

# Cloud-sourcing In Touch with Weather from Land, Sea and Air

Editorial Board

The “Cloud-sourcing: In Touch with Weather from Land, Sea and Air” photo and video exhibition, jointly organised by the Observatory and members of the aviation and marine industries, has officially launched and will be on display until 11 November.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming, said that during the two-months collection campaign period, it received enthusiastic support and participation from the aviation and marine communities. More than 2,000 weather images and over 100 videos were collected. These featured many rare cloud and atmospheric optical phenomenon, like lenticular cloud (commonly known as flying saucer cloud), glory and iridescent cloud. The Observatory hopes the campaign and exhibition will enhance public awareness and understanding of changes in the weather, thereby bringing people closer to nature.

With support from the Airport Authority Hong Kong, shortlisted entries are displayed at Hong Kong International Airport Terminal 1 (near the Arrival Hall, Ground Transportation Centre Downramp South). Members of the public are welcome to take photos of exhibits they find especially impressive. By sharing the photos on Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #cloudsourcing2018, they will have an opportunity to receive souvenirs from the Observatory. Details are available at the following website: [http://url.hko.hk/cloudsourcing\\_en](http://url.hko.hk/cloudsourcing_en).



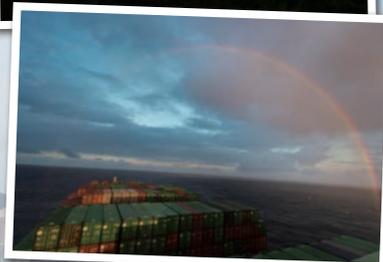
Guests and award-winners in front of the “Cloud-sourcing: In Touch with Weather from Land, Sea and Air” photo and video exhibition.



Lightning in Cumulonimbus  
(Photographer: Eco Fun, Location: Tai Sang Wai, Yuen Long).



Glory Surrounding Shadow of a Plane (Photographer: Tam Cheuk-ming, Location: Above Manchester, Britain).



Rainbow (Photographer: Rudolf Huang, Location: Pacific Ocean).

## The Asian Aviation Meteorological Centre

## Commences Operation

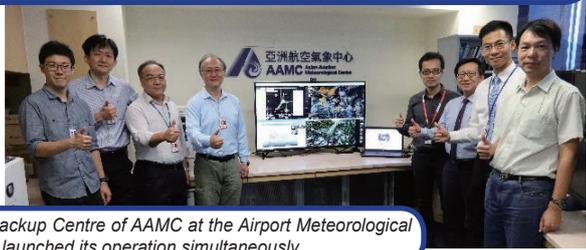
Li Ping-wah



The AAMC commenced operations in Beijing. The Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming (third right); the Deputy Administrator of the CAAC, Mr Wang Zhiqing (fourth right); the Deputy Administrator of the CMA, Mr Yu Rucong (fourth left); and other guests officiating at the launch ceremony.

The Asian Aviation Meteorological Centre (AAMC) – jointly established by the Hong Kong Observatory, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) – commenced operations on 11 July. The AAMC comprises a main centre operated by the CAAC and a technical support centre operated by CMA, both of which are in Beijing, and a backup centre operated by the Observatory in Hong Kong.

The AAMC seeks to provide a weather monitoring platform for issuing forecasts and alerts on hazardous weather affecting aviation operations, such as thunderstorms, turbulence, icing and more for reference by meteorological organisations of neighbouring countries and regions, allowing forecasters from different areas to coordinate Significant Weather Information (SIGMET), with a view to improving the overall forecast quality, flight safety and efficiency to meet the needs of the aviation users.



The Backup Centre of AAMC at the Airport Meteorological Office launched its operation simultaneously.



Features

# Challenge for Global AI Talents — “Catch Rain if You Can!”

Linus Yeung

## TIANCHI GLOBAL AI CHALLENGE ON METEOROLOGY

Catch Rain If You Can!

