

公務員優質服務獎勵計劃 2013
Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme 2013

頒獎典禮
Prize Presentation Ceremony



The Observatory Winning the Civil Service Enhancement Award Gold Prize

The Observatory won four prizes under the Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme 2013, including the Gold Prize of the Departmental Service Enhancement Award (Small Department Category). This is the fourth time the Observatory has won this biennial award following previous successes in 2005, 2009 and 2011.

For many years, the Observatory has been striving for excellence in the delivery of public weather services using an innovative approach, including the launch of the "MyObservatory" mobile app and the "Digital Weather Forecast" webpage over the past two year. Both are personalised services with customisable levels of details. Meanwhile, user-oriented weather services were developed in a caring manner and tailored for different user groups, e.g. "Significant Convection Monitoring and Forecast Products and Services" for local air traffic controllers. The Observatory is also working proactively with various collaborating partners to maximise synergy and achieve win-win results. Collaboration with the Government Flying Service on surveillance flights to collect tropical cyclone data has set a good example of how different departments can work closely and enthusiastically together for a common goal.

The Award Presentation Ceremony was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 6 September. More details can be found on the Civil Service Bureau's web page:

http://www.servicexcellence.gov.hk/en/awards_scheme/

Briefer, Greener and Fresher

Starting from this issue (No. 52), "Weather on Wings" is renamed "Weather Chit Chat". To better protect the environment and cut down the consumption of papers, "Weather Chit Chat" is published with an online edition only from now on, with frequency increased from three to four times a year. The total number of pages will be condensed from 20 to just 7 pages with a totally fresh look and feel. Content-wise, "Weather Chit Chat" is restructured and redesigned from the ground up for better understanding of meteorological news and easier appreciation of the Observatory's activities. Should you have any comment or suggestion, please let us know by e-mail (hkof@hko.gov.hk) or by completing the online form at http://www.hko.gov.hk/sugg_form.htm.



Our services:





Partnership

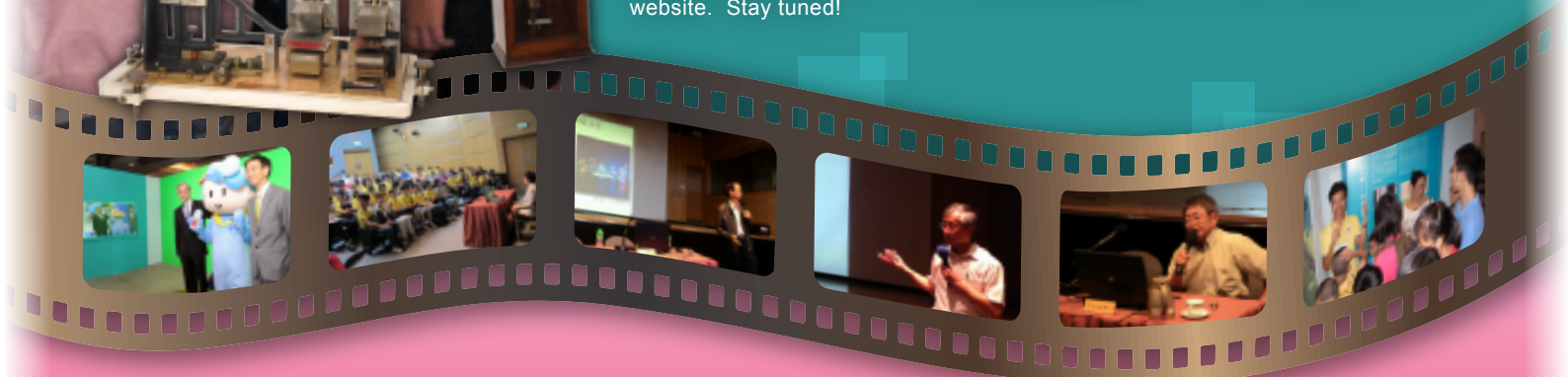


“Hong Kong Observatory - Under the Same Sky 130 Years” Exhibition

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) staged the “Hong Kong Observatory - Under the Same Sky 130 Years” exhibition jointly with the Hong Kong Museum of History (HKMH) from 10 July to 2 September. More than 100 exhibits and photographs were on show, attracting more than 146,000 visitors in total. Compliments such as “very informative”, “an eye opener”, “disaster prevention awareness enhanced”, “for the well-being of people”, etc., were also received. During the exhibition period, four public lectures were organised and conducted by four distinguished guests, namely Prof. HO Pui-yin of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Mr LAM Chiu-ying, former Director of HKO, Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of HKO and Dr Joseph TING, Museum Expert Adviser of HKMH. They were well received by the public and enthusiastic interactions between the speakers and audience were seen in all the lectures.

