

WEATHER ON WINGS



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SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VISITED THE OBSERVATORY

Editorial Board

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Frederick Ma, JP, accompanied by the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism), Miss Yvonne Choi, JP, visited the Hong Kong Observatory on 20 July.

The policy bureaux of the Government were re-organised on 1 July. The Observatory, which used to operate under the Economic Development and Labour Bureau, is now overseen by the new Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. The re-organisation aims to rationalise the distribution of responsibilities between policy bureaux and does not affect our services to the public.

On 20 July, Mr Ma and Miss Choi found out more about the Observatory's weather service, the work on radiation monitoring and assessment, earthquake and tsunami warning, time service etc. as they were taken to a tour by the Director, Mr Lam Chiu-ying and met the officers-in-



Mr Frederick Ma demonstrating his natural born talent in presenting TV weather report in the Observatory's TV Studio.



Mr Frederick Ma (2nd right) and Miss Yvonne Choi (2nd left) were very interested in the tools used for monitoring of weather systems as explained by the Director, Mr Lam Chiu-ying (middle).

charge of various services. Mr Ma was apparently impressed by the professionalism of the Observatory staff, and likewise, the wide range of service they provided. He remarked light-heartedly that he was an ardent user of the Observatory's weather service, quoting the 1878200 Dial-a-Weather Service as an example.

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Director of Hong Kong Observatory chaired meetings of the Congress of the United Nations World Meteorological Organization

LEUNG Wing-mo



Courtesy of World Meteorological Organization

At the 15th Congress of the United Nations World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Director of Hong Kong Observatory, Mr Lam Chi-ying, was appointed to chair some of the meetings. These were the highest-level WMO meetings ever chaired by a member of the Observatory. The Congress of WMO is held every four years in Geneva to determine the direction and strategy of meteorological work worldwide in the coming four years. Some 600 heads of national meteorological services, ministers and senior government officials from more than 180 countries and territories participated in the Congress this year.

"The assignment of this important task to me reflects the recognition by the international meteorological community of the achievements and ability of Hong Kong Observatory's meteorologists." Mr Lam said. In his capacity as the co-chair of a Working Committee, Mr Lam shared with Vice-Presidents of WMO the chairing of working meetings of the Congress. Working meetings are attended by all WMO Member countries and territories. They serve to harmonize the diverse views and perspectives on various subjects, so as to form a consensus. Then formal documents are prepared for approval by the plenary sessions of the Congress chaired by the WMO President.

"It is not easy to develop a consensus among Members from multiple cultures and with different degrees of development." Mr Lam said. "The meetings I was given to chair discussed sensitive issues such as the

amendment of the WMO Convention and increasing transparency of WMO operations. There were enthusiastic debates. It was quite challenging to work out compromise solutions from heated discussions, careful listening and summarizing. Fortunately, all the issues were resolved to the satisfaction of all."

Mr Lam is currently the Vice-President of Regional Association II (Asia) of the WMO and has chaired a number of WMO expert group meetings as well as planning meetings on specific programmes in recent years. Early last year he visited Sri Lanka as a WMO consultant and prepared a master development plan for the Department of Meteorology of Sri Lanka. He also co-chaired the WMO International Workshop on Tropical Cyclone towards the end of last year, a meeting held once every four years.

Hong Kong Observatory staff are highly appreciated by the WMO and have been appointed chairpersons and members of various expert groups. They are often invited to give talks at international conferences and to deliver lectures at international training workshops. They are also invited occasionally to provide consultancy services to meteorological departments of developing countries.

The Congress also thanked the Hong Kong Observatory for establishing and operating on behalf of WMO the website (<http://worldweather.wmo.int>) for official weather forecasts from countries all over the world in the past few years.

Weather Services and the HKSAR 10th Anniversary Celebrations

Hilda LAM

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. There were a large variety of celebrating activities, particularly during the period from 28 June to 2 July, creating a festive atmosphere. The Observatory provided specialized weather services to various government departments and bureaux for their planning of the ceremonial events and outdoor activities, and contributed to their smooth running. These ceremonies and programmes included the greeting of the President at the airport, the parachute performance, flag-raising ceremony, fireworks display, official opening of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and the 10th Anniversary Pop Rock Gala.

The Observatory began the provision of weather forecasts to the organizers a few days ahead of the event, helping them to formulate contingency measures to cope with sudden changes in the weather. Closer to the time when the event was about to take place, the Observatory continually assessed the weather conditions and maintained close contact with the event organizers through telephone. This would enable the organizers to make appropriate arrangements according to the weather situation, including the cancellation of the event for the extreme cases.

During the last week in June, weather forecasting was quite challenging as it was generally unsettled with occasional heavy rain and thunderstorms. Through the hard work of the forecasting team, our mission was accomplished with all programmes and ceremonies completed smoothly.



Letters and email message from departments expressing appreciation to the services provided by the Observatory



New visibility equipment at Waglan Island

Improving Coastal Visibility Measurement at Waglan Island

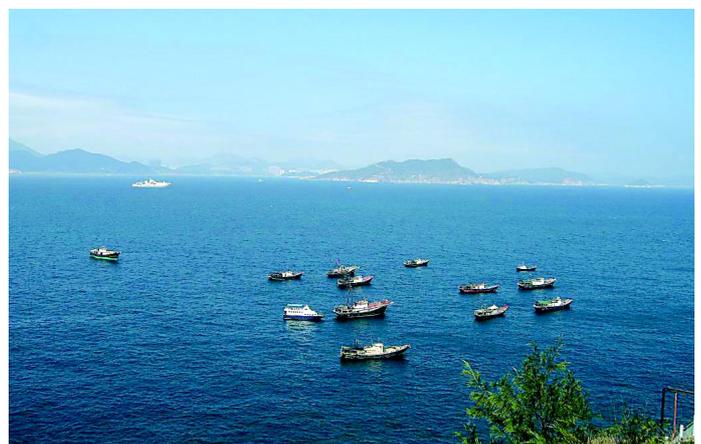
CHAN Ka-wah

The Waglan Island weather observation station began operation since 1952. Situated over the southeastern tip of Hong Kong, its major functions are to provide data critical for the early alert of inclement weather associated with tropical cyclones and rainbands approaching Hong Kong from the South China Sea. In early days, the weather observation station was manned by our observers and weather observations were performed at day time only. Weather information recorded was sent back to our Headquarters by use of telephone. In 1989, an automatic weather station was installed there. By making use of microprocessor and data communication technologies, weather observations and reporting were performed continuously round the clock. Weather information collected includes wind speed, wind direction, atmospheric pressure, ambient temperature, tidal height, sea surface temperature and visibility. Collected data are automatically sent back to our headquarters in real-time at 1-minute intervals. The collected data are also disseminated to fishermen through radio broadcasting.

Early this year, the functions of the automatic weather station at Waglan Island were enhanced by installing new visibility measurement equipment

and two new network cameras there. The new visibility equipment could improve the range of visibility detection up to 50km (the old visibility equipment provided visibility detection up to only 10km). The new network cameras provide high quality weather photos to assist our observers in monitoring weather conditions near the Island.

Waglan is an outlying island. The windy and rough seas conditions often render difficulties in carrying out maintenance works there. Therefore, we have installed redundant automatic weather equipment there in order to ensure uninterrupted weather data from this station.



A view from Waglan Island

Weather Services in Support of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor Operation

LEUNG Wai-hung



Mr. W.H. Leung (1st right), Scientific Officer, explaining to colleagues of Transport Department the weather services provided for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor

Mr. C.Y. Lam (3rd right), Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, visiting the Shenzhen Bay Bridge to have a better understanding of the meteorological facilities on-site

Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor commenced operation on 1 July this year. Travellers can enjoy the scenic view of the Shenzhen Bay as they cross the bridge by vehicle. The Western Corridor is operated and managed jointly by a number of government departments, including the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) which provides weather services.

