

Observing weather on board - barometer

Written by Wu Chung-wai December 2010

One of the key equipment on board Hong Kong Voluntary Observing Ship (HKVOS) for meteorological observations is the barometer. Barometer is used to record the atmospheric pressure which is one of the important parameters in weather observation.

Before reading the barometer, the observer opens the doors of bridge to equalize pressure. The observer reads the barometer on the scheduled hour and records the data to a precision of 0.1 hPa. As the atmospheric pressure to be reported is the pressure at mean sea level, an adjustment known as “correction of barometer readings to mean sea level” should be added to the observed readings to get the final value.

Instrumental error may cause a bias in pressure observation. Barometer should therefore be calibrated at least once every three months to ensure accuracy. Port Meteorological Officer (PMO) would help calibrate the barometer on regular ship visits. Ship masters are welcome to contact our PMO for this service.



A barometer installed on HKVOS