

WEATHER ON WINGS



Editorial Board : LEUNG Wing-mo TAI Sai-choi WONG Mei-shing MA Lap-yin

Dial-a-Weather : 187 8200

Home page : <http://www.hko.gov.hk>, <http://www.weather.gov.hk>



A milestone of the World Weather Website:

International Meeting of the Website Hosts

Ng Ping-wing

As the Chinese proverb says, "it takes ten years to grow a tree and a hundred years to bring up a generation of good men". The World Weather Information Service (WWIS) website (<http://worldweather.wmo.int>) designed and operated by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is such an example. When the WWIS website was launched in 2001, it was in English only with just climatological information. By the end of February 2007, it prided itself with six language versions (English, Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish and French), displaying weather forecasts for 1168 cities and climatological information for 1188 cities respectively. WWIS has truly become an international website.

From 9 to 11 January 2007, HKO organized a meeting for all WWIS website hosts on behalf of WMO to coordinate the operation of different language versions. It was the first international meeting of its kind. Participants included representatives from Mainland China, Spain, Oman, Macao, Hong Kong and the WMO Secretariat. The meeting was a milestone for this World Weather Website as its importance has now been recognized by the international meteorological community. To develop this website, HKO acted as a data collection centre for weather forecasts of major cities around the world. Stringent quality checks and data assurance were performed before the information was displayed on the WWIS website. HKO also compiled a full set of city forecasts for other website hosts for use in other language versions of the website. Mrs Haleh Kootval, representative from the WMO Secretariat remarked; "I have worked for the Public Weather Service (PWS) Programme in WMO for many years. The WWIS project is the most successful international cooperation projects in the PWS Programme that I have ever come across. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the HKO for its contributions".

This coordination meeting laid down the blueprint for future development of the WWIS website. More language versions would be developed and launched in due course. Indeed, the launch of the French version on 30 January 2007 was a testimony of the success of the website.



The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Lam Chiu-ying, giving a speech at the opening ceremony

On that occasion, Mr Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO remarked; "The latest phase in the expansion of this website shows how developed and developing countries can work together to provide official meteorological information to linguistic cross-sections of global society."

Backgrounds of the WWIS website can be found in previous issues of the "Weather on Wings". Lastly, I would like to conclude with words from the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Lam Chiu-ying, during the opening ceremony of this international meeting; "We hope to be able to better coordinate the development of the various language versions of WWIS to benefit as many peoples as possible. The success of this project is the result of close collaboration between WMO Members all working towards the common goal of providing quality weather service to the global community."

We will continue to do our job well!

Contents

Headline	1	Our Partners	14
Products & Services	4	People	20
Aviation Meteorology	7	Happy Business	22
Atmosphere & Environment	11		

Agreement on Co-operation in Oceanography

Li Kin-wai



The Deputy Director of the State Oceanic Administration, Mr Chen Lianzeng (left), and Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Lam Chiu-ying taking a photo after signing the agreement on co-operation in oceanography.

The State Oceanic Administration (SOA) and the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) entered into an agreement on co-operation in oceanography in Hong Kong on 8 January 2007. The agreement provides a foundation for SOA and HKO to exchange data and technology in respect of the observation and forecasting of typhoons, storm surges, sea waves, sea fog and tsunamis.

Historically, storm surges associated with typhoons wreaked havoc on China's coast including Hong Kong many times. Apart from storm surges, tsunamis generated by undersea earthquakes, sea level change due to global warming and climate change are topics of common interest to SOA and HKO.

The partnership between SOA and HKO will enhance our capabilities in forecasting and warning of hazardous oceanic events, and in preventing and mitigating disasters to protect lives and properties. The signing of the agreement will facilitate further systematic co-operation between the two parties.

China and Hong Kong coped well during the circuit breakdown arising from an earthquake

Cheng Yuen-chung

On 26 December last year, an intense earthquake occurred under the seas near the southern part of Taiwan. Several undersea telecommunication cables between Hong Kong and other parts of the world were damaged. Long distance telephone services as well as Internet operations were affected. The meteorological circuit between Hong Kong and Tokyo, being part of the Global Telecommunication System, was also interrupted. Meteorological data elsewhere could not be exchanged with Hong Kong via Tokyo.

During the interruption, the Observatory liaised closely with the China Meteorological Administration to resolve the problem. With the swift support given by the National Meteorological Information Center, essential weather bulletins and observational data were exchanged through the meteorological circuit between Hong Kong and Beijing. This arrangement significantly reduced the impact of the circuit breakdown, enabling the services at the Observatory to be maintained at a normal level.

This event is a testament to the seamless co-operation and mutual support between the meteorological authorities of Hong Kong and China. It is expected that such close co-operation will continue to enhance the emergency response capabilities of both parties.



Hong Kong Observatory Open Day - A Quality Family Activity

Editorial Board

Some 10,000 members of the public of all ages visited the Hong Kong Observatory Open Day late March this year. The Federation of Parent-Teacher Association took the opportunity to organize a group visit for the parents, teachers and school kids. Mr Yan Chi-hung, Chairman of Eastern District of the Association said, "The Open Day of the Hong Kong Observatory is an educational experience. Besides instilling an interest on the school children to various weather phenomena, it also promotes their understanding on climate change and encourages them to walk the talk in protecting nature."

Every year, the Observatory organizes an Open Day to celebrate the World Meteorological Day on 23 March. This year, the theme of World Meteorological Day is "Polar Meteorology-Understanding Global Impacts". Although the polar regions may seem remote from us, they play an important role in controlling and regulating the climate of the entire planet. In recent years, with the notable decrease in the sea ice and glaciers, melting of permafrost, and global warming gaining momentum, it is now more urgent than ever to understand more about the interplay between the polar regions and the rest of the world.

Special exhibits were set up to explain the major areas of work of the Observatory. The mock-up Forecasting Office was the centre of attraction. The visitors had a much better appreciation of the capricious weather in the weekend after the forecasters explained to them the weather systems coming



The Hong Kong Observatory's Open Day, an annual event, attracted some 10,000 visitors this year

into play. Another focus of the Open Day was an exhibit to explain the new measures to be introduced in the coming typhoon season. The exhibit encouraged the public to make good use of the comprehensive weather information provided by the Observatory during inclement weather for protection of life and property. At the other side of the Exhibition Hall, the Observatory's TV weather presenters found out that they also had a lot of fans, and happily obliged the visitors by taking photos with them.



Ms Sandy Song, the Observatory's TV weather presenter (1st left) sharing her experience with "fans"

The eco-tour in the Observatory also attracted a sizable crowd of visitors. The voluntary docents of the "Friends of the Observatory" were the unsung heroes of the tour. "I have been involved in the Observatory's outreach activities for many years. There is always new personal experience every time I interact with the public. This is why I enjoy very much being part of this Open Day", said Mr TAM Chun-wai, a devoted member of the "Friends of the Observatory".

New Measures on Tropical Cyclone Warning in 2007

Hilda Lam



Network of reference anemometers for the new measures for Tropical Cyclone Warning

A series of new measures in respect of tropical cyclone warning will be implemented by the Observatory in the typhoon season in 2007. Key features are as follows:

1. Expand the reference for the issue of No.3 and No.8 signals from the Victoria Harbour to a network of eight reference anemometers near sea level covering the whole of Hong Kong (see above figure);
2. Issue No.3 or No.8 signal (as the case may be) when half or more of the anemometers in the reference network register or are expected to register the respective wind speed threshold values and the wind condition is forecast to persist;
3. Enhance the dissemination of regional wind information: although a numbered tropical cyclone signal can provide a general warning for the public, it has an inherent limitation in communicating varying wind speeds at different locations. The public would benefit from supplementary information on regional wind condition in formulating their response actions to the threat of a tropical cyclone; and
4. Issue an advisory in tropical cyclone bulletins that the traveling public check with airlines before departing for the airport when weather conditions likely to cause significant disruptions to flight operations are expected.

The first and the second measures involve only revising the technical reference for making decisions on warning signals and there is no need for the public and private organizations to revise their contingency plans for tropical cyclone situations.

In formulating the above new measures, the Observatory listened to views from different sectors of the community, and benefited from the immense support of members of the Academic Advisory Committee, Prof. Johnny Chan Chung-leung, Dr. Hung Ching-tin, Prof. Ko Jan-ming, Dr. K.E. Kuah-Pearce, Prof. Lam Kin-che, and Prof. Julia Tao Lai Po-wah, who generously shared with us their insights and expert views. Since the announcement of the new measures by the Observatory in mid-February, response of the public was generally positive as gauged from reports in the mass media, reflecting the new measures by and large have addressed the needs of the public in principle.

The Observatory has completed technical preparation for implementing the new measures in the coming typhoon season. We shall continue to keep an open mind while gathering views from various channels and carefully assess the effectiveness of the revised system. In the light of practical experience and comments received, the Observatory will make further improvement to the tropical cyclone warning services if necessary.