The threat posed by high winds, among different inclement weather conditions, are of particular concern to drivers on a bridge. Under windy condition, the HKO will maintain close liaison with the Transport Department (TD) and provide forecast of wind conditions to assist TD in



deciding management measures to ensure safety of drivers on the bridge. These measures include the display of messages on the bridge to alert drivers of strong winds, lowering of vehicle speed limit to 50 kilometers per hour, closure of the middle lanes in both directions and even closing down the bridge temporarily.

New Meteorological Series on Radio

TAI Sai-choi

Still remember the first radio meteorological series in 2003? The Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) invited two exemplary Senior Scientific Officers, Messrs Leung Wing-mo and Chan Yuk-kwan from the Observatory to explain various weather phenomena in layman terms and pleasantries. As the first series was so well received, a sequel was launched in 2006, this time co-hosted by two Scientific Officers, Messrs Leung Yin-kong and David Hui. This year, the two organizations collaborated again and launched the third series. Each episode features the experienced RTHK host Mr Cheng Kai-ming and an Observatory expert to discuss interesting weather phenomena and topical meteorological issues. The new series is broadcast on Radio One at 8:30 p.m. every Sunday starting from 1 July. The first episode on global warming was co-hosted by the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory Mr Lam Chiu-ying.

Mr Cheng Kai-ming commented that the second series only comprised eight episodes and a lot of interesting issues were not discussed in depth. The third series was therefore expanded to more than 20 episodes to cover a wider spectrum of topics, such as typhoons, rainstorms, earthquake, tsunami, radiation, climate change, folklores about weather and the Observatory's participation in international affairs, etc.

Don't worry if you missed any of the programmes. They are archived at the following RTHK website :

http://www.rthk.org.hk/rthk/program_archive.cgi?progdir=radio1/lookingthroughweather

Fusion - Tool and Toy

WONG Yang-tze

'Fusion' - a word that has gained popularity in recent years and has found its niche in training courses, home decorations and even cuisine. This time, let me introduce to you a fusion of tool and toy - a remote-controlled vehicle for radiological survey.

During outdoor radiological survey, measurements of the surroundings are normally made with a handheld survey meter carried by our colleague. If such measurements can be made at a distance by remotely controlling the survey meter, it will better safeguard the safety of the survey staff. Having this idea in mind, I immediately discussed with our Radar Specialist Mechanic, Mr. Ng Shu Kwan (Ah Kwan), the ways of implementation.

Our approach was to install the survey meter on board a remote-controlled toy vehicle and then to make use of radio transmission to disseminate the measurement data to a notebook PC. In this way, the survey staff would be able to obtain the relevant data remotely for assessment. Ah Kwan then started the task of fusing a tool and a toy. He visited model shops in the market to search for an appropriate remote-controlled vehicle. A tank-type vehicle that could easily maneuver rough terrains was finally selected. Through the untiring effort and close coordination between Ah Kwan and the colleagues of the mechanical workshop, the vehicle was modified with a higher power motor and remote control assembly as well as the addition of a wireless data transmission module. This remote-controlled survey vehicle fusing 'Tool' and 'Toy' was eventually born.

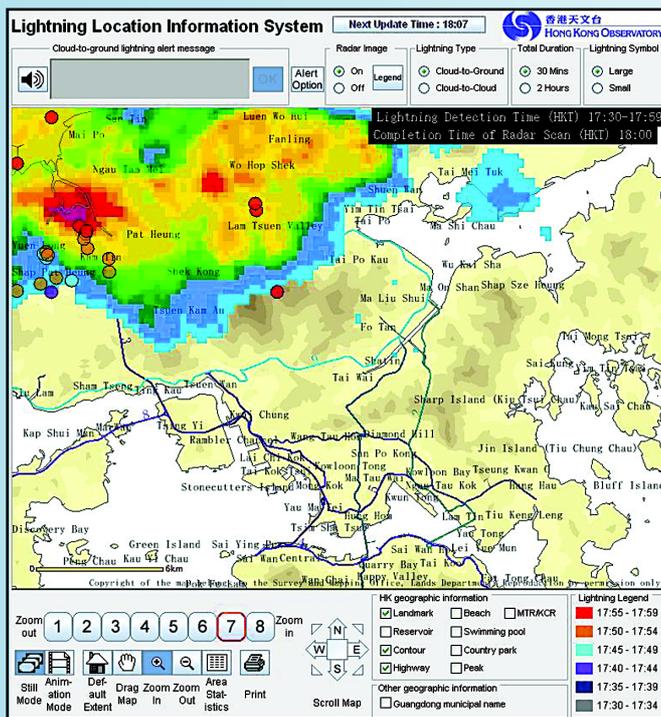


Mr. Ng Shu Kwan demonstrating the operation of the remote-controlled survey vehicle, attracting adults and children alike.

During the Observatory's Open Day this year, the remote-controlled vehicle first met the public and attracted many visitors. Though there is still room for improvement for the vehicle, what we have learnt during the process of putting an idea into practice and the applause from members of the public were the most rewarding and encouraging experience to everyone involved in the project.

The lightning location information webpage given a face-lift

WONG Chau-ping



The lightning location information webpage was given a face-lift with enhanced functions this summer. The public can choose geographical overlays such as landmarks, public swimming pools and beaches to more easily identify those areas affected by lightning.

In the new version, the digital map is larger and clearer. The panning and zooming functions have also been enhanced, making it easier for the public to find out whether lightning is affecting their area of interest. The public can then decide whether it is safe to continue with their outdoor activities, and avoid unnecessarily suspending all outdoor activities due to the Thunderstorm Warning issued by the Observatory. When the "Area Statistics" button is selected, the number of lightning strokes detected within the area of interest will be calculated. Moreover, radar picture can be overlaid on top of the lightning map through a simple click. You are welcome to access the new webpage at <http://www.weather.gov.hk/wxinfo/llis/gis.htm>.

This new lightning location information webpage will come as a handy tool for people engaging in outdoor activities in the hot summer to ensure that these activities are conducted safely.

Lightning location map is enriched with lots of geographic references. Rain areas detected by radar can be overlaid also.

Weather Education for the public

CHU Suet-ying and CHENG Sheung-tak

The boys listened carefully to the explanation from the Weather Service Officer.



showed them some common weather equipment, they suddenly became excited and made frequent enquiries. They expressed that it was a valuable opportunity to get contact with things closely related to their daily life.

The elderly found their best seats before the arrival of the WSO and were interested in the talk too. After the talk, the WSO presented souvenirs to them and took the opportunity reminding them to keep warm with enough clothes during cold weather.

This is not the end of the story. The WSO will pursue with the promotion activities to the youths and elderly in order to arouse their awareness on weather related hazards later this year.

Since 2003, the "Weather Service Officers" (WSO) of the Hong Kong Observatory have been visiting schools to give talks on weather knowledge to pupils so as to promote public awareness on disaster prevention and mitigation. To let more members of the public understand the importance of nature disaster prevention, the WSO paid visits to the "Sha Tin Boy's Home" and "New Pine Care Centre" for the first time to give talks on general meteorology and weather warnings in December last year and January this year respectively.

The boys sat in order and listened carefully to the WSO. At the beginning, they seemed to be too quiet and too discipline-minded. However, when we



The elderly were interested to find out more about the weather warning signals from the Weather Service Officer

The Observatory enhanced the Weather Information Service for South China Coastal Waters

WAT Kam-sing

To enhance the marine weather services to fishermen and mariners, the Hong Kong Observatory commenced on 6 June to provide an additional bulletin of Weather Information for South China Coastal Waters (SCCW) at 9:30 a.m., with the number of bulletins increasing from 6 to 7 times a day. This enables the fishermen and mariners to obtain more frequently updated weather information.

The bulletin for SCCW is broadcast by the Radio 5 of Radio Television

Hong Kong (AM 783 kHz) and Commercial Radio 1 (FM 88.1-89.5 MHz) at 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and mid-night every day. It is also broadcast on the 8812 kHz radio channel at 6:33 a.m., 1:33 p.m. and 5:33 p.m.. When a Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal is in force, a broadcast will be added at 9:33 p.m.. The weather bulletin will also be updated on the Observatory's "1878200 Dial-a-Weather System" and website.

