

International Climate Change Experts Gathered in Hong Kong

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Mr Shun Chi-ming, Director of the Observatory, hosted an academic session on 17 October, together with Professor Zhai Panmao, Co-Chair of the Working Group I, and Professor Hans-Otto Pörtner (right), Co-Chair of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations. The session attracted about 80 local academics and government engineers to discuss the salient points in the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the Special Report on Climate Change and Land and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, published by IPCC in the past year. Participants had an opportunity to discuss and exchange views on the latest scientific findings on climate change, and its relevance to Hong Kong.

The three special reports summarised the impacts of climate change on land, ocean, the cryosphere and ecosystems, and pointed out that if global carbon emissions show no signs of abating, the global mean sea level rise by 2100 is projected to be 10 centimetres higher than previous assessment, representing an increase of 14%. Considering Hong Kong, Mr Shun took Super Typhoon Hato in 2017 and Super Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018 as examples to illustrate the destructive power of storm surges brought by super typhoons, and that Hong Kong had to tackle climate change with substantive actions as it cannot make itself immune to the impact of climate change. He added that the Observatory would continue to provide scientific input to support the work of relevant bureaux and departments, as well as to raise public awareness regarding and preparation for climate change, and strengthen the community's resilience through outreach and educational activities.