



Milestones

Research Forum on Leveraging Big Data and Artificial Intelligence in Weather Observations and Forecasting



A group photo of the forum speakers and HKO colleagues



Tong Hang-wai

The HKO organised the Research Forum “Leveraging Big Data and Artificial Intelligence in Weather Observations and Forecasting” on 18 October 2018.

Experts from local universities were invited to share their knowledge and research findings in relevant fields. The Observatory gave presentations on urban weather monitoring for smart cities, and application of deep learning in rainfall nowcasting. Participants also discussed the development and application of Artificial Intelligence with speakers in the forum.

Common Alerting Protocol Workshop

Cheng Yuen-chung

The HKO hosted a training and implementation workshop on the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), from 30 October to 2 November 2018. CAP is a common standard for disseminating hazard-related alerts. The workshop provided a platform for participants to share best practices in adopting the CAP standard, and its application in early warning systems for disaster risk reduction. At the workshop, the HKO introduced the Severe Weather Information Center (SWIC) website of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which incorporates warnings in CAP format from over 60 WMO Members.



Group photo of the participants of the 2018 CAP Training and Implementation Workshop

The HKO and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts Cooperate for First Time in Joint Research

Wong Wai-kin

The HKO has conducted its first research collaboration with the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF). Senior Scientific Officer Wong Wai-kin was invited to visit the UK in June and November 2018 to help develop pan-European radar nowcasting, which is fused with predictions from the ECMWF numerical weather model and ensemble prediction system using the “SWIRLS” system to support refined rainfall forecasts and flood warnings for the next few hours to several days. In addition to the research cooperation, the first 3D printing duck of the HKO also joined the visit and “landed” at ECMWF.



Wong Wai-kin (second from left) with ECMWF’s Director-General, Dr Florence Rabier (second from right) during his visit to ECMWF

Collaboration Between HKO and the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association

Choy Chun-wing

The HKO has closely collaborated with the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association (SCHSA) over the years, to promote the use of weather information for better care of the elderly. Every year before cold weather arrives, HKO and the SCHSA hold joint press conferences to urge the public to take precautions against the cold weather. In future, HKO will further strengthen collaboration with SCHSA in social media, including through enhancing contact with SCHSA’s Silver Age Studio, and using social media to share tips with elderly persons on how to prepare for a variety of weather.



The Assistant Director of the Observatory, Dr Cheng Cho-ming (right), and the Chief Executive Officer of the SCHSA, Ms Maura Wong (left), held a joint press conference on 7 December 2018, urging the public to take precautions against the cold weather