Publicizing the revised Tropical Cyclone Warning System

LEUNG Wing-Mo

The revised Tropical Cyclone Warning System is in effect. To promote public understanding of the revised system, the Observatory and the Information Services Department jointly produced a set of TV and radio Announcements. Broadcasting of these announcements started on 25 June and 9 July respectively.

The TV announcement aims to convey the message that during typhoons, due to local terrain and built environment, winds in different parts of Hong Kong may vary significantly, and the Observatory will consider the winds in different parts of Hong Kong before issuing the appropriate signal.

To more effectively bring out the key message, the TV announcement takes the form of cartoon animation. The story takes the situation of the No.3 signal being in force. A jogger runs at ease in the urban area, as he is sheltered from the high winds by the surrounding high-rise buildings. But he runs into a predicament as he reaches exposed areas where winds become significantly stronger. At the end, the announcement call upon members of the public to pay attention to tropical cyclone bulletins on TV and radio broadcasts and the Observatory's website, or dial the hotline 1878200 for latest weather information. The radio announcement also brings out the same message in a pleasantry style.



TV Announcement is available at the
Information Services Department webpage:
http://www.isd.gov.hk/eng/tvapi/07_ry11.html

The 'Science in the Public Service' Campaign - Student Project Competition

The 'Science in the Public Service' Campaign is organizing a 'Student Project Competition'. The theme is 'Climate Change - What can we do?' The objective of the competition is to enhance students' understanding and interest in science. Through activities including information collection, research and analysis, it also aims at strengthening students' scientific thinking, critical reasoning and communication skills. The competition is divided into two categories, primary and secondary schools, and accepts no more than five teams from each school. No student shall be represented in more than one team. Submissions will be assessed by the accuracy of contents, insight, creativity, practicality, language and presentation skills. Each prize-winning team will be awarded a trophy, certificates, and book coupons. Deadline for submission is 31 January 2008. Details can be found at <http://www.science.gov.hk>.

The Observatory wins international acclaims on its contribution to aviation meteorology

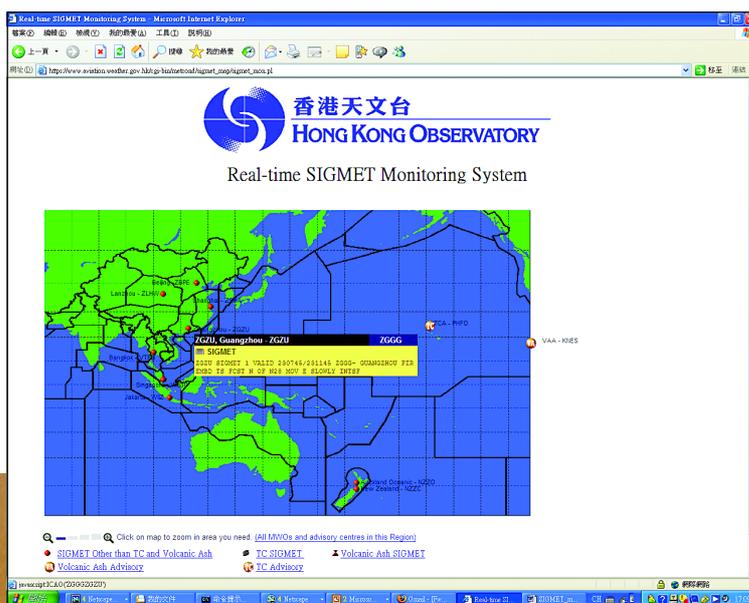
SHUN Chi-ming

In July 2007, I attended the annual ICAO Asia/Pacific regional meeting and chaired the part on aviation meteorology. The Observatory submitted a total of 8 papers, which was an all-time high since our first participation at this meeting in 1997.

I am delighted to see that the Observatory's contributions on a wide range of aviation weather services continue to gain international recognition. In particular, the meeting paid tribute to the Observatory in setting up a dedicated webpage to monitor en-route significant weather (SIGMET) at ICAO's invitation. Through the assistance of the Singapore data exchange centre, all SIGMETs and advisories issued by the Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres and Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres are forwarded to the Observatory to ensure availability of all data on the webpage. The meeting acknowledged that this webpage would facilitate the monitoring of SIGMETs. ICAO had issued state letters to the regional data banks, data exchange centres and meteorological watch offices to encourage them to send their subscriptions to the Observatory for access to the webpage so that the issuance of SIGMETs and the corresponding data exchange in the Asia/Pacific region could be effectively monitored.

At the meeting, I also introduced the SIGMET posters prepared by the Observatory, again developed on ICAO's invitation, and received positive feedback. The posters will be forwarded to ICAO and WMO for their final endorsement before distributing to all meteorological watch offices for their reference.

Apart from the above contributions in international matters, the Observatory also played an active role in the application of advanced technologies. In particular, the Observatory made use of the latest communication technology to conduct a trial to uplink integrated windshear alerts from the Hong Kong Terminal Doppler Weather Radar and the Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR) Windshear Alerting System (LIWAS) to the cockpit, the latter being the first of its kind in the world. Representatives from the international pilot association (IFALPA) and the USA highly appreciated this development for enhancement of aviation safety.



Webpage of SIGMET developed by the Observatory



Mr. C.M. Shun (left in the middle) chairing the ICAO meeting on aviation meteorology

A New Milestone in Meteorological Satellite Reception

SO Chi-kuen

The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr C.Y. Lam and the Consul-General of Japan in Hong Kong, Mr Shigekazu Sato, officiated at the ceremony to commemorate the opening of a new satellite reception system at the Hong Kong Observatory on 30 August 2007 (Figure 1), marking a new milestone in meteorological satellite reception in Hong Kong. The new system receives cloud images from Japan's new-generation Geostationary Meteorological Satellite, that is, the Multi-functional Transport Satellite-1R. The new system employs the latest technology in receiving satellite data broadcast in a new format. With high data processing power, the new system receives and produces satellite images at a faster speed.

The first Geostationary Meteorological Satellite for the Asia and Pacific regions was launched by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) 30 years ago in 1977. The Observatory utilized self-made equipment to receive cloud images from the satellite (Figure 2). In 1979, the Observatory purchased a new reception system with the antenna installed at the Hong Kong Observatory Headquarters (Figure 3). Cloud images were available once every three hours. It has since been in operation until early this year, witnessing the evolution of geostationary meteorological satellites and the evolution of satellite reception systems in Hong Kong over the years. Now, the new reception system receives cloud images every half hour, providing indispensable weather information to the weather forecasters.

One of the advantages of the new reception system is to receive and generate cloud images quicker than before. It used to take some 22 minutes to receive an image of the whole globe but now it takes only about 6 minutes. Furthermore, the resolution of cloud imagery is slightly increased. For instance, the resolution of visible channel increased from the previous 1.25 km to 1 km. Cloud images appear sharper than before.

In tandem with the opening of the reception system, the Observatory enhanced the provision of satellite images on its website. The coverage of satellite images is extended to encompass a larger area over the western north Pacific (Figure 4). All tropical cyclones mentioned in the Observatory's weather forecast bulletins can be seen in the satellite images:

http://www.weather.gov.hk/wxinfo/intersat/satpic_s.shtml (Chinese)

http://www.weather.gov.hk/wxinfo/intersat/satpic_s.shtml (English)



Figure 1: Mr C Y Lam, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (left) and Mr Shigekazu Sato (right), Consul-General of Japan in Hong Kong officiated at the opening ceremony for the reception system for Japan's new Geostationary Meteorological Satellite.

