

**CITATION FOR THE AWARDEE
OF THE LUI CHE WOO PRIZE – PRIZE FOR WORLD CIVILISATION 2018
FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE WELFARE OF MANKIND
(WELFARE BETTERMENT PRIZE)**

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is awarded the LUI Che Woo Prize 2018 in the Welfare Betterment category, with the Specific Area of Focus of “Reduction of the Impacts of Natural Disasters”.

Founded in 1950 as a specialised agency under the United Nations, WMO sets standards and policies worldwide in weather and climate matters, leads and coordinates international efforts for monitoring, forecasting, and reducing disaster risks. Over the past five decades, the global loss of life due to extreme hydro-meteorological events has decreased by a factor of 10. To a significant extent, this can be attributed to the persistent efforts of WMO, which oversees all its 191 member states and territories to implement the adopted policies, resulting in better monitoring, forecasting, and publicising of meteorological hazards on a global scale.

WMO has done outstanding work in all aspects of disaster relief: Observation and Monitoring, Forecasting and Warning, and finally Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Last Mile. In Observation and Monitoring, WMO supports the operation and development of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) all over the world. This network of NMHSs ensures that sufficiently high quality global weather and climate data are gathered in a timely fashion, thus enabling reliable scientific forecasts of the likely impacts of unfavourable weather and climate systems. In Forecasting and Warning, WMO has led the way in efforts to enhance the capacities of its members to anticipate hazards, and also to convey forecast and warning information to end-users and stakeholders effectively for timely responses. In DRR and the Last Mile, WMO, through its DRR programmes, has strengthened its capacities to support DRR decision-making and planning at the international, regional, national, and going the last mile, all the way down to the community levels, for both developed and developing countries.

In conclusion, WMO has been remarkably successful in tackling weather- and climate-related challenges, through the design and operation of an international network of facilities owned and operated by its 191 Members. It is the finest example of how the welfare of all humanity can be effectively bettered through international collaboration and cooperation on a truly global scale.