

VOS Report for 2014

Country = Hong Kong, China

a. Programme description:				
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2014	Recruitments in 2014	De-recruitments In 2014	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	51	11	4	Ships operate in all ocean regions. 2 ships were upgraded from Supplementary to Selected standard.
<i>Selected AWS</i>				
<i>VOSclim</i>	8	5		5 ships were upgraded from Selected to VOSclim standard.
<i>VOSclim AWS</i>				
<i>Supplementary</i>	1		1	
<i>Supplementary AWS</i>	2*			*2 Selected ships were installed with AWS.
<i>Auxiliary</i>				
<i>Auxiliary AWS</i>				
<i>Other</i>				
National VOS Total	60			

National VOS Target	70 by 2017
National VOSclim Target	20 by 2017

b. Data management:	
<i>Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2014</i>	10106
<i>Dates when VOS data submitted to the GCCs in 2014</i>	6 Mar 2014, 8 July 2014, 13 Oct 2014, 1 Dec 2014

c. Shipboard Automatic Weather System				
Type	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2014	Manual Input Yes / No	Method of Comms	Year1 Plans
AMOS	1	No	Iridium (SBD)	More Selected VOS will be installed with Shipborne Automatic Weather Systems
SVP Drifter buoy (MetOcean)	1	No	Iridium (SBD)	

d. Electronic logbooks: (TurboWin, SEAS, OBSJMA)		
Software & version	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2014	Implementation plans
TurboWin 4.5	49	Will be gradually replaced by Version 5.0
TurboWin 5.0	3	

e. Standard Meteorological Equipment: (Types and Settings)		
Equipment Type / Element	Manual Instrumentation	AWS Instrumentation
Barometer	Precision aneroid	AMOS
	Ship's aneroid	SVP Drifter buoy (MetOcean)
	<i>Default national setting</i> Mean Sea Level	Mean Sea Level
Barograph	Small scale	
	<i>Default national setting</i> Mean Sea Level	
Thermometers	Liquid-in-glass	AMOS
	Resistance	
Sea Surface Temperature	Condensor intake	
	Hull contact sensor	
Wind Speed	Propeller vane	
	Cup anemometer and wind vane	
Wind Direction	Propeller vane	
	Cup anemometer and wind vane	

f. PMO ship visit activities: (if a visit is for dual purposes, include all purposes)			
Activity	Manual Ship	AWS Ship	Comment
Routine VOS inspections	25	5	
VOS recruitment visits	9		
VOS de-recruitment visits			
VOS courtesy or foreign visits			
<i>Total visits to VOS</i>	39		
Routine ASAP inspections			
ASAP recruitment visits			
ASAP de-recruitment visits			
ASAP courtesy visits			
<i>Total visits to ASAP</i>			
Routine SOOP visits			
SOOP recruitment visits			
SOOP de-recruitment visits			
SOOP courtesy visits			
<i>Total visits to SOOP</i>			
Visits in support of DBCP (drifting buoys)			
Visits in support of Argo (profiling floats)			

<i>Total visits to other programs</i>			
Total visits by national PMOs	39	<i>Sum of all ship visits (VOS + ASAP + SOOP) + visits to other program (DBCP + Argo)</i>	

g. Major challenges and difficulties:

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

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. Cooperation with other VOS Contributing Members will be made to perform inspection at other ports.

Specialized training to PMO on installation and maintenance of shipborne AWS will be required with more VOS installed with shipborne AWS.

h. Research / development / testing:

The Hong Kong Observatory will continue to present 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.

More ships would be recruited as VOSclim or upgraded from Selected to VOSclim standard.

More types of shipborne AWS will be evaluated and more ships will be installed with shipborne AWS onboard.

The telex service in Hong Kong which has been used for decades for transmission of ship reports from Inmarsat C ground station was decommissioned and was replaced by email by end of 2014.

Deployment of drifting buoys will be explored in the South China Sea.

i. Other comments

