

World Meteorological Congress Once Every Four Years

Lee Lap-shun

The Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming, and Senior Scientific Officer, Mr Lee Lap-shun, attended the World Meteorological Congress held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 3-14 June. They discussed and formulated the future development strategy and long-term plan of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) with other members of the WMO and – on behalf of Hong Kong, China – spoke and proposed amendments on various draft resolutions.

The Director also held several Asia region meetings and oversaw discussions by representatives from countries in Asia on various important issues including the WMO constituent body reform, new weather service initiatives and infrastructure, and collaboration between partners.



The Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming, speaking at the World Meteorological Congress

In addition, the Director assisted in the discussion and adoption of the framework of the “Global Multi-hazard Alert System”, proposed by Hong Kong and several other members of the WMO. As part of its governance reform, the WMO has established two new commissions to consolidate the existing eight technical commissions. The Director was elected as a co-Vice-President of the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services, and will continue to contribute to the WMO.



The Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming, leading the Asia region meetings

Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, Visits the Observatory

Editorial Board

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, visited the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) on 15 July, to learn about its latest developments. Joining him were four participants of the “Be a Government Official for a Day” programme.

Mr Cheung first received a briefing from the Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming, on the Observatory’s latest developments, particularly in enhancing Hong Kong’s preparedness for natural disasters, and providing meteorological and related services through science, innovation and partnerships.

Mr Cheung then proceeded to the Central Forecasting Office, for an update on HKO’s round-the-clock weather forecasting services for use by public, aviation, shipping and engineering sectors, as well as the work on monitoring radiation levels. He was also given a tour to HKO’s TV studio.

Mr Cheung commended HKO colleagues for their dedication to reducing the impact of inclement weather on Hong Kong’s society and economy.

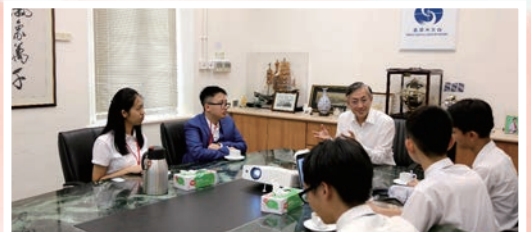
Prior to his departure, Mr Cheung visited the History Room, where he was given a presentation on the achievements and transformation of HKO since it was established 136 years ago. He praised HKO for its dedication to the vision of being “A Model of Excellence in Protecting Lives and Building Together a Better Society through Science”. Mr Cheung also encouraged HKO colleagues to continue serving the public in a dedicated and professional manner.



The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung (front row, third from left), the Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming (front row, second from left), officers of the Observatory and “Be a Government Official for a Day” programme participants

The Observatory Participated in “Be a Government Official for a Day” 2019 Programme

Editorial Board



Two secondary school students, Chan Hau-man (first from left) and Billy Lee Kwan-yeung (second from left) “Job-shadowed” the Director, gaining close-up experience of his busy daily schedule, including being interviewed by the student association of Wah Yan College Kowloon for their publication.

On 15 July, the work schedule of the Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming, was a little unusual. Two secondary school students, Hau-man and Billy, visited the Observatory and job-shadowed the Director, gaining close-up experience of his busy daily schedule. After the day of job shadowing, the two students frankly said the service innovations of the Observatory and the enthusiasm of the staff had changed their previous perceptions that working in Government departments is tedious and boring.



Features

"Safer Living 2.0" Launch Ceremony

Editorial Board

The Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Observatory and other Government departments and associations have jointly organised a year-long public education campaign, "Safer Living 2.0". This comprises a series of exhibitions, seminars, tours and competitions, aiming to enhance public knowledge of natural disasters such as typhoons, storm surges, flooding, and landslides, and strengthen public awareness of disaster prevention and resilience.



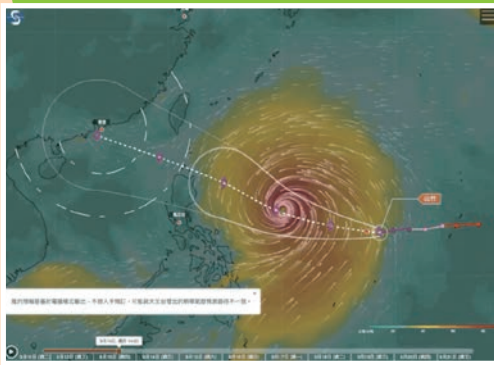
The exhibition uses a life-size board game to showcase the various hazards arising from natural disasters, and the work of the different departments in response to these disasters.



"Safer Living 2.0" Launch Ceremony was held on 10 June 2019 at PMQ in Central

Enhanced Webpage Version of "Earth Weather"

Ho Chun-kit



In June, the Observatory enhanced the "Earth Weather" webpage with the addition of tropical cyclone forecast tracks it issues. Furthermore, apart from existing forecasts of temperature, wind direction and wind speed, rainfall forecasts from a computer model are now available. The URL of "Earth Weather" is <https://maps.weather.gov.hk/wxviewer/index.html?lang=en>. These new features will also be introduced to the MyObservatory app.