Details on the review of the tropical cyclone warning system in 2006 and new measures in 2007 are available at:
http://www.weather.gov.hk/wxinfo/currwx/tc_review_rpt.pdf



DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STARTS FROM DISTRICTS

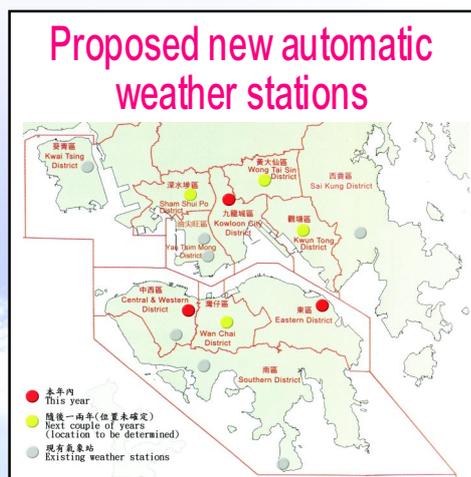
David Lam

Because Hong Kong is stable and affluent, the hazards brought by natural disasters are often neglected. Cold and very hot weather, which take a toll every year, is a typical example. Not only thunderstorms, lightning and rainstorms are dangerous, people are occasionally killed while engaging in water sports during typhoons. In view of this, the Hong Kong Observatory and the Home Affairs Department jointly organized a weather course for district councillors in January. In tandem with this, the Director of the Observatory, Mr Lam Chiu-ying, recently attended meetings of Yau Tsim Mong and Central Western district councils to address the close relationship between our service and the public, and to unveil the 'One District One

Station' project to provide more spatially relevant weather information. Mr Lam will continue to meet with district leaders to enhance public awareness on disaster prevention at the district level.

The weather course in January was attended by about 40 councillors and their assistants from various districts.

Contents of the course included weather warnings and disaster prevention, extraction of information from the Observatory website, and a tour of the Hong Kong Meteorological Centre at the Observatory. Participants welcomed the government's organization of such an activity. Mr Chan Man-yu, Chairman of Yau Tsim Mong District Council remarked that as district councillors had close relationship with residents in their districts, they could share the knowledge they learnt with these residents. Hopefully the public would be well prepared before any inclement weather hits, thus minimizing loss of lives and properties.



District councillors were briefed by Mr Leung Wai-hung while visiting the Observatory's Hong Kong Meteorological Centre

1st Anniversary of the Science in the Public Service Campaign

David Lam

The Science in the Public Service Campaign is 1 year old now! The "Awards Presentation of the Essay Competition cum 1st Anniversary" of the Campaign was held on 13 January 2007 at the Hong Kong Observatory. Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, honoured the occasion by officiating at the event to present awards to the winners of the essay competition together with the Director of the HKO, Mr Chiu-Ying Lam, and CEO of the Hong Kong Education City Limited, Ms Jacqueline Cheng.

The objective of organizing the "Science in the Public Service" Campaign

is to enhance public understanding of the application of science and technology in the provision of public service in Hong Kong. In March, the lineup was further boosted with the Civil Division and the Safety Specialist Committee of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers joining the Campaign. In 2007, the Campaign's activities will include scientific talks, school talks, exhibits and exhibits on loan, as well as visits to government departments and facilities.

Details of the activities can be found at <http://www.science.gov.hk>.



Prize winners of the Science in the Public Service Campaign Essay Competition, pictured with the officiating guests

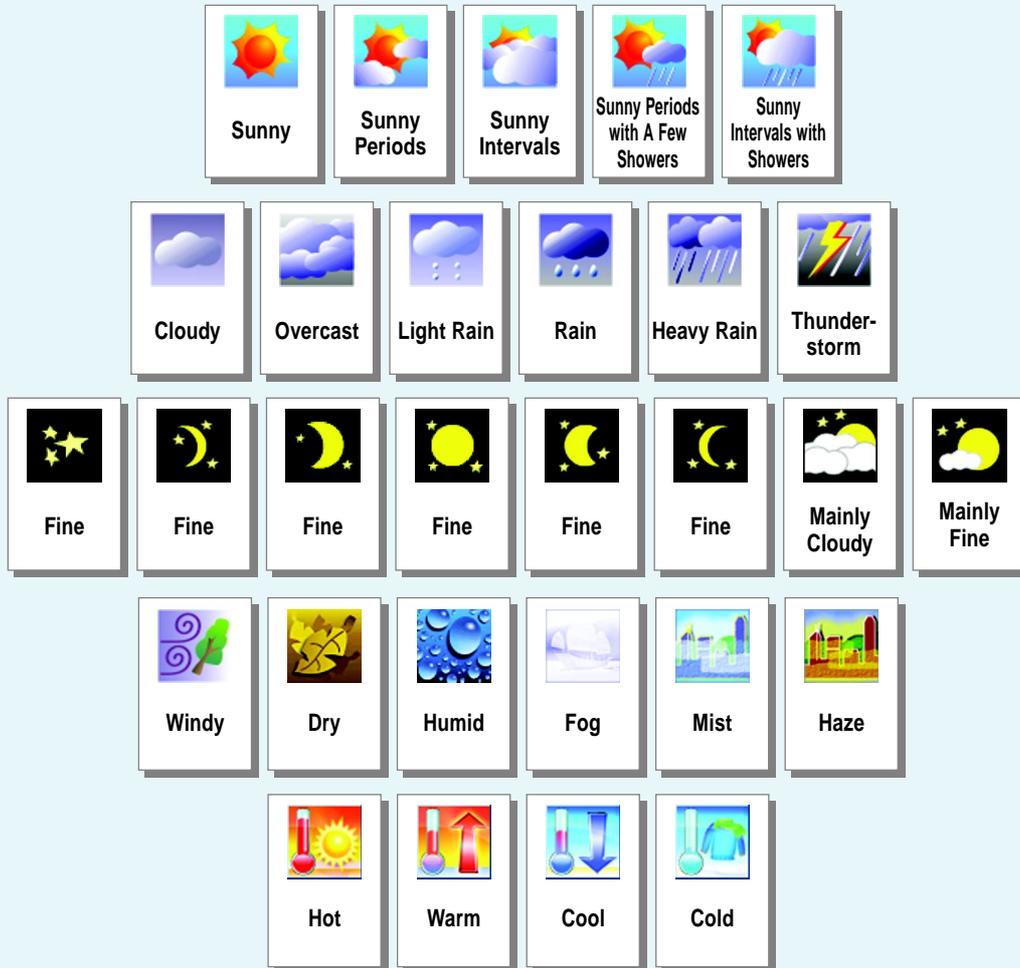


Officiating guests and partners celebrating the 1st anniversary of the Science in the Public Service Campaign

WEATHER ICONS A NEW LOOK!

Woo Wang-chun

Did you notice that the weather icons on the Observatory website have acquired a new look since early February?



For a long time, different weather icons were used on the Observatory's website and special numbers were assigned to them for communicating with local TV stations. In order to enhance the quality of the icons and to standardize the icons for Local Weather Forecast and 7-day Weather Forecast, the Observatory launched a weather icons design contest last year, inviting members of the public to show their talents. A total of 400 entries were received, of which 24 were awarded.

To characterize certain weather situation by simple graphics is not an easy task. The challenge is that the icons must be aesthetically pleasing while capable of communicating somewhat intangible weather conditions, like dryness and haziness, to the general public. Difficult as it is, though, most contestants fared well. We had not only collected a variety of designs but also creative ideas that could be used to other weather icons. After scrutinizing individual designs from meteorological, artistic and technical angles, a new set of weather icons was born.

The new weather icons for "Dry", "Humid" and "Fog" were direct adoption of the winning designs, while those for "Hot", "Warm", "Cool" were modified from the entries. Other weather icons were designed by

Miss Joanne Chan, Experimental Officer and an accomplished graphic designer who was inspired by ideas from the contest.

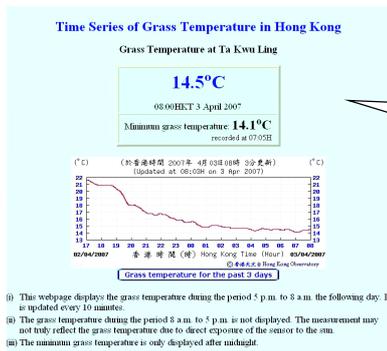
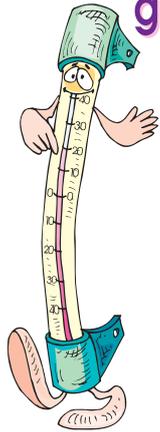
The new set of weather icons enables us to make fine distinction between weather situations. For example, on a sunny yet partly cloudy day, forecaster can now choose between icons for "Sunny Periods" or "Sunny Intervals" based on the length of sunshine duration expected. Icons to describe different weather elements like wind strength, humidity, visibility and temperature are also in place.

Hope you like them!



