

WEATHER ON WINGS



Dial-a-Weather : 1878 200
Home page : <http://www.hko.gov.hk>, <http://www.weather.gov.hk>



Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry & Tourism), Attended Celebration Party

CHAN Wing-shan, Angel

10 December 2010, though still days before Christmas, was a great festival day for staff of the Observatory. A party was held that day to celebrate the accolades won by colleagues - Silver Award in the Public Sector of 2009 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence, the award under the Community Chest Corporate and Employee Contribution Programme 2009/10, and the Secretary for Civil Service's Commendation 2010 for Mr YAU Lai-kin, Senior Radar Specialist Mechanic.

It was also our pleasure to have Miss Yvonne CHOI Ying-pik, (ex-)Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry & Tourism) joining the celebration party. Apart from presenting the Long and Meritorious Service Award, Miss CHOI also praised the work of the Observatory and shared with us her feelings on her impending retirement.



Miss CHOI Ying-pik (middle) and Dr LEE Boon-ying (5th left), the Director, together with other colleagues at the roast pig cutting ceremony

Newly Established Liaison Group for the Shipping Community

NG Moon-chiu

The Liaison Group for the Shipping Community of the Observatory was established on 18 November 2010, turning a new page in Hong Kong's marine meteorological services. The liaison group comprises representatives from shipping companies, container terminal operators, the Hong Kong Pilots Association and the Marine Department.

Director of the Observatory, Dr LEE Boon-ying said, "Since the establishment of the Observatory in 1883, the provision of meteorological information for ocean-going vessels in support of safe navigation has always been one of the top priorities of the Observatory. The new liaison group will facilitate further development of the marine meteorological services provided by the Observatory, enhance communication between the shipping industry and the Observatory, and enable improved use of weather information in the marine sector to safeguard navigation safety."

Captain L.C. CHAN who represented the shipping community during the inauguration and the first meeting of the liaison group, thanked the Observatory for its perennial contribution towards maritime safety. He said that the establishment of the liaison group would enable the Observatory to continue to excel, giving new impetus to the long term development of marine meteorological services in Hong Kong.



Members of the Liaison Group for the Shipping Community

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The Observatory Lends Support to the Guangzhou Asian Games

YEUNG Hon-yin

Following the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the 2009 Hong Kong East Asian Games and the 2010 New Delhi Commonwealth Games, the Observatory renders support again to another important international sports event — the 16th Guangzhou Asian Games. Specialized meteorological services and assistance in setting up a “Heat Stress Monitoring System” were provided in support of the Sailing and Equestrian Events.

The Sailing Events were held in Shanwei, a co-host city of the Asian Games, from 14 to 20 November 2010. The specialized meteorological services provided to the Hong Kong Windsurfing Team by the Observatory included climatological study for Shanwei, hourly updated high-resolution computer forecasts, as well as detailed venue-specific weather forecasts during the event period. All data were uploaded to a dedicated website for the Windsurfing Team so that Team members on the spot could have instant access to the most updated weather information for timely adjustment of racing tactics. Mr Rene Appel, Head Coach of the Team, concluded the game with good news, “It has been a successful competition for us with one gold and two silvers. Many thanks for the role the Observatory has played in making this possible and this has been very much appreciated!”

To the support their meteorological service for the Equestrian Events of the Asian Games, the Guangdong Meteorological Bureau (GMB) has adopted the “Heat Stress Monitoring System”, built in-house by the Observatory. Apart from real-time monitoring of

heat stress index on site, the system also provides useful data for preparing in-situ weather forecast. At the invitation of GMB, Mr LEE Kwok-lun, Scientific Officer of the Observatory, visited the Equestrian Venue of the Asian Games to share his equestrian forecasting experience with the local forecasters.



Mr LEE Kwok-lun (1st left, front row) discussing with the local forecasters about providing weather forecast for Equestrian Events at the Equestrian Meteorological Service Office in Conghua



Mr LEE (right), sharing with Miss XIONG Yali, Deputy Director of Business of the Guangzhou Meteorological Bureau, on the use of heat stress index at the Guangzhou Equestrian Venue in Conghua.

MOK Hing-yim and LEUNG Yin-kong, John

The Observatory has been cooperating with the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association in matters related to weather information service, research and education for the safety of senior citizens since 2007. As low temperatures in winter can have a significant negative impact on the health of senior citizens, the two organizations jointly hosted the “Warmth and Care in Wintry Weather” press conference on 3 December 2010 to remind senior citizens and those taking care of them to beware of drops in air temperature and take appropriate measures to protect senior citizens from getting cold in winter. Besides the Director of the Observatory, Dr LEE Boon-ying, and the Executive Director of the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association, Mr MA Kam-wah, Auntie LEUNG Wing-yin, who has been a user of the Personal Emergency Link (PE-Link) service for many years also attended the event and demonstrated how to use the PE-Link service.

At the press conference, Dr LEE also introduced the location-based weather service - “My Observatory” PDA version, the iPhone enhanced version and the Android version. When conducting out-door activities, senior citizens and those taking care of them can use the “MyObservatory” service to obtain real-time weather information for their locations and take appropriate measures if the temperature drops. “MyObservatory” has become very popular since its launch in 2010 with page hits exceeding 140 million in just four months from July to November 2010.

In addition, when senior citizens and those taking care of them have to go overseas for sight-seeing or visiting relatives, they can also visit the “World Weather Information Service” website (<http://worldweather.wmo.int/>) to obtain official weather forecasts of over 1,300 cities. The visit figure of the website has exceeded 800 million since its launch in 2001.



The Director (right) and Mr MA Kam-wah (left) presenting a scarf handmade by the Observatory's Volunteers to Auntie LEUNG Wing-yin (middle)

"MyObservatory" Android Version

SUK Ka-fai, Ken

With the increasing popularity of smartphones, the Observatory further enhanced the personalized service "MyObservatory". Apart from iPhone, "MyObservatory" application was also launched on the Android platform in late November 2010.

Making use of positioning software or mobile devices to estimate your current location, "MyObservatory" displays the latest weather information, including temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, wind direction, wind speed and weather photo, from the weather station closest to you automatically. It features a series of functions to provide the following information:

- 7-day weather forecast;
- Weather warnings;
- UV index report and forecast;
- Satellite and radar images;
- Forecast of major world cities;
- Astronomical and tide information;
- Weather for south China coastal waters;
- Lightning locations (Google map version);
- HKO storm track of tropical cyclone (Google map version); and
- HKO YouTube video.



Sample displays of "MyObservatory" on the Android platform

Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan Shing Mun Valley – New "Green" Automatic Weather Stations in Trial Operation

SIN Kau-chuen, CHOW Siu-wing

The Observatory has installed a new automatic temperature station at the Tsing Yi Sewage Treatment Plant. The station temporarily named as "New Tsing Yi" Station, started trial operation on 23 August 2010. It is planned to replace the existing Tsing Yi temperature station which is located on the roof top of Ching Pak House, Cheung Ching Estate. Another new automatic weather station was installed at Shing Mun Valley Park in Tsuen Wan. It was also put in trial operation on 7 December 2010.

The "New Tsing Yi" and "Tsuen Wan Shing Mun Valley" Stations are powered by solar energy. Weather data from the two stations are transmitted to the Observatory Headquarters through mobile telephone network. Members of the public can access the real-time weather information on the Observatory's webpage at http://www.weather.gov.hk/wxinfo/ts/display_graph_e.htm (with station name specified). They can also call the Observatory's "Dial-a-Weather" hotline at 187 8200 to obtain the weather information.



"Tsuen Wan Shing Mun Valley" Automatic Weather Station



"New Tsing Yi" Automatic Weather Station

Dissemination of Weather Information via Twitter

LEUNG Yin-kong, John

Social networking website provides an effective channel for dissemination of weather warnings and related information. The Observatory launched a service to deliver weather information on the Twitter website in September 2010. Up till now, latest weather warnings, news for storm surge, tsunami as well as new products and services of the Observatory are provided.

