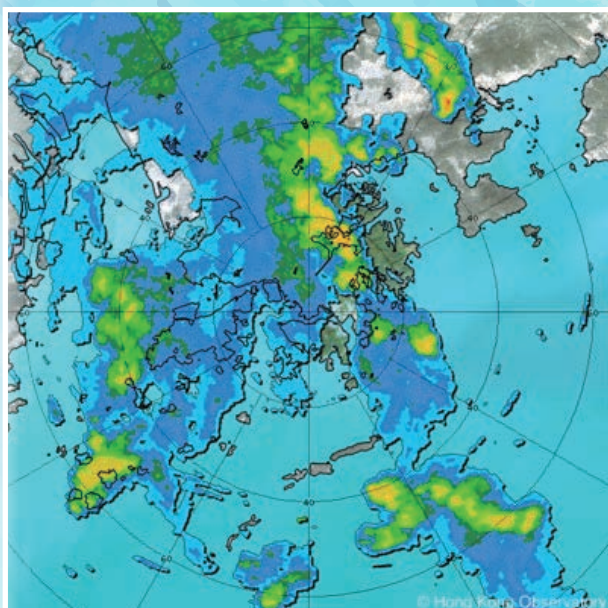


According to convention, the Typhoon Committee will consider removing the name of a tropical cyclone which has caused serious human casualties and economic losses. Therefore, the old names "Soudelor", "Mujigae", "Koppu" and "Melor" have been removed from the list.



Announcement on Localised Heavy Rain

Stephen Lau



To enhance the provision of information on heavy rain to the public, the Observatory launched the Announcement on Localised Heavy Rain service last year. When rainfall of 70 millimetres or more is recorded in an hour in individual districts of Hong Kong, and if heavy rain is not widespread over Hong Kong, without reaching the criteria for a Red or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal, the Observatory will issue an "Announcement on Localised Heavy Rain", indicating the affected district(s) and the rainfall recorded.

For example, on 18 July, heavy rain affected Tai Po District in the morning, causing serious flooding in some areas. On the radar images, it was clear that the rain in the district was significantly heavier than in other areas, necessitating the issuance of the Announcement on Localised Heavy Rain.

Apart from the Amber, Red and Black rainstorm warning signals, the public should now pay attention to these announcements, so they can take necessary precautions.



Thirty Years of TV Weather Programmes

Eunice Lee

The Observatory has been providing TV weather services presented by professional meteorological personnel for 30 years since 1987.

At the beginning, the filming of programmes was done in the production studios of TV stations. In 1995, the Observatory set up its own TV weather programme studio. Over 30 years, more than 30 professional meteorological personnel took on the role of reporting the weather.

To further enhance the TV weather services, the Observatory has renovated its TV weather programme studio this year. The blue screen that served for more than 15 years was replaced by a broader green screen to allow more camera angles, greatly improving the visual quality of programmes.



Earlier this year, the day before the old screen was removed, TV weather presenters of different generations came together for a group photo in the studio.



One of the earliest weather presenters – Mr Leung Wing-mo, the then Scientific Officer, hosting a TV weather programme in early years.



A new green screen was set up this year.



Over the course of 30 years, the quality of the TV weather programmes has continuously improved.



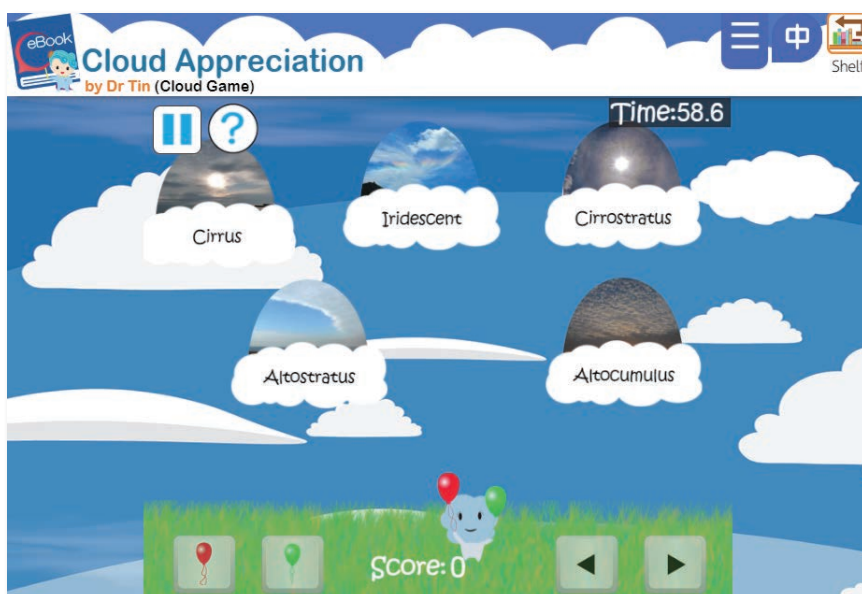
A special interview was arranged for two of the early weather presenters, Mr Leung Wing-mo and Mr Lai Sau-tak, who shared their experiences in making the TV weather programme.

The Observatory Launches its First eBook on Clouds

Yeung Pui-yi

The Observatory launches its first electronic version of a cloud ebook named "Cloud Appreciation by Dr Tin" making reference to the 2017 revised edition of the International Cloud Atlas of the World Meteorological Organization for inclusion of new cloud types and their photos. The contents are categorised into elementary and advanced levels, with amazing cloud pictures, mostly taken by local weather enthusiasts from the Community Weather Observing Scheme.