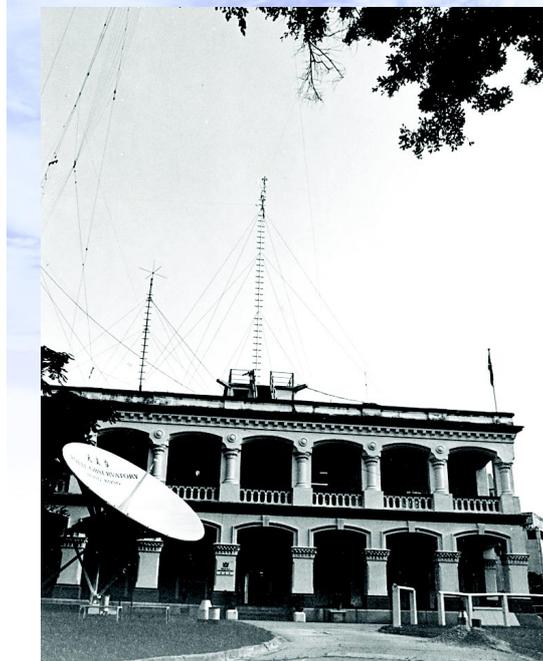


Figure 3: Antenna of the old satellite reception system at the Hong Kong Observatory headquarters

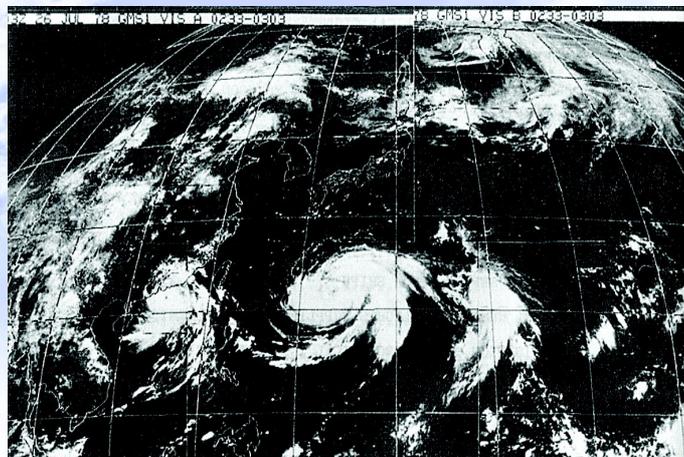


Figure 2: Cloud picture received by the Observatory from Japan's first Geostationary Meteorological Satellite on 26 July 1978.



Figure 4: An enhanced satellite image covering a larger area is accessible on the Observatory's website.

Foreign Institutes Study the Applications of LIDAR in Hong Kong

CHAN Pak-wai

The Observatory leads the world in windshear alerting services, and attracted many foreign institutes to learn from our experience. In the second issue of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Journal in 2007, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) wrote an article on windshear detection systems (http://www.icao.int/icao/en/jr/2007/6202_en.pdf), with the title "Ground-based wind shear detection systems have become vital to safe operations". The article introduced the windshear work of the Observatory and pointed out that "The ability of LIDAR Doppler in detecting dry wind shear has been proven in Hong Kong". This is a testimony to the leading role of the Observatory in windshear alerting service. In late July 2007, Eurocontrol experts visited Hong Kong and studied our experience in the applications of LIDAR in aviation weather services.



An article in ICAO Journal introduced the Observatory's work on windshear alerting

P.W. Chan, Scientific Officer, shared his experience on the applications of LIDAR with the visitors from Eurocontrol.

Amendments of ICAO standard and recommended practices on aviation meteorological services

Sandy SONG

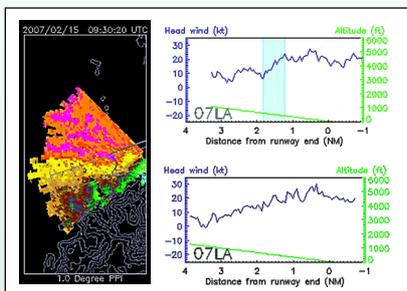
Aviation meteorological information is crucial to aviation safety. ICAO regularly reviews the standard and recommended practices of aviation meteorological services (ICAO Annex 3) and makes regular amendments. The next amendments of Annex 3, which will become effective in November 2007, includes simplification of weather products, automation of manual tasks, removing the provisional aerodrome forecast (TAF), and lengthening the validity of TAF, etc. Since these amendments will have significant impacts to aviation users, the Observatory keeps close liaison with airlines and the Civil Aviation Department to ensure that these amendments would be implemented smoothly.



Observatory staff met with aviation users to discuss amendments to ICAO Annex 3.

Using Dedicated LIDARs to Enhance Windshear Alerting at the Airport

CHAN Pak-wai



In late 2006, the Observatory installed a LIDAR at the northern fire station, which is the second unit at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). This second LIDAR, being closer to the north runway than the first one, is used specifically to monitor the windshear condition over this runway. In spring this year, most of the aircraft landed at the north runway of HKIA from the west, viz. the 07LA runway corridor. In comparing with the first LIDAR, it was found that the second unit provided more accurate windshear alerts for the 07LA corridor. The alert duration was reduced by 11% and the hit rate of pilot windshear reports reached a higher value fulfilling the original expectations. The result shows that the use of runway-dedicated LIDARs could enhance the alerting of windshear at the airport.

The Observatory plans to move the first LIDAR to a location closer to the south runway to enhance the monitoring of windshear for departing flights. The related work is expected to take place in late 2007/early 2008.

The upper and the lower panels on the right hand side of the figure show respectively the headwind profiles measured by the second and the first LIDAR at 17:35 H (09:35 UTC), 15 February 2007 over the 07LA runway corridor. The second LIDAR successfully captured the windshear (highlighted in blue), consistent with the pilot report. The left hand side of the figure gives the LIDAR velocity image at that time, with different colour shadings for the wind speed, clearly depicting the wind variations over the 07LA corridor.

Meeting of Liaison Group on Weather Information for General Aviation

CHEUNG Ping

The third meeting of the Liaison Group for General Aviation was held on 6 July 2007 at the Hong Kong Observatory Headquarters. Representatives from different sectors of the local general aviation community, including the Government Flying Service, the Hong Kong Aviation Club and local helicopter companies joined the meeting. Through regular meetings of the liaison group, the Observatory can better understand users' needs and receive comments for improving its weather services for general aviation. According to a recent customer survey on general aviation, all respondents considered the liaison group very useful and important, and they were all satisfied with the weather services provided by the Observatory for general aviation.

Staff of the Observatory introduced to the users newly developed products and collected their feedback during the meeting. Among the new products and services, the service of sharing of weather reports for general aviation received numerous compliments from the users. In that service, the Observatory provides a platform for pilots from local aviation organisations to upload and share their weather reports. The weather reports can serve as a reference for other pilots planning their flight mission and allow them to get hold of more comprehensive weather information. The service is currently in trial phase and further optimisation work is underway with useful user comments being incorporated. The Observatory plans to put the service into operation later this year.



Representatives from the local general aviation community and the Hong Kong Observatory attending the third meeting of the Liaison Group for General Aviation.

Aviation Seminar - experience sharing with our partners in Africa

HONG Chi-yuen

In July, I attended an aviation seminar in Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. This seminar was organised by the UK Meteorological Office and co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). In the past, this seminar was held in UK. To facilitate more participants from African countries, the seminar was held in Kenya this year. Apart from Kenya representatives, participants from Namibia, Zambia and other African countries, aviation meteorologists from Asian and European countries such as China, Tajikistan and France also took part in the seminar.



Mr. C.Y. Hong, (3rd left), participants and lecturers of the Aviation Seminar at the Institute for Meteorological Training and Research Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

It was encouraging to see that the Observatory's contribution and development on aviation meteorology were used as demonstration model during the seminar. In particular, the booklet on "Windshear and Turbulence in Hong Kong - information for pilots" prepared by the Observatory in cooperation with the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) was used as an illustration of windshear and turbulence alerting services of the Observatory. I was also invited to share my experience with other participants on aviation weather services. This indicates that our works are recognized and appreciated by the international aviation community.

