

VOS Report for 2012

(Hong Kong, China)

a. Programme description:				
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Recruitments in 2012	De-recruitments In 2012	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	50	6	6	Ships operate in all ocean regions.
<i>Selected AWS</i>				
<i>VOSclim</i>				
<i>VOSclim AWS</i>				
<i>Supplementary</i>	4			
<i>Supplementary AWS</i>				
<i>Auxiliary</i>				
<i>Auxiliary AWS</i>				
<i>Other</i>				
National VOS Total	54			

National VOS Target	65 by 2016
National VOSclim Target	5 by 2016

b. Data management:	
<i>Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2012</i>	4082
<i>Frequency of VOS data submitted to the GCC in 2012</i>	Quarterly

c. Shipboard Automatic Weather System				
Type	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Manual Input Yes / No	Method of Comms	2013 Planned installations
NA	0	NA	NA	The Hong Kong Observatory has initiative to operate automatic weather stations on board the Hong Kong VOS fleet. With support of the UK Meteorological Office, an AMOS system was installed on board one Hong Kong VOS in January 2013 for trial operation.

d. Electronic logbooks: (TurboWin, SEAS, OBSJMA)		
Software & version	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Implementation plans
TurboWin 4.5	34	Will be gradually replaced by Version 5.0 in 2013. TurboWin software to be installed on the ship's bridge computers as far as possible

e. Major challenges and difficulties:

Due to high workload, some ship officers are reluctant to take weather observations regularly.

Some shipmasters are reluctant to have electronic logbook software "TurboWin" installed on the ship computer, especially the computer at bridge.

Some ships of the Hong Kong VOS fleet are trading on a worldwide basis and cannot come to Hong Kong at least once every year for inspection by PMO. Failure to visit recruited ships for a long time has implications for the quality of observations.

f. Research / development / testing:

The Hong Kong Observatory has initiative to operate automatic weather stations on board the Hong Kong VOS fleet. With support of the UK Meteorological Office, an AMOS was installed on board a Hong Kong VOS for trial operation.

The Hong Kong Observatory started in 2012 presenting awards to ships of the Hong Kong VOS fleet which have reported the largest number of weather observations in a year to encourage the ships to take more weather observations.

Performance of the ships of the Hong Kong VOS fleet in taking weather observations in the past couple of years will be reviewed with a view to select suitable ships for upgrading into VOSclim.

g. Other comments:

Nil