Miss Joanne Chan designed some of the new weather icons

The Observatory disseminates information on grass temperature measured in the northern part of the New Territories

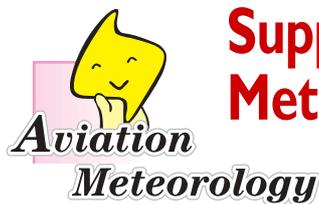


Yeung Chi-yu

The Hong Kong Observatory has installed an automatic grass temperature measurement system at Ta Kwu Ling to monitor grass surface temperatures in the northern part of the New Territories. The temperature information is posted in real-time onto the Observatory's website at:

http://www.weather.gov.hk/wxinfo/ts/display_element_gr_e.htm

The public and farmers can make use of the grass temperature information to take necessary precautionary measures against frost damage to vegetation.



Supporting Developing Countries in Aeronautical Meteorological Service

Shun Chi-ming

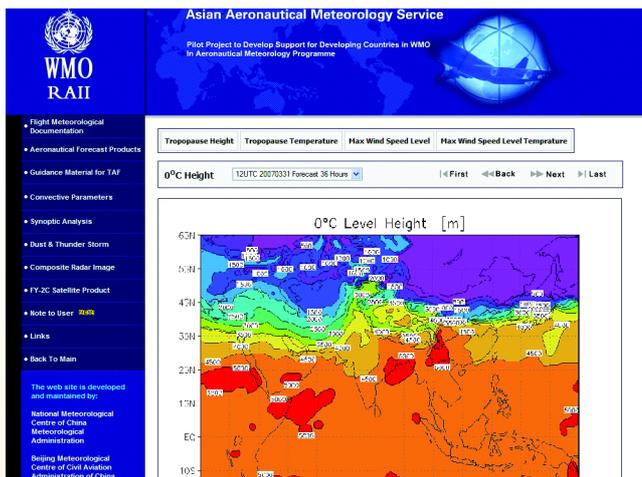


Figure 1: A guidance product on the Asian Aeronautical Meteorology Service website

On 6-8 March this year, I was invited by the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) to attend the International Seminar on Aeronautical Meteorological Service in Beijing. The seminar was organized jointly by CMA and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Apart from delivering a lecture to share the experience of Hong Kong with some 20 participants from 15 Asian countries and territories including Nepal, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia, I also participated in the opening ceremony to declare the quasi-operational launch of the Asian Aeronautical Meteorology Service website (www.aamets.org) (Figures 1 and 2). This website is the result of a decision by WMO in December 2004 to establish in Asia a pilot project on the aeronautical meteorology programme. Through this website, developing countries within the region are able to obtain guidance forecast products, thus enhancing their capabilities in aviation meteorological services. At present, Cambodia, Myanmar, Iran, Yemen, Laos, Nepal and Mongolia have started to provide aviation meteorological services within their countries using this website.

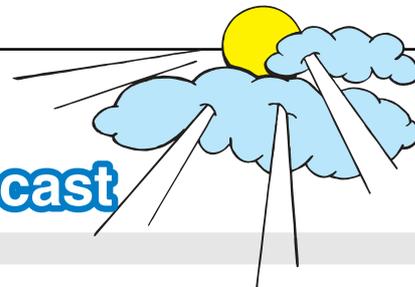
This website was developed through the joint efforts of CMA, Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), WMO and the Hong Kong Observatory. It provides various guidance products including numerical weather forecasts, meteorological satellite and radar imageries. During the three-day seminar, aviation weather experts from the United Kingdom, Japan, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), WMO and the Mainland delivered many lectures, introducing the participants to aviation weather forecasting techniques, applications of the products on the website, etc.

Before closing the seminar, the participants also discussed the contents of the Asian Aeronautical Meteorology Service website and provided many suggestions, hoping that more specialized products could be provided on the website for use in their day-to-day aviation weather operations.



Figure 2: Zheng Guoguang (middle), Deputy Administrator* of the China Meteorological Administration, Zhou Yizhou (second from the right), Deputy Director General of Air Traffic Management Bureau, Civil Aviation Administration of China, Dr Herbert Puempel (second from the left) of WMO, Dimitar Ivanov (first from the left) of ICAO and myself officiating at the opening ceremony

*has since been promoted to Administrator



Fostering the Development of New Terminal Weather Forecast

Sandy Song

The First Meeting of the Expert Team on New Terminal Weather Forecast under the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), was held at the Hong Kong Observatory during 12-16 March 2007. I attended the meeting in the capacity of an expert from Hong Kong, China. Other participants included experts from the United States, Canada, Australia, France and China, as well as representatives from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and WMO.

As there has been rapid development in meteorology in recent years, the content and format of the terminal area forecast specified in ICAO Annex

3 need to be revised so that the aviation users could fully benefit from the latest meteorological advancements. In view of this, WMO CAeM set up a new Expert Team on New Terminal Weather Forecast to develop, in close cooperation with ICAO, proposals for a new terminal weather forecast adapted to the needs of the 21st Century.

Hong Kong Observatory assisted WMO in organizing the meeting. Local user groups, including air traffic controllers of the Civil Aviation Department, pilots, airline representatives and dispatchers were invited to the meeting to provide inputs on user requirements of aviation weather services.

My participation in this important meeting was a memorable experience.

Through active discussions, expert team members highlighted the importance of developing the new terminal weather forecast. At the same time, the meeting sketched out the roadmap, scope and time frame for the Team's coming activities so that the initiative could be further developed, contributing to the enhancement of aviation safety and efficiency. I am very glad to be part of this international team.



Members of the Expert Team gathered at the Hong Kong Observatory to discuss the development of the new terminal weather forecast

The airport gets ready for this year's typhoon and rainy seasons

Sharon Lau

Inclement weather has great impact on air traffic. To prepare air traffic controllers and airlines for the possible impact of disturbed weather to air traffic, the Observatory introduced a number of new products on its Aviation Meteorological Information Dissemination System (AMIDS), a system specially tailored for aviation users. Amongst the products introduced is the "Weather Summary", a product fairly well received by the user. In contrast to Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF), this text based product frees the forecaster from coding requirements and allows him to describe more precisely the weather condition, its changes and the probability of occurrence of significant weather such as crosswind and turbulence.

In the coming typhoon season, if a tropical cyclone is expected to impact air traffic, the Observatory will add a precautionary announcement to the tropical cyclone bulletin to remind passengers to check with airlines before departing for the airport. To prepare airlines for the sudden surge in manpower required to handle the enquiries, the Observatory will alert the airlines through the AMIDS and Short Message Service (SMS) prior to making public announcement.

The Observatory also introduced a number of decision support products on AMIDS, including "Significant Weather for Neighbouring Aerodromes", "Aerodromes Below Landing Minima" and "TerMET" - a product designed specifically for air traffic controllers. These products use simple graphics to

represent the inclement weather which may happen in the next few hours, or to indicate the period when the weather condition at the aerodrome will drop below the landing requirements. These products will facilitate airlines and air traffic controllers to make the appropriate flight or human resources arrangements.



At the 27th meeting of the Liaison Group on Aviation Weather Services, participants showed keen interest on the new product "Aerodromes Below Landing Minima". Captain P.G. Robinson (first on the back row from the left) remarked that the product was "a clever design".

Enhancing the Use of Weather Information for General Aviation

Sandy Song

Weather Seminar

About 60 aviators from the local aviation community, including helicopter operators, Government Flying Service, Hong Kong Aviation Club, and Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps, attended a weather seminar organized by the Hong Kong Observatory on 3 March 2007.

This is the first weather seminar on aviation meteorology specifically tailored for the general aviation community. The seminar aims at enhancing local aviators' knowledge in meteorology and the aviation weather information and services provided by the Observatory so that they could appreciate the latest weather situation, thereby contributing to improving aviation safety.

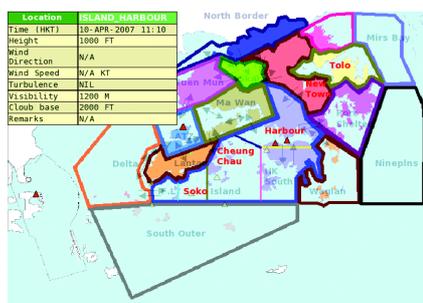
One of the participants said, "The course is very informative and practical, meeting the needs of general aviators. The Observatory's speakers are very professional and use laymen terms to enhance our understanding. I hope the Observatory would organize more such courses for the general aviation community in the future."