Though the pace of development in civil aviation and aviation meteorology is not the same for different states, we all share the common goal of providing better and more economical aviation weather services for the safe operation of aircrafts. The seminar offered us an excellent opportunity to address our common issues and future challenges.

Hong Kong Observatory co-organised "Hong Kong Aviation Day 2007"

SONG Man-kuen

On 8 July 2007, the Hong Kong Aviation Club, Chinese Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Civil Aviation Department and Hong Kong Observatory jointly organised the Hong Kong Aviation Day 2007 at the old Kai Tak Airport. The event aims at promoting the aviation culture and related education in Hong Kong. Other co-organisers of the event included local airlines, helicopter companies and various local aviation sports associations.

The aviation day featured game booths, exhibition of different models of fix-wings and helicopters, as well as demonstration shows of helicopters and hot-air balloon. It brought enjoyable moments to over two thousand



Ms Sandy Song of the Observatory introduced the aviation weather services in Hong Kong to participants of the Hong Kong Aviation Day 2007.



Acting Assistant Director of Hong Kong Observatory, Mr. Shun Chi-Ming (2nd right) gave support to the Observatory's exhibition booth at old Kai Tak airport on the Hong Kong Aviation Day 2007.

participants. The Observatory set up an exhibition booth for the event to promote the Observatory's weather information for aviation sports on the internet (<http://www.weather.gov.hk/aviat/soaring/index.htm>). Movies on aviation weather services were also shown to illustrate the Observatory's work and achievements during the recent years.

The Observatory has been maintaining close ties with the local aviation community with a view to better understand and meet their needs for weather information. The information booth of the Observatory was well received by local aviators and members of the public.

Director of the Hong Kong Observatory invited as contributing author and reviewer of the IPCC Assessment Report

LEUNG Yin-kong, John



In the International Conference on Climate Change held in Hong Kong in May this year, the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, LAM Chiu-ying (2nd right) invited the Co-Chairs of the IPCC Working Group I, QIN Dahe (1st right), Working Group II, Osvaldo F CANZIANI (3rd right) and Working Group III, Ogunlade DAVIDSON (4th right) to give briefings on the Fourth Assessment Report.

Global climate change has been the focus of scientific research in recent years. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was jointly established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1988. There are three working groups in IPCC which gather together top scientists around the world to provide governments and the international community with authoritative scientific assessments on global and regional climate change, its potential impact and the possible response strategies.

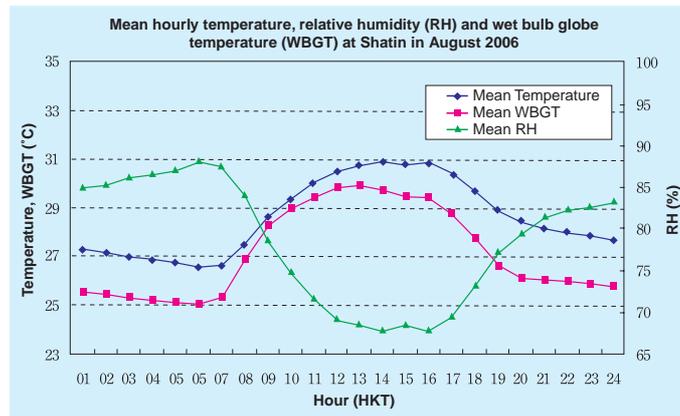
Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr. LAM Chiu-ying, was invited to join other internationally renowned climatologists in drafting and reviewing the Fourth Assessment Report of Working Group I. This authoritative assessment report provides the physical basis of climate change to various governments' policy-making officials. This is the first time for the Hong Kong Observatory to be invited to participate in this meaningful work of IPCC. The invitation demonstrated the international recognition on the efforts and contribution of the Hong Kong Observatory on climate change.

Climate & Olympic equestrian events in Hong Kong

LEE Tsz-cheung

To prepare Hong Kong for hosting the 2008 Olympic equestrian events in August next year, a test event "Good Luck Beijing - HKSAR 10th Anniversary Cup" was staged in August this year. Since the hot and humid weather of Hong Kong in August may affect the performance of the athletes and horses participating in the events, the Hong Kong Observatory has installed equipment to collect meteorological data in the two venues, Shatin and Beas River, since June 2006. Relevant data and analysis results have been communicated to the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and other organizers for reference. To better assess the effect of heat stress on horses during the competition, the Observatory has also set up a "Wet Bulb Globe

Temperature" equipment for measuring the air temperature, humidity and black globe temperature at the venues. The black globe is a sealed hollow black metal ball and its temperature inside is an indication of the heat absorbed from the sunshine. The corresponding heat stress is represented



by the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) which is deduced from the measured air temperature, humidity and black globe temperature. Generally speaking, the higher the WBGT, the higher is the heat stress. From the data collected in August 2006, WBGT is highest from noon to 2:00 p.m. (see Figure). This feature has been taken into consideration in drawing up the competition schedule.

Observatory supports

the International Conference on Climate Change in Hong Kong

Editorial Board



Photo taken at the International Conference on Climate Change ICCC (From right to left: Mr. C.Y. Lam, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory; Professor Qin Dahe, Co-chair of IPCC Working Group I; Ms. Luciana Wong, Chairperson of ICCC Technical Committee; Dr. Osvaldo Canziani, Co-chair of IPCC Working Group II; Professor Ogunlade Davidson, Co-chair of IPCC Working Group III; and Ir. Otto Poon, Chairperson of ICCC Organizing Committee).

The Hong Kong Observatory provided support to the four professional engineering institutions of Hong Kong in the organization of the International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC). The conference was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in May. It is the first large-scale international conference on climate change ever held in Hong Kong, demonstrating the increasing awareness of Hong Kong on the importance of global climate change.

Mr Lam Chiu-ying, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory and Mr Yeung Kai-hing, Assistant Director, were invited to serve as members of the organizing and technical committees respectively. Mr. Lam also assisted the organizing committee to invite the Co-Chairs of the Working Group I, Working Group II and Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to come and take part in a special session to explain the Summary for Policymakers of the three related parts of the IPCC's Fourth Assessment report released earlier this year. It was a rare opportunity for the Co-Chairs of the three Working Groups to sit together to discuss with the conference participants. The special session was chaired by Mr Lam Chiu-ying in his capacity of the Permanent Representative of Hong Kong, China with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The ICCC attracted many international experts to Hong Kong to share their research achievements. Papers presented included findings from the scientific, technical and socio-economic perspectives on the impacts of global climate change and the effective measures to mitigate it.

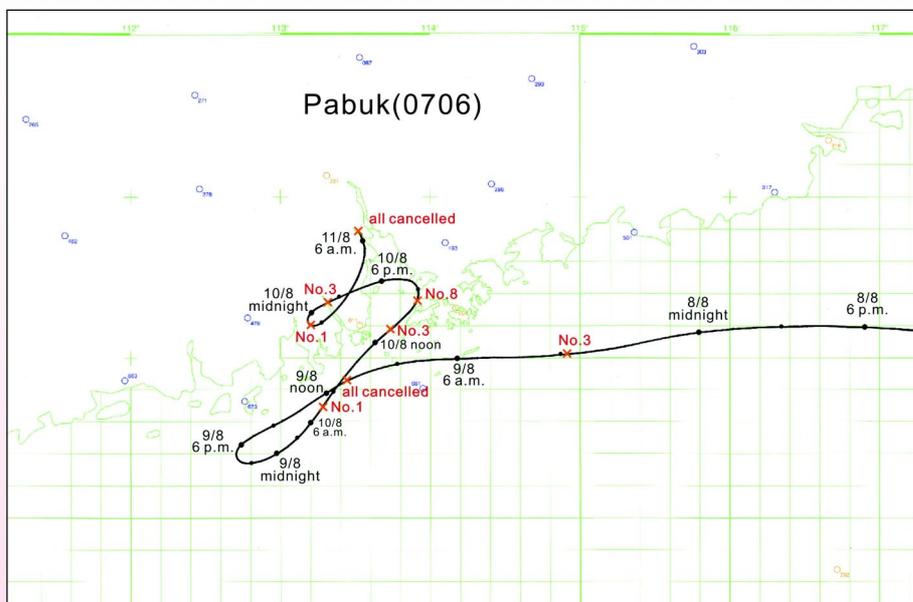
The erratic Pabuk

Editorial Board

Pabuk is the Laotian name of a freshwater fish. Coincidentally, Tropical Storm Pabuk that affected Hong Kong this August seemed to take after the slippery and erratic characteristics of the fish. After skirting south of Hong Kong on 9 August, the storm took a sharp turn heading towards Hong Kong again on the early morning of 10 August, necessitating the re-issue of tropical cyclone signals. It surprised the Observatory's forecasters again by whirling twice over the Pearl River Estuary before dissipating over land.