The success of this exhibition is attributable to the great collaborative effort among all partners, local and overseas included. Special thanks to HKMH, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Hong Kong Space Museum, Shanghai Meteorological Bureau and local collectors, Mr CHENG Po-hung and Mr Ricky YAM, for their generous loans of exhibits. These invaluable collections greatly enriched the exhibition and brought much benefit to the public. Besides, tributes must be paid to the HKMH project team, Observatory’s colleagues, “Friends of the Observatory” docents, as well as docents from HKMH, for their active participation and contribution to the event. Without their vivid descriptions of the exhibits and skillful oral presentations offered during scheduled tours, the 130-year long history of HKO could not have been presented with such a success. Their sincere effort to recall and share collective memories with the visitors definitely deserves a big round of applause!

Following the close of the exhibition, a “virtual tour” project is underway to preserve the essence of the exhibits. The resulting webpage will be made available on HKO’s website. Stay tuned!



MOK Hing-yim

The Shipping Community Witnessed a Breakthrough of the HKVOS

On 28 May, members of the Shipping Community witnessed a breakthrough of the Hong Kong Voluntary Observing Ships (HKVOS) at the fourth meeting of the Liaison Group for the Shipping Community of the Observatory. Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of the Observatory, presented certificates to OOCL Long Beach, the first HKVOS installed with automatic meteorological observation system, and OOCL Yokohama, the first HKVOS upgraded to Voluntary Observation Ship (Climate). The former can perform frequent weather observation automatically whereas the latter can provide high quality weather reports in support of long-range climate research. Looking ahead, the Observatory will continue its effort to increase the number of HKVOS in both categories with a view to enhancing the quantity and quality of maritime weather observations.



▲ Automatic weather station aboard a HKVOS



▼ OOCL Long Beach.

Engaging the youth



MOK Hing-yim

Youth Fight Against Climate Change

Mr MOK Hing-yim, Senior Scientific Officer, attended the “Climate Youth Network” forum on 13 July to share the latest news on climate change with more than 10 teams of “Climate Youth Ambassadors” with good performance during the activity. He also acted as one of judges to select five outstanding teams. The “Climate Youth Network” is the first school climate network rolled out this year in Hong Kong by “Green Power”, a local institution focusing on environmental protection issues. The programme has recruited around 600 school students from about 30 secondary schools in Hong Kong to become “Climate Youth Ambassadors”. After training, practising and cultivating low carbon habits by themselves, they split into teams to design low carbon activities and promote such messages in their schools and communities. The objective is to mobilise more people to join low carbon lifestyle to combat climate change.



▲ Mr MOK Hing-yim, Senior Scientific Officer, speaking in the forum.



LAM Hok-yin

Students Actively Participated in Lightning Detector Design Competition

To promote younger generations’ interest in meteorological and information technologies, as well as weather instrumentation, the Observatory joined hands with the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the Hong Kong Meteorological Society to organise a Lightning Detector Design Competition. It attracted a large number of primary and secondary school students to participate. The project was supported by the HKU Knowledge Exchange Fund and the prize presentation ceremony was held at HKU’s Rayson Huang Theatre on 25 May.



▲ Mr Edwin LAI (1st on the right) presenting prize to the champion team in the senior category - HKTA Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School.

◀ The champion team in the junior category - Our Lady of China Catholic Primary School showcasing their creative design.