Ms. Sandy Song introducing weather observation and forecast at the "Hong Kong Meteorological Centre"

Weather Reports for general aviation (Data for the past 3 hours)
last updated at 10-Apr-2007 11:26 HKT

Zone Entry / Exit Check Point



Location	Check Point
ISLAND HARBOUR <td>SHUNTAKHEI PORT</td>	SHUNTAKHEI PORT
Time (HKT)	10-APR-2007 10:34
Height	90 FT
Wind	Direction 090 10 KTS
Wind Speed	SPACE KT
Turbulence	NLL
Visibility	5KM 02
Cloud base	OVER 1200 FT
Remarks	N/A
ISLAND	ISLAND
Time (HKT)	10-APR-2007 11:00
Height	30 FT
Wind	Direction 040
Wind Speed	05 KT
Turbulence	NLL
Visibility	5000 M
Cloud base	FEW900 FT
Remarks	N/A
ISLAND	ISLAND
Time (HKT)	10-APR-2007 10:30
Height	30 FT
Wind	Direction 040
Wind Speed	05 KT
Turbulence	NLL
Visibility	5000 M
Cloud base	FEW900 FT
Remarks	N/A
ISLAND	ISLAND
Time (HKT)	10-APR-2007 10:00

The Observatory sets up trial software platform to facilitate sharing of pilot reports within the general aviation community

Collaboration - Sharing of weather reports for general aviation

General aviation pilots have long been providing weather reports to their respective organizations for appreciating the weather conditions which could affect their operation, such as cloud base, visibility, turbulence etc. To facilitate sharing of such weather information within the general aviation community to enhance aviation safety, the Observatory has developed a software platform for data input and display. This platform has been put on trial use since March 2007.

Briefing Airlines on the Latest Developments

in Windshear Alerting Services over Hong Kong International Airport

Li Ping-wah

The Observatory organizes briefings for airlines on the latest development of windshear and turbulence alerting service every year. To accommodate a larger audience, this year's briefing on 4 April was held at the Auditorium of the Cathay Pacific City. It was well received with more than 70 participants, including representatives of local and overseas airlines, the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations (IFALPA), the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators (GAPAN) and the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) - the highest turnout so far. Mr P W Chan, an Observatory Scientific Officer briefed the audience about the latest development of the Observatory's LIWAS (Lidar Windshear Alerting System), the future work of the windshear and turbulence alerting services including uplinking windshear alerts to cockpit. It was a successful briefing and there were a lot of compliments from the participants. Some airline representatives indicated that they would like to establish closer connection with the Observatory and to collaborate to further improving the windshear and turbulence alerting services in Hong Kong.



More than 70 airline pilots, airport ground operators as well aviation association representatives attended the Observatory's windshear and turbulence alerting services briefing held on 4 Apr 2007.

LIDAR-based Windshear Alerts Uplinked to Cockpit - First in the World

Sharon Lau

For the first time in the world, integrated windshear/microburst alerts from the Hong Kong Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TDWR) and Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR) Windshear Alerting System (LIWAS) are uplinked to the cockpit to provide pilots with comprehensive information on the windshear situation at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA).

The trial with the Northwest Airlines, followed from the success of the first trial conducted between April and October in 2006 during which only TDWR alerts were uplinked. With favourable response from pilots, a second trial is being conducted with the addition of LIWAS windshear alerts. Benefiting from experience gained from the first trial, categorized alerts are introduced in this second trial to avoid frequent updates due to small changes in windshear intensity.

The alerts are uplinked using the Terminal Weather Information for Pilots (TWIP) service. The trial will continue till end of June 2007 to coincide with the peak windshear season. Pilot survey and evaluation will be conducted at the end of the trial to identify areas of improvement. It is expected that the experience gained during the trial would contribute towards the provision of windshear alerting service using new technologies, such as the Electronic Flight Bag (EFB), in the future.



Pilots of the Northwest Airlines checking the test message uplinked to the aircraft during a briefing by Hong Kong Observatory staff

Delegates of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) visited the Observatory



Choy Boon-leung

A delegation led by Mr. Li Zongji, the Deputy Director General of the Air Traffic Management Bureau of CAAC, visited the Observatory from 19 to 21 March 2007. During the visit, the delegation and the Observatory held a biannual "Aviation Meteorology Top Management Seminar" to discuss and exchange views on current development in aviation meteorology and future collaboration. Consensus in a number of areas, including aviation meteorological information exchange, aviation meteorological information downlink, meteorological support for Olympic Game 2008, windshear at aerodrome and related International matters were reached. After the Seminar, the delegation visited the Observatory's Airport Meteorological Office, Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR) and Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TDWR) stations as well as an airline to observe the meteorological services provided by the Observatory for the Hong Kong International Airport and to learn about user requirements on aviation weather services.



The visiting delegation led by Mr. Li Zongji (3rd right, front row), the Deputy Director General of the Air Traffic Management Bureau of CAAC

The Director General of CAAC East Regional Administration Mr. Xia Xinghua (2nd left) visited the Observatory. The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory Mr. C.Y. Lam (2nd right) and Assistant Director Mr. H.G. Wai (1st right) introduced the Observatory's aviation weather services to Mr. Xia.

HONG KONG OBSERVATORY CONTRIBUTES TO THE "UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE" NATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Leung Yin-kong



Headed by Mr Su Wei (4th right of 1st row) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the delegation of the Central People's Government visited the Hong Kong Observatory to understand more about the Observatory's work on climate change.

The scientific community generally agrees that global warming in the recent 50 years has been caused by an increase in man-made greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Global warming has aroused much international concern. The setting up of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992 and the adoption of Kyoto Protocol in 1997 are to reduce global emission of greenhouse gases. The Protocol was extended to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) from May 2003 and became effective in February 2005. As a developing country, China (including HKSAR) has no mandatory target of greenhouse gas emission reduction but has to submit National Communication. A National Communication includes the national status of population and climate, greenhouse gas inventories, climate system observation and research, impact and adaptation to climate change, mitigation of climate change as well as the education, publicity and public awareness of climate change, etc.

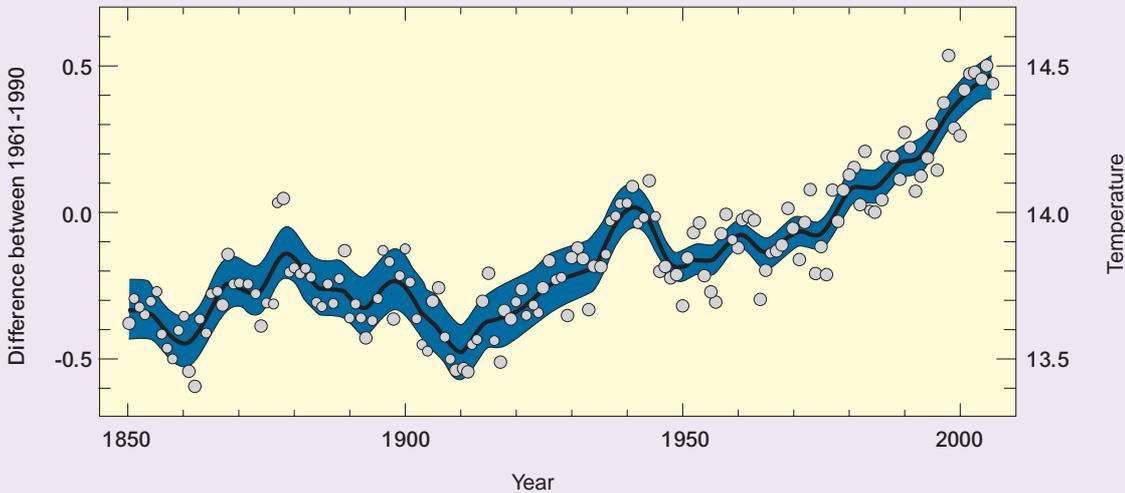
The Hong Kong Observatory and the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department cooperate in preparing the part of the National

Communication that is related to Hong Kong. The Observatory is responsible for drafting the characteristic of changes in various meteorological parameters in Hong Kong such as temperature, rainfall, cloud amount, solar radiation and sea level; introducing the Hong Kong's climate observing system and the related research on climate change. In recent years, the Observatory has been active in promoting public awareness on climate change through various means such as press conferences, public talks, scientific seminars, information in internet websites, large-scale exhibitions and participation in activities organized by Green Groups, etc. These activities will be mentioned in the National Communication.

In March this year, a delegation of the Central People's Government visited Hong Kong to discuss with the Hong Kong Observatory and the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department on details in preparing the National Communication and on the progress. The delegation also paid a visit to the Observatory to familiarize with its work on climate change.

An Authoritative Report - *The Fourth Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

Leung Yin-kong



Global warming and related climate change have become the focus of scientific research in recent years. Established in 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has gathered together top scientists of the world to provide governments and the international community with authoritative scientific assessments on climate change, its potential impact and the possible response strategies.

According to the Summary of Policymakers in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report released in February this year, the average global surface temperature has risen by 0.74°C in the past 100 years. The warming trend over the last 50 years is nearly twice that for the last 100 years. Eleven of the last twelve years rank among the 12 warmest years in the instrumental record. The Fourth Assessment further confirmed that most of the observed global warming since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the increase

in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentration. The confidence level has increased from over 66% in the Third Assessment to over 90% in the Fourth Assessment. It demonstrates the importance of the role of human beings in climate change.