The movement of tropical cyclones is mainly influenced by the ambient airflow. The erratic movement of Pabuk reflected that the steering airflow was weak. The remnant of Tropical Depression Wutip also affected the movement of Pabuk. When Pabuk came close to Hong Kong again, it in the meantime intensified and accelerated, making it a very difficult case to forecast. The Observatory therefore had to issue the No.3, Pre-No.8 and No.8 signals within a short period of time. The case of Pabuk well demonstrated the limitations of weather forecasting despite the remarkable advances in meteorology in the past decades.

Fortunately, Pabuk took an abrupt turn of 90 degrees to the west before hitting Hong Kong and as a result its gales were mainly confined to the western part of Hong Kong and the waters south of the territory.



Track of Pabuk

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Climate Prediction Workshop

LEE Sai-ming

In collaboration with the Guangdong Meteorological Bureau and the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau, the Hong Kong Observatory held the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Climate Prediction Workshop on 6 July 2007 in Hong Kong to share experience on the use of numerical climate model.

After adapting a regional climate model from the Experimental Climate Prediction Center (ECPC) of the University of California at San Diego in 2000, the Observatory carried out a number of experiments on seasonal forecast. Starting from March 2006, seasonal forecasts and products from the regional climate model were disseminated to the public on an experimental basis. Smooth operation of the regional climate model relied on boundary conditions supplied by ECPC. To get rid of such reliance on boundary conditions provided by a third party, the Observatory adapted a global model from ECPC in November 2006. With this global model, the Observatory can prepare the boundary conditions supporting operation of the regional climate model at will. Along with the adaptation of the global model, the Observatory upgraded the regional climate model to its latest version in a bid to enhance forecasting skill.

In the Workshop, the Observatory shared with colleagues from Guangdong and Macao the experience of adapting the model suite and discussed its performance on seasonal forecast. Moreover, the two counterparts got an opportunity to acquire hands-on experience of installing and operating the model suite. Besides, delegates from Guangdong shared their experience of using the Regional Climate Model of National Climate Centre in forecasting rainfall during rain seasons of southern China; while colleagues from Macao talked about their research work on monthly forecast.

All participants found the Workshop substantial. It provided a good platform for experience sharing and discussion, and rendered help in development of seasonal forecasting activity.

Participants of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Climate Prediction Workshop taking photograph with the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory



'Friends of Observatory' Assist in Public Education of Tropical Cyclone Warnings

Editorial Board



Mr S. C. Tai conducted a course to the docents of the Guided Tour with revised route.

The Guided Public Tour of the Observatory has been running for almost three years and remains popular. Some ten thousands visitors have been received since it was launched. The docents are all trained 'Friends of Observatory' volunteers. To make the tour even more attractive, the Observatory revised the route in September to include a short visit to the forecasting office and viewing the new corporation video of the Observatory. A course was organized for the docents on 17 August to prepare them for the new route and update them on the Observatory's instruments and operations.

If you are interested in the tour, please enroll on-line at the Observatory website http://www.weather.gov.hk/education/art/hko_tour_e.htm. Each tour is limited to 30 places. Successful applicants will be selected by drawing lots. The tours are free of charge.

The docents also serve as a bridge between the Observatory and the citizens and often help to publicize Observatory's information of public concern. Tropical cyclone Pabuk visited Hong Kong twice in August and necessitated the issue of the No.3 signal, Pre-No.8 Announcement and the No.8 signal within a short period of time. People flocked home and there were serious congestions in MTR stations. Mr Tai Sai-choi, Scientific Officer in charge of service promotion took the opportunity in the course to restate that the Pre-No.8 Announcement aims to remind employers to release their employees in stages, so as to ease traffic congestions; and those who live in remote areas or outlying islands should be released first. He requested the docents to help convey this message to their relatives and visitors.

FRIENDLY VISITS

Editorial board



Consul of the Canadian Consulate Mr Rejean Letourneau (2nd right) and his colleagues visited the Observatory on 5 July. Senior Scientific Officer Ms Hilda Lam explained how we make use of numerical weather prediction products from different centres to forecast weather for the next several days.

On 12 July, the Director of the Observatory, Mr Lam Chiu-ying (1st left), received the Deputy Secretary for Commerce & Economic Development (Commerce & Industry) Mr Wong Kwok-bun (2nd right), Christopher, JP, and his colleagues. Mr Lam gave a guided tour to the visitors and briefed them on the work of the Observatory in respect of public weather service, aviation weather service, earthquake monitoring, tsunami warning, TV weather service and radiation monitoring and assessment.



Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Christopher Wong, showed his interest in the Observatory's Studio.



Senior Scientific Officer Ms Sharon Lau explained our work in radiation monitoring.

On 20 July, Director-General of National Agency for Meteorology, Hydrology and Environmental Monitoring of Mongolia Mr Sevjid Enkhtuvshin (left) visited the Observatory. Our Director Mr Lam Chiu-ying (middle) accompanied him to visit the Hong Kong Meteorological Centre, the Studio, the Radiation Monitoring and Assessment Centre etc. He was particularly interested in the production workflow of TV weather programmes and was impressed by our small yet self-contained TV studio.

FRIENDLY VISITS

Editorial board



Members of Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce toured the Observatory on 20 July. Senior Scientific Officer Mr Leung Wing-mo (middle) introduced to the visitors our public weather services.

Member of the European Parliament Ms Ana Maria Gomes was greeted by Acting Director Dr Lee Boon-ying (middle) on 26 July. Dr Lee showed her the Hong Kong Meteorological Centre and Senior Scientific Officer Dr Tam Cheuk-ming (left) explained how we use the numerical weather prediction products from European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts in our daily forecasting operations.



A Kenyan delegation for Emergency Management paid a visit to the Observatory on 1 August. They toured the Hong Kong Meteorological Centre, the Studio and the History Room. Scientific Officer Mr Leung Wai-hung (1st left) introduced our weather forecasting procedures and operations.

Professor DING Yi-hui delivered lectures at the Observatory

YEUNG King-kay

Professor DING Yihui was appointed as a scientific advisor of the Hong Kong Observatory since 1996. With the family tree traceable to the Shandong Province, Professor Ding himself was born in Anhui. He was graduated from the Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1967. He was once the first director-general of the National Climate Centre (NCC) of China. At present, he is the specialist consultant of China Meteorological Administration on climate change.

Professor Ding is an internationally renowned climatologist and has made important contribution in many international activities and organizations. He was well known for his participation and coordination in the drafting of the First, Second and Third Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Professor Ding received numerous awards for his scientific and technological achievements. In recent years, he received the first prize of the Award for State Science and Technology Advancement in 2003. He also received an outstanding achievement award from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 2005. He was elected as an academican of the Chinese Academy of Engineering in 2005.

