



Features

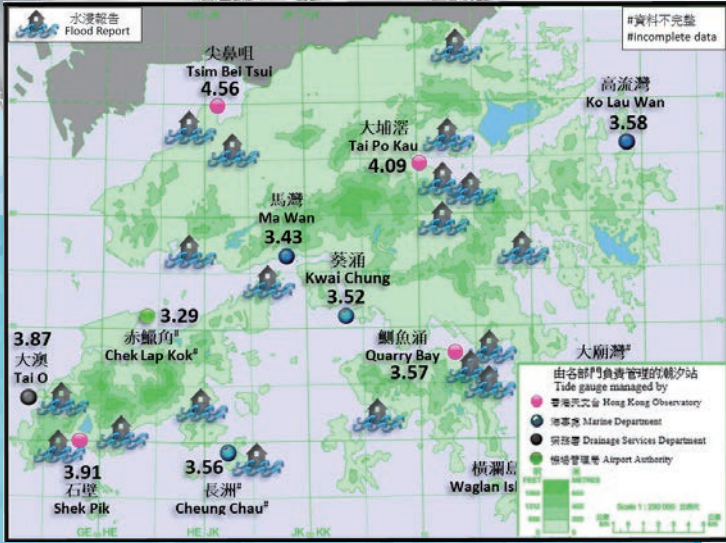
Super Typhoon Hato

Choy Chun-wing

The Hurricane Signal No. 10 was issued for the first time since 2012 during the passage of Hato. Hato started to intensify significantly as it entered the northeastern part of the South China Sea, momentarily attaining super typhoon intensity over the sea areas south of Hong Kong. This was the first time that Hong Kong was being "direct hit" by a super typhoon since Hope in 1979.

With the subsidence effect ahead of the circulation of Hato, the temperature at the Hong Kong Observatory soared to an all-time record high of 36.6°C on 22 August. During the morning of 23 August, winds consistently reached hurricane force over the southern part of the territory and on high ground. The storm surge brought by Hato coincided with an astronomical high tide, leading to extremely high water levels in many places, which resulted in serious flooding and damage in a number of coastal areas in Hong Kong. The water level at Quarry Bay rose to a maximum of 3.57 metres above Chart Datum, the second highest level recorded since instrumental records began in 1954 and – only lower than the record set by Wanda in 1962.

To learn more about storm surge, you may watch an episode of "Cool Met Stuff" (in Chinese).



Maximum sea level (metres above Chart Datum) recorded at various tide stations in Hong Kong and flood reports from government departments, news and social media on 23 August 2017.

Typhoon hazards: Storm surge

Heng Fa Chuen

Siu Sai Wan

Sha Tin

Tai O

The storm surge caused by Hato resulted in serious flooding in various areas in Hong Kong (Photos courtesy of Steve Lee, Toni Lee, the Drainage Services Department and Charmaine Mok).

Mr Philip Yung Wai-hung (first from right), Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) visited the Observatory on 6 September, and met the Observatory colleagues who were on duty in the Central Forecasting Office during the impact of Typhoon Hato on Hong Kong. He praised the colleagues for their unshaken commitment to work and professionalism during the typhoon, reducing the impacts brought by the storm to Hong Kong, and ensuring public safety by giving timely forecasts.