The weather information, in the form of "tweets", will be released on the Observatory's Twitter account and distributed to "followers". The service is very popular with the number of followers rose to 3,000 in just a few months.

The Observatory's Twitter account is <http://twitter.com/observatoryhk>. The link can also be found on the front page of the Observatory's website. Follow "ObservatoryHK" now to stay connected with the Observatory and be informed of the latest weather news.



Sample display of "ObservatoryHK" on the Twitter website

Launching of the Beta Version of Greater Pearl River Delta Weather Warning Webpage

CHENG Yuen-chung

With the rapid development of the Greater Pearl River Delta, people are travelling more frequently in the region. The Observatory worked together with the Guangdong Meteorological Bureau and the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau to develop a portal webpage to provide weather warning information for people on the move, contributing to disaster prevention and mitigation in the region. Commuters and school children having to cross borders each day could find weather information on the webpage easily.

The portal webpage has started operational trial since 6 August 2010. It incorporates real-time weather warning information from 11 cities, viz. Hong Kong, Macao, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Dongguan, Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Huizhou, Foshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing, in the Greater Pearl River Delta region. As the weather warning systems in Hong Kong, Macao and the Mainland are different from one another, the portal webpage also provides a guide to the weather warning signals for all the cities.

The address of the trial portal webpage is <http://www.weather.gov.hk/wxinfo/gprd/index.htm>. The webpage will be formally launched in January 2011. Please stay tuned to the Observatory's website in due course.



A sample of the Beta Version of Greater Pearl River Delta Weather Warning Webpage - Users can easily obtain the weather warning in force from 11 cities

More Weather Information on the Web from the Observatory's New Computer Models

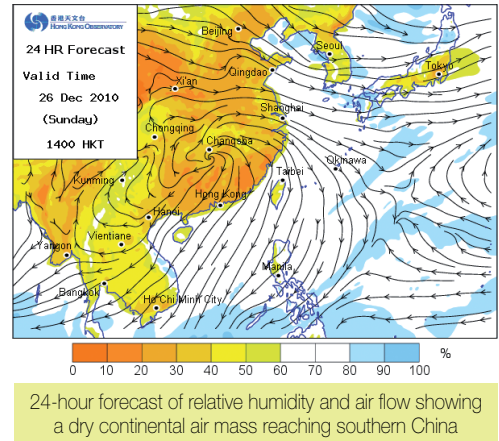
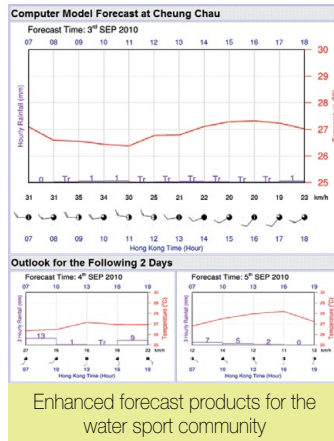
LI Sun-wai

On 27 September 2010, the Observatory announced the enhancement of two of its weather services on its website, the Computer Forecast Weather Map and the Wind Forecast for Water Sport Activities.

The "Computer Forecast Weather Map" (<http://www.hko.gov.hk/nhm/nhme.htm>) provides computer-generated prediction of the evolution of weather patterns over East Asia and the western North Pacific. The update frequency has been increased from twice per day to four times per day.

The Observatory's webpage "Wind Forecast for Wind Surfers" has also been enhanced and renamed as "Wind Forecast for Water Sport Activities" (<http://www.hko.gov.hk/sports/wind.htm>). The new webpage is updated daily before daybreak and noon, and the forecast period is lengthened from one to three days.

These enhancements are made possible through the operation of a new generation of numerical weather prediction models and a computer system installed in early 2010. The new models, providing more detailed information, offer an improved resolution of 2 km from 20 km. The new computer system is some 400 times faster than the old system.

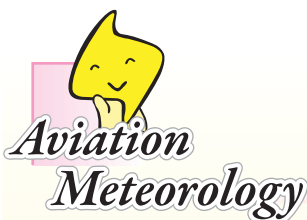
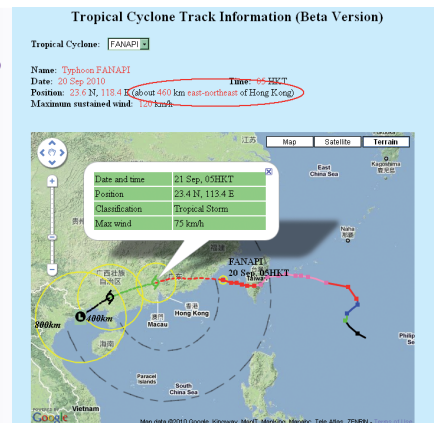


Enhanced Tropical Cyclone Information Service

LI Yuet-sim

To provide more information to the public on tropical cyclone movement, the Observatory enhanced the tropical cyclone track information webpage in August 2010 with the following:

- (1) display of distance and bearing relative to Hong Kong for a tropical cyclone within the area bounded by 10-30N and 105-125E; and
- (2) provision of more frequent updates, at hourly interval, of the tropical cyclone track when Standby Signal No. 1 is in force. The tropical cyclone track information webpage is available at http://www.hko.gov.hk/wxinfo/currxw/tc_gis_e.htm.



Online Quiz on Aeronautical Meteorology

CHEUNG Ping

The Observatory successfully organised the first online quiz on aeronautical meteorology before the hosting of the 14th Session of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM-XIV) of the World Meteorological Organization in Hong Kong in early 2010. To continue promoting knowledge on aeronautical meteorology, the Observatory organised the second online quiz during 20 September - 20 December 2010.

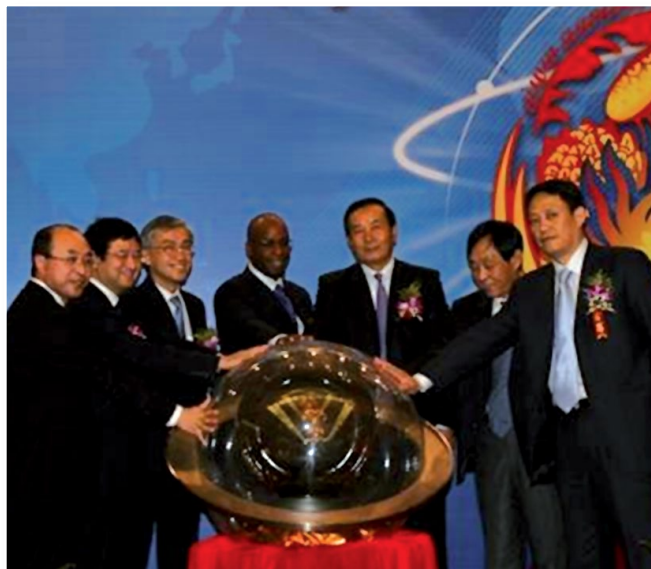
The second online quiz on aeronautical meteorology successfully concluded with more than 6,000 participants. Of these, around 280 participants were able to answer all 12 questions correctly and were awarded a personalised electronic certificate signed by Dr LEE Boon-ying, the Director of the Observatory. Those who had obtained the award certificates of both the first and the second quizzes could also obtain a CAeM-XIV souvenir.

Assistant Director Officiating at the Launch of the Asia Aeronautical Meteorological Services Website

SONG Man-kuen, Sandy

Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Assistant Director, attended the operational launch ceremony of the Asia Aeronautical Meteorological Services Website held in Beijing on 4 November 2010 in the capacity of President of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM). Together with Mr Jeremiah Lengoasa, the Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Mr Xia Xing-hua, Deputy Administrator of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and Mr Shen Xiao-nong Deputy Administrator of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), Mr SHUN declared the Website operational. This website provides, inter alia, flight documents and aviation related products.