On 9 and 10 July, Professor Ding came specially to give lectures at the Hong Kong Observatory for two days. He introduced to the Observatory's colleagues the latest status of climate change in China as well as the work and roles of the China Meteorological Administration

in response to climate change. In his lectures, Professor Ding highlighted that recent global warming is mainly caused by human activities. He quoted some European research results, saying that 2°C (compared with 1860) is the maximum temperature rise the human society can take. In order to achieve this goal of keeping the maximum temperature rise below 2°C, the concentration of greenhouse gases should be stabilized at 450 ppm or below. As the global concentration of carbon dioxide has already reached 379 ppm in 2005, room for further emission is very limited. Finally, Professor Ding quoted a recent analysis by an English economist Sir Nicholas Stern, saying that if we take action to combat climate change now we only need to put in 1% of our GDP to avoid the likely 5-20% GDP loss due to climate change in future. We can see that our response to climate change is a challenge as well as an opportunity and taking prompt action is very important.



The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory Mr. Lam Chiu Ying presented a souvenir to Professor Ding Yihui.

Colleagues of the Observatory benefited greatly from the visit of Professor Ding, especially in future challenges of climate change. These invaluable insights will help to define our scope of work in the future.

Professor Ding spoke highly of the work on climate change and climate forecasting of the Observatory in recent years. This is a valued encouragement to those who are involved in the relevant study and research. Professor Ding also provided valuable suggestions about the direction of our future development.

Location Filming of the Observatory by Huafeng Group of Meteorological Audio-Visual Information

LEUNG Wing-mo



Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr. Lam Chiu-ying, spoke of the memorable events in 10 years of re-unification in an interview conducted by Mr. Li liang of Huafeng.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the HKSAR, the Huafeng Group of Meteorological Audio-Visual Information under the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) visited the Observatory and interviewed a number of its staff on 18-21 June. The crew filmed and documented the work and achievements made by the Observatory during the past ten years, including cooperation with the CMA, neighbouring regions and the international meteorological community, public weather services, etc. The crew also filmed the meteorological instruments installed at the Sha Tin Racecourse for supporting the Olympic equestrian events to be held in Hong Kong in 2008, as well as the Observatory's office at the Hong Kong International Airport.

Ms Zhang Ling, Chief Editor of Huafeng Group said that a 30-minute documentary on the subject was produced and broadcast on their meteorological channels on the HKSAR Establishment Day on 1 July.

Talk on Marine Weather Services for Fishermen Organisations

LAM Ching-chi

The Observatory has been maintaining close ties with fishermen organisations. Every year during the fishing moratorium, the Observatory, with the assistance of the Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department, invites local fishermen organisations to a talk on marine weather warning and forecasting services. The objectives are to increase fishermen's understanding of marine weather information services provided by the Observatory and to promote new weather services to fishermen with a view to enhancing their safety in fishing operations. The recent enhancements in the bulletin of Weather Information for South China Coastal Waters, including the provision of information on tropical cyclones and low pressure areas for an extended area, an extension of weather outlook up to 72 hours ahead, as well as an increase in the frequency of updating and broadcasting the bulletin, were launched in response to requests from the fishermen. The Observatory also took the opportunity of the annual meeting to better understand fishermen's needs for weather information in hope of providing weather services that best suit them.



Ms C.C. Lam, speaker of the Observatory (5th right, front row), and members of fishermen organisations taking a group photo after a talk on marine weather information services on 27 June. Next to Ms Lam is Keung Yin-man (4th right), M.B.E., Chairman of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Floating Fishermen Welfare Promotion Association.



New staff movement - *female meteorological experts continue to be the linchpin in aviation weather service*



Head of Airport Meteorological Office, Ms Sandy Song (left) and head of aviation weather forecast services, Ms Queenie Lam (right) pledge to work with other colleagues in providing high quality aviation meteorological services

Editorial Board

On 12 July 2007, Senior Scientific Officer Ms Sharon Lau started to take up her new challenge in the Radiation Monitoring and Assessment Branch. On the same day, her original post in the Airport Meteorological Office was taken up by Senior Scientific Officer Ms Sandy Song. Before that, Sandy was actively involved in planning and development of aviation meteorological products and services, including the "Aviation Meteorological Information Dissemination System" (AMIDS) which is well received in the aviation community. Senior Scientific Officer, Ms Queenie Lam, took up the post of Ms Sandy Song on the same day as the head of aviation weather forecast services. This is the first time that Queenie takes up duties in aviation meteorology. Both Sandy and Queenie welcomed the new posting and were eager to contribute towards the on-going development of aviation weather service in Hong Kong.

Staff Promotion

Editorial Board

This summer, our colleague Mr WONG Kwun-wa (2nd right) received a letter from Assistant Director Dr LEE Boon-ying (2nd left) on his promotion to Senior Experimental Officer. Acting Assistant Director Mr SHUN Chi-ming (1st right) and Departmental Secretary Mr CHOI Siu-chuen (1st left) also congratulated him.

Congratulation!
Congratulation!



2007 Chief Executive's Commendation for Government /Public Service

Winnie YIU



The professional and pragmatic working attitude of the Hong Kong Observatory staff is recognised once again.

Mr Ng Tim-hung, Works Supervisor II of the Observatory was awarded the 2007 Chief Executive's Commendation for Government /Public Service because of his outstanding performance.

Mr Ng shows devotion in his daily work and performs in excellence all the time. He is zealous to help others and therefore enjoys the respect and esteem of colleagues at all levels. This award is more than a recognition of his personal achievement, it is also a pride and encouragement of the whole department.

New colleague, Miss Lucy KONG, Analyst Programmer I

WONG Mei-shing

This summer, a new staff Miss KONG Kang-ling, Lucy joined the Observatory. She is an Analyst/Programmer 1 deployed from the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO). Before posting to the Observatory, Lucy worked for the Housing Department at Ho Man Tin and participated in various information technology (IT) related tasks such as process improvement, quality assurance of IT system, tendering and administration of IT related contracts.

Lucy's main tasks in the Observatory are to assist in defining and promoting IT standards, guidelines and best practices for the Observatory. These would serve to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of software development and system maintenance.

Talking to her, you will find Lucy a kind, nice and broad-minded lady. Besides, she is a cat lover and would be glad to share with you her experience with cats outside working hours.



Lucy taking a photo in the workplace



Healthy lifestyle series:

Table Tennis Director's Championship

CHENG Sheung-tak

The Hong Kong Observatory Staff Association organises various types of ball games for our staff every year. These activities not only provide a chance for staff to exert their potential in sports but also promote healthy lifestyle.

The Table Tennis Director's championship was held between 1 and 8 June this year and attracted many "Table Tennis elites" taking part in the event. After many rounds of competition, Miss Mak Man Yi and Mr Wong Mei Shing won the woman single and man single championship respectively. Meanwhile, the Development, Research and Administration Branch successfully defended their title as the overall championship in the Inter-Branch competition.

All the winners in this event were awarded the prizes presented by the Director of Hong Kong Observatory. The success of this event relies heavily on the support of all participating colleagues, who contributed in creating a joyful atmosphere.



Director of the Hong Kong Observatory Mr. Lam Chiu Ying (4th right, 2nd row) taking photos with table tennis players

Hong Kong Observatory received the Promotion Happy Family Award

CHENG Chi-tat

The Hong Kong Observatory's staff-caring management is once again honoured and recognised by social organisations. Caritas Hong Kong and Family Movement, a Catholic family movement, awarded the Observatory the Promotion Happy Family Award to pay tribute to the Observatory's achievements in pursuing family-friendly policies. The Award Ceremony was held in Tsimshatsui Hong Kong Cultural Center Plaza. Acting Director Dr. Lee Boon-ying represents the Observatory in receiving the award in front of some 500 attendees.

The Hong Kong Observatory fully supports the Caritas Hong Kong and Family Movement, which calls for the building of a harmonious family and caring of family members. We firmly believe that the family is one of the pillars of a healthy career. The Observatory encourages staff to come off duty on time and spend quality time with family members. Last summer, we organised a Happy Family Day for staff to bring along their families to their workplace to experience the working environment of their beloved family members. The Hong Kong Observatory regards the family of our staff as a valuable working partner, and caring our colleagues is one of our values. The Hong Kong Observatory will continue to implement the family-friendly policy and support our staff in fostering happy families.