The list of prize winners in the competition can be found at: <http://i.cs.hku.hk/~light/AwardWinnerList-English.php>





Cool Knowledge of Meteorology

LEE Tsz-cheung and CHAN Ho-sun

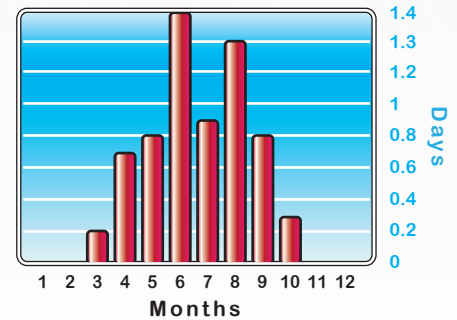
Raining Cats and Dogs

"Raining cats and dogs" is an English idiom to describe heavy downpour situations. The definitive origin of this phrase is difficult to trace. Among the many versions that exist, one can be traced back to the 17th century Irish writer, Jonathan Swift. In one of his poems, England was narrated as having poor drainage system and heavy rain would cause flooding. Floating around in the flood waters were drowned cats and dogs, among other debris. Later on, he also wrote in an article "... he was sure it would rain cats and dogs. ...".

Heavy downpours are rather common in Hong Kong during the summer season. If one defines "heavy rain" as hourly rainfall of 30 mm or above, then there are around 6.5 days with "heavy rain" at the Observatory Headquarters each year on average. To date (as of Sep 2013), the highest hourly rainfall at the Observatory Headquarters is 145.5 mm recorded on 7 June 2008. When the rain is extremely heavy, forecasters sometimes use "torrential rain" to describe the situation but never say "raining cats and dogs". As a matter of fact, there are no reports of "raining animals of any kind" in Hong Kong thus far, according to the official record of the Observatory!

Average number of "heavy rain" days in each month

*Records at the Observatory Headquarters during the period 1981-2010.



YEUNG Hon-yin and LEE Tsz-cheung

Summer-like Warm Winters

The global climate is obviously changing and Hong Kong climate is no exception. In particular, local temperatures experienced a noticeable rising trend in the last century. During the last 10 years, there were some abnormally warm winters and autumns, including the warmest February in 2009 (with monthly mean temperature of 20.5 degrees and maximum temperature as high as 28.3 degrees), the warmest October in 2008 (with monthly mean temperature of 26.5 degrees and average daily minimum temperature of 24.9 degrees), as well as the warmest November in 2006 (with monthly mean temperature of 23.3 degrees). In fact, five out of the ten warmest years since 1885 occurred between 2001 and 2010. Similar situations were happening in many parts of the world. Given such undeniable evidence of climate change, we need to take positive steps to face this major challenge.



Rank	Yearly Mean Temperature of Hong Kong (degree)	Year
1	24.0	1998
2	23.9	2002
3	23.8	1966
3	23.8	1999
5	23.7	2007
6	23.6	1994
6	23.6	2001
6	23.6	2003
9	23.5	1991
9	23.5	2006

LEE Tsz-cheung

Report on "The Global Climate 2001-2010, a Decade of Extremes"

According to a report released on 3 July by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the 2001-2010 decade was the warmest on a global scale since 1850. Accompanying the warm anomaly was a net loss of ice — rapid decline in Arctic sea ice, melting of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctic, as well as loss of glaciers in other parts of the world. Such widespread melting of glaciers and ice sheets, exacerbated by the thermal expansion of sea water, led also to a continuous rise in sea level. The decade was also rather eventful in terms of climate extremes and record-breaking phenomena, including heat waves in Europe and Russia, Hurricane Katrina in the United States, Tropical Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, floods in Pakistan, as well as droughts in the Amazon basin, Australia and east Africa.



WMO's report on "The Global Climate 2001-2010, A Decade of Extremes" is available at: http://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_1103_en.pdf






CHEUNG Man-sze

HKO Staff Association Talk on “Weather and Astronomical Photography”

At the invitation of the HKO Staff Association, Will CHO, a popular photographer in social networks, delivered a talk on 16 July about weather and heavenly scenes shooting skills. He also shared with HKO colleagues some of his unforgettable experiences in outdoor photo-taking. Will CHO’s talk was intriguing and well received by colleagues as seen from the full house of attendance. If you think paradise-like photos, such as a miraculous sea of clouds and the splendid Milky Way Galaxy, can only be taken in foreign countries, Will CHO proved that your perception was wrong by displaying his masterpieces of meteorological and astronomical photos, all captured locally in Hong Kong! Shown here in the background is a roaring sea of clouds taken at Lantau Peak by Will CHO.