Addressing at the ceremony, Mr SHUN said, "This occasion is very meaningful for all those who had participated in the development work for the project, especially the originator of the project proposal Mr LAM Chiu-ying, ex-Director of the Observatory, and the coordinator of the project Ms Jiao Mei-yan, Deputy Administrator of CMA. It is a culmination of continuous efforts over the past six years. On behalf of CAeM, I would like to express my appreciation to the contributions provided by CMA and CAAC in the establishment and operation of the Asia Aeronautical Meteorological Services Website. I also look forward to seeing similar developments and international cooperation in other regions so that more WMO Members could benefit".



Mr SHUN Chi-ming (3rd left), together with Mr Jeremiah Lengoasa (middle), the Deputy Secretary-General of WMO, Mr Xia Xing-hua (3rd right), Deputy Administrator of CAAC and Mr Shen Xiao-nong (2nd left), Deputy Administrator of CMA, declared the Asia Aeronautical Meteorological Services Website operational.

Aviation Weather Information on Mobile Platform

SONG Man-kuen, Sandy

Aviation weather information provided by the Observatory is now available on mobile platforms such as iPhone, Windows Mobile and Blackberry to enhance support to aviation users of the Hong Kong International Airport in making time-critical decisions related to weather. The Observatory has been providing aviation weather information through a web-based information delivery system dedicated for aviation users called the Aviation Meteorological Information Dissemination System (AMIDS) which is now available on mobile platforms. Through mobile devices, airlines, dispatchers and pilots obtain meteorological information and the enroute weather forecast for flight planning, air traffic controllers also use information provided on AMIDS to support air traffic flow management. Ramp operators rely on Aerodrome Warning disseminated on AMIDS to protect them from severe weather affecting the airport (such as thunderstorms and strong winds) while they are operating outdoor. General aviators could access latest weather situation (such as real-time weather photos and winds) over local territory via AMIDS.



AMIDS mobile version on iPhone, Windows Mobile and Blackberry platforms (from left to right)

Competency Requirements and Assessment for Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel

LAM Ching-chi

To ensure aviation safety, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has laid down the competence standards for aeronautical meteorological personnel which will be applicable in late 2013. The scope covers weather monitoring and analysis, forecast and warning, communication of meteorological information, as well as ensuring quality of meteorological information and services. To assist WMO Members in demonstrating compliance of their aeronautical meteorological personnel with the competence standards, a set of more detailed competence guidelines and a competency assessment toolkit have been developed by the WMO Commission of Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM). The toolkit serves as a framework for Members to devise their own tailored competency assessment methods and tools. The CAeM training website (<http://www.caem.wmo.int/moodle/>) contains information on the toolkit and also provides useful materials for training on aeronautical meteorology.

The Observatory has been operating a quality management system in its Airport Meteorological Office which is ISO certified since 2002, laying a good foundation for the development of competency assessment methods and tools for our aeronautical meteorological forecasters and observers. The Observatory strives to be one of the earliest batch to implement such tools fulfilling the WMO competency requirements for aeronautical meteorology personnel.



Locally felt earth tremor on November 19 2010

WOO Wang-chun

A locally felt earth tremor occurred at 2:42p.m. on 19 November 2010. The epicentre was located in Deep Bay, Shenzhen, about 31 kilometres northwest of the Hong Kong Observatory. The magnitude of the tremor was 2.8.

The Observatory received over one hundred felt reports from members of the public. Some compared the shaking to the passing of heavy trucks and some reported rattling doors and windows. The descriptions matched the shaking due to an Intensity IV (four) earth tremor.



Location of epicentre of the locally felt earth tremor on 19 November

Modified Mercalli Scale	Shaking
II(two)	Felt by persons at rest, upper floors, or favourably placed.
III(three)	Felt indoors. Hanging objects swing. Vibration like passing of light trucks. Duration estimated. May not be recognized as an earthquake.
IV(four)	Hanging objects swing. Vibration like passing of heavy trucks; or sensation of a jolt like a heavy ball striking the walls. Standing motor cars rock. Windows, dishes, doors rattle. Glasses clink. Crockery clashes. In the upper range of IV wooden walls and frames creak.
V(five)	Felt outdoors; direction estimated. Sleepers wakened. Liquids disturbed, some spilled. Small unstable objects displaced or upset. Doors swing, close, open. Shutters, pictures move. Pendulum clocks stop, start, change rate.

The epicentre location of this tremor is the closest to the Observatory Headquarters since the earthquake over the sea east of the Lantau Island in May 1995. The local intensity of the tremor is the highest after the earthquake over the sea near Dangan Island in September 2006.

Spectacular Views of Rime Observed at Tai Mo Shan

TAM Kwong-hung

On 16 December 2010, under the influence of a severe winter monsoon, the weather in Hong Kong was cold with temperature at the Observatory falling to 8.1°C in the morning. It was even colder at Tai Mo Shan where temperature fell rapidly to below the freezing point (0°C). Spectacular views of rime were observed by the Observatory staff near the Tai Mo Shan weather station.

Under very cold weather conditions, when tiny, super-cooled water droplets in air come into contact with solid objects at a temperature below the freezing point, they will freeze on the outer surface of the objects to form a deposition of white, rough ice crystals, called "rime". On that morning, it was cold and humid with low-hanging clouds at Tai Mo Shan just after raining. Sufficient amount of moisture together with the strong winds favour the formation of rime.

Water droplets from fog usually freeze to form white ice crystals to the windward side of tree branches or rocks where they grow gradually to ice feathers of rime. Rime can have a variety of beautiful forms, making a magnificent decoration of snowy trees and silvery flowers with dazzling grace for the cold winter. Nevertheless, the beautiful shapes of rime cannot sustain for a long time as it would melt rapidly and disappear without trace under the sun. The moist environment at the hill top, together with the thick clouds and strong northerlies helped maintain the temperature at Tai Mo Shan to below the freezing point, providing a favourable weather condition for the growth of rime on that day. With all these favourable conditions, the Observatory staffs were lucky to capture the spectacular views of rime in Hong Kong.



Coral-like rime

Waterspouts and lightning in 2010

SHUM Kit-ying

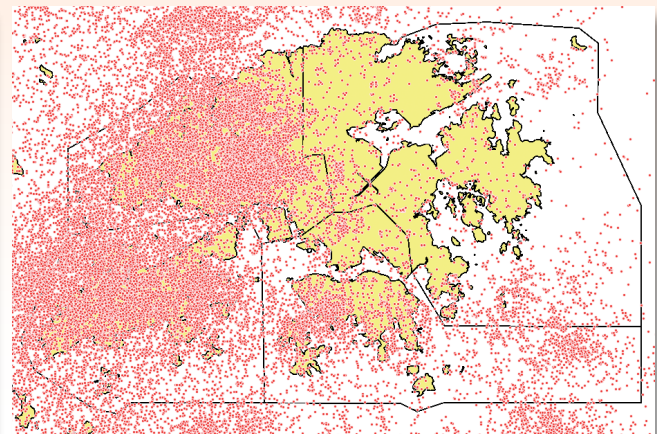
Hong Kong was affected by episodes of strong convective weather in 2010. Besides heavy rain and waterspout, record-breaking frequent lightning activities also occurred in the year:

The Observatory received a report from a member of the public on 22 July of a waterspout that occurred over waters near Siu Sai Wan. In addition, the duty officer at the Observatory's Chek Lap Kok Airport Meteorological Office observed a funnel cloud near Deep Bay on 27 July. During these two days, under the influence of the outer rainbands of Typhoon Chanthu and a trough of low pressure on 22 and 27 July respectively, local weather was unstable and affected by strong convective activities, giving rise to heavy rain and favourable conditions for the occurrence of waterspouts.

