



## HKO Signs MoU with WMO to

Editorial Board

# Strengthen Co-operation in Meteorology

At the beginning of October, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO), Mr Shun Chi-ming, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Professor Petteri Taalas, who visited Hong Kong to further strengthen meteorological co-operation. The HKO will support the WMO in establishing the Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS), by revamping the Severe Weather Information Centre website (SWIC 2.0) (see page 2 for details) and updating the World Weather Information Service website to aggregate authoritative warning signals related to high-impact weather, water and climate events issued by official weather service organisations around the world.

Mr Shun and Professor Taalas also officiated at the launch ceremony of the SWIC 2.0 website and the opening ceremony of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) for Nowcasting.

In June this year, the HKO was designated as an RSMC for Nowcasting for the Asian region. The HKO will provide meteorological organisations in the region with products and techniques related to nowcasting of high-impact weather events.



The two parties signed a MoU to further strengthen meteorological co-operation.



### SWIC 2.0



Severe Weather Information Centre 2.0 (Beta)



The new version of the Severe Weather Information Centre website (SWIC 2.0) was launched.



香港天文台  
HONG KONG OBSERVATORY



臨近預報區域專業氣象中心  
RSMC for Nowcasting

揭幕儀式  
OPENING CEREMONY  
2 October 2018



Opening ceremony of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) for Nowcasting.

Editorial Board

## WMO Receives LUI Che Woo Prize

This year, the WMO won the LUI Che Woo Prize-Prize for World Civilization "Welfare Betterment Prize", in recognition of its outstanding contributions to reducing the impact of natural disasters. The Secretary General of the WMO, Professor Petteri Taalas, said that developing countries will be provided with resources to train more meteorological personnel and improve global weather warning systems. Also, alert services will be provided to the United Nations and humanitarian organisations. He also strongly affirmed Hong Kong's capability for issuing alerts regarding potential natural disasters, and considered this can serve as a good reference for other places.

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, attended the ceremony, and delivered a speech commending the WMO for its significant contributions to responding to the effects of potentially disastrous weather and mitigating global climate change. In addition, she appreciated the advance warnings, preparations and defensive measures in response to Super Typhoon Mangkhut by various government departments, including the Observatory, to minimise the impact of the tropical cyclone on Hong Kong.



Professor Petteri Taalas received the LUI Che Woo Prize-Prize for World Civilization "Welfare Betterment Prize" from the award presenter, Mr Tung Chee-hwa.





Features

# MANGKHUT: THE KING OF TYPHOONS

Choy Chun-wing

On 16 September, Severe Typhoon Mangkhut hit Hong Kong, and the Observatory needed to issue Hurricane Signal No. 10. Among those typhoons that affected the territory, Mangkhut is truly one of the most destructive storms in the past three decades. At least 458 people were injured during the storm, and there were more than 60,000 reports of fallen trees, the highest number on record. Many items fell from heights and many buildings were damaged. At least 500 cases of smashed windows or glass curtain walls were reported. Electricity supply to over 40,000 households in Hong Kong were interrupted, and electricity supplies in some areas were not fully restored even after four days. Supply of fresh water in some places was also affected due to power outages. Hundreds of vessels of various size were stranded, sunk or seriously damaged by the powerful waves.

The severe storm surge inducted by Mangkhut raised the water level in Hong Kong generally by more than two metres during the day, leading to substantial inundation of many low-lying areas along the coast of Hong Kong and damage to many coastal facilities. The sea, land and air traffic in Hong

Kong was paralysed on the day when Mangkhut hit Hong Kong. On the next day, some main roads were still closed due to collapsed trees or flooding; public transport services were not fully restored.

## Mangkhut Records >>>

The second longest typhoon signal No. 10 (10 hours)

The highest 60-minute mean wind speeds recorded at Waglan Island and Cheung Chau were 161 and 157 km per hour, respectively. These were both the second highest figures at these stations, with the highest being during Typhoon Ellen in 1983.

The storm surge heights at Quarry Bay and Tai Po Kau were the highest since recording instruments were installed, and the tide levels were the second highest, with the highest being during Severe Typhoon Wanda in 1962.



Glass curtain walls were severely damaged on some buildings in Hung Hom.



A sign was blown into a tree by destructive winds in Sai Kung.



Severe flooding in Heng Fa Chuen. (Credit: 何迪信)



A yacht was driven ashore by huge waves at Sai Kung.



