

## **High quality meteorological observations from ships**

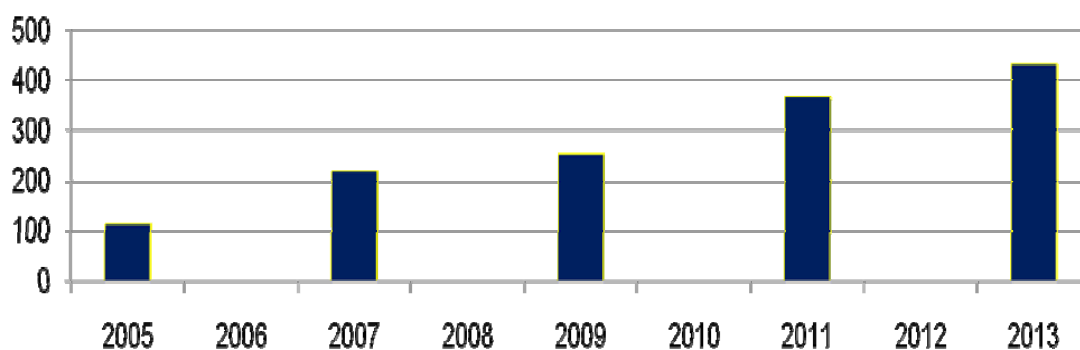
Written by Ng Moon-chiu June 2013

In the previous issue, the recruitment of the first Hong Kong Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) with shipborne Automatic Weather Station in January 2013 was recounted. There is yet another class of VOS – VOS Climate (VOSCLIM), which provide high quality weather observations over the seas.

A VOSCLIM ship is a ship equipped with sufficient certified meteorological instruments for making observations, transmitting regular and timely weather reports, entering the observations in a standardized electronic logbook, and has a proven record of providing high quality observations.

The aim of VOSCLIM is to provide a high quality subset of weather observation data in both real-time and in delayed-mode, supplemented by an extensive array of metadata, to support global climate studies and research. National meteorological services have commenced to recruit VOSCLIM since the early 2000's and the number of VOSCLIM has increased steadily from 113 in 2005 to 430 (around 12% of the total number of VOS) in March 2013.

### **Number of VOSCLIM ships**



(Source: Ship Observations Team 2013 report)

To meet this demand, the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also recruited the first Hong Kong VOSClim - OOCL Yokohama in April 2013. HKO will continue to recruit more VOSClim for further contribution to the safety operation of the marine community and the monitoring of climate change.



OOCL Yokohama – the first Hong Kong VOSClim



Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, Mr C M Shun (right) presenting VOSClim certificate to Captain W Zhou of OOCL