Furthermore, due to the unstable weather, Hong Kong experienced intense thunderstorms overnight between 8 and 9 September. During the six-hour period starting from 9 p.m. on 8 September, more than 25,000 cloud-to-ground lightning strokes were detected. The 13,102 cloud-to-ground lightning strokes detected during the hour just after midnight on 9 September was the highest hourly lightning record of the Observatory since the records began in 2005.



Two waterspouts photographed from Shenzhen towards Deep Bay on 27 July (Courtesy of Mr LI Gang)



Cloud-to-ground lightning locations from 9 p.m. on 8 September to 3 a.m. on 9 September. Each red dot stands for the location of detected lightning.

The Looks of Water in Four Seasons - Autumn

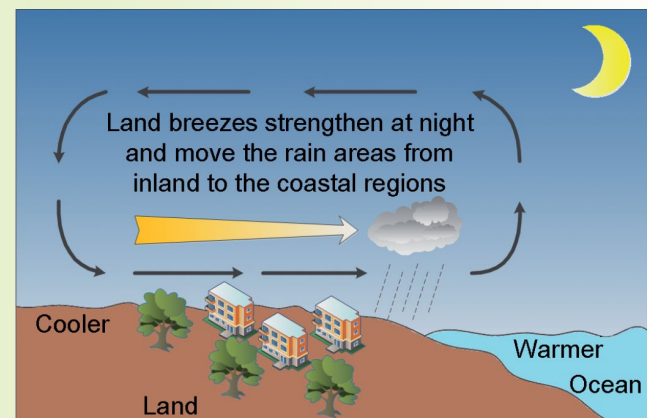
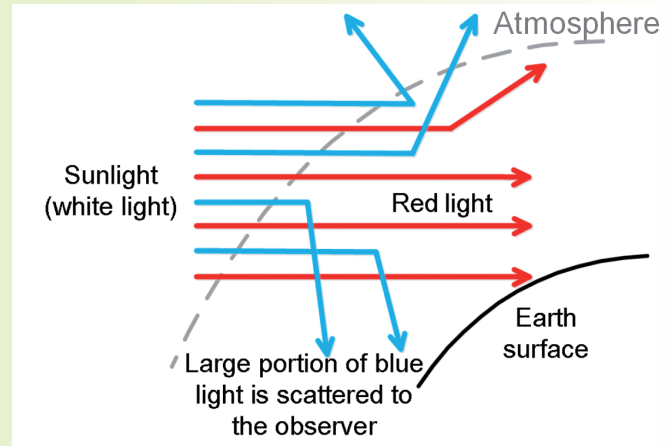
PAN Chi-kin

In hot and moist summertime, we always look forward to an earlier arrival of autumn to bring us a pleasant relief. Autumn is the transition between summer and winter. Although there may still be occasional rain episodes, the weather is generally cool and dry. "Water" plays a less active and changeable role than it does in spring or summer. Let's see why the weather in autumn is usually fine and clear from a meteorological point of view.

In Hong Kong, autumn is less pronounced than other seasons. However, in most parts of China including Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Lanzhou, Urumqi and Lhasa, autumn is full of character. According to climatological record of these places, autumn is comfortable and on average rainy days are much fewer than those in the summer. After a rainy summer, the dust and impurities in the air are washed away. According to the physics of scattering, when the amount of dust and larger particles in the air is reduced, violet and blue light of shorter wavelengths will be scattered more than red light of longer wavelength. This makes the sky appear blue.

In summer, Hong Kong is mainly affected by a southerly airstreams from the sea and the weather is generally humid with rain. Towards autumn, the increasing prevalence of the northeast monsoon originating from the inland areas causes the atmosphere to dry out and the rainy season over northern, central and eastern China comes to an end. The dry and cold air mass over northern China intensifies and spreads southward in phases, displacing the warm and humid air prevailing in the summer. As a result, clouds and moisture are cleared up and the weather becomes fine and conditions comfortable.

Even in autumn, there can be disruptions to the pleasant weather, especially when weather systems are weak in intensity. The prevalence of weak and dry northeast monsoon brings to Hong Kong abundant sunshine, which in turn induces significant temperature contrast between land and sea, leading to the formation of land and sea breezes. The small scale moisture-laden sea breeze converges with the prevailing northeasterly winds. When the sea breeze strengthens in the afternoon, the convergence zone moves inland. Thunderstorms and showers would then occur over inland areas. On the contrary, when solar heating vanishes at night, temperatures over land area drop more rapidly due to radiation cooling. Sea breeze would subside and give way to land breeze. The convergence zone moves from inland towards the coast with the land breeze and brings showers to Hong Kong and the adjacent coastal areas.



Tips on Geomagnetism

WOO Wang-chun

1. What is the Earth's geomagnetic field?

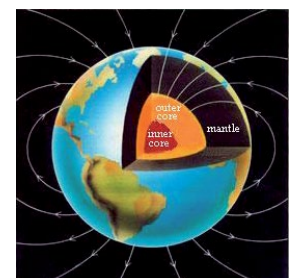
Since the ancient times, people have known that certain materials would always point to a fixed direction. Ancient Chinese, based on this principle, invented compass (known as Si-nan at the time). These materials behave in this way because they are magnetized and the Earth is surrounded by a magnetic field. Whichever direction such objects are turned to, they would always revert to the direction in parallel with the magnetic field, which is known as the Earth's geomagnetic field.



A replica of Si-nan in Han Dynasty

2. What cause the Earth's geomagnetic field?

The Earth's geomagnetic field is a combination of several magnetic fields generated by various sources superimposing on each other. More than 90% of the field is generated by the movement of conducting material inside the Earth's core, which is often referred to as the Main Field. Other important sources of the geomagnetic field include electric current flowing in the ionized upper atmosphere and currents flowing within the earth's crust. There are also local anomalies produced by mountain ranges, ore deposits, geological faults, and artificial products such as trains, aircraft, power lines etc.



The Earth's magnetic field is caused primarily by conducting material inside the Earth's core (Source of Graphics: United States Geological Survey)

“Clouds in Hong Kong” Series - Cap Cloud

HUI Tai-wai

If the atmosphere is unstable with plenty of moisture, clouds like cumulus congestus and cumulonimbus may fill the sky; when it is stable and very dry, almost cloud-free conditions can be expected. The former situation usually occurs in summer while the latter is mainly observed during winter. What will occur if the atmospheric conditions are in between these two extremes? Out of the many possibilities, the formation of cap cloud over hilltop is rather common in Hong Kong.

"Cap cloud", anchoring at hilltops, is of orographic origin. In Hong Kong, it belongs to "low cloud group" and its cloud base height is restricted to the lowest 1,000 m. At this altitude, cap cloud is almost surely composed of small water droplets and is usually gray or white in colour. It is most often in the shape of lentil pod, almond, convex lens, hat or UFO with very smooth feature. Following the WMO cloud classification, "cap cloud" in Hong Kong could be classified as "stratocumulus lenticularis".

Figure 1 shows a cap cloud, covering the Lantau Peak on the morning of 10 November 2009. According to the Observatory's record, the weather was generally fine that morning with cloud amount of no more than 3 oktas i.e. less than three eighths of the sky dome being covered. However, the prevailing southerly winds encountered the Lantau Peak and was forced to rise along the slope (see Figure 2). Condensation eventually occurred and the Peak was capped by a patch of smooth cloud within which the visibility was rather low.



