

An exceptionally warm April with unsettled weather

The exceptionally warm weather in the first quarter of 2019 continued in April, mainly attributed to the warmer than normal sea surface temperature and stronger than usual southerly flow in the lower atmosphere over the northern part of the South China Sea. The mean minimum temperature and the mean temperature of the month were 22.9 and 24.7 degrees respectively, both 2.1 degrees above their corresponding normal figures, marking the joint highest and second highest records for April. The mean maximum temperature of the month was 27.2 degrees, 2.2 degrees above the normal figure and the fifth highest on record for April. The monthly rainfall for April was 185.8 millimetres, about 6 per cent above the normal figure of 174.7 millimetres. The accumulated rainfall recorded in the first four months this year was 445.7 millimetres, about 33 per cent above the normal figure of 336.1 millimetres for the same period.

Under the influence of a fresh to strong northeast monsoon, the weather was windy for the first four days of April with a mixture of sunny periods and a few rain patches. The northeast monsoon also brought the temperature at the Hong Kong Observatory down to 18.9 degrees on April 2, the lowest of the month. As the northeast monsoon moderated, local weather became fine and warm on April 5 despite some haze under light wind conditions. Affected by a southerly airstream and an anticyclone aloft, the weather was generally hot and fine from April 6 to 10.

With a trough of low pressure over Guangdong approaching and later moving across the coastal areas on the night of April 11, local weather became cloudy that afternoon, followed by heavy showers and squally thunderstorms that night. More than 30 millimetres of rainfall were recorded over the northern part of the New Territories, and the rainfall in some areas even exceeded 70 millimetres. Together with the setting-in of a strong easterly airstream, it was cloudy and windy with a few showers and thunderstorms on April 12. The weather remained showery with a few squally thunderstorms for the next four days as a result of the trough of low pressure lingering over the coastal areas of Guangdong and the northern part of the South China Sea. As the unstable weather moved to the south of Hong Kong there were sunny periods on April 17.

With the onset of an active southerly airstream over the coast of Guangdong, the weather in Hong Kong turned bad with heavy showers and squally thunderstorms on the night of April 18. The weather became even more unsettled over the next two days. Heavy showers occurred on April 19, with 75.8 millimetres of rainfall recorded at the Hong Kong Observatory, making it the wettest Good Friday on record. The rainfall recorded in some areas of the New Territories on that day even exceeded 100 millimetres. A band of intense thunderstorms packed with frequent lightning, heavy rain and severe squalls swept across Hong Kong on April 20 afternoon and the first Red Rainstorm

Warning of the year was issued as a result. More than 40 millimetres of rainfall were recorded over the territory on that day, with the rainfall in some areas of the New Territories even exceeding 70 millimetres. The severe squalls also induced gusts exceeding 100 kilometres per hour in some parts of Victoria Harbour. The maximum gust recorded at King's Park was 117 kilometers per hour, the highest record in the absence of tropical cyclones since the operation of the automatic weather station in King's Park in 1992. A total of 9,094 cloud-to-ground lightning strikes were also detected that day, the highest on record for April since the launch of the lightning location system in 2005.

Affected by a strengthening anticyclone aloft, sunny skies emerged gradually from April 21 to 22 with occasional showers. The weather improved further and became hot and fine from April 23 to 26. The daily mean temperature for April 25 was 28.5 degrees, the joint highest on record for April. The maximum temperature at the Hong Kong Observatory soared to 31.5 degrees on April 26, the highest of the month. Under the influence of a strong easterly airstream and an upper-air disturbance, there were heavy showers and squally thunderstorms in Hong Kong on the afternoon of April 27. As the easterlies abated gradually, the weather on April 28 was mostly cloudy, with showers easing off in the day time. As the easterly airstream was gradually replaced by a southerly airstream, there were sunny periods on April 29. Local weather became cloudy with occasional showers and squally thunderstorms on April 30 due to the influence of a trough of low pressure.

There was no tropical cyclone over the South China Sea and the western North Pacific in April 2019.

Details of issuance and cancellation of various warnings/signals in April are summarised in Table 1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal for April are tabulated in Table 2.

[Mother's Day promotion activities at HA shopping centres \(with photos\)](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Housing Authority:

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) strives to provide a wide range of activities in its shopping centres to enhance the provision of services to residents and the business environment. With Mother's Day approaching, the HA is launching promotions in its shopping centres under the theme "From heart to heart to dear mothers" to express thankfulness to mothers while enhancing patronage of the shopping facilities.

"Residents may visit the HA shopping centres on Mother's Day to show

love for their mothers," a spokesman for the HA said today (May 3).

From now to Mother's Day (May 12), visitors to the seven shopping centres, namely Ping Shek, Lei Muk Shue, Mei Tin, Tin Yan, Ching Long, Choi Tak and Yau Lai, may put their sincere gratitude to their mothers into words and post them up to share with others while they may in turn share others' heartfelt words.