深圳市气象局  
Meteorological Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality

香港天文台  
HONG KONG OBSERVATORY

Alibaba Cloud | TIANCHI

ICDM 2018  
IEEE International Conference on Data Mining

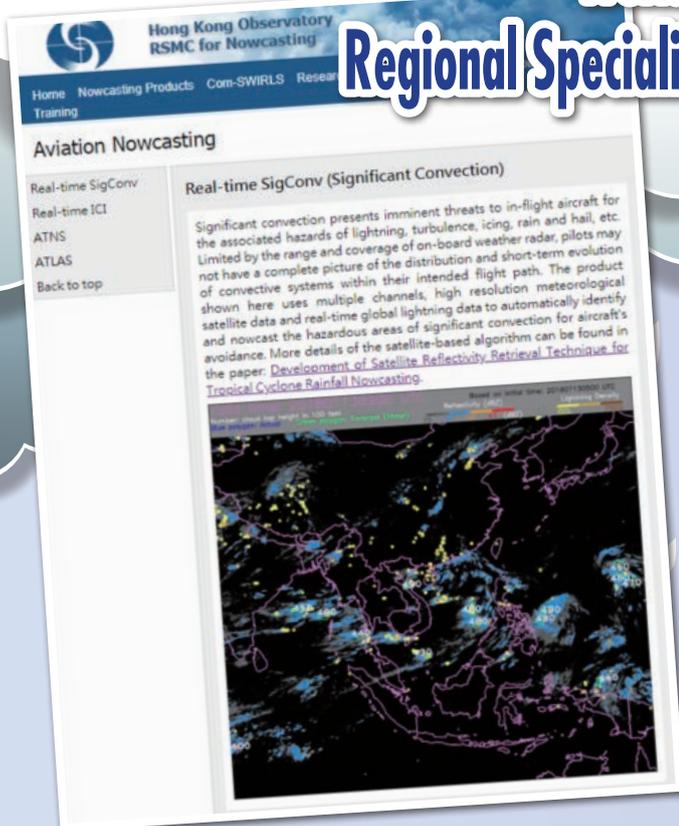
The Meteorological Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality and the Hong Kong Observatory joined hands to launch a global artificial intelligence (AI) challenge on meteorology on 23 May. AI marvels are invited to team up and apply weather Big Data to analyse and deep learn from the evolution patterns of past rain cases, aiming at improving the effectiveness of rainfall nowcasting. The contest consists of two phases – Qualifying Test and Final Test, and will end in October.

In addition to monetary prizes, the winning teams will be invited to present their innovative works and receive their awards at an international conference in Singapore in November. As of the beginning of July, over 1,000 teams had registered for the contest. If you're an AI wizard, don't miss this golden opportunity! Please gather some teammates, visit the contest website, and take the challenge: [https://tianchi.aliyun.com/competition/introduction.htm?racId=231662&\\_lang=en\\_US](https://tianchi.aliyun.com/competition/introduction.htm?racId=231662&_lang=en_US).



## World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) for Nowcasting

Wong Wai-kin



Sample page from the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre for Nowcasting website.

The Hong Kong Observatory's nowcasting service has marked a new milestone. At the 70th Session of the Executive Council of the WMO, held in June, the Hong Kong Observatory was designated as the “Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre for Nowcasting” (RSMC) to provide regional nowcasting information and technical support to the national meteorological and hydrological services of Asia.

Over the years, the Observatory has been actively developing rainstorm nowcasting techniques, through its “SWIRLS” system to support heavy rain forecasting and warning services, and participating in and organising international scientific research cooperation and training projects to share rainstorm forecasting experience. As the Observatory becomes the RSMC for nowcasting, it will further develop advanced technologies to contribute to meteorological services and disaster prevention and mitigation.

Milestones



# “MyOceanWeather Gallery”

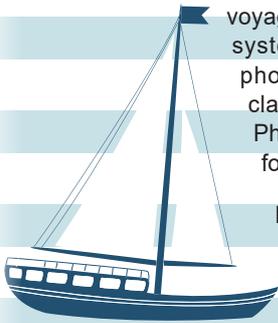
Launched

Chan Sai-tick

The “MyOceanWeather Gallery” was launched in early July, for sharing beautiful photos provided by mariners – allowing members of the public to appreciate the different weather phenomena and scenery that can be observed at sea.