Milestones

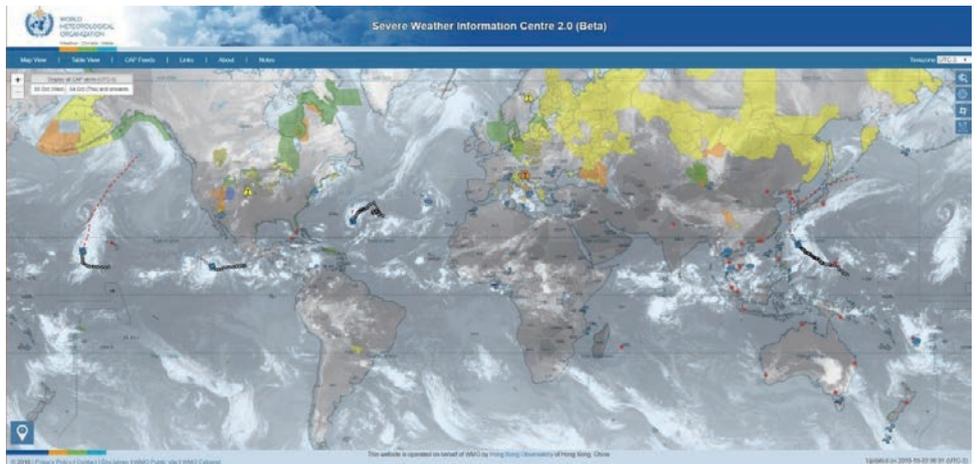
## SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION CENTRE WEBSITE (SWIC 2.0)

Cheng Yuen-chung

The "Severe Weather Information Centre" is a website with official information on severe weather around the world, developed and operated by the Observatory on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The Observatory recently launched a new trial version of the website, to provide weather warnings issued by national meteorological and hydrological services from around the world that support the "Global Multi-hazard Alert System" of the WMO, in order to enhance global disaster prevention and mitigation capabilities.



Website:



Milestones

# The Observatory launches the "Regional Information on Heavy Rain and Thunderstorm" webpage

Lee Lap-shun



When the Observatory issues the "Announcement on Localised Heavy Rain", "Special Announcement on Flooding in the northern New Territories" or "Thunderstorm Warning", regional information is given according to the circumstances. In September, to enable members of the public to obtain this information in graphical format at a glance, the Observatory launched a new webpage on "Regional Information on Heavy Rain and Thunderstorms" (<http://www.hko.gov.hk/rhr/main.html>). Users can view the affected regions mentioned in these warnings and announcements on an interactive map, as well as the recorded regional rainfall and lightning situation, in order to take appropriate preventive measures.

Yeung Hon-yin

## Observatory's First Ever Special Mission at United Nations Headquarters

### "Special Mission"

At the invitation of the WMO, Mr Yeung Hon-yin, Senior Scientific Officer of the Observatory, visited the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, USA, during 23 July – 3 August 2018, to assist in developing WMO's new support services for the UN Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC) and the UN Secretary-General's Office. Some of the important work comprised seeking daily foci from UNOCC colleagues and preparing briefings on global weather threat assessments. This special mission was a new challenge to both HKO as a government department, and Yeung Hon-yin personally.

Snapshots of Yeung Hon-yin working at the UNOCC



## HKO Enhances Meteorological Co-Operation with ASEAN Countries

Li Ping-wah



The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming (back row, third right) attended the Second China-ASEAN Meteorological Forum held in Nanning, and is here pictured with other high-level attendees from meteorological and hydrological services.

The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming, attended the Second China-ASEAN Meteorological Forum held in Nanning, Guangxi, in mid-September 2018. Mr Shun discussed regional meteorological co-operation with high-level representatives from various meteorological and hydrological services. He also presented the launch of the WMO Global Multi-hazard Alert System for Asia (GMAS-A), jointly developed by the HKO and the China Meteorological Administration. During the forum, Mr Shun also signed Memoranda of Cooperation / Understanding with the Acting Director of Vietnam Meteorological and Hydrological Administration and the Director General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of Myanmar, in order to strengthen meteorological co-operation on various aspects.



Milestones

# Tropical Cyclone Track Maps Get a Facelift

Ho Chun-kit

Fixed-area forecast track maps on the Hong Kong Observatory's "Tropical Cyclone Track and Position" webpage have been revamped for easy viewing and sharing by members of the public. Apart from an enlarged spatial coverage, the new track maps also use different colours to indicate the different intensities of tropical cyclones. When overlaid on top of satellite basemap, such important information is more easily comprehended at a glance.



[https://www.hko.gov.hk/wxinfo/currwx/tc\\_fixarea\\_e.htm](https://www.hko.gov.hk/wxinfo/currwx/tc_fixarea_e.htm)



An example of the new Tropical Cyclone Track Maps

## Have You Downloaded the Windows Version of My Observatory Yet?

Or Ming-keung

If you use a Windows 10 computer or mobile phone, you can go to the app store and download My Observatory. The latest version offers more features, including a tile showing live weather, weather warnings that are in effect, regional information on thunderstorm warnings, regional weather displayed on a fixed map, and the ability to browse the Observatory's Facebook page.



