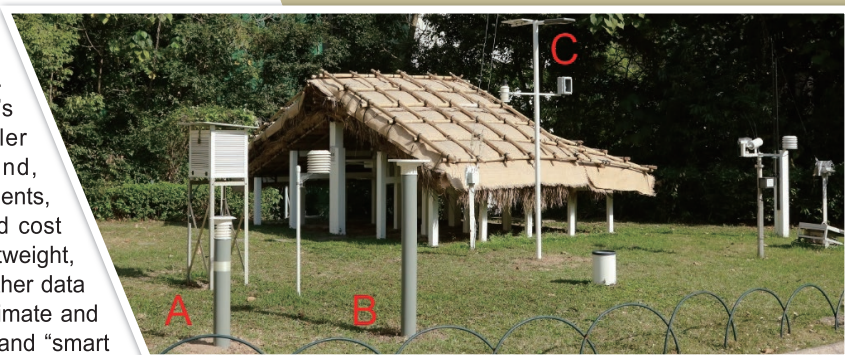




Chan Yuk-hing

Launch of the Microclimate Station at the Observatory Headquarters

The microclimate station at the Observatory Headquarters in Tsim Sha Tsui was officially launched as a demonstration project on 23 March. New technologies have been adopted for the station's equipment including an open-source microcontroller as well as microsensors for measurement of wind, temperature, relative humidity and other weather elements, which help reduce the size, power consumption, and cost of the station, making it more power-efficient and lightweight, thus easier to integrate into its surroundings. The weather data collected is not only used to analyse the city's microclimate and weather changes, but also helps "big data" analyses and "smart city" planning.

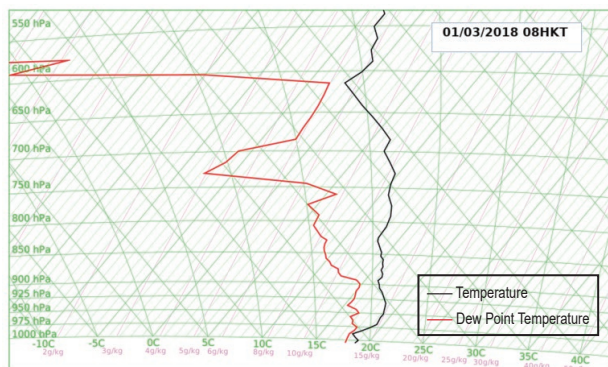


Microclimate sensors on bollards (A & B) and lamp poles (C)

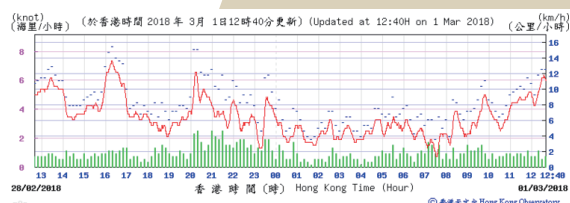
The Observatory Enhances the "Weather Information for Aviation Sports" Service

Cheung Ping

Starting from 1 March, the Observatory enhanced its "Weather Information for Aviation Sports" webpage which features twice daily vertical profiles of temperature and humidity, in the form of tephigram, up to an altitude of around 5,000 metres above ground level based on balloon sounding measurements obtained at King's Park, and real-time time series of wind gusts for selected automatic weather stations in Hong Kong.



Paragliding enthusiasts said the new information would be very useful to assess whether the weather is favourable to do paragliding. In addition, the Observatory has added the "Weather Forecast for Local Aviation" issued at 12:30 pm, to provide users with the latest weather information for the afternoon and the night.



Tephigram (left) and time series of maximum gust and mean wind speed (right)



The Observatory Launches Facebook Page and Instagram Account

Editorial Board

The "香港天文台 HKO" Facebook page and the "hk.observatory" Instagram account have been launched to enhance public communication, public awareness and understanding on weather and climate.

The Facebook page will post information in the event of adverse or extreme weather, such as heavy rain (especially red or black rainstorms) and tropical cyclones, to alert the public on weather hazards. It will also launch quizzes from time to time; winners will receive souvenirs from the Observatory.

The Instagram platform focuses on sharing of photos and videos on special weather and optical phenomena, as well as highlights of activities and Observatory equipment.

Anyone interested in weather is invited to "like" the page and follow the account.



"香港天文台 HKO" Facebook page

"hk.observatory" Instagram platform