

Launch of Data Collection or Production Centre for World Weather Information Service

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) announces that the Data Collection or Production Centre (DCPC) for the World Weather Information Service (WWIS) has moved to the operational phase.

The WWIS at <http://worldweather.wmo.int> is a web site operated by HKO on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). It serves as a centralized source on the Internet of the official weather information issued by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). By April 2014, a total of 166 WMO Members are supplying weather forecasts or climatological data for showing on the WWIS. As an integral component of the WMO Information System (WIS), the DCPC for WWIS serves three major functions:

1. Provide online services for global users to search and access the official weather forecasts and climatological information for cities around the world collected under the WWIS programme.
2. Offer subscription service for users to automatically receive weather information of their interest. The information is encoded in XML format to facilitate further data processing.
3. Provide metadata of the weather information available at the DCPC for WWIS to the Global Information System Centres (GISC) under the WIS framework to enable searching of weather information through the GISC's Discovery, Access and Retrieval (DAR) services.

From the DCPC for WWIS portal (<http://dcpc.worldweather.org>), users can search for weather forecast and climatological information products currently available under the WWIS programme. They can request direct access to the most recent issues of the products or set up a subscription to get the products delivered once they arrive at the DCPC (please refer to the user guide in the Appendix). The web portal is open to all participating NMHSs of the WWIS programme.

For more information about the service of DCPC of WWIS, please contact Mr. CHAN Sai-tick, Forecast Systems Division, Hong Kong Observatory at email: dcpc@hko.gov.hk.

Data Collection or Production Centre for the World Weather Information Service

Introduction

The Data Collection or Production Centre (DCPC) for the World Weather Information Service (WWIS) operated by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) is a component of the World Meteorological Organization Information System (WIS). It manages and disseminates official weather forecasts and climatological information for worldwide cities supplied by the respective National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs).

WIS is a coordinated global infrastructure for all World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Programmes to meet the requirements for routine collection and automated dissemination of data and products, as well as data discovery, access and retrieval (DAR) services for all weather, climate, water and related data produced by centres and Member countries in the framework of WMO.

WWIS is a web site (<http://worldweather.wmo.int>) operated by the HKO on behalf of WMO. It was launched in 2002 to serve as a centralized source on the Internet for user to access official weather information issued by NMHSs. With the weather information collected under the WWIS programme, the DCPC for WWIS generates the corresponding data and metadata in conformance with WMO's standards to provide DAR services. In addition, the DCPC offers subscription service for user to receive selected weather information automatically.

Services of the DCPC for WWIS

The DCPC for WWIS has three major functions:

- Provides online services for global users to search and access the official weather forecasts and climatological information for cities around the world;
- Offers subscription service for users to automatically receive weather information of interest. The information is encoded in XML format to facilitate data manipulation ; and
- Provides metadata of the weather information available at the DCPC for WWIS to other systems such as the Global Information System

Centres (GISCs) of the WIS for users to search for weather information via the GISC's DAR services.

Overview of the DCPC for WWIS

The DCPC for WWIS consists of a database, application programs and the front-end graphical user interface. The graphical user interface enables Internet users to search and browse the weather information presented in tabular form. Besides, official world city forecasts and climatological information encoded in standard XML format are published by the DCPC for WWIS to enable subsequent data exchange between computer systems. The DCPC for WWIS portal is available at <http://dcpc.worldweather.org> on the Internet. A sample of the webpage is given below.

The screenshot shows the DCPC for WWIS website interface. At the top, there are logos for Global Official Forecasts, the World Meteorological Organization (with the tagline 'Working together in weather, climate and water'), and the Hong Kong Observatory (with the Chinese characters '香港天文台'). A link for 'About this web site User Guide' is also present.