Most of the photos on the webpage were taken by ship masters and crew members on board the Hong Kong Voluntary Observing Ships during their voyages around the world. Through a geographic information system platform, the approximate locations and times the photos taken are also shown. The photos displayed are classified into five categories: “Cloud”, “Ocean”, “Weather Phenomenon”, “Atmospheric Optics” and “Celestial Objects” for viewing via the links at [http://url.hko.hk/myoceanwx\\_en](http://url.hko.hk/myoceanwx_en).

For travellers who would like to share weather photos taken during sea voyages through this platform, please refer to the instructions on “How to submit to the MyOceanWeather Gallery” at [http://url.hko.hk/myoceanwx\\_submit\\_en](http://url.hko.hk/myoceanwx_submit_en).



## Thunderstorm Warning Regional Information

Or Ming-keung



(Figure 1)

(Figure 2)

Have you noticed that a red dot sometimes appears on the thunderstorm warning icon on the “MyObservatory” mobile app homepage (Figure 1)? When isolated thunderstorms affect the territory and the Observatory issues a thunderstorm warning that mentions the affected regions, the thunderstorm warning icon on the main page of the app will be marked with a red dot. When you tap the icon, you can see the areas affected by the thunderstorm warning (Figure 2). The new service was launched in the latest version of “MyObservatory” app. Feel free to download and update.

## More Than 50,000 Likes for the Observatory Facebook Page



Editorial Board



The content of the Observatory Facebook page was down to earth and relevant to the weather and public; it also attracted considerable public engagement.

The Observatory launched a Facebook page at the end of March this year, featuring Chinese language content that was down to earth and relevant to the weather and public. It gained support from netizens and by the end of July had accumulated more than 50,000 page likes. The page promotes meteorological knowledge in a lively manner, such as through the Cool Met Stuff, to encourage public engagement.

In addition, the Observatory YouTube channel has surpassed 20 million views.

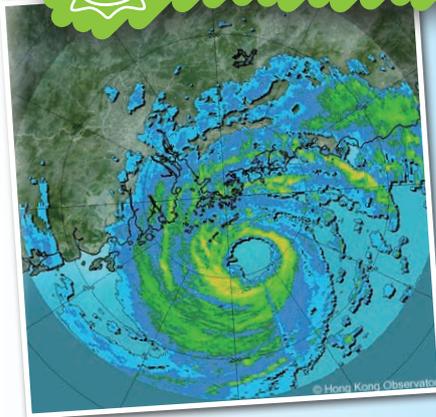
The Hong Kong Observatory Facebook Page (Chinese only).



# New Names Adopted for Tropical Cyclones in 2018



Weather and Climate



**Choy Chun-wing**

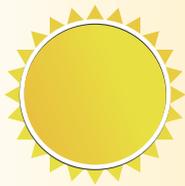
In 2018, four new names have been introduced to the list of tropical cyclone names in the western North Pacific and the South China Sea. They are Nyatoh (Malaysia), Mulan (China), Trases (Cambodia) and Hinnamnor (Lao PDR), replacing four old names that have been retired due to the serious casualties that storms with these names have caused.



Cool Met Stuff: "Typhoon Pineapple Bun"

The list is produced by the World Meteorological Organization Typhoon Committee. Each of the 14 countries and regions members provides 10 names, which are used in turns. The meanings of the four new names are:

Name	Meaning
Nyatoh	A kind of tree that grows in tropical rainforests in Southeast Asia
Trases	Woodpecker
Mulan	Magnolia, a kind of flower native to China
Hinnamnor	A National Protected Area in Lao PDR



## From the Exceptionally Hot and Dry May to the

Hui Kin-chung

## Long Awaited Rainfall in June



Under the dominance of an upper-air anticyclone over the northern part of the South China Sea, Hong Kong experienced an exceptionally hot and dry May. The monthly mean temperature of 28.3 degrees was the highest ever on record for May. There were in total 16 very hot days, including a heat wave of 15 consecutive very hot days that began on 17 May; both these figures broke the records for May. Rainfall in the month amounted to only 57.5 millimetres, way less than the normal of 304.7 millimetres.

The long awaited rainfall eventually returned to Hong Kong in June, mainly due to the passage of tropical cyclone Ewiniar, as well as an active southerly airstream and troughs. The monthly rainfall was 458.8 millimetres, which was close to normal.