Figure 1: Cap cloud observed over Lantau Peak. Photograph was taken by the author at 7:50 a.m. on 10 November 2009 at the Tung Chung Development Pier facing southwest towards the peak

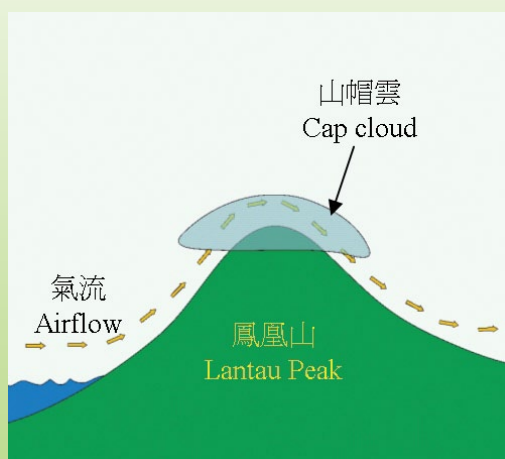
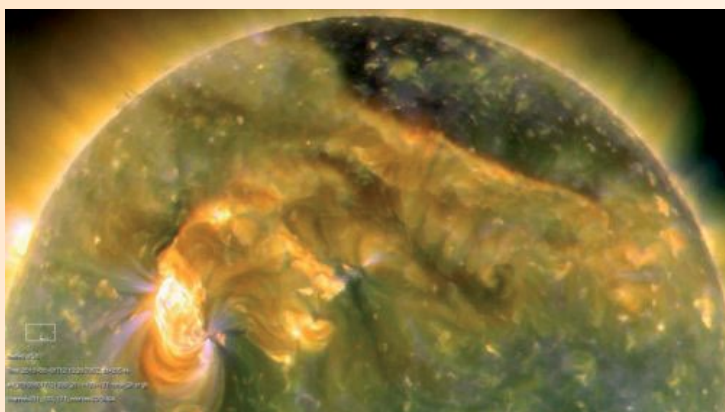


Figure 2: Schematic diagram showing the formation mechanism of Cap cloud

Solar Flare Eruption

LAM Hok-yin, David



High energy particles ejected from the sun (Source/Credits: NASA/SDO)

On 1 August 2010, a solar flare erupted on the sun surface near a sunspot region, followed by a coronal mass ejection (CME) process. A vast amount of high energy particles were ejected to the space and arrived at the Earth in the early hours on 4 August HKT.

This solar event was of a medium scale and the Space Weather Prediction Center in the United States issued the G2 geomagnetic storm warning. Activities disturbed the magnetic field of the Earth and auroras were observed at mid and high latitude regions. No damage reports on infrastructure, such as communications and power grids, were received around the world.

For information on space weather and latest space weather warning, please browse the HKO space weather webpage at http://www.weather.gov.hk/education/edu05spacewx/ele_spwx_curwarn_e.htm.

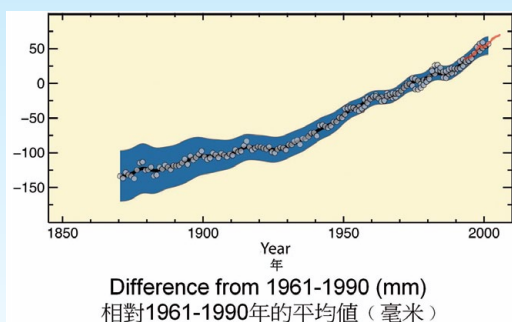
Climate Change FAQ

KOK Mang-hin

Through a question and answer approach, the Climate Change FAQs will explain some basic knowledge and facts of climate change in layman terms to promote the understanding of the causes of climate change, its impacts and what we can do to mitigate its effects.

Q: Is sea level rising?

A: Yes. There is strong evidence that global sea level gradually rose in the 20th century and is currently rising at an increased rate. Global average sea level has risen since 1961 at an average rate of 1.8 mm per year and since 1993 at 3.1 mm per year. The two major causes of global sea level rise are thermal expansion of the oceans (water expands as it warms) and the melting of ice and snow over ground (glaciers, ice caps, and polar ice sheets).

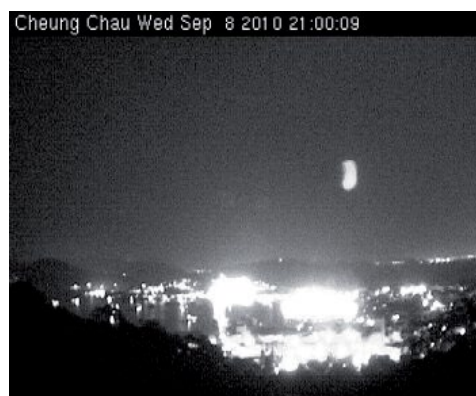


Observed changes in global average sea level rise from tide gauge (blue) and satellite (red) data. Changes are relative to corresponding averages for the period 1961-1990. Smoothed curve represents decadal averaged values while circles show yearly values. The shaded areas are the uncertainty intervals. (Source: IPCC, 2007)

Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects

Woo Wang-chun

The Observatory received 9 reports of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) sighted on 8 September 2010. Three of them referred to a sighting near the entrance of Tai Lam Tunnel, which had been identified to be a street lamp. Reference may be made to Google Street View (<http://goo.gl/wXRw>). There was a report claiming a suspected UFO on a weather photo captured at Cheung Chau by the Observatory (see figure). This was found to be caused by the light reflection by the protective glass in front of the camera. For other reports, no photograph or detailed information was given, so it was not possible for the Observatory to carry out a study.



Light on the weather photo captured by the Observatory at Cheung Chau on 8 September 2010

Astronomical Photo Album:

The Ring Nebula, M57

WOO Wang-chun

The M57 Ring Nebula is a planetary nebula located in the constellation of Lyra, about 2,300 light years away from the Earth. The nebula got its name from its resemblance to a ring. A sun-like star at its final stage of evolution releases a gaseous shell into the space. These gases emit vivid colourful light when excited by the radiation of the star.



(Courtesy of Hong Kong Space Museum)

Forecast for Hong Kong's Winter 2010/11

CHAN Kin-yu

The central and eastern equatorial Pacific were persistently cooler than normal since July 2010 and the situation developed to a La Niña event by the end of the same year. The forecasts by a number of climate models around the world indicate that the La Niña will last until the spring of 2011. During the development of the La Niña, it was widely reported by the media that Europe would experience the "coldest winter in 1000 years" under the influence of the La Niña. The World Meteorological Organization promptly pointed out that such a speculation has no scientific basis at all.

Here in Hong Kong, statistical data of the past 40 years reveal that out of the ten La Niña winters, 50 percent are colder than normal* while 40 percent are normal*. Thus, La Niña is not the sole factor affecting winter temperatures in Hong Kong.

Apart from La Niña year statistics, the Observatory also takes into account the latest forecasts issued by major climate prediction centres around the world, including forecasts generated by the Global-Regional Climate Model operated in-house, when formulating the seasonal forecast. Having analyzed the available information, the Observatory issued the forecast for Hong Kong's winter 2010/11 in late November 2010. In the light of conditions observed in the first half of the winter, the Observatory updated the temperature forecast for winter 2010/11 in early February 2011. The updated forecast is as follows:

Updated Seasonal Forecast for Winter of Hong Kong (December 2010 to February 2011)

Mean Temperature	Normal to below normal
Total Rainfall	Near normal

* based on the 1971-2000 climatological normal of winter temperatures

Chinese Name of Super Typhoon Megi

HUI Tai-wai

On 18 October 2010, we received lots of media enquiries, asking for the standard Cantonese pronunciation of Super Typhoon "Megi" and whether "魚" or "鯨魚" should be the proper Chinese translation for "Megi".

"Megi" is the tropical cyclone name proposed by Korea, which means "catfish". Several popular and authoritative Chinese dictionaries indicate that, "魚" and "鯨" are both traditional Chinese characters with same pronunciations and meanings. In the Korean Chinese character set (also known as Hanja), only "魚" but not "鯨" can be found. With the cultural and geographical variations taken into account, the Chinese translation of "Megi" should be "魚". This is in line with the Chinese name adopted by the meteorological services in Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao.