Acting Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Dr LEE Boon-ying (left), receiving the Promotion Happy Family Award

The Observatory wins Community Chest Award again

CHOI Siu-chuen

The Hong Kong Observatory has won the Highest Per Capita Contribution Award again under the Civil Service Category of the Community Chest Community Assistance Raised by Employees (CARE) Scheme of the Employee Contribution Programme 2006/07. This is the fifth consecutive year that the Hong Kong Observatory won the Award. It signifies the generosity of the Observatory's staff and their care for the needy.



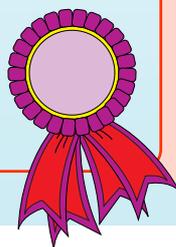
The Highest Per Capita Contribution Award Trophy

Observatory Staff

Receiving Praise

Staff of the Observatory receiving words of thank and commendation from the public or organizations during the period May-August 2007:

Mrs LAM KWONG Si-lin, Hilda	Senior Scientific Officer
Mr MA Wai-man	Senior Scientific Officer
Miss LAU Sum-yee, Sharon	Senior Scientific Officer
Mr HUI Tai-wai, David	Scientific Officer
Mr LEUNG Wai-hung	Scientific Officer
Miss CHAN Man-yee, Eliza	Experimental Officer
Mr WONG Mei-shing	Experimental Officer
Mr LO Tak-shing	Security Guard



Public Weather Service Award Winners 2nd Quarter, 2007

Best TV Weather Programme Presenter:
Mr. LI Sun-wai, Victor

Visit to Road Research Laboratory and Wind Tunnel

WOO Wang-chun



On the morning of 23 June, a group of Observatory staff joined a tour organized by the International Association for Hydraulic Research - Hong Kong Chapter to visit the Road Research Laboratory and wind tunnel facilities of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University at Ma On Shan and Fan Ling respectively. Drainage systems for heavy rain running off the road, noise-reduction researches for highways, and experiments on the effect of environmental airflow over buildings were demonstrated. The site visit enriched our knowledge on how city infrastructure is affected by the weather.

Staff of the Observatory visiting an experimental road platform of the Polytechnic University.

Hong Kong Observatory Tree Planting Day 2007

CHENG Chi-tat



Participants of the Hong Kong Observatory Tree Planting Day 2007

14th April, Saturday. Sunny and clear. Around 20 colleagues and family members of the Hong Kong Observatory gathered in a small forest in Tsimshatsui: a knoll at the back of the Hong Kong Observatory Headquarters, to participate in the yearly Tree Planting Day. After taking a group photo, the Green warriors departed with their sleeves folded up and their hands armed with gloves. These happy environmentalists dug with their spades under the mild Spring sun to create new homes for the plant seedlings generously provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. One

by one the plant seedlings were carefully planted in the soft mud, with their new leaves sparkling under the sun. The last step was watering, with a prayer for the seedling to flourish.

Hard works create empty stomachs. With dozens of new trees planted, Green warriors headed back to the 1883 Building for teas and sandwiches. The Tree Planting Day 2007 ended with the participants enjoying a meaningful weekend morning.



The beloved son of colleague SY Cheung watering the newly planted seedlings

An Enjoyable Musical Gathering

LEUNG Yin-kong, John

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) Staff Association and the Happy Business jointly presented an enjoyable evening musical gathering in July 2007. It is a bit of surprise to know that many colleagues are devoted music lovers and talented musicians.

This gathering was a new attempt of the Staff Association to organize a cultural function other than the usual recreational and sport events to suit the diversified interests of our staff. In the gathering, the colleagues revealed their sentimental and light-hearted side in stark contrast to their usual serious and scientific attitude.

The Director Mr. LAM Chiu-ying's performance with the "Kong-zhu" (空竹) demonstrated a combination of rhythm, music and cultural tradition. Colleagues and their children were eager to learn the secret skills of playing with the "Kong-zhu". Assistant Director, Mr LEE Boon-ying, is a great piano player and lover of Chopin. My son, Johnson LEUNG happens to be a fanatic piano lover and had great exchanges in musical performances with Mr. LI in the gathering. Tacye Hong, the daughter of Mr. HONG Chi-yuen, performed on the piano and Ms. Sandy SONG sang while she played the piano. Their performances left a lasting impression for the colleagues. Mr. NG Ping-wing's performance with the "Dong-xiao" (洞簫) and the son of Ms. YEUNG Siu-wai, POON Hok-chi's performance with the "Er-hu"(二胡) added a touch of China to the gathering. Mr. CHOI Siu-chuen's singing was no less mesmerizing than the famous singer, Jacky CHEUNG! Mr. LEUNG Wing-mo and Mr. SHUN Chi-ming's singing demonstrated different artistic

styles. Mr. LO Tak-shing, our guard, had once performed on the same stage of the late Mr. James WONG (黃霑). His harmonica performance surprised the audience with his outstanding skills. I was so pleased to have the chance to perform with my family, too.

After the performances, we were all overwhelmed by the joyful experience and had moments of leisure by enjoying the snacks and chatting with each other.



The Director LAM Chiu-ying, Assistant Director, LEE Boon-ying and other participating colleagues having an enjoyable time in the musical gathering.

Health Talk on Work Pressure

CHENG Chi-tat

Whichever post we work in, we could hardly escape work pressure. It is especially true for colleagues of the Hong Kong Observatory, who have to deal with the occasionally unpredictable weather while shouldering the important responsibility of protecting citizens' safety. Thus, it is most important to understand the correct way of handling work pressure.

Under the Observatory's Happy Business, we invited a professional nurse from the Labour Department to deliver a health talk on work pressure. She explained the categories and the causes of work pressure, and the methods of alleviating them. Some short video clips of lively simulated cases were also played during the talk. Colleagues who attended the talk are now better equipped to deal with work pressure in the healthy way.



A nurse from the Labour Department talked to the Observatory colleagues on Work Pressure

Orientation visit for new colleagues

Editorial Board

On 11 July, the training section of the Observatory organized an orientation visit for new colleagues. They visited various outstations, including the King's Park meteorological station and the Tai Mo Shan weather radar station. The trip aims to enhance their understanding of the Observatory and thereby fostering a sense of belonging to the organisation.

New colleagues pictured at the King's Park meteorological station



Civil Service Volunteer Action

Winnie YIU

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Civil Service Bureau has organized a service-wide campaign "Civil Service Volunteer Action". The campaign is to encourage civil servants use their spare time to serve the community and bring civil service colleagues closer to the local community.

The Hong Kong Observatory Volunteer Team exhibited largest support to the campaign. In June and July, we organized a number of different activities introducing our work as well as using our knowledge and expertise to bring out the message of global warming to the families coming from different walks. Here, let's share some of the moments.



On 7 July, Hong Kong Observatory Volunteer Team joined hands with the Civil Service Bureau Volunteer Team to arrange a visit for students of Fujian Secondary School to the Hong Kong Observatory.



On 29 July, volunteers of the Hong Kong Observatory introducing the work of the Observatory to the families of "Sunflower Network".



New Reception Room

Hong Kong Observatory New Reception Room

CHENG Chi-tat

After several months of preparation and renovation, the new reception in the Observatory Headquarters opened on 17 July. The new reception room located in the Ground Floor of the 1883 Building, is one with a simple and bright design embraced in cosy environment.

The previous reception counter of the Observatory was inside the General Registry. It was small and old, and could no longer cope with the increasingly busy operations of the Hong Kong Observatory. The new reception area is a room by itself. Visitors can now enjoy a quiet moment there. The area of the new reception room is doubled. Visitors may take a seat in one of the sofas and enjoy a cup of tea while reading various publications of the Hong Kong Observatory. If you come to visit us in the future, you are most welcome to make use of our new reception room. Our staffs are most pleased to serve.



Sofas for visitors