

## **WELCOME ADDRESS**

**Dr. Tillmann Mohr**

Director-General of EUMETSAT

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Winds Workshop. This workshop is hosted by the Finnish Meteorological Institute and is jointly organised by the Co-operative Institute for Satellite Studies (CIMSS) and EUMETSAT. It is sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Japanese Meteorological Agency (JMA) and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS) of NOAA.

It has been a tradition that the International Winds Workshops receive a welcome address from the Director-General of EUMETSAT. I am very happy to be able to deliver this opening speech as I generally follow very closely this important application field and I was unable to attend the previous Workshop due to other commitments. I am especially interested to hear about the progress made with the new Meteosat Second Generation satellite Meteosat-8 and the impact of and plans using the winds derived with MODIS data. For the first time in the history of meteorological satellites are we now close to get full global coverage for wind vectors derived from atmospheric motion. A further important subject at this workshop are the surface wind observations made with scatterometers, which already for quite some time are an important contribution to global observations. Also well addressed is the future, with talks on new techniques from space using Lidar and hyper-spectral instruments.

Through the work of the Co-ordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) it is clear that the progress towards better utilisation of Atmospheric Motion Vectors at the Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) centres has continued. The data is not only now, but will remain for time being an essential part of the global observing system. In fact recent studies at NWP centres show that the satellite part of the global observing system has attained the lead role with regard to the impact of the observations on NWP.

At this conference I note an increased number of new presenters. This is good because it ensures a sustained effort towards better understanding of the current problems in the use of this data and continued improvements in the wind generation techniques. With the addition of new and improved satellites the utility of the wind products is also increasing. The data is not anymore only used operationally in global NWP, but also in regional models and other applications.

The feedback of the workshops to the CGMS meetings has always been good. This is essential in order to maintain the close relationship between the annual CGMS meetings and the Winds Workshops that take place under the auspices of CGMS. The three Groups working under CGMS: i) the International TOVS Working ii) The International Working Group on Satellite Derived Winds (WG-SDW) , and iii) the International Precipitation Working Group (IPWG) ensure that the international co-operation in these areas will continue.

The International Winds Workshop is the forum for the exchange of ideas amongst the leading specialists in wind derivation from geostationary satellites and the user community. All key players from research, operation and application come together to discuss all aspects of the wind products. It is through a consorted effort that the data has achieved its current status and it will require the same concentrated effort in the future to remain in its key role amongst other increasing and new emerging observation techniques.

With regard to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Winds Workshop, I express a warm welcome to the community working on regional and mesoscale applications of Atmospheric Motion Winds continuing the excellent work from the

previous workshop. I am also happy to see a special session on polar winds that now is moving from being an interesting and promising research topic to an important operational application.

I thank FMI for hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> International Winds Workshop at the beautiful city of Helsinki. This venue is more appropriate for a Winds Workshop as one would first assume. The era of following weather in motion, i.e. tracking clouds, started with the spin-stabilised geostationary satellites first developed by Verner Suomi, a Finnish descendant and Suomi as many of you know means Finland in Finnish. Prof. Suomi performed most of his work at the University of Wisconsin in Madison where the previous Winds Workshop was held, yet another connection. Furthermore, this conference will have a special break out for the polar cap winds derived with MODIS data, further underlining Helsinki as a natural location for this event. I would also like to take the opportunity to note that of all the EUMETSAT member states Finland has not yet hosted a EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite conference. I hope that this Workshop is an indication that there is a new wind blowing and an EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference in Finland will soon take place.

I would like to thank the host Pirkko Pylkkö and her team for the local arrangements and to Michele Loyer and Arthur de Smet for the practical arrangements at EUMETSAT. Thanks are also due to the scientific programme committee Chris Velden from CIMSS, Ken Holmlund from EUMETSAT, Don Hinsman from WMO and M. Tokuno from JMA.

I wish you, dear colleagues, a successful and stimulating Workshop and a pleasant time.