The cloud ebook also contains quizzes, as well as interactive games. Start your journey to learn more about clouds now!



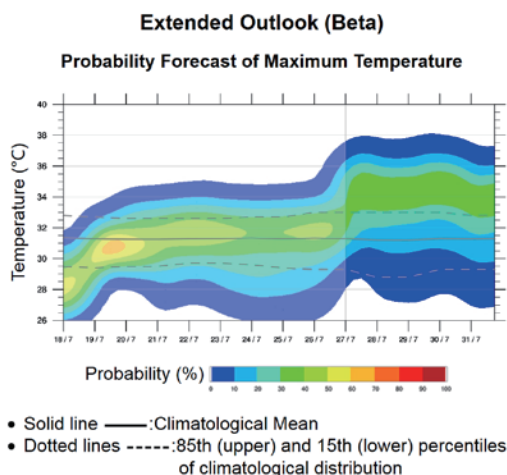
http://kids.weather.gov.hk/V2/eBook/ebook_cloud/ebook_shelf_e.htm

Interactive games in the Cloud Appreciation by Dr Tin ebook (in Chinese)

Extended Outlook Forecast Service

Wong Wai-kin

To better inform the public regarding the latest weather outlook, the Observatory has recently launched the trial version of the Extended Outlook forecast service, to provide probability forecasts of daily minimum and maximum temperatures for the next 14 days. On the time series graph, different colours indicate the probability of occurrence of temperatures, with warmer colours indicating the more likely temperatures. The Observatory will progressively expand the Extended Outlook forecast service to include other weather information, including tropical cyclone tracks and wind strengths.



Ask Dr Tin

Graphics / Timy Wong

Plum Rain

The northeast monsoon weakens

plum rain trough

The southwest monsoon strengthens

Every year in May and June, at the end of spring and the beginning of summer, our rainy season, known as the "plum rain", arrives. This is a time when the northeast monsoon weakens while the southwest monsoon strengthens. When the monsoons meet in the southern China region, they wrestle for control and a "plum rain trough" forms as a result, bringing us persistent rain.

For more information on "plum rains", please watch "Cool Met Stuff" (in Chinese)



HKO Sidelights

Observatory Staff Commended by the Public

Observatory staff who received words of thanks and commendation from the public or organisations from April to June in 2017:

Mr Hui Tai-wai, Mr Woo Wang-chun
(Scientific Officers)

Mr Chan Ho-sun, Mr Wong Chau-ping, Mr Yung Chung-hoi
(Experimental Officers)

Ms Chan Siu-yung, Ms Mak Man-yi
(Senior Scientific Assistants)

Mr Chee Shiu-chung, Ms Lam Mei-sim, Ms Lai Sau-king
(Scientific Assistants)

HKO Sidelights



On 29 April, the Observatory held the "HKO 2017 Tree Planting Day" event at its headquarter to promote preservation of beautiful environment and raising awareness of protecting the Earth.



Group photo of over 450 participants from primary and secondary schools taking part in the Earthquake Detector Design Competition, together with representatives of the event organiser, at the Grand Hall of the Tsim Sha Tsui District Kai Fong Welfare Association on 6 May.



The Observatory and the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association jointly organised two Cloud Appreciation Workshops in May. Responses to the events were overwhelming, with more than 120 senior citizens taking part.



Ms Akina Fong was invited to host a social media and communication skills workshop at the Observatory on 27 April. She also demonstrated how to use Facebook Live, which will greatly help the Observatory to enhance its social media services.



This is the second year in a row that the Observatory has participated in the "CLAP for Youth@ JC" project. More than 30 young participants visited the Observatory in mid-April, to enhance their understanding of the Observatory's work and service culture. They were inspired to think proactively and plan for their future career.



The Dragon Boat Team "Sky Dragon" this year participated in the Interport Small Dragon Boat Race in Macau and the Cheung Chau Dragon Boat Festival Race. Having bathed in the "Dragon Boat water", the team members were thoroughly refreshed with high spirits. With the full support of the Director and colleagues, "Sky Dragon" will keep up its efforts in the upcoming races.



On 29 June, the Director of the Palace Museum, Dr Shan Jixiang (second from right in the front row), visited the Observatory with a delegation, to learn more about its history and operations.



Mr Dong Yaohai (third from left), Researcher of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation and the Chief Designer of the FY-3 and FY-4 satellites, visited the Observatory on 29 June for exchanges and sharing.



At the 21st meeting of the Meteorology Sub-group (MET SG) of the Asia Pacific (APAC) region of ICAO, Assistant Director Miss Lau Sum-ye (right) was elected to be the Vice-Chair of the Sub-group. She will help to ensure the continuous and coherent development of meteorology in the APAC.



The Observatory won the Waste Check Promotional Partner Award (Class: Good) and the Waste Check Commitment Award under the Waste Check Charter, which was organised by the Environmental Protection Department with the Hong Kong Productivity Council serving as the executive agent.

Staff Promotions



Mr Wong Sing-ki, Mr Lam Chun-ming, Mr Sun Kam-tao and Mr Chen Yung (in the left of the picture, starting from left), and Mr Cheung Kai-kwong (right of the pictures) were promoted to Senior Scientific Assistants.



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