According to "A Chinese Talking Syllabary of the Cantonese Dialect: An Electronic Repository" constructed and maintained by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the syllabary of "鯨" is "nim4". Its pronunciation and tone are quite similar to the latter part of "denim". The sound file in ".wav" format is available at <http://humanum.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/Lexis/Canton2/>.

Media Luncheon

Editorial Board

In order to enhance communication with the media, the Observatory held the Media Luncheon on 25 October 2010. The Director, the Assistant Directors and about 30 reporters exchanged views on the dissemination of weather information.

The Director demonstrated the new version of "MyObservatory" for iPhone at the media luncheon. He also reported that the Observatory had started disseminating weather information via Twitter to enhance communication with the public, and introduced the "Greater Pearl River Delta Weather Website", which was jointly developed by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.



The Director exchanging views with reporters

The Community Weather Information Network Launch of Online Educational Resources Platform

CHAN Siu-wai, Wallace



The Director (2nd left), Professor WONG Kin-hung (1st left), Associate Head of the Department of Applied Physics of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, guest and member representatives officiating at the opening ceremony of the Educational Resources platform of Co-WIN

The Community Weather Information Network (Co-WIN) is a collaborative effort by the Observatory, the Department of Applied Physics of Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Hong Kong Joint-school Meteorological Association. The third anniversary of Co-WIN was celebrated on 13 November 2010. At the same time, an online Educational Resources platform of Co-WIN was officially launched.

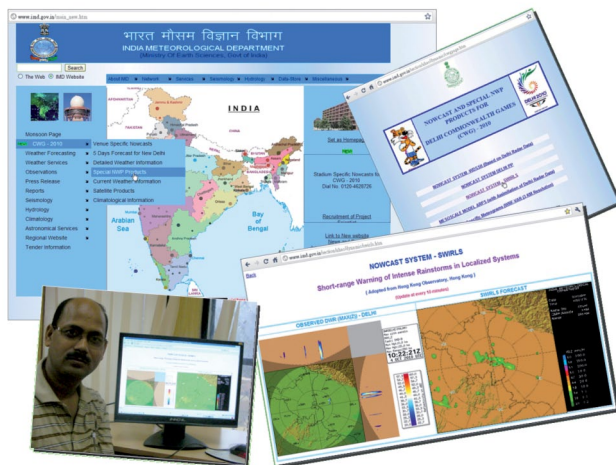
The new educational resources webpage (<http://weather2.ap.polyu.edu.hk/edu.php>) serves as a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience among Co-WIN members and the public. It includes basic knowledge on the theme "Weather and the Environment" prepared by the Observatory, as well as sample teaching plans and activities related to climate change, environmental protection and renewable energy. It also includes sample presentations prepared by students as well as training manuals and lecture notes on weather related topics prepared by the staff of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The public can access the Co-WIN website via <http://weather.ap.polyu.edu.hk/index.php>. The website has also been linked to the Observatory homepage www.weather.gov.hk/contente.htm.

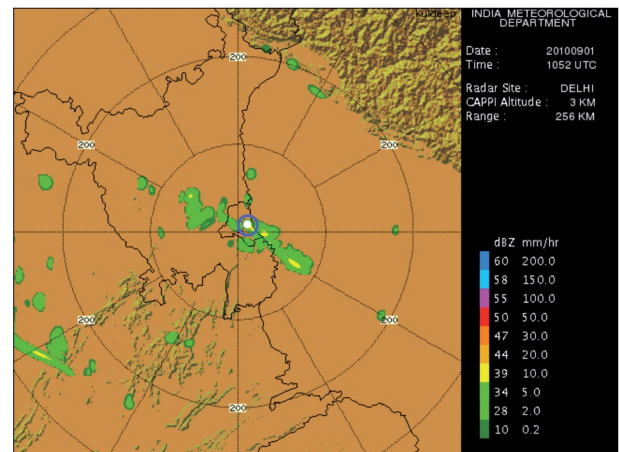
The SWIRLS Nowcasting System for India's Commonwealth Games

YEUNG Hon-yn

The XIX Commonwealth Games was held from 3 to 14 October 2010 in New Delhi, India. At the request of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Observatory's nowcasting system "SWIRLS" was deployed to India to support the very-short range rainfall forecast service during the Commonwealth Games. The chief developer of the Indian version of "SWIRLS", Mr Kuldeep Srivastava, of the IMD said, "It is the first collaboration between IMD and the Observatory. The technology transfer involved turned out to be a big challenge as everything had to be supported remotely and carried out within a very tight schedule. Fortunately, the experts from the Observatory were truly helpful throughout so that the whole process, including case study, system tuning and software installation, could be accomplished smoothly." The bilateral effort also included the publication of a research paper at a related symposium of the Indian Meteorological Society held in May 2010.



"SWIRLS" nowcast product launched on the IMD web site (<http://www.imd.gov.in>) and a photo of Mr Kuldeep Srivastava with the Indian version of SWIRLS display.



A forecast rainfall map generated by IMD on 1 September 2010 using the Indian version of "SWIRLS". The blue circle with a white spot shows the location of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the main stadium of the Commonwealth Games.

The Observatory Co-organized the "Safer Slopes Safer Living Fiesta 2010"

MOK Hing-yim

To enhance public knowledge and awareness on slope safety and natural disaster, the Observatory, Civil Engineering and Development Department, Hong Kong Red Cross and the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies jointly organized the "Safer Slopes Safer Living Fiesta 2010" on 28 November (Sunday). It was the first carnival event in Hong Kong featuring slope safety and reducing natural disasters. Apart from quizzes, booth games, performances and exhibitions, a "Disaster Adventure Pavilion" was set up for people to experience the power of landslides, typhoons and earthquakes.



The Observatory's game booths were well-received by the public



The Director (middle, back row) photographed with the first runner-up winning team of the "Dancing for Safer Living Competition"

Mountaineering and Hiking Safety Promotion

LI Yuet-sim

At the invitation of the Hong Kong Award for Young People, the Observatory was appointed as their Honorary Adviser of the Expeditions Instructor Central Registration Scheme to provide expert advice on meteorology. The aim of the scheme is to enhance the professionalism and recognition of the instructors. Miss LI Yuet-sim, Scientific Officer of the Observatory, participated in the launching ceremony of the scheme on 17 October 2010 and received the certificate of appointment.

On another occasion, the Civil Aid Service joined hands with 16 government departments and non-governmental organizations to hold the "Mountaineering Safety Promotion Day" on 31 October to enhance public awareness of mountaineering safety. As in the past years, the Observatory rendered full support to the activity by introducing weather phenomena which would affect mountaineering and hiking and highlighting the precautions to take under various weather conditions.



Ribbon-cutting by the guest of honour Mr Michael WONG Wai-lun (middle), Director of Information Services, and Dr Ernest LEE Shu-wing (4th right), Commissioner of Civil Aid Service, as well as other guests including Dr LEE Boon-ying (4th left), Director of the Observatory, to launch the Mountaineering Safety Promotion Day.

Miss LI Yuet-sim (middle), Scientific Officer of the Observatory, receiving the certificate of appointment for the Observatory as the Honorary Adviser of the Expeditions Instructor Central Registration Scheme



Enhances Weather Services for Fishermen

LEE Kwok-lun

Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO), together with the colleagues in weather service divisions met the representatives of the Hong Kong Fishery Alliance and the Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium separately to discuss the enhancement of weather services for the fishermen on 16 August 2010. All participants actively exchanged opinions openly and generously during the meetings. Representatives of the fishermen appraised the weather services provided by HKO that facilitate the fishing operations.