The main heading is 'Data Collection or Production Centre for the World Weather Information Service', with a note below it: '(Access restricted to participating members only)'. Below this, there are search filters:

- Product type:** Radio buttons for 'Climatological information' and 'Weather forecast' (which is selected).
- Issue time of weather information (past 7 days):** A range from '12 May 2014' to '14 May 2014'.
- Area of interest:** Input fields for 'Upper right corner' and 'Lower left corner', with 'Latitude (Range: -90.0 to 90.0)' and 'Longitude (Range: -180.0 to 180.0)' labels.
- Country/territory:** A dropdown menu currently set to 'Not selected'.
- City name (Keyword):** A text input field.
- Search and Clear buttons:** Located at the bottom of the filter section.

On the right side, there is a map titled 'Map (browsing mode; press "Ctrl" to switch to area selection mode)'. The map shows a world map with numerous blue circular markers representing weather stations. A 'Note' link is located to the right of the map title. At the bottom right of the map, there is a small icon and the text 'OpenStreetMap contributors'.

1. Search and access

Users can use the web-based graphical user interface to search the product catalog and browse the weather information therein. Detailed steps are given below.

The screenshot shows the 'Data Collection or Production Centre for the World Weather Information Service' interface. At the top, there are logos for the World Meteorological Organization and the Hong Kong Observatory. The main content area is titled 'Data Collection or Production Centre for the World Weather Information Service' and includes a note that access is restricted to participating members only. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Product type:** Two radio buttons are present: 'Climatological information' (unselected) and 'Weather forecast' (selected).
- Issue time of weather information (past 7 days):** Two date pickers are shown, both set to '14 May 2014'.
- Area of interest:** A table with columns for 'Latitude' and 'Longitude'. The ranges are specified as '(Range: -90.0 to 90.0)' and '(Range: -180.0 to 180.0)'. There are input fields for 'Upper right corner' and 'Lower left corner'.
- Country/territory:** A dropdown menu currently showing 'Not selected'.
- City name (Keyword):** A text input field.
- Search and Clear buttons:** Two buttons located below the city name field.
- Map:** A world map titled 'Map (browsing mode; press "Ctrl" to switch to area selection mode)'. It is populated with numerous blue circular markers representing weather stations. A 'Note' link is visible in the top right corner of the map area.

Callout boxes provide instructions for using these features:

- Click on the radio button to select climatological information or weather forecast. Those cities providing climatological or weather forecast will be marked on the map.
- Use the option boxes to specify the time period of interest based on the issue time of the weather information.
- Use the map or type in the latitude and longitude information to define the area of interest.
- Use the option box to specify Country or Territory of the weather information.
- Either double-click on the city marker as shown on the map to directly select a city or type in the name of the city in interest.
- Press the Search button to search or press the Clear Button to clear all inputs.

After entering the searching criteria, the search results are listed as shown in the figures below:

Global Official Forecasts | World Meteorological Organization | 香港天文台 HONG KONG OBSERVATORY | About this web site User Guide

Data Collection or Production Centre for the World Weather Information Service

(Access restricted to participating members only)

Product type: Climatological information Weather forecast

Issue time of weather information (past 7 days): from 12 May 2014 to 14 May 2014

Area of interest: Latitude (Range: -90.0 to 90.0) Longitude (Range: -180.0 to 180.0)
 Upper right corner: 48.98 141.69
 Lower left corner: -3.78 73.13

Country/territory: Not selected
 City name (Keyword):

Map (area selection mode; press "Ctrl" to switch to browsing mode) [Note](#)

Weather forecast of 289 city/cities found from searching.

