



Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of Aviation Weather Services in Hong Kong

Electronic Flight Bag app: "MyFlightWx" launched

Cheung Ping

In 1937, the Hong Kong Observatory deployed a forecaster and an assistant to work at Kai Tak Airport, where aviation weather services were officially launched. As 2017 marked the 80th anniversary of Hong Kong Aviation Weather Services, the Hong Kong Observatory held a celebration event on 14 December 2017, and announced the launch of the electronic flight bag application "MyFlightWx". The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming; Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and Industry), Mr Gary Poon; and partners from the aviation industry officiated at the launching ceremony.

The new "MyFlightWx" app replaces traditional paper-based meteorological flight documentation. Based on the flight plan corresponding to the flight number, the app will automatically download relevant weather information, including images and weather charts. On aircraft equipped with Wi-Fi, flight crew can download data updates during a flight and keep abreast of the latest weather conditions. Cathay Pacific is the first airline to use the app, and has provided valuable comments during its design and testing.



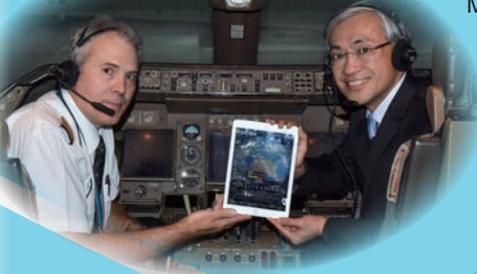
From left: President of the Hong Kong Aviation Club, Mr Edmond Chan; Executive Director of Airport Operations of the Airport Authority Hong Kong, Mr Ng Chi-kee; General Manager Operations of Cathay Pacific Airways, Mr Mark Hoey; Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and Industry), Mr Gary Poon; Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming; Deputy Director-General of Civil Aviation, Ms Linda So; and Chief Pilot (Operations) of the Government Flying Services, Mr West Wu, officiated at the launching ceremony of "MyFlightWx".

Mr Shun Chi-ming said, "MyFlightWx is the world's first electronic flight bag weather app developed by an official meteorological authority. Its launch represents a major milestone, and marks the first time that aeronautical meteorological information – including imagery – can be transmitted directly to aircraft in flight."

As air traffic becomes busier in future, the weather will have a greater impact on air traffic. The Hong Kong Observatory will continue collaborating with local, regional and international aviation users in various ways, contributing to safer and more efficient air transport.



Hong Kong Aviation Weather Services 80th Anniversary video



General Manager Operations of Cathay Pacific Airways, Mr Mark Hoey (left), and Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming, demonstrate the use of "MyFlightWx" in a Flight Simulator.

The Hong Kong Observatory held a gala dinner in the evening, inviting new and old colleagues from the Hong Kong Observatory and aviation services partners to come together to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Hong Kong Aviation Weather Services.