New Names for Tropical Cyclones in 2019

Choy Chun-wing

Three new names – Yamaneko (contributed by Japan), Yun-yeung (contributed by Hong Kong) and Koinu (contributed by Japan) – have been introduced to the list of tropical cyclone names in the western North Pacific and the South China Sea this year. Their meanings are as follows:

Name	Meaning
Yamaneko	Lynx; cat that lives in mountains and forests
Yun-yeung	A species of duck (<i>Aix galericulata</i>), also the vernacular name of a popular drink in Hong Kong prepared by mixing tea with coffee
Koinu	Canis Minor; puppy

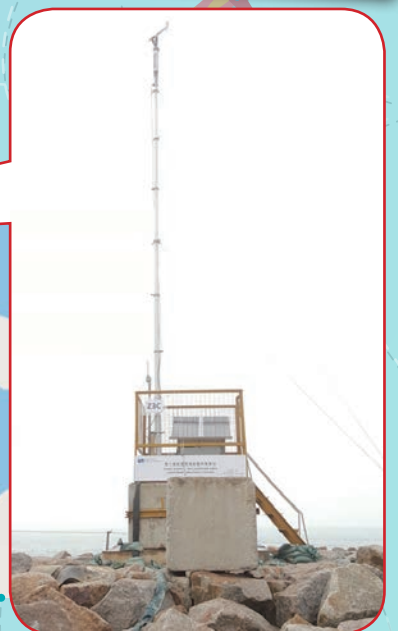
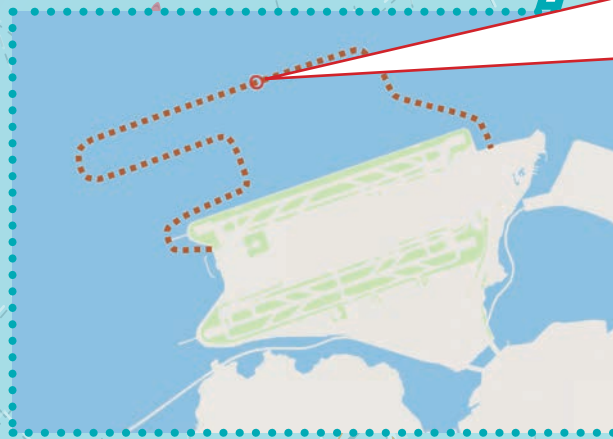


Milestones

First Automatic Weather Station in the Third Runway

Chan Yan-chun

The reclamation works for the Three Runway System Project are in full swing. For early collection of meteorological data of the future Third Runway, the Hong Kong Observatory, in collaboration with the Airport Authority Hong Kong, set up an Automatic Weather Station on the sea wall within the newly reclamation land early this year. The data being collected includes wind speed, wind direction and pressure data for the Third Runway.



Milestones

Newly Launched “Regional Information on Heavy Rain and Thunderstorms” in MyObservatory app

Shum Chi-tai



The latest version of MyObservatory will include regional information on heavy rain and thunderstorms. Users can access this by clicking the button at the bottom right of the “Location-specific Heavy Rain Alert” page. The map will display the regions affected by “Announcement on Localised Heavy Rain”, “Special Announcement on Flooding in the northern New Territories” or “Thunderstorm Warning”; as well as the regional rainfall recorded and lightning locations, so users can take appropriate preventive measures.

Cooperation

Research Forum 2019

Impacts of Super Typhoon Mangkhut

Sham Fu-cheung

The Observatory organised the Research Forum, "Impacts of Super Typhoon Mangkhut", in May this year. Speakers from government departments, public utility companies and local universities were invited to share their observations and experiences during the passage of Mangkhut, and the results from the latest research on typhoon impacts. The forum provided a platform for participants to discuss needs for research to help cope with similar challenges in future, and to foster collaboration among stakeholders in different sectors for the betterment of society.

For more information about the forum, please visit the Observatory website: https://www.weather.gov.hk/research_forum/research_forum_2019_e.htm



Mr. Shun Chi-ming, Director of the Observatory (2nd from the right, front row), and Assistant Directors, together with the speakers

The Observatory's Social Media Team

Editorial Board

Visits Facebook Hong Kong Office

In May this year, the Observatory's Social Media Team was invited to visit the new Facebook Hong Kong Office in Quarry Bay and hold a sharing session with a group of non-government organisations. Here, they shared HKO's social media operating experiences, including the aim of setting up the team, work targets, the preparation process, strategy and approach and experiences in communicating with the public. Videos from “Cool Met Stuff” and some of the popular Facebook posts were introduced during the sharing, which was followed by time for interactions with the participants and Facebook staff.



The Observatory's Social Media Team, sharing experiences in using social media



Government Mascots Form the “Guardians” on Facebook “Assemble for HK”

Editorial Board

In late April, the Observatory's "Dr Tin" collaborated with "Big Waster" from the Environmental Protection Department, "Ah Tak" from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, "Anyone" from the Fire Services Department, "Mr B" from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, "Water Save Dave" from the Water Supplies Department, and "Lazy Lion" from the Department of Health to form the "Guardians". Related posts on the Facebook pages of these departments were very popular, helping to raise public recognition of government services and mascots.