## Welcome to the family of the Observatory

Training and Exercises Division

- 科學主任 / Scientific Officer
- 學術主任 / Experimental Officer
- 雷達機械師 / Radar Specialist Mechanic
- 科學助理 / Scientific Assistant

## Career@HKO

In mid-June, the Hong Kong Observatory launched the trial version of its first website on careers, "Career@HKO". Members of the public can learn about the entry requirements and promotion opportunities of the four grades in the Observatory. The webpage will feature more videos showing staff in different grades, covering the Observatory's diverse job opportunities and challenges. If you are interested, please pay attention to the recruitment news of the Observatory. Don't miss the opportunity to join us!



"Career@HKO" website

# Welcome to the family of the Observatory

Training and Exercises Division



## Summer Internship@HKO

Every year, the Observatory recruits suitable local and overseas university students to participate in research projects for eight weeks during summer. Students can learn from the practical work environment and gain valuable research and development or creative experience, to help them plan their careers and learn about interpersonal skills in the workplace.



## “Manpower Developer”

This year, the Observatory has again been awarded a “Manpower Developer” accolade from the Employees Retraining Board, demonstrating our excellent achievements in staff training and career development.



### Staff Promotions



Mr Linus Yeung (fourth from left) and Mr Chan Ying-wah (third from right) were promoted to Senior Scientific Officers on 27 April 2018, and are here pictured with Mr Shun Chi-ming (centre), Director of the Observatory, and other colleagues.

### Observatory Staff Commended by the Public

Observatory staff who received words of thanks and commendation from the public or organisations from April to June 2018:

**Ms Sandy Song (Senior Scientific Officer)**

**Ms Eunice Lee (Scientific Officer)**

**Mr Lee Kwok-lun (Scientific Officer)**

**Mr Chan Ho-sun (Experimental Officer)**

**Mr Chan Wing-hang (Experimental Officer)**

**Mr Yung Chung-hoi (Experimental Officer)**

**Mr Lo Chin-ming (Scientific Assistants)**



HKO Sidelights



In May, the Hong Kong Observatory, Agency for Volunteer Service, Hong Kong Volunteer Awardees Society and the volunteer team of Caritas Chai Wan Marden Foundation Secondary School collaborated to bring a joyful Sunday to children from the Intellectually Disabled Education and Advocacy League (IDEAL) at the Voluntary Service Event – "20 May: Love at the Observatory".



In April and May, the Observatory worked with the Hong Kong Children & Youth Service and the Hong Kong International Social Service to arrange for ethnic minority families to visit the Headquarters, to enhance their knowledge of the local weather forecasting system.



On 29 April, during the "Ultraviolet Radiation Measurement & Application Design Competition" awards ceremony, there was great interest as students introduced the winning entries. The awards increased young people's interest in science, engineering and information technology, and encouraged innovative technology and design.



A celebration was held during the evening of 25 May to thank volunteers of the Friends of the Observatory for their assistance rendered during the 2018 Open Day. Awards for Outstanding Docents and Volunteers were also presented.



Two weather seminars were held at the Observatory, on 28 June and 11 July, to enhance the knowledge of media reporters regarding frequently used meteorological terms and weather systems that affect Hong Kong.



During a management forum on 12 July, former Director of Broadcasting, Mr Wong Wah-kay shared his creative experiences with Observatory staff.



On 1 June, Yau Tsim Mong District Council Chairman Mr Ip Ngo-tung (2nd from left on the front row) led a group of council representatives to visit the Observatory.



For the fourth consecutive year, the Sky Dragon team of the Observatory participated in the Macau Interport Small Dragon Boat Race and competed with dragon boat teams comprising civil servants from Hong Kong and Macau. As the audience cheered, the teams raced passionately and enjoyed an unforgettable Dragon Boat Festival.

## Staff Retirement



Workman II, Mr Cheung Fok-kwong (top left); Senior Radar Specialist Mechanic, Mr Fung Ching-biu (top right); and Assistant Director, Mr Edwin Lai (bottom) started their pre-retirement leave on 12 June, 1 July and 9 July, respectively. We wish them a joyful retirement!



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