## The Observatory Launches a New Ultraviolet Information Webpage

Ng Chiu-shun

Do you want to obtain real-time UV information in a convenient way? The new Ultraviolet (UV) Information Webpage that the Observatory launched at the beginning of August 2018 can help you! UV Index (UVI) and sun protection reminders are updated once every 15 minutes on the website. The newly added personalised feature also allows users to preset their own alert levels for UVI, which will be a boon for anyone engaging in outdoor working or leisure activities.

Website: *Desktop version*

*Mobile version*



New Ultraviolet Information Webpage

## The Observatory Facebook Page Shared Information During Mangkhut, and Received Over 100,000 Likes



When Hong Kong was hit by Typhoon Mangkhut, besides using traditional media to inform the public, the Observatory also used its Facebook page to share messages on the storm. During the period, more than 40 posts – including information on strong winds, heavy rain, huge waves and storm surges, were issued to remind members of the public to prepare for the storm as soon as possible. As of October 2018, the Observatory's Facebook page had accumulated more than 110,000 likes.



"HKO" Facebook page

Editorial Board



香港天文台 HKO added a new video: 颱風大害：強風·暴雨·巨浪. Friday at 17:35 · 🌐

【注意山竹】熱帶氣旋帶來的強風暴雨和巨浪，相當可怕，即使受過專業訓練的消防員，在風暴期間救援時亦險象環生。而在風暴來臨前，即使天氣看似仍未轉差，海面上卻是危機處處，因為熱帶氣旋從遙遠海洋帶來的湧浪會首先到達，原本平靜的海面會突然翻起大浪，因此大家必須遠離岸邊，停止所有水上活動，留意天氣變化。

Stay away from the shoreline and not to engage in water sports.

山竹路徑：[url.hko.hk/WujE0Fxx](http://url.hko.hk/WujE0Fxx)  
最新天氣消息：<https://www.hko.gov.hk/>

#超強颱風 #山竹 #停止水上活動 #湧浪 #巨浪 #強風 #暴雨 #留意天氣變化

See Translation



👍👎🗨️ 3.1K 189 comments 3.3K shares

The Observatory warned about the threats from Mangkhut through our Facebook page.

## Observatory Staff Commended by the Public or Organisations

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

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

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

**Ms Yu Mei-fung (Chief Scientific Assistant)**

**Ms Chan Siu-yung, Ms Mak Man-yi, Mr Lau Ying-hong (Senior Scientific Assistant)**

**Mr Chee Shiu-chung, Ms Lam Mei-sim (Scientific Assistant)**



On 30 June, Senior Scientific Officer of HKO, Dr Lee Tsz-cheung (first from right), and Chief Executive Officer of the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association, Ms Maura Wong (first from left), presented awards to the winners of the 2nd "Sky of Silver Age" Weather Photo Competition.



On 11 July, Scientific Officer of HKO, Mr Lee Kwok-lun, spoke to people working at container terminals regarding his experiences in monitoring and forecasting thunderstorms.



On 1 August, representatives from the Hong Kong Fishery Alliance and the Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium visited the Observatory Headquarters.



On 22 August, members of the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers (HKFI) participated in the Climate Change and Severe Weather Forum.



On 17 July, the Liaison Group of the Shipping Community of HKO held its 9th meeting.



On 23-27 July, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming, in his capacity as the President of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), presided over the 16th session of the CAeM, held in Exeter, United Kingdom.



On 16 August, the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Dr Liu Fang, visited HKO.



On 24 August, a delegation from Tuen Mun District Council visited HKO.



On 26 August, "Sky Dragon" participated in the Sunshine Dragon Boat Race in Kwun Tong Promenade (Invitational Cup of the Buildings Department), and won the third place in the Silver Cup.



On 28 August, the Director of the Executive MBA Programme of CUHK, Professor Chan Chi-fai, shared with Observatory staff ways to analyse the ever-changing environment and build specific and creative strategies using strategic thinking.



On 6 October, Friends of the Observatory held interviews for volunteer guides who were attracted by a recent recruiting drive.



On 8 October, the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) (Commerce, Industry and Tourism), Ms Lee Man-ching, JP, and the Deputy Secretary (Commerce and Industry) 2, Mr Gary Poon, and other staff from CEDB visited HKO.



On 12 October, a delegation from North District Council visited HKO.



On 27 October, Friends of the Observatory docents guided members of the public on a visit to King's Park Meteorological Station.



On 14 and 15 June, Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Lai Sau-tak (second from left), and Scientific Officer, Mr Hui Tai-wai (first from left), visited the National Time Service Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



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