

**WELCOME ADDRESS  
TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL WINDS WORKSHOP**

Dr. Lars Prahm  
Director-General of EUMETSAT  
v. 29.04.2006

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following the tradition of previous International Winds Workshops and the tradition of my predecessor Dr. Tillmann Mohr, I would like to welcome you to the 8<sup>th</sup> International Winds Workshop. This workshop is hosted by the National Satellite Meteorological Center of the China Meteorological Administration and I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the host for organising this important workshop.

The workshop is jointly organised by CMA, the Co-operative Institute for Satellite Studies (CIMSS) and EUMETSAT. Co-sponsors are the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Japanese Meteorological Agency (JMA) and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS) of NOAA.

It is well-known that Atmospheric Motion Vectors are an established element of the operational analysis for numerical weather prediction. This has been the case for the last two decades, although the impact of AMVs was variable in the early years of utilisation. Improvements to the AMV products, better ways of quality control and a better way of using the AMVs in NWP have improved the impact. Recent Observing System Experiments (OSEs) conducted in particular at ECMWF, have shown that the AMVs have a large impact, especially if they were the only contribution from the space-based global observing system. Obviously the contribution is more modest when the AMVs are seen in the context of the full space-based observing system. This tells us that the different satellite observations and products are quite complementary and also have useful redundancy such that the impact of additional data becomes incremental. This is re-assuring as it demonstrates the robustness of the space-based GOS.

The programme of this specialised workshop is very interesting indeed. It covers a broad range of topics ranging from NWP applications over various elements of the AMVs derivation to an outlook on future missions. As Director-General of EUMETSAT I am especially interested to hear about the international collaboration and the progress made with Meteosat-8 which provides novel opportunities with its advanced imager. Also of vital interest is the impact of AMVs from MODIS data which provides the polar and high-latitude winds. I understand that those winds continue to play an important role for NWP, therefore it is important to study what contribution can be expected from cloud tracked winds from AVHRR and other polar orbiting imagers.

I would like to encourage a detailed feedback from this workshop to CGMS because the expert views that are discussed at workshops like this, are a key element for the discussions and decisions to be taken by CGMS. This is of course true for all three Working 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) – all three groups ensure that the international co-operation continues in a coherent manner and they provide guidance to CGMS.

Let me conclude with thanks to the hosts of CMA for the excellent local arrangements. Specifically I would like to mention Prof. Xu Jianmin who provided leadership to the international winds community since nearly the beginning of the International Winds Workshops. Thanks go to Mr. Lu Dongfeng from CMA, to Michele Loyer from EUMETSAT and others for the thorough organisation. The scientific programme committee put together the agenda and thanks are due to the Co-Chairs Chris Velden from CIMSS and Ken Holmlund from EUMETSAT. I should also add that WMO, EUMETSAT and NESDIS/CIMSS provided travel support to scientists, thus enabling a wider participation.

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

Dr. Lars Prahm