

# Welcoming Speech at the Opening of the Eighth International Winds Workshop

*Dr. XU Xiaofeng*

Vice Administrator

China Meteorological Administration

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like, on behalf of China Meteorological Administration (CMA) and the local organizing committee, to express our warm welcome to all of you for attending the Eighth International Winds Workshop opening today in Beijing. It is the first time that the Workshop takes place in China and I wish it a great success.

Wind observation and forecast are among the major meteorological services provided by CMA. Windy weather in the northern China is a typical climate feature that affects this region in spring each year. The strong winds from the Northwest and Mongolia may lead to dusty weather, even giving rise to severe duststorm, hence it has direct impacts on the people's daily livelihood. Therefore, wind observation and forecast are important tasks in our routine operation and the meteorological satellites are used to monitor the severe windy weather.

The winds in upper atmosphere and their impacts on numerical weather prediction (NWP) are the main interest of your Workshop. CMA appreciates your work and highly values the progress made by this international workshop. In recent years, with efforts of CMA experts, the quality of FY-2 satellite-derived winds product has been steadily improved by increasing the accuracy of satellite navigation positioning. Experiments have been carried out to see the impacts of FY-2 winds data on NWP models. I believe that the academic exchanges among experts from various countries will be beneficial and contribute to further improvement of winds products, as well as their application skills.

It is so delightful that the Eighth International Winds Workshop is now being held in the CMA compound. The meeting venue is in fact located in a relatively new building of CMA, and it became the workplace of the National Meteorological Center not long ago. I hope the facilities could meet your requirements. Members of the local organizing committee will be very happy to render help at your requests during the Workshop.

Finally, I once again wish the Workshop successful and welcome you to Beijing. May you all have a pleasant stay in Beijing!