Based on more sophisticated analyses and improved climate simulations, the Summary pointed out that the range of likely rise in global average temperature in the 21st century is 1.1 to 6.4°C, in line with that of 1.4 to 5.8°C in the Third Assessment. The assessments on climate change in Hong Kong made by the Hong Kong Observatory in the past several years remain generally valid. When the full report of IPCC with the associated climate model products are released later this year, the Observatory will review the assessments on climate change in Hong Kong. It is expected that the adjustment required would not be substantial.

What if you feel a local tremor?

Chan Ying-wa

A severe earthquake of magnitude 7.2 on the Richter Scale occurred over the seas near southern Taiwan at 8:26 p.m. on 26 December 2006. The quake ruined many places in Tainan. Collapse of residential buildings at Hengchun of Pingtung resulted in casualties. Many people in the coastal areas of Fujian and Guangdong also felt the earth tremor. In Hong Kong, some people ran to the streets after the tremor. The Observatory received a record-breaking 300 plus reports of felt tremor after the earthquake.

This earthquake has aroused the concern of Hong Kong people on proper safety precautions during an earthquake. As a matter of fact, Hong Kong is not located in a seismically active area and the chance of an intense earth tremor occurring in Hong Kong is very low. There is no need to panic when the earth trembles. Past records reveal that the intensity of earth tremors in Hong Kong is 5 or below on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale for the majority of cases. Such weak tremors are unlikely to cause damages to buildings or fixtures. Rushing for shelter is therefore not only unadvisable

but could also inflict injuries unnecessarily. In the rare event of an intense earth tremor, people indoor should stay indoors, take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture and stay away from glass or loose hanging objects. People in the open space should stay away from buildings, steep slopes and utility wires.

As it is difficult to predict when an earthquake will occur, official earthquake messages can be released only after an earthquake has occurred and relevant data has been collected and analysed. Release of such information would only be made well after the tremor and would not serve as timely advice for safety precautions. Hence, members of the public should learn about earthquake and safety precautions in advance so that they can take appropriate actions in case an intense felt tremor occurs. Useful reference materials about earthquakes can be found at the Observatory's website at http://www.hko.gov.hk/gts/quake/felt_intro_1_e.htm.

The Sixth WMO International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones

Chan Sai-tick and Lee Tsz-cheung

Under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Sixth WMO International Workshop on Tropical Cyclone (IWTC-VI) was convened in San Jose, Costa Rica in late 2006. The workshop was attended by 125 typhoon experts from 34 different countries and regions around the world to engage in in-depth discussions about tropical cyclones. Mr C Y Lam, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, and Professor Johnny Chan of the City University of Hong Kong were the two Co-chairs of the workshop.

The First IWTC was convened in Bangkok, Thailand in 1985. Since then, it was held once every 4 years. It has since evolved into one of the most important meetings within the community. The workshop has three key objectives:

(1) To examine the current knowledge of, and forecasting and research trends on, tropical cyclones from an integrated international perspective;

(2) To report on these aspects and to offer recommendations for future research with special regard to the varying needs of the different regions; and

(3) To promote future collaboration between tropical cyclone specialists and especially between research, forecasting, and warning communities.

Apart from making a number of important recommendations on various aspects of tropical cyclones during this workshop, the experts also discussed in detail and released a consensus statement on the links between tropical cyclones and climate change. The statement points out that the increase in



Mr C Y Lam, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, made a speech in the opening ceremony in his capacity as Co-Chair of the workshop

damages and casualties due to tropical cyclones in recent years are largely results of rising concentrations of population and infrastructure in the coastal regions. According to the results of some modeling and theoretical studies, tropical cyclone peak wind-speed will increase by 3-5% per degree Celsius increase of tropical sea surface temperatures as the climate continues to warm. If the projected rise in sea level due to global warming occurs, then the vulnerability to tropical cyclone storm surge flooding would also increase. The full content of the statement can be downloaded from WMO website at the following address:

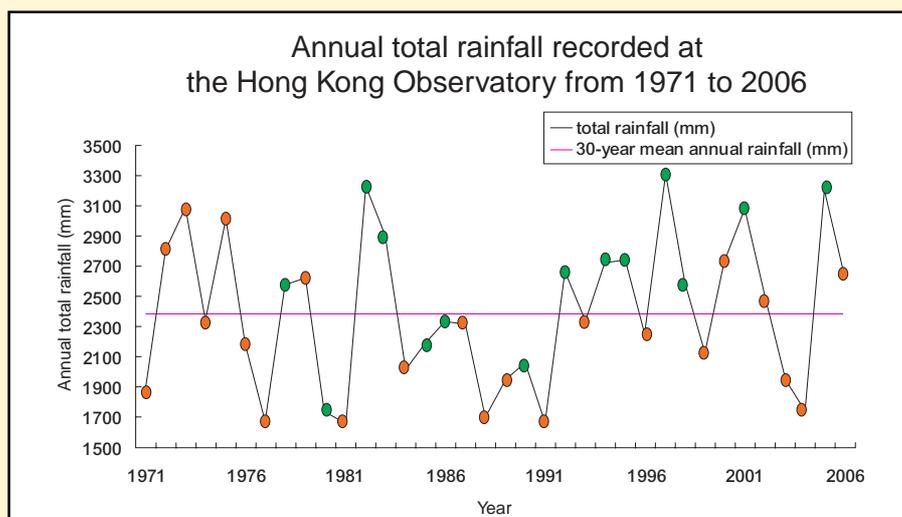
<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/tmrp/tropicalmeteorologyresearch.html>

24 Solar Terms - Insects Waken

Chow Tak-hing

"Insects Waken" refers to the 5th or 6th March, a solar term right between spring and summer. This solar term denotes the time when thunders wake up those animals and insects from hibernation.

In the past, Chinese people believed that it would be a wet year if the first thunder in that year occurred earlier than "Insects Waken". The records of the Hong Kong Observatory from 1971 to 2006 shows that there are 22 years in which the first thunder was observed to have occurred after the date of "Insects Waken". Among these 22 years, 15 of them have the annual rainfall below that of the 30-year average from 1971 to 2000. On the other hand, out of the 14 years with the first thunder occurring prior to the "Insects Waken", 10 of them have rainfall above the 30-year mean. From the statistical point of view, the folklore appears to have some skills in predicting wet and dry years.



Red dots represent the years in which the first thunder occurs later than "Insects Waken"
Green dots represent the years in which the first thunder occurs earlier than "Insects Waken"
Red line represents 30-year mean annual rainfall recorded at the Hong Kong Observatory from 1971 to 2000 (2382.7 mm)

Secretary for the Civil Service visited the Hong Kong Observatory

Winnie Yiu



The Secretary for the Civil Service, Ms Denise Yue, was greeted by our colleagues

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Ms Denise Yue, visited the Hong Kong Observatory on 2 March 2007 to gain a better understanding of the work of Observatory's staff on weather forecast and other services. Ms Yue visited the Central Forecasting Office and the TV studio, and discussed with the colleagues responsible for climatological service as well as seismological and time services. The Electronic Maintenance Team also took this opportunity to introduce to Ms Yue the system developed by the Observatory for monitoring heat stress on horses. This system will collect the necessary climatological data to support the 2008 Olympic equestrian event in Hong Kong.

Finally, Ms Yue met with the grade representatives of the Hong Kong Observatory Departmental Consultative Committee, and members of the Working Group on Energy and Environment and the Happy Business Working Group. In the gathering, Ms Yue briefed the colleagues on the latest development of the Civil Service Pay Review and exchanged views with the staff.

Old friends, Good partners – Meeting of meteorological experts from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau

Li Sun-wai

"Old friends and good partners" aptly describes our relationship with colleagues from the meteorological services in Guangdong and Macau. I was very happy when I was tasked to arrange the logistics for the Guangdong - Hong Kong - Macau Meteorological Cooperation Meeting and Seminar on Meteorological Science and Technology held early this year. Friends old and new all very much treasured this valuable occasion for discussions and sharing.

All participants discussed enthusiastically and shared views frankly in the meeting and the seminar. It laid a solid foundation for furthering cooperation between the three parties in the coming year in a number of areas such as automatic weather stations, data exchange, nowcasting, climate forecast as well as exchange of research results. All of these would contribute to enhancing the public weather services in the Pearl River Delta area. Outside the meeting, sounds of warm greetings and laughter reverberated as friendship and partnership were strengthened.

Those few days of meeting and seminar seemed like a fleeting moment. Participants all returned to their respective posts and started to implement the resolutions reached during the discussions. To me, besides the sense of satisfaction of successfully organizing the meeting and seminar, being a part of the passion and teamwork of all the participants was also a very encouraging experience.



Meteorological experts from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau gathering at the Hong Kong Observatory to discuss future cooperation.