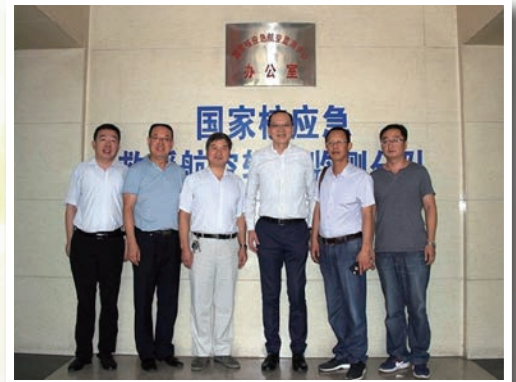
Dr Tin and Other Government Mascot Forming "Assemble for HK"

The Hong Kong Observatory Signs a Memorandum on Cooperation with the Airborne Survey and Remote Sensing Center of the Nuclear Industry

Leung Wai-hung

In April, the Hong Kong Observatory and mainland China's Airborne Survey and Remote Sensing Center of the Nuclear Industry signed a memorandum on cooperation to enhance their overall capability for aerial environmental radiation monitoring and nuclear emergency responses. Through strengthening collaboration and exchanges, they will engage in mutual technological development in various areas, including aerial radiation monitoring in the environment, aerial monitoring technologies during nuclear emergencies, as well as comparing their data.

Senior Scientific Officer Mr Ma Wai-man (third from the right) of the Observatory visited the Airborne Survey and Remote Sensing Center of the Nuclear Industry, to explore possibilities for enhancing collaboration between the two parties earlier



The Director of the Observatory, Mr Shun Chi-ming (middle of the front row), with Dr Bongjae Kuk (first row, second from left) and other delegates from KMA with Observatory colleagues at the HKO Headquarters.

Weather Radar Experts From Korea Meteorological Administration Visit the Observatory

Editorial Board

The Deputy Director of the Radar Operation Division of the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA), Dr Bongjae Kuk, led a delegation to visit the Observatory on 9-10 May. This visit fostered exchanges between the KMA and the Observatory regarding operating weather radar networks. During the visit, Observatory colleagues introduced the operation of Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TDWR) in Hong Kong, as well as technical details on the Observatory's windshear and turbulence alert service; and the professionals from the KMA gave a talk on their experiences in maintaining their radar network and their plan for upgrading the radar equipment.

Summer Placement Programme @ Hong Kong Observatory

Terence Kung Wing-hang

The Observatory is always keen on training the younger generation. This summer, more than 10 students from seven local and overseas universities joined the Hong Kong Observatory Summer Placement Programme. During the two-month placement, these students worked on different research projects under the guidance of Observatory colleagues. Afterwards, they all said the work was fulfilling, and broadened their horizons.



The Observatory Summer Placement Programme students visiting the Central Forecasting Office

The Observatory's "Sky Dragon" participates in Macao International Dragon Boat Races and Cheung Chau Dragon Boat Race



In June, "Sky Dragon" participated in the Macao International Dragon Boat Races and Cheung Chau Dragon Boat Race. All team members did their best and finished the races successfully. Everyone looks forward to participating in the next races, and again competing against other dragon boat teams.

Staff Promotions



Dr Pan Chi-kin (third from left) and Mr Tong Yu-fai (fourth from right) were promoted as Senior Scientific Officer. They are pictured here with the Director, Mr Shun Chi-ming (fourth from left), and other colleagues



Mr Chan Pak-wai (third from right) was promoted as Assistant Director. He is pictured here with the Director, Mr Shun Chi-ming (third from left), and other colleagues

Observatory Staff Commended by the Public or Organisations

Observatory staff who received words of thanks and commendation from the public or organisations from April to July 2019:

Mr Shum Chi-tai (Scientific Officer), Dr Cheng Chung-choi (Experimental Officer)
Ms Chan Siu-yung (Senior Scientific Assistant), Ms Mak Man-yi (Senior Scientific Assistant),
Ms Lu Fung-wan (Scientific Assistant)

HKO Updates



On 6 May, student reporters interviewed the Director of the Observatory



On 7 May, officers from the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau visited the Observatory



On 15 May, a delegation from Kwai Tsing District Council visited the Observatory



Also on 15 May, a delegation from the Hong Kong Guangdong Youth Association visited the Observatory



On 29 May, the tenth meeting of Liaison Group for Broadcast Media was held



On 31 May, a delegation from the Institutes of Science and Development, Chinese Academy of Sciences, visited the Observatory



On 27 May, Hong Kong Red Cross visited the Observatory



The Seminar on Tropical Cyclone Disaster Preparedness and Response was held on 19 and 24 June



On 20 June, a delegation from Hong Kong Nuclear Investment Company visited the Observatory



The tenth meeting of the Hong Kong Observatory Liaison Group for the Shipping Community was held on 27 June



For details of the activities, please visit:
<http://www.hko.gov.hk/wisnew.htm>
<http://www.hko.gov.hk/hkonews/indexe.htm>