Will Cho
www.facebook.com/willcho.tokate

Award Presentation Ceremony of the Naming Competition for the Observatory’s Mascot

The Observatory’s new mascot is named “Dr Tin”. This cool name was coined through a naming competition organised by the Observatory during June-July with participation by members of the public. “Dr Tin”, in Chinese pronunciation, reflects the Observatory’s close monitoring of the weather to serve the public, no matter day or night. As a leader of the Family of Weather Icons, it will serve as an ambassador to promote the Observatory’s public education activities.



Details of the mascot can be found at:
http://www.hko.gov.hk/130thAnniversary/mascot_design_e.htm



(From left) Mr CHENG Kam-wing, Acting Director of Leisure and Cultural Services; Mr LING Man-hei, winner of the naming competition; Ms WONG, representative of Mr WONG Chuen-hing, 2nd runner up; Mr YEUNG Kwok-leung, 2nd runner up; Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of HKO; and Dr Tin, at the award presentation ceremony on 9 July.

Side Lights

CUHK



21 Aug

Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of HKO, making keynote speech at the Environment and Climate Change Forum

HKO



21 Aug

Prof. Peter YAU Man-kong revisiting HKO to share his pioneering work in satellite signal reception

Guangzhou



26 Jun

Mr HON Kai-kwong, Scientific Officer, participating in the Regional Seminar on Numerical Weather Prediction Technology

HKO



14 Jun

Mr Paul TANG Kwok-wai, Secretary for the Civil Service, visiting HKO

HKO



8 Jun

Dr Raymond HO Chung-tai visiting HKO with a delegation from the Association of Engineering Professionals in Society

King's Park



Jun

HKO and Hong Kong Polytechnic University setting up a new GPS receiver to monitor atmospheric water vapour

Shanghai



28-30 May

Mr CHAN Sai-tick, Senior Scientific Officer, introducing the technique of analysing the intensity of tropical cyclones using satellite imageries for meteorological personnel from the eastern China region

Chek Lap Kok



22-26 Apr

Forecasters from the Shanghai Meteorological Bureau attending HKO's aviation meteorology course for low-level flying

Beijing



18-19 Apr

Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director of HKO, visiting China Meteorological Administration, Institute of Atmospheric Physics Chinese Academy of Sciences and State Oceanic Administration

Please visit the following webpages for more details:

<http://www.hko.gov.hk/wisnewe.htm>
<http://www.hko.gov.hk/hkonews/indexe.htm>



Staff Up Close

Award Ceremony



* From Left

Senior Experimental Officers:
Mr HUI Kin-chung, Mr TSE Wai-ming
Radar Specialist Mechanics:
Mr TSANG Kam-kwong, Mr LO Wai-hung

Mr WONG Chi-ching,
Mr CHAN Ho-yin,
Mr LAI Tak-cheong,
Mr LUK Ka-lok

Mr LEUNG Ka-man,
Mr CHOI Lap-man

Mr YEUNG
Hon-yin

Officiated by: Director of HKO,
Mr SHUN Chi-ming

Letter of Commendation :
25 July

Promotion to Senior Scientific
Assistants : 19 June

Promotion to Chief Scientific Assistant :
20 May

Best TV Weather Programme Presenter 2nd Quarter, 2013 :
8 August

Staff of the Observatory who received words of thanks and commendation from the public or organisations during May to August 2013:

Mr TSUI Kit-chi (Acting Assistant Director); Mr LEE Sai-ming (Senior Scientific Officer);
Ms Sandy SONG (Senior Scientific Officer); Mr David HUI (Scientific Assistant);
Mr YEUNG Ho-kee (Experimental Officer); Mr LAU Ying-hong (Scientific Assistant)

Awards received by the Observatory during May to August 2013:

Two awards in the Community Chest Corporate and Employee
Contribution Programme 2012/13:

- CARE Scheme Civil Service Category Highest Per Capita Contribution Award
- Corporate and Employee Contribution Programme Bronze Award



Certificate of Merit in the 2012 Hong
Kong Awards for Environmental
Excellence Sectoral Awards
Scheme (Public Organisations and
Utilities Sector)