Meteorologists from Guangdong and Macau spoke highly of the Observatory's automatic weather station

Mike Chan

The 21st Guangdong - Hong Kong - Macau Seminar on Meteorological Science and Technology was held in Hong Kong in January 2007. Meteorologists from Guangdong and Macau took the opportunity to visit the Observatory's automatic weather station at the Hong Kong Wetland Park set up last year. There was enthusiastic exchange of experience and insight regarding the construction and facilities of weather stations. Colleagues from Guangdong and Macau were impressed by the Observatory's implementation of automatic weather stations and provision of real-time weather information to the public.

Mr. Xu Yongke, Deputy Director of the Guangdong Meteorological Bureau, said, "Setting up an automatic weather station is no simple task. This station is well-located and well-equipped, and is indeed of world-class standard."

Mr. Tong Tin-ngai from the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical

Bureau said, "I find the incorporation of a network camera in the station most impressive. It provides real-time weather photos which are very useful to the public and tourists. It is food for thought."

The automatic weather station at the Wetland Park was jointly built by the Observatory and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. It started operation in mid-2006. The station provides air temperature, relative humidity, wind direction and speed, atmospheric pressure and rainfall. Its network camera produces real-time weather photos of the Park. Members of the public and visitors may make use of such information to find out more about the latest weather conditions around the Park. The weather information is available at the 'Regional Weather' webpage of the Observatory -

<http://www.weather.gov.hk/wxinfo/ts/index.htm>.



Meteorologists from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau pictured in front of the automatic weather station at Wetland Park.

Job Shadow Days

David Lam

In the past few months, the Observatory organized Job Shadow Days for two groups of students. The events showed young people how knowledge and skills learned in school were applied to the workplace, and prepared them for their career in the future.

In October 2006, the Observatory joined the Job Shadowing Project organized by Junior Achievement Hong Kong. Through guidance from five mentors, ten students from Notre Dame College spent a day at our office to understand our work. They attended the weather conference and assisted in making the daily weather TV programme. ATV also sent its crew to take some shots that day and those clips were broadcast in the 'Accompany My Child' programme.

In March, three 2nd-year Geography students from Hong Kong University also spent a day at the Observatory through the Career Exposure Project. Apart from visiting various divisions and completing their assigned work, students were also arranged a mock job interview. Students considered the event very meaningful and practical. They said they all benefited from it.



Students from Notre Dame College and mentors on the Job Shadow Day

Cooperation with Civil Aviation Department

Li Luen-on

To better understand the impact of weather on operation of air traffic management, the Hong Kong Observatory invited Mr. Phil Parker, Air Traffic Management Division of Civil Aviation Department, to deliver a one-day seminar to the Observatory's Aviation Forecasters, Aviation Weather Observers and other relevant staff members. Apart from introducing the services and operations of Air Traffic Control Centre, Aerodrome Control Tower and Aeronautical Information Centre, the impact of weather on their operations was also discussed. Mr. F.C. Sham, Aviation Weather Forecaster, remarked, "The better we understand the operation of air traffic management, the better our weather services can meet their operational needs."

In reciprocation, Dr. P.W. Li, Scientific Officer of the Observatory was invited to talk on windshear and turbulence to air traffic controllers of Civil Aviation Department. There was also an experience sharing session to enhance the cooperation between the two departments in the provision of windshear and turbulence alerting service.



Mr Phil Parker of the Civil Aviation Department explaining the operation of the Air Traffic Control Center to colleagues of the Observatory

Observatory collaborates with Hong Kong Polytechnic University in promoting weather education in schools

Tse Wai-ming



Professor Chan Wong Lai-wa (right) and Dr. Lee Boon-ying at the signing ceremony

On 10 January 2007, the Observatory and the Department of Applied Physics of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the joint effort in carrying out activities to promote weather education in schools in Hong Kong.

Professor Chan Wong Lai-wa, Head of Department of Applied Physics of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Dr. Lee Boon-ying, Assistant Director of the Observatory, officiated at the signing ceremony. Through cooperation in organizing activities, both parties aim at arousing students' interest in meteorology. The activities include development of techniques for weather measurement, development of a website showing weather data obtained by weather stations at a number of schools, and training of undergraduates to help the school children in operating and maintaining the weather equipment there.

In the same occasion, Dr. Lee also delivered a public lecture "Beyond the blue sky - some interesting phenomena in nature" to secondary school students. He encouraged students to observe the various phenomena of nature and explore their underlying physical meanings.

Collaboration with University of Hannover, Germany on Aviation Meteorology

Chan Pak-wai



Ms Koos studies the applications of remote sensing data on aviation weather services.

University of Hannover, a university in Europe with active research in aviation meteorology, recently collaborated with the Observatory to carry out joint research on the impact of weather on aviation.

Ms Svenja Koos is a University of Hannover student studying for a meteorological diploma degree. She was attached to the Observatory for one year starting from September 2006 to work on the utilization of remote sensing data, such as the LIDAR's wind measurements and satellite-derived thermodynamic profiles, to improve numerical modelling of windshear at the airport. She also went to the Airport Meteorological Office to experience the work of weather reporting and forecasting in an operational environment.

"The collaboration with the Observatory is very fruitful with interesting results leading to practical applications to aviation weather services," says Professor Thomas Hauf of the Institute of Meteorology and Climatology, University of Hannover.

STUDY VISIT TO BEIJING AND HAINAN

Li Yuet-sim and Chan Ho-sun

The Hong Kong Observatory arranges a one-week study visit for its staff to the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) annually. This year, a delegation of five led by Dr Tam Cheuk-ming, Senior Scientific Officer, visited the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) of CMA at Beijing and the Meteorological Bureau of Hainan Province from 21 to 27 January 2007.

During the trip to Beijing, there were ample opportunities for exchanging ideas with our NMC host on the latest development of daily operations, public weather services and applications of numerical weather prediction models, etc.... We



The Observatory delegation visited the Meteorological Bureau of Hainan



Officers from NMC discussed the weather situation in their daily nationwide weather conference

were also invited to join in their daily nationwide weather conference to discuss the meteorological situation with forecasters from different provinces.

After visiting Beijing, we were joined by scientific assistant grade colleagues for the trip to Hainan. We toured the Meteorological Bureau of Hainan Province, the site of a new Doppler weather radar station at Haikou, and the provincial meteorological centres at Sanya and Qionghai. Agriculture and tourism are the pillar industries in Hainan. We were very impressed by their meteorological observation network, work on artificial rain-making and an electronic weather information display system developed and supported by their own staff.

Visitors from the National Meteorological Centre, China Meteorological Administration

Leung Wai-hung

A delegation consisting of four members from the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) of the China Meteorological Administration visited the Hong Kong Observatory from 5 to 10 March 2007.

The delegation was introduced to the different aspects of work of the Observatory, including operational weather forecasting, warning services on severe weather, development and application of numerical weather prediction and nowcasting, training of personnel and outreach activities. The delegation also visited facilities such as the Hong Kong Meteorological Centre, the Airport Meteorological Office and the Radar Station at Tai Mo Shan.

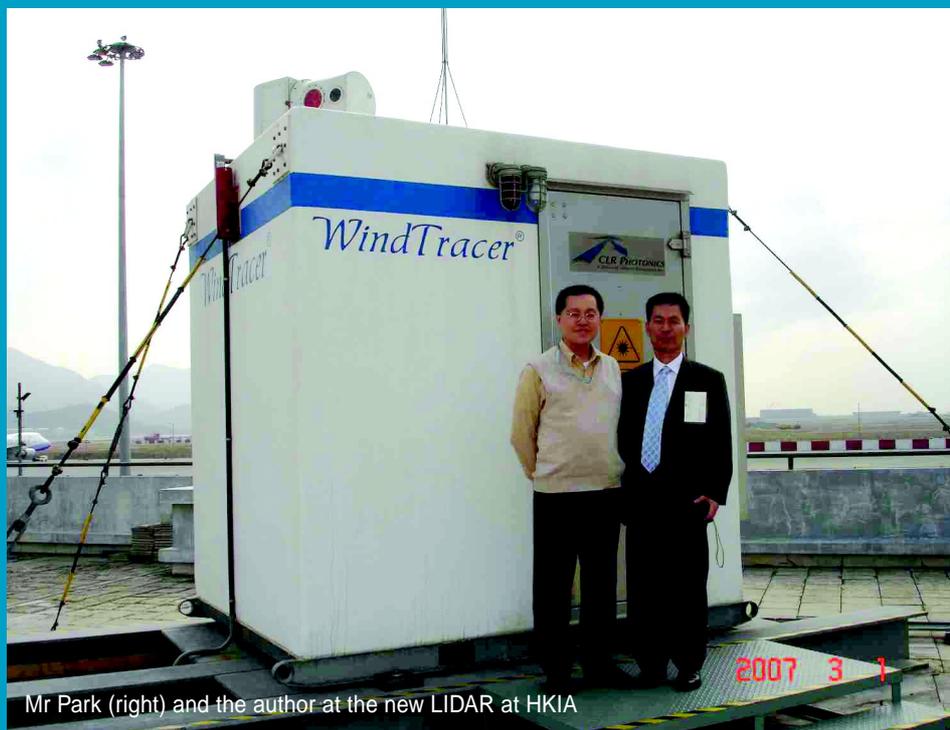
Mr. Qu Xiaobo, leader of the delegation, remarked that mutual cooperation was enhanced through the visit which in turn improved the development of meteorological science and services.



