

Workshop of Port Meteorological Officers - Orlando, USA

Written by Wu Chung-wai March 2011

In last December, more than sixty Port Meteorological Officers (PMO) and lecturers from National Meteorological Services (NMS) worldwide gathered in Orlando, USA for a PMO workshop organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). As the PMO of Hong Kong, I also attended this three-day workshop.

WMO is maintaining an international network of PMOs, who liaise on behalf of NMS with the maritime industry on weather and related maritime safety issues and recruit vessels for the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) scheme.

WMO organized the PMO workshop to facilitate adherence to its standard procedures by the whole VOS fleet in every country, and the data produced are consistent and comply with WMO standards. Another objective of the workshop was to promote a better integration of observing systems through WMO Integrated Global Observing System, in order to address all related logistical aspects.

This workshop offered a very good opportunity to learn about the latest developments of the VOS scheme and the integration of ocean observing systems. Through experience sharing with lecturers and participants, I have widened my perspective on the role of PMO and gained better understanding on the needs of the VOS fleet.

The role of PMO is very important and the efficiency of VOS observations often depends on the initiative displayed. We can look forward to the further development of the collaboration among all PMOs in support of the VOS programme, and of global ocean observations.

All in all, I should be grateful if shipping companies could consider recommending more ships, especially those calling at Hong Kong regularly, to join our VOS scheme.



Workshop group photo
Can you find out the PMOs you met before?