289 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Record(s) 1 - 30

City	Weather forecast	RSS	FTP	Country/territory of selected city
1 Bandar Seri Begawan				Brunei Darussalam
2 Anshan				
3 Baoji				
4 Baotou				
5 Beijing				
6 Changchun				
7 Changsha				
8 Chengdu				
9 Chongqing				
10 Dali				
11 Dalan				
12 Daqing				
13 Datong				

Search results

Global Official Forecasts | World Meteorological Organization | 香港天文台 HONG KONG OBSERVATORY | About this web site User Guide

Data Collection or Production Centre for the World Weather Information Service

(Access restricted to participating members only)

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Country/territory: Not selected
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6 Changchun				
7 Changsha				
8 Chengdu				
9 Chongqing				
10 Dali				
11 Dalan				
12 Daqing				
13 Datong				

Weather Forecast of Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

issued at 20:00 (local time) 13 May 2014

Forecast Date	Temperature (°C)		Temperature (°F)		Weather	Weather Icon
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum		
14 May 2014 (Wed)	25	33	77	91	THUNDERSHOWERS	
15 May 2014 (Thu)	25	33	77	91	THUNDERSHOWERS	
16 May 2014 (Fri)	24	33	75	91	THUNDERSHOWERS	

Click on the icon to display the details of the weather information of the city of interest.

The weather information is also available in RSS document. The RSS document can be read using RSS reader.

Data Collection or Production Centre for the World Weather Information Service
(Access restricted to participating members only)

Title Weather forecast of Bandar Seri Begawan
Country / Territory Brunei Darussalam
Location Latitude: 4.93 N Longitude: 114.93 E
Organisation The Brunei Meteorological Service (www.bruneiweather.com.bn)
Issue Time (local time) 20:00 13 May 2014

Weather Forecast of Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam  

issued at 20:00 (local time) 13 May 2014

Forecast Date	Temperature (°C)		Temperature (°F)		Weather	Weather Icon
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum		
14 May 2014 (Wed)	25	33	77	91	THUNDERSHOWERS	
15 May 2014 (Thu)	25	33	77	91	THUNDERSHOWERS	
16 May 2014 (Fri)	24	33	75	91	THUNDERSHOWERS	

2. Product subscription

Through the web-based graphical user interface, users can browse the weather information of interest and subscribe to the information. The weather information will be encoded in XML format and disseminated to the users automatically. Please refer to the figure below.

Global Official Forecasts | World Meteorological Organization | 香港天文台 HONG KONG OBSERVATORY | About this web site User Guide

Data Collection or Production Centre for the World Weather Information Service

(Access restricted to participating members only)

Product type: Climatological information Weather forecast

Issue time of weather information (past 7 days): from 12 May 2014 to 14 May 2014

Area of interest: Latitude (Range: -90.0 to 90.0) Longitude (Range: -180.0 to 180.0)
 Upper right corner: 48.98 141.69
 Lower left corner: -3.78 73.13

Country/territory: Not selected

City name (Keyword):

Search Clear

Weather forecast of 289 city/cities found from 289 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Record(s) 1 - 30

City	Weather forecast	RSS	FTP	Country/territory of selected city
1 Bandar Seri Begawan				Brunei Darussalam
2 Anshan				
3 Baotou				
4 Beijing				
5 Changchun				
6 Changsha				
7 Chengdu				
8 Chongqing				
9 Dalan				
10 Dandong				
11 Daxing				
12 Datong				

Step 1: Click on the FTP icon to go to the subscription page.

Step 2: The system will capture the city/cities of interest and prepare an email template. Click on this link to load the email template with user's default email application.

Step 3: Fill in the email template with contact information and FTP Server information. Send the email to dcpc@hko.gov.hk.

5. Correspondence Address :

Subscription list

- Purpose of use of the forecast information :
- Country/territory : Brunei Darussalam

FTP Server information

- IP address :
- Login name and password :
- FTP path :

Regards,
[email to us \(dcpc@hko.gov.hk\)](mailto:dcpc@hko.gov.hk)

Upon receipt of the email from a user via the subscription service, the HKO will arrange automatic dissemination of the requested weather information to the FTP server of the user.

For enquiry or feedback on the DCPC service, please contact Mr. Chan Sai-tick at email: dcpc@hko.gov.hk.

Prepared by
 Hong Kong Observatory
 May 2014