Group photo of the National Meteorological Centre delegation and Observatory colleagues

Visitor from Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA)

Chan Pak-wai



Mr Park (right) and the author at the new LIDAR at HKIA

On 1 March, Mr Park Jin-Seok, Director of Information Service Division at the Incheon Airport of KMA, visited the Observatory to learn the latest developments of windshear and turbulence alerting services at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). Besides discussion with our colleagues on windshear detection technology, he also visited the new LIDAR site and Airport Meteorological Office at HKIA.

Mr. Choi Park Lai visiting the Observatory

Choy Boon-leung

Mr. Choi Park Lai, the third generation of the Choi family which specializes in Feng Shui and Chinese almanac, is famous and unique in Hong Kong. All Chinese almanacs published by various publishers in Hong Kong are partly based on the Chinese calendar authored by Mr. Choi. Mr. Choi started to learn astronomy and mathematics from his father when he was young. Further influenced by renowned Chinese astronomer Professor Zhang Yun and mathematician Professor Zhang Zhaosi, Mr. Choi became an expert in ancient and modern astronomy and mathematics.

Recently, Mr. Choi Park Lai re-cast the armillary made by his grandfather in the late Ching Dynasty and donated the first successfully built armillary to the Hong Kong Observatory. The armillary is primarily used to simulate the movements of heavenly bodies. Apart from using it for demonstration purpose, the armillary can also be used to calculate the location of these celestial bodies with high precision. Mr. Choi visited the Observatory for the donation ceremony on 17 January 2007 and gave the Observatory staff a briefing on the theory and operational procedures of the instrument.



Mr. Choi Park Lai (middle) photoed with Ms Choi Ching-wah (3rd left), Mr. Choi Yee-tak (4th left), Mr. Choi Yee-choon (3rd right), Mr. Choi Bui (2nd right) and representatives of the Observatory.

VISIT OF MRS NG TSE SUK-YING, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Editorial Board

On 15 January 2007, Mrs Ng Tse Suk-ying, Director of Planning visited the Observatory to familiarize herself with our work. She was introduced to our public weather services, TV weather services, seismological monitoring and tsunami warning etc. Mrs Ng was particularly interested in our small and yet self-contained TV Studio. She pointed out that as climate and city planning were highly related, the two departments should enhance cooperation.

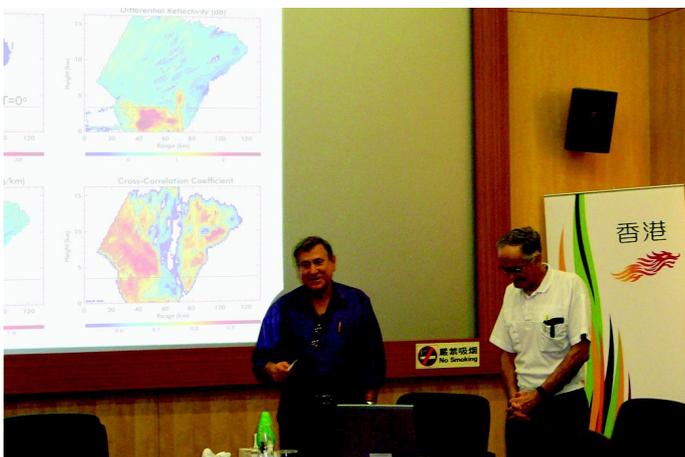


Mr C Y Lam (1st left), Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, introduced Mrs Ng Tse Suk-ying (2nd left), Director of Planning, and her colleagues to the work of weather forecasting.

Exchange with renowned radar experts

Cheng Cho-ming

The Observatory invited two world-renowned radar experts from the US National Severe Storm Laboratory, Professors D. Zrnić and R. Doviak, to Hong Kong from late February to early March 2007. They delivered a series of talks to share with our colleagues on the latest developments in weather radar technologies.

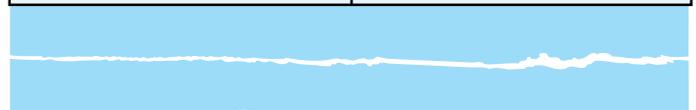


Tribute to Hong Kong Voluntary Observing Ships

Wong Chi-fai

The Hong Kong Observatory awarded certificates of appreciation to shipmasters of eight Hong Kong Voluntary Observing Ships to recognize the contribution of deck officers to marine weather observations in 2006. The names of these ships are listed below:

Bunga Pelangi Dua	Maersk Gairloch
OOCL Fortune	OOCL Hamburg
OOCL Japan	OOCL Long Beach
OOCL Rotterdam	Star Pisces





Outstanding Observatory Staff Commended by the Director

Winnie Yiu

The Hong Kong Observatory provides a broad spectrum of services. Dedication of each staff member is essential to realize the department's vision to be the world model in the field. While the achievements of some staff may be more visible and eye-catching given the nature of their work, there are other colleagues who are also delivering their very best with all their heart and are worthy of praise.

To promote the culture of appreciation and letting each exceptionally meritorious colleague receive the recognition



The Director issued a commendation letter to Mr Lo Wai-cheung



The Director issued an appreciation letter to staff of System Development Section

one deserves, division heads were invited to nominate those staff in their divisions with outstanding performance to the Director. These nominations were then submitted to an independent departmental committee which considered the merits of each nominated officer before making its recommendations to the Director.

At the Christmas Party in 2006, the Director presented ten commendation letters and eight appreciation letters to colleagues who performed exceptionally well in the past year. These awardees came from different grades and ranks. Some were civil servants and some were contract staff. Their efforts and contributions were without exception given due recognition.

Let us give a big hand to these outstanding staff. The full list of these colleagues can be found below:

<http://www.weather.gov.hk/hkonews/news-p49e.htm>

Mission accomplished - Ngong Ping rainfall station

Cheng Tat-yan



Mr. C.Y. Lam, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, presenting letters of appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Woon-chi Chan

To monitor real-time rainfall distribution in Hong Kong, the Observatory started building an automatic raingauge network in the early 1980s. The raingauges are located in various parts of Hong Kong, with Ngong Ping at Lantau being one of the important locations. Twenty years before, public utilities at Ngong Ping were inadequate. Also, it was not easy to find a suitable site that was safe, secure and free from the interference of animals and birds. After some laborious site investigation by Observatory staff, the Tea Garden at Ngong Ping was identified. The owner of the Tea Garden, the late Mr. Brook Bernacchi, OBE, OC, JP, generously granted the use of the roof of a house there to accommodate the raingauge. Since then, the raingauge station had operated smoothly for many years. The raingauge was relocated late last year to a more exposed location at the Ngong Ping Fresh Water Service Reservoir. The Ngong Ping Tea Garden station was then retired after completing its historical mission of 22 years of service. On 19 January 2007, Mr. C.Y. Lam, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory paid a special visit to the manager of the Ngong Ping Tea Garden, Mr. Woon-chi Chan and presented him with a letter of appreciation.

The Hong Kong Observatory is a Caring Organisation

Choi Siu-chuen

The Hong Kong Observatory has been listed again as a Caring Organisation under the "Caring Organisation 2006/07" Scheme. This is the second consecutive year the Observatory receives the recognition since its inception last year. The "Caring Organisation" Scheme is organised by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to cultivate corporate citizenship and strategic partnership among the business, public and social service sectors by recognizing government departments, statutory organisations, professional bodies, education institutes, etc. for their enthusiasm in building a caring community spirit. The Hong Kong Observatory is listed as a Caring Organisation in recognition of its outstanding achievements in supporting employees to engage in voluntary work through the HKO Volunteers, providing a family-friendly environment for employees through a series of family-oriented policies and activities, offering employment opportunities to vulnerable groups and encouraging donation in cash or in kind to social service organisations.



Observatory Staff Receiving Praise

Staff of the Observatory receiving words of thanks and commendations from the public or organizations during the period January - April.

Dr WONG Ming-chung
Mrs LAM KWONG Si-lin, Hilda
Mr LEUNG Wai-hung
Mr LI Luen-on

Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Observatory
Senior Scientific Officer
Scientific Officer
Chief Experimental Officer



Public Weather Service Award Winners

4th Quarter, 2006



Best TV Weather Programme Presenter
Mr NG Ping-wing



Best Radio Weather Programme Presenter
Mr TSANG Moon-tong

1st Quarter, 2007



Best TV Weather Programme Presenter
Mr CHAN Sai-tick

Cake and Cookie Making

Chiu Chiu-ye

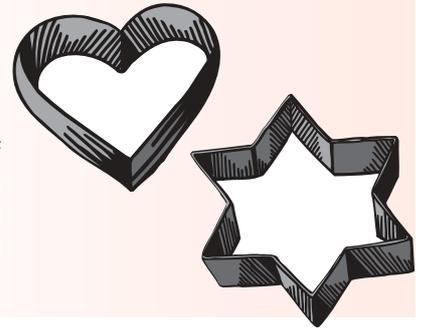


Yummy and mouth-watering cookies



Over 20 colleagues and their family members joined the cake and cookie making class

Over 20 colleagues and their family members joined the cake and cookie making class organized by the Hong Kong Observatory Staff Association on 16 December 2006. Through the demonstration by the instructor, all participants became instant experts and made delicious chocolate mousse cakes and cookies of different shapes. Some children could not help but indulged themselves in the freshly baked cookies.



