

Features

2019 Hong Kong Observatory Open Day



The Director, Mr Shun Chi-ming (left), pictured with small fans during his autograph session on the Open Day.



Citizens taking pictures with the meridian line running north-south, drawn on the floor of the HKO Headquarters.

The annual Observatory Open Day was held successfully on 23rd and 24th March this year. The Open Day adopted the theme of this year's World Meteorological Day – "The Sun, the Earth and the Weather". An exhibition introduced information about near-Earth space weather, and showcased how the HKO applies advanced technology to provide public weather forecasting, along with specialised services such as weather forecasting for aviation, microclimate monitoring and radiation monitoring.



Citizens taking pictures with an Observatory mascot, "Dr. Tin".



Behind-the-scenes Open Day support from HKO colleagues and "Friends of the Observatory" volunteers.

Several partner organisations joined the Open Day this year. They included the Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response Institute, which introduced their survival kit; China Light and Power, which promoted energy saving tips; and students from the School of Creative Media of the City University of Hong Kong, who introduced their works combining science and art.

Hong Kong Observatory, a winner in Hong Kong ICT Awards 2019

Woo Wang-chun, Lee Yiu-fai



The Smart Business Grand Award and the Smart Business (Solution for Business and Public Sector Enterprise) Gold Award.



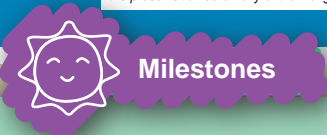
The Certificate of Merit in the Smart Mobility (Smart Transportation) Award.



The Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming (seventh from left); the Assistant Director, Miss Lau Sum-ye (sixth from left); the Assistant Director, Dr Cheng Cho-ming (sixth from right); and other HKO colleagues attended the presentation ceremony of the Hong Kong ICT Awards 2019 on 4 April.

In the Hong Kong ICT Awards 2019, announced on 4 April, the Hong Kong Observatory won the Smart Business Grand Award and the Smart Business (Solution for Business and Public Sector Enterprise) Gold Award for its in-house developed nowcasting system, "SWIRLS" – which makes use of Artificial Intelligence to forecast rainfall and lightning. SWIRLS supports rainstorm forecasting and public services, and provides tailor-made services for government engineering departments and many types of management organisations. Recently, the HKO not only strived to share nowcasting techniques with overseas countries and regions, it also held and participated in international training programs.

The HKO also received a Certificate of Merit in the Smart Mobility (Smart Transportation) Award for MyFlightWx, an app which employs a geographical information system to provide pilots with weather information before take-off and during flights.



Milestones

New "Earth Weather" website offering interactive display of computer forecast products

Ho Chun-kit



To help members of the public to easily appreciate large-scale weather changes in the Asia-Pacific region, the Hong Kong Observatory launched "Earth Weather" website (<http://maps.weather.gov.hk/wxviewer>) in March. This displays wind forecasts from a computer model for the next nine days, using animated streamlines. Users can also select a colour overlay showing the distribution of temperatures or wind speeds. "Earth Weather" can also be browsed through the MyObservatory app.

"Interactive Map of Storm Damage by Mangkhut" Webpage



In 2018, through its Facebook page, the Hong Kong Observatory collected photos and videos taken by the public during the passage of Super Typhoon Mangkhut. Selected photos and videos have been put on the GIS-based webpage "Interactive Map of Storm Damage by Mangkhut" for research and educational use. The picture shows the layout of the webpage.

Enhancing the Online Dissemination of Regional Weather Information

Cheng Yuen-chung



The Observatory has recently enhanced its online weather information services by adding real-time wind direction and wind speed information from the automatic weather stations at North Point, Central Pier, and Lamma Island, on the Regional Weather and Met on Map webpages. The information from these three wind stations will also be included in the MyObservatory app.