The fishermen welcomed Mr SHUN's proposal on the development of a fishermen portal website and the publication of a pamphlet on weather for fishermen. HKO colleagues also introduced the latest weather services on web and demonstrated the use of mobile phone to browse weather photos and information of automatic weather stations. Besides, the Observatory will continue to promote new weather services to the fishermen regularly through the training courses organized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.



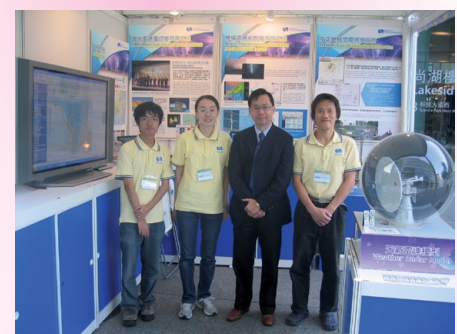
Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Assistant Director (2nd right) discussing with Mr CHEUNG Siu-keung, Chairman of the Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium (2nd left) at the meeting

InnoCarnival 2010

LAM Hok-yin, David

The Observatory, together with seven partner government departments of the "Science in the Public Service" joined the "InnoCarnival 2010" organized by the Innovation & Technology Commission on 6-14 November to showcase their scientific work at the Hong Kong Science Park. The Observatory's work displayed in the InnoCarnival included "MyObservatory", Location-specific Lightning Alert Service, Airport Thunderstorm and Lightning Alerting System, and LIDAR Windshear Alert System.

An estimated 100,000 students and members of the public showed up in the Carnival.



The Director (2nd right) gave support to "Friends of the Observatory" and our staff manning the booth

Visits • Courses • Talks • Meeting



Late June 2010 Dr PAN Chi-kin (front row with tie), Scientific Officer, gave lectures in a course organized by World Meteorological Organization Regional Training Centre in Nanjing. The main theme focused on weather information services and the use of information technology in meteorology.



6 to 10 September 2010 Mr WONG Wai-kin (4th right, front row), Scientific Officer, visited Bangkok and lectured on data assimilation technique in a training workshop on numerical weather prediction for about 30 participants from various divisions of Thai Meteorological Department including weather forecasting, aviation meteorology, hydrology, meteorological information processing, and numerical weather prediction modelling, enhancing their capacities in the application and research development of numerical weather prediction model.



27 to 29 July 2010 Mr CHOY Boon-leung (1st right), Scientific Officer, was invited by the Directorate-General of Meteorology and Air Navigation of Oman for a 3-day trip to Muscat to share the Observatory's experience in participating in the International Civil Aviation Organization Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme audit and the setting up of an ISO9000 certified quality management system on the provision of meteorological services for international air navigation.



8 September 2010 Mr Lesley Choo (left), Chief Meteorological Officer of National Environment Agency, Singapore, visited the Observatory.



3 August 2010 Dr George HO (Left) of Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory photographed with the Director after delivering a talk on "Space Weather" for the Observatory staff.



15 September 2010 A group of 12 delegates of the Nuclear Emergency Office of Zhuhai visited the Observatory and photographed with Mr LEUNG Wing-mo (5th right, front row), Assistant Director.



5 October 2010 Mr SHUN Chi-ming (4th left), Assistant Director, briefed a delegation of Works Branch of Development Bureau on the observatory's work.



14 October 2010 11 members of the Tsuen Wan District Council and District Office, headed by Mr CHAU How-chen, GBS, JP (2nd right), the Chairman of the District Council, visited the Observatory. The Director (1st right) briefed them on the work of the Observatory, and they were much impressed by the Observatory's application of science and technology in serving the public.



6 to 7 October 2010 Two Assistant Directors, Mr SHUN Chi-ming (2nd left, front row) and Mrs. Hilda LAM (1st right, front row), photographed with Mr LI Xun (2nd right, front row), Deputy Director of the Beijing Meteorological Service Office, members of the delegation and staff of the Observatory.



24 October 2010 At the invitation of the World Bank, Mrs Hilda LAM (standing), Assistant Director, delivered a presentation on the early warning system in Hong Kong at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Pre-Conference Workshop held in Incheon, Republic of Korea. Her talk covered the severe weather warning systems, effective warning dissemination and natural disaster preparedness in Hong Kong.



8 October 2010 Four delegates from Lands Department visited the Observatory. Apart from trying out their skills as TV weather presenters, they also delivered a talk with a theme of "GeoInfo Map" to the Observatory staff.



30 October 2010 Mr CHAN Kai-wing (standing), Scientific Officer, who worked at Antarctica for almost 1 year, gave a talk on "Weather at the South Pole" to introduce the weather situation of this most mysterious and awe-inspiring place on Earth to the public.



Late October 2010 Mr LI Sun-wai (4th left, front row), Scientific Officer, travelled to Tanzania of eastern Africa to deliver a series of lectures on public weather services for a total of 21 meteorologists and officers of disaster management authorities from 8 countries in eastern Africa.



22 to 26 November 2010 Two aviation safety inspectors on aeronautical meteorology of Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, namely, Mr Raimi Adewara and Mr Paul Ajakaye, attached to the Observatory to study the installation, operation and maintenance of the aerodrome meteorological observing system.



9 November 2010 Mr GINN Wing-lui (standing), Senior Scientific Officer, delivered a talk on weather forecasting and application of weather radar in the "Teacher Orientation Seminar" organized by the Observatory.



24 November 2010 A delegation of Hong Kong Broadband Network reporters visited the Observatory to learn more about the production of TV weather programme.



9 November 2010 Mr GAO Yi (2nd left, front row), Deputy Director General of Air-Traffic Management Bureau (ATMB) of CAAC, led a delegation of 8 meteorologists from different regions in the Mainland, to visit the Observatory and to attend the bi-annual high-level meeting. The meeting reviewed the collaboration between the two aviation meteorological services over the past two years, and set the direction for future cooperation.



26 November 2010 Mr Andrew Haines (2nd left), the Chief Executive Officer of UK Civil Aviation Authority, paid a visit to the Observatory. The Director (1st left) took the opportunity to introduce the mobile app "MyObservatory" to Mr Haines.



29 November 2010 Captain Michael Fopp (3rd left), the Master of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, and their members visited the Airport Meteorological Office and Light Detection and Ranging System at the Hong Kong International Airport, as well as the Central Forecasting Office and History Room at the Observatory's Headquarters. The visitors showed great interest in the long history of the Observatory's developments.



1 December 2010 Mr SHEN Xiaonong (3rd left), the Deputy Director of the China Meteorological Administration, led a six-member delegation to attend the biennial high-level meeting at the Observatory. The two sides reviewed the co-operation during the past two years and agreed on areas for future joint efforts. The delegation also visited the Central Forecasting Office and other meteorological facilities to see the latest development of the Observatory.



29 November to 3 December 2010 The Observatory held the training course "Automated Weather Station Network", as part of the Observatory's contribution to the World Meteorological Organization Voluntary Cooperation Programme. 11 participants from Ecuador; Swaziland, Moldova, Belize, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia, Samoa, Malaysia and Macao, China attended the course.



11 December 2010 Mr YEUNG Ho-kee, Experimental Officer, gave a public talk on "Lightning and Thunderstorm". He explained the causes of lightning and thunderstorm and the precaution. He also introduced the method to detect lightning and the Observatory's "Location-specific Lightning Alert Webpage".



16 December 2010 The European Union consular group consisting of 16 consular members from Belgium, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the European Union visited the Observatory. The Director (right) briefed them on the Observatory's work.





Best TV Weather Programme Presenters 3rd Quarter, 2010

Mr LAU Dick-shum



Retirements

Editorial Board

Ms YEUNG Siu-wai, Christina (right), joined the Observatory in 1977 to become the first female Student Scientific Assistant. She was selected for training in meteorology in the United Kingdom in 1982, and promoted to Experimental Officer upon successful completion of the training course. She was promoted to Chief Experimental Officer in 1995. Christina has undertaken a variety of jobs at different levels during her 30 years with the Observatory. Before retirement, she was responsible for the contingency plans for nuclear and other security-related emergencies.