Visit to Wetland Park and get close to Nature

Leung Yin-kong

About 60 colleagues, their families and friends joined the one-day tour to Wetland Park organized by the Hong Kong Observatory Staff Association at the end of last year. The tour also took them to the Ping Shan Heritage Trail and the Bakery of Lo Po Cake - the local specialty literally meaning cake of the wife. It is nice to see that many colleagues brought along their parents and children.

Busy at work in the office, we sometimes excused ourselves for being poker-faced and frowning occasionally. However, under the warming sun and the gentle breezes, we were all smiling faces. Children found it most interesting to see rare fiddler crabs and mudskippers while the Lo Po Cake and the Heritage Trail filled the elderly with nostalgia. To me, I strongly felt that we should show more concern and care towards our family. To enjoy family life in Nature is simply the best of living!

◀ Embraced by Nature, the author had a wonderful time with his daughter.



Colleagues of the Observatory, their family and friends enjoyed a pleasant outing to Wetland Park organized by the Staff Association.

Visit to the Automatic Weather Station at Waglan Island

Sin Kau-chuen

Colleagues are exhilarated while visiting this uninhabited island and took a photo against the background of the South China Sea.



The Observatory has been operating a weather station on Waglan Island at the southeast extremity of Hong Kong since 1952. In the old days, weather observations were made by Observatory staff. In 1964, weather observation was transferred to lighthouse keepers of Marine Department. In 1989, in preparation for Marine Department's decision to cease manning the lighthouse, the weather station at Waglan was upgraded to an automatic one.

Waglan consists of two islands. The northern one is barer. The installations of the Hong Kong Observatory and the Marine Department are placed in the southern island which is about 50m in height. Waters around Waglan Island is a restricted zone. Only a few of our staff who have to work on the island could visit it before.

In February, when staff of the Assessment and Observation Network Division went to Waglan Island to install cables, a visibility meter and to upgrade the web camera there, the opportunity was taken under the banner of the department's "Happy Business" to take some of our staff to visit the station and to explore the mystery of the island.

One of the participants, Ms. YEUNG Siu-wai, chief experimental officer said after the visit, "I was worried about encountering windy, wavy and foggy weather at Waglan before the visit. Luckily, the weather was excellent on the day of the visit. It was a great pleasure to see the unobstructed scenery of the skyline in the South China Sea under clear sky and fine weather. But one can easily imagine the terrifying force of destruction at play at Waglan during inclement weather conditions simply by noting the damage caused by waves at the pier. This study tour to Waglan is definitely useful for my future work.

On the way back, we came past a memorial set up in memory of the Observatory colleague who sacrificed his life while carrying out duties at Waglan. Lee Wai-ching, Chief Scientific Assistant said, "This is a valuable experience to appreciate how our predecessors had persevered in these harsh conditions. Their professionalism is something that we, as Observatory staff, are proud of."

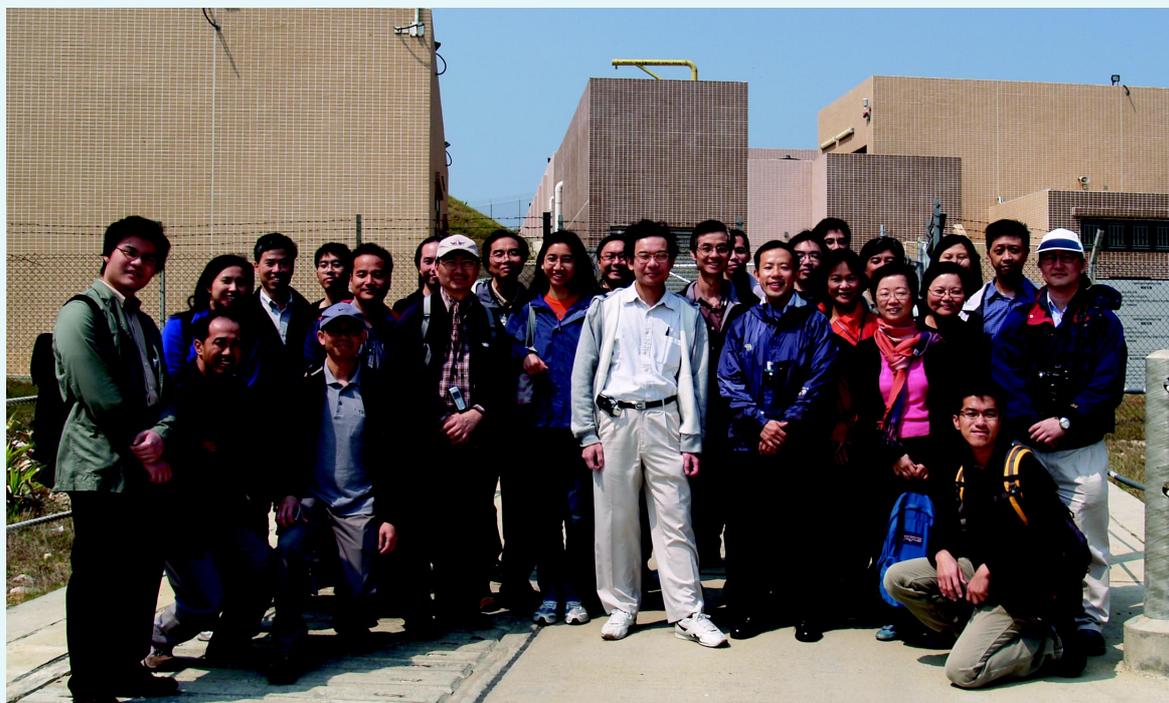


Lighthouse on Waglan

Visit to the Low-level Radioactive Waste Storage Facility at Siu A Chau

Li Sun-wai

Observatory colleagues visited the Low-level Radioactive Waste Storage Facility at Siu A Chau this February to learn its operations. The facility can accommodate the existing low-level radioactive wastes and those produced in Hong Kong in the next 100 years.

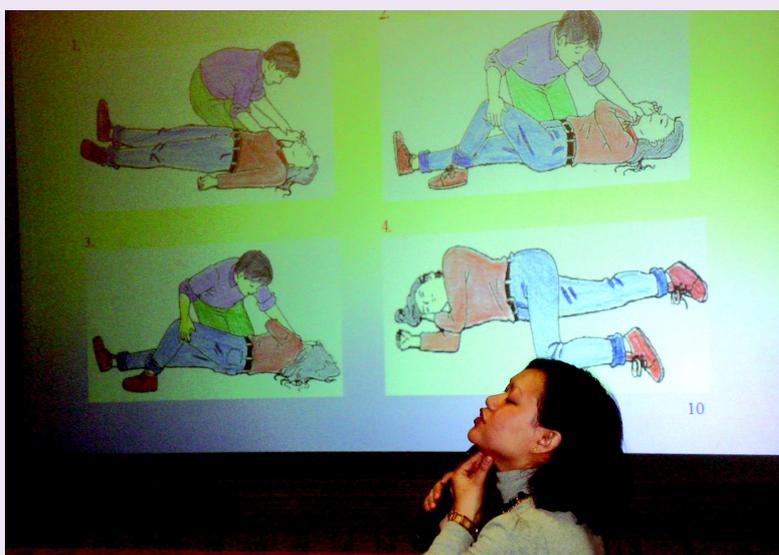


Occupational Health Talk

Cheng Chi-tat

The Hong Kong Observatory held two occupational health talks again in January and February this year. This series of occupational health talks mainly aimed at increasing the health knowledge of our colleagues. Nurses from the Occupational Health Service Section of the Labour Department delivered talks to our colleagues on two topics: "First Aid Care in the Workplace" and "Biological Hazard". In the "First Aid Care in the Workplace" talk, our colleagues gained basic knowledge on first aid care and learned the ways to deal with common workplace accidents. In the "Biological Hazard" talk, our colleagues learned how organisms such as bacteria and virus gained entry into our body and caused harm to our health. They also learned different personal hygiene and preventive measures, and the treatment of minor wound.

Only healthy staff can sustain healthy business. Staff health is one element of the Hong Kong Observatory's "Happy Business". The Hong Kong Observatory will continue to promote better health of our colleagues, and sow this Seed of Happiness - "Health", in the Observatory.



Nurse from the Labour Department introduced basic first aid knowledge to colleagues of the Observatory