Pretty photo frames will be provided from 11am to 4pm on Mother's Day at Ping Shek, Lei Muk Shue, Mei Tin and Tin Yan Shopping Centres for photo opportunities.

On Mother's Day, there will be booth games and balloon twisting from 11am to 4pm at Ping Shek, Lei Muk Shue, Mei Tin, Tin Yan, Ching Long, Choi Tak, Hoi Lai and Kwai Chung Shopping Centres. Meanwhile, mothers visiting the 13 shopping centres at Ping Shek, Lei Muk Shue, Mei Tin, Tin Yan, Siu Hong, Shui Chuen O, Nam Shan, Ching Long, Choi Tak, Hoi Lai, Kwai Chung, On Kay and Yau Lai, may receive free art flowers or snacks from noon to 2pm.

In the afternoon of May 11 (Saturday) and 12 (Sunday), shoppers may redeem gifts at those 13 shopping centres subject to spending requirements and quotas on a first-come, first-served basis.

At the HA's regional shopping centre at Domain, Yau Tong, stage performances by artists will be held on Mother's Day from 2pm to 5pm.

The HA's Commercial Properties Committee earlier endorsed the continuation of the discount scheme for bulk purchase of parking coupons by HA's shop tenants to boost patronage, and the scheme has been welcomed by shop tenants.

The spokesman added that to encourage visits to HA shopping centres, free parking subject to spending requirements is provided to shoppers at Domain and Yau Lai Shopping Centre, Yau Tong.





Public reminded to practise proper hand hygiene: 7 steps for 20 seconds

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (May 3), in anticipation of Hand Hygiene Day on May 5, appealed to the public to practise proper hand hygiene and reminded people that maintaining hand hygiene is the single most effective measure to prevent the spread of infection.

The CHP adopted "Don't Pass on the Bugs. Wash or Rub with 7 steps for 20 seconds is a MUST" as the slogan for the promotional campaign for Hand Hygiene Day 2019, to remind the public to wash or rub their hands covering seven areas for at least 20 seconds.

A new poster and a WhatsApp sticker pack with original cartoon character designed by a local artist were produced to remind the public of the key health message.

Since 2005, Hong Kong has pledged support for the World Health Organization's advocacy, "Clean Care is Safer Care", by actively promoting hand hygiene in both health-care settings and in the community.

The public may visit the CHP's Hand Hygiene Day 2019 webpage (www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/101481.html) for more information on hand hygiene.

LegCo committee meeting

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Bills Committee on National Anthem Bill will hold a meeting at 9am tomorrow (May 4) in Conference Room 2 of the LegCo Complex. During the meeting, members of the Bills Committee will meet with the Government.

Auctions of traditional vehicle registration marks to be held on May 18 and 19

The Transport Department today (May 3) announced that two auctions of traditional vehicle registration marks will be held on May 18 (Saturday) and 19 (Sunday), in Meeting Room S421, L4 Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai, respectively.

"A total of 320 vehicle registration marks will be put up for public sale at each auction. The lists of marks have been posted at the department's website, www.td.gov.hk," a department spokesman said.

Applicants who have paid a deposit of \$1,000 to reserve a mark for auction should also participate in the bidding (including the first bid at the reserve price of \$1,000). Otherwise, the mark may be sold to another bidder at the reserve price.

People who wish to participate in the bidding at the auction should take note of the following important points:

- (a) Successful bidders are required to produce the following documents for completion of registration and payment procedures immediately after the successful bidding:
 - (i) the identity document of the successful bidder;
 - (ii) the identity document of the purchaser if it is different from the successful bidder;
 - (iii) a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation if the purchaser is a body corporate; and
 - (iv) a crossed cheque made payable to "The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" or "The Government of the HKSAR". (For an auctioned mark paid for by cheque, the first three working days after the

date of auction will be required for cheque clearance confirmation before processing of the application for mark assignment can be completed.) Successful bidders can also pay through the Easy Pay System (EPS). Payment by post-dated cheques, cash or other methods will not be accepted.

(b) Purchasers must make payment of the purchase price through EPS or by crossed cheque and complete the Memorandum of Sale of Registration Mark immediately after the bidding. Subsequent alteration of the particulars in the memorandum will not be permitted.

(c) A vehicle registration mark can only be assigned to a motor vehicle which is registered in the name of the purchaser. The Certificate of Incorporation must be produced immediately by the purchaser if a vehicle registration mark purchased is to be registered under the name of a body corporate.

(d) Special registration marks are non-transferable. Where the ownership of a motor vehicle with a special registration mark is transferred, the allocation of the special registration mark shall be cancelled.

(e) The purchaser shall, within 12 months after the date of auction, apply to the Commissioner for Transport for the registration mark to be assigned to a motor vehicle registered in the name of the purchaser. If the purchaser fails to assign the registration mark within 12 months, allocation of the mark will be cancelled and arranged for re-allocation in accordance with the statutory provision without prior notice to the purchaser.

For other auction details, please refer to the Guidance Notes – Auction of Vehicle Registration Marks, which can be downloaded from the department's website, www.td.gov.hk.