

**Kick-off Ceremony of
Celebration of the 130th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Observatory
World Meteorological Day, 23 March 2013**

**Speech by Mr SHEN Xiaonong
Deputy Administrator of the China Meteorological Administration**

Honorable Dr David Grimes, President of WMO;

Distinguished Mr. Wong Ho-yuen, JP, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development;

Dear Dr Shun Chi-ming, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, and his colleagues;

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning to you all!

Today, it is a day of pleasant spring with bright sceneries in Hong Kong. All distinguished guests are gathering together here to celebrate the 53rd World Meteorological Day, and as it happens, it also witnesses the 130th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Observatory. On behalf of the China Meteorological Administration, I extend our most sincere congratulations on these two events!

Since its establishment in 1883, for generations, the colleagues of the Hong Kong Observatory have always been pursuing its mission “to deliver useful and effective meteorological services, and to strengthen public preparedness for disasters”. For 130 years, the Hong Kong Observatory has passed on its knowledge from one generation to another, it has kept its close eyes on weather and astronomical phenomena to serve Hong Kong and its people, and it has undergone a glorious and uncommon process. Especially for the recent decade, the Hong Kong Observatory, which is

oriented to the public weather service, has achieved remarkable results in urban meteorological services, development and application of numerical prediction models, intelligent meteorological services, and it has made a valuable contribution to meteorological disaster preparedness and mitigation, and to the well-being of Hong Kong people.

In the process of its operational development, scientific and technical advances, and duty fulfillment, the Hong Kong Observatory has received much attention and strong support from the central government, relevant departments, and the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and its Commerce and Economic Development Bureau among others. Taking this opportunity, we would like to express our gratitude to them!

WMO has always committed to encouraging NMHSs to deliver meteorological services in support of sustainable world socio-economic development. Under the Global Framework for Climate Service (GFCS), CMA and the Hong Kong Observatory have increasingly enhanced risk management for climate-related hazards by combining our work with WMO priorities such as further buildup of the integrated meteorological observing system and disaster risk reduction, among others. By doing so, the losses from extreme weather and climate events have been minimized, and more refined meteorological services have been delivered to support sustainable development in both mainland and the Hong Kong. The senior management of the Hong Kong Observatory is taking important positions in WMO/ESCAP Typhoon Committee and the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology. And HKO is participating in a number of demonstration projects within RA II. As a severe weather information centre, it has been hosting the WMO World Weather Website and played an irreplaceable role in WMO activities.

The theme of World Meteorological Day 2013 is “watching the weather to protect life and property - celebrating 50 years of World Weather Watch”. The mainland and Hong Kong geographically connect and share the same atmosphere, land and sea. As an important part of the World Weather Watch, we have experienced a stage of development from visual and simple

observing system to a wide range of modern observing means covering land, sea and air. The improved monitoring networks both in mainland and Hong Kong have laid a solid foundation for meteorological preparedness and mitigation, response to climate change, and exploitation of climate resources.

In 1996, our two sides signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Long-Term Cooperation in the Field of Meteorological Science and Technology and official exchange of meteorological data was launched. Since then, the meteorologists from both mainland and Hong Kong have maintained constant and good cooperation in such fields as joint establishment of meteorological observing network, data sharing, weather forecasting and warning and response to climate change. We not only collaborated on delivery of meteorological services in support of Beijing Olympic Games, Shanghai World Expo, Guangzhou Asian Games and construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, but we also have played active roles in activities sponsored by WMO, IPCC and other international organizations, with our friendship being further deepened.

We are convinced that with the mission on meteorological monitoring and forecasting services, meteorological disaster preparedness and mitigation, and response to climate change, in support of sustainable socio-economic development, following the track of mutual complement, win-win cooperation and common development, the meteorological communities from mainland and Hong Kong will continue to pursue all-round and multi-level meteorological exchanges and cooperation and set up a mechanism in this direction. The China Meteorological Administration will, as always, support the Hong Kong Observatory to play its important roles in public weather services, urban disaster preparedness and mitigation, and livelihood protection, jointly making an even greater contribution to China and world meteorology. I wish the Hong Kong Observatory a vigorous and promising prospect, and a bright future for our common meteorological services!