



Milestones

Editorial Board

Hong Kong Observatory Signs MOU with Thai Meteorological Department to Strengthen Meteorological Collaboration

On 18 September, the Observatory signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on co-operation with the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD), to strengthen meteorological collaboration between Hong Kong and Thailand.

The Observatory and the TMD have a long history of co-operation, which can be traced back to 1970, with the establishment of the Hong Kong–Bangkok circuit for international exchanges of meteorological information within the Global Telecommunications System of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). At the high level meeting before the signing ceremony, both parties agreed to pursue collaboration in a number of areas including windshear detection, thunderstorm nowcasting, co-ordination in the issuance of significant weather warnings for aviation, and training meteorological personnel.



The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming (left), with the Director-General of the Thai Meteorological Department, Mr Wanchai Sakudomchai, at the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Hong Kong Observatory Headquarters Receives WMO's Recognition as Centennial Observing Station

Lee Tsz-cheung



The Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming (centre), receives the long-term observing station accreditation certificate from the Secretary-General of the WMO, Professor Petteri Taalas (second from right), at the certificate presentation ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Observatory headquarters located in Tsim Sha Tsui is among the first set of observing stations to receive the WMO's recognition as centennial observing stations. The Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming, received the accreditation certificate from the Secretary-General of the WMO on 18 October, and said the international recognition of the Observatory headquarters as a centennial observing station was an important milestone.

The Observatory has been conducting meteorological observations at the headquarters in Tsim Sha Tsui since 1884, and the long-term meteorological observational data serve as an invaluable reference source, notably for revealing the global warming trend in the past 130 years. The Observatory headquarters is one of the oldest observing stations among the first set of centennial stations.

Long-term meteorological observations, in particular those from observing stations that provide continuous data for 100 years or more, are crucial for documenting and analysing long-term variations in the Earth's climate on multi-decadal and centennial timescales, thereby providing useful input for the development of climate research and services. In view of this, the WMO has established a recognition mechanism for long-term observing stations around the world that meet a set of objective assessment criteria, which in turn promotes WMO members' efforts to maintain high-quality meteorological observations.

The first set of recognised long-term observing stations includes a total of 60 stations around the world. The full list is available from the link on the right:



The Observatory headquarters (circled in red) in Tsim Sha Tsui, at the beginning of the 20th century (Photo courtesy of Mr Shun Chi-ming).