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El Nino could cost Hong Kong US\$300 billion and shorten life expectancy: study

El Nino phenomenon is 'persistent driver of health and economic loss', not just a short-term weather anomaly, study finds

Reading Time: **3 minutes**



Ng Kang-chung

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Extreme weather brought about by the El Nino phenomenon could cost Hong Kong as much as US\$300 billion over the 21st century, according to a joint

study by local and Singapore universities.

The study also painted a bleak picture for public health, finding that Hongkongers born during the two strong El Nino events in 1982-83 and 1997-98 could have their life expectancy reduced by five to seven months.

Led by Singapore's Nanyang Technological University in collaboration with City University (CityU), the study analysed more than six decades of mortality records and economic data from 10 high-income Pacific Rim countries and regions.

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Published in the scientific journal Nature Climate Change, the study showed that El Nino – a climate pattern involving the warming of the Pacific Ocean – was a “persistent driver of health and economic loss”, not just a short-term weather anomaly.

Researchers estimated life expectancy losses of 0.5 years for the 1982-83 El Nino and 0.4 years for the 1997-98 event.

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This is equal to economic losses of US\$2.6 trillion for the 1982–83 group and US\$4.7 trillion for the 1997–98 batch for all the countries and regions under study.

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Hong Kong weather *Hong Kong / Health & Environment*

Hong Kong issues third straight frost warning as cold weather expected over weekend

City recorded temperatures as low as 2 degrees on Friday morning at Ta Kwu Ling in the New Territories, while Tai Lung registered 3.8 degrees

Reading Time: **2 minutes**





Ambrose Li and Connor Mycroft

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The Hong Kong Observatory issued its third frost warning in as many days on Friday, with cool and dry weather expected to continue over the weekend.

Ground frost was likely to occur on Saturday morning in isolated areas of the New Territories, the forecaster said. Similar warnings were issued on Wednesday and Thursday but were lifted the following mornings.

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“The northeast monsoon will continue to bring generally fine and very dry weather to the coast of southern China in the next couple of days,” the forecaster said. “It will be rather cool in the morning over the region, and cold over inland areas.”

Temperatures will be as low as 14 degrees (57.2 Fahrenheit) on Saturday and Sunday before rising over the course of next week, according to the forecast.

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