Mr LEUNG Chi-wing (right), Motor Driver, came to work for the Observatory in 1994 and have since been providing safe and reliable transportation service to the Observatory staff. Because of his consistently excellent working attitude and service performance, Mr LEUNG has won a number of commendations included the Ten Outstanding Drivers Award from the Government Land Transport Agency, the Safe Driving Award from the Government Logistics Department, and the Secretary for the Civil Service's Commendation Award Scheme.



Ex-Director Mr Robert LAU visited the Observatory

Editorial Board

Mr Robert LAU, ex-Director of the Observatory, visited the Observatory with his family members on 14 October 2010. Mr LAU shared his reminiscence with colleagues who had worked with him and recalled the joys of working at the Observatory.



Ex-Director Mr Robert LAU (1st right), ex-Director, reminiscing about the past with the Director and colleagues

Observatory Staff Receiving Praise Editorial Board

Staff of the Observatory who received words of thanks and commendation from the public or organizations during September to December 2010:

- Dr LEE Boon-ying (Director)
- Mr HUI Tai-wai, David (Scientific Officer)
- Mr LEE Kwok-lun (Scientific Officer)
- Mr WONG Wai-kin (Scientific Officer)

Double Happiness to Mr YAU Lai-kin

Got Promoted and Awarded the Secretary for Civil Service's Commendation

Chan Wing-shan, LEE Shuk-ming

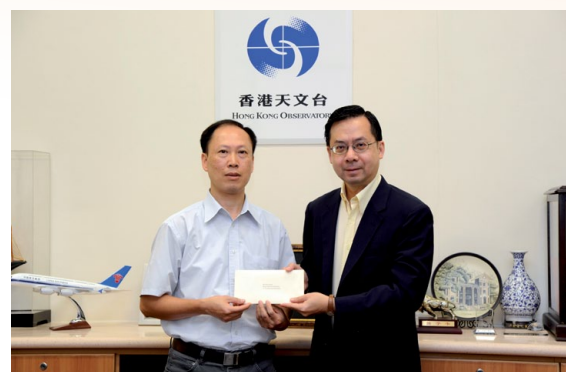
Congratulations! The exemplary performance of Mr YAU Lai-kin got double recognition in 2010. He was promoted to the rank of Senior Radar Specialist Mechanic on 27 September 2010, and awarded the Secretary for Civil Service's Commendation on 25 November 2010.

Before promotion, Mr YAU was mainly responsible for maintenance of meteorological equipment at airport. In September 2009, during the approach of Typhoon Koppu, the Runway Visual Range in the airport needed emergency maintenance. Mr YAU kept close watch of the situation and set off to the runway to repair the equipment once the weather condition allowed. His devotion to work is highly appreciated.

The award is not only a recognition of his personal achievement, but also an encouragement to all other technical staff in the department. Mr YAU is now working in the Environmental Radiation Monitoring and Meteorological Measurements Section. We wish him every success in his new job!



Mr YAU Lai-kin receiving the award from the Secretary for the Civil Service, Ms Denise YUE



Mr YAU Lai-kin (left) receiving the promotion letter from the Director

Original Music Clips Added as Background to YouTube Weather Video Staff Association

The YouTube weather videos produced weekly by the Observatory are well received by members of the public. To enhance the liveliness of the videos, new background music clips have been added to the videos recently. The new background music clips, wholly composed and played by the staff of the Observatory, were selected from a competition held within the department. A list of the awarded music clips are listed below. Please enjoy them at <http://www.weather.gov.hk/whatsnew/f2/wn20101105e.htm>. Special thanks to Ms May YAM of the Friends of the Observatory for being the guest adjudicator.



The champion of music composition competition, Ms SONG Man-kuen (left), receiving the award from the Director

Rank	Music	Composer
Champion	Sound of weather	SONG Man-kuen, Sandy (Senior Scientific Officer)
First runner-up	Sunny day	LAI Sau-king (Student Scientific Assistant) and CHEUNG Wing-cheung (Student Scientific Assistant)
Second runner-up	North Point sea temp 28	LAM Chun-ming (Scientific Assistant)
Merit award	Rainbow in the rain	CHEUNG Sai-kit (Scientific Officer)
Merit award	Shining on the boat	LEUNG Ka-yan (Student Scientific Assistant)

Observatory Charity Bazaar

CHOW Chi-kin (The convener of Volunteer Team)

The Observatory Charity Bazaar, prepared for a long time jointly by the Observatory Volunteer Team and Staff Association, was held on 16 November 2010. The aim of the bazaar is to raise money to subsidize future visits and activities organised by the Volunteer Team. A large variety of attractive products prepared by the volunteer team members were available for sale. The top popular item - hand woven scarf, was sold out before noon! Our Director, Dr LEE, not only came personally to boost up our morale, but also purchased a dozen of items generously. Many of our caring colleagues came to show support as well. After an all-day endeavour offered by the volunteers, we have raised a total of \$14,468 and the net income was around \$11,000 after deducting the material cost. What an encouraging result for all of us!



Hong Kong Observatory Lights-off Day

LEI Chi-lap, Jacky

To further promote energy conservation and to raise the awareness of colleagues on environmental protection, the Observatory has decided to hold a departmental lights-off day every month with effect from September 2010. During the lights-off day, the Observatory will turn off some less essential lighting in the Headquarters for one hour.

The first Hong Kong Observatory Lights-off Day was launched on 3 September 2010. The Observatory will continue to hold lights-off day to support the promotion of energy conservation.

The Director of Hong Kong Observatory "Table Tennis Trophy"

Staff Association

The Staff Association organized the annual Director of Hong Kong Observatory "Table Tennis Trophy" competition in late October and early November 2010. The event was competitive and full of excitement. Talented players from the Aviation Weather Services Branch won both the championship of the Man and Woman Single while the Radiation Monitoring and Assessment Branch secured the championship of the Man double, showing their strong solidarity.

The Aviation Weather Services Branch and the Radiation Monitoring and Assessment Branch were both awarded the 2010 Director of Hong Kong Observatory "Table Tennis Trophy".



The Director (middle, back row) photographed with participants after competition

Tai Chi Interest Class

Staff Association

The Staff Association organized Tai Chi interest classes regularly in the past couple of years and invited Master KWOK to teach the Yang style Tai Chi in eighty-eight forms. Colleagues learned diligently and were able to follow the instructor's forms after a period of time. They practiced together and encouraged each other, fostering good workplace relationship and promoting good health.



Participants photographed with the instructor (6th right)

Mailing Address

Latin Dance Class

Staff Association

Starting October 2010, the Staff Association has organized the weekly Latin Dance Class for colleagues. Together with Badminton and Tai Chi classes, the Dance Class offer opportunities for us to exercise and learn. Latin Dance is an aerobic exercise which can strengthen the heart and lung functions, and keep out tiredness.

Learning Latin Dance will also help build up self-confidence and overcome shyness. It is a good physical exercise.

Mr LEE Luen-fai Sharing His Insight at the Observatory

CHIU Hung-yu

Mr LEE Luen-fai gave a talk in the Observatory's management forum in July 2010. The title was "Dancing with politicians and the mass media". He shared with our colleagues in the forum his experience and insight as a seasoned broadcaster and a director in public affairs.

Mr LEE was previously the Head of Public and Current Affairs in the Television Division of Radio Television Hong Kong. He is now the Director of Public Affairs of a property developing company with thorough understanding of media strategy and public affairs.

This forum provided a good opportunity for us to learn more about public affairs and the formulation of strategies to further improve our service for the public.



Mr LEUNG Wing-mo (left), the Assistant Director, presenting a souvenir to Mr LEE Luen-fai