WELCOME ADDRESS
TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE 10th INTERNATIONAL WINDS WORKSHOP

Dr. Lars Prahm
Director-General of EUMETSAT
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Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to continue the tradition of previous International Winds Workshops and to address the participants of the 10th International Winds Workshop. This workshop is hosted by the Japan Meteorological Agency and I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the host for organising this important workshop. Let me add that JMA hosts this successful workshop already for a second time in Tokyo. More than seventeen years ago on 13-15 December 1993 the 2nd IWW had been hosted by JMA.

The Atmospheric Motion Vectors and other wind measurements from satellites are an established element of the operational analysis for numerical weather prediction. Observing System Experiments (OSEs) conducted at NWP centers show that the AMVs have a positive impact. It also is noted that the AMVs play some important role in the re-analyses activities at NWP centers.

The programme of this 10th workshop is very interesting indeed. It covers a broad range of topics including the latest updates to the operational AMV products, NWP applications, mesoscale AMVs applications to the derivation of AMVs from polar orbiting instruments which is known to provide additional data over the polar regions. You may know that EUMETSAT has well-defined plans for the Third Generation of Meteosat satellites (MTG). On MTG we will fly a sixteen channel imager with a shorter imaging repeat cycle and better spatial resolution. Other operational agencies like JMA, NOAA and CMA have similar plans. Therefore, as Director-General of EUMETSAT I am very much interested in views toward the geostationary imagers that will be flown in the future. And of course let me mention the established scatterometer winds that have a very beneficial impact on numerical weather prediction, the future winds from the space based wind lidar mission of ESA and also the plans for winds over the poles from highly elliptical orbits, a project that is going to be presented by Canada at this winds workshop. There are other missions that will also directly contribute to the direct observations of the wind fields. And, as we know, wind fields as such are the most important parameter for NWP.

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. You may also know that the three Working Groups working under CGMS: i) the International TOVS Working ii) The International Winds Working Group, and iii) the International Precipitation Working Group – have been complemented by a fourth one, the International Radio-Occultation Working Group.

As for previous International Winds Workshops under the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, this workshop is jointly organised and co-sponsored by various members of CGMS, namely the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS) of NOAA, the World Meteorological Organisation and EUMETSAT.

Let me conclude with thanks to the hosting agency JMA, to the Director General of JMA, Kunio SAKURA and the Director of the Observations Department of JMA, Yoshiro KOZAWA, for the excellent arrangements. Specifically, I would like to mention the local organizing committee Akihiro Shimizu and Kazuki Shimoji from JMA. The scientific programme committee put together the agenda and special thanks are due to the new Co-Chairs Mary Forsythe from the UK Met Office and Jaime Daniels from NOAA/NESDIS, who were supported by Ryo Oyama and Koji Yamashita both from JMA and Arthur de Smet from EUMETSAT. And finally I convey my appreciation to all participants for the work you do in the important field of deriving winds from satellites.

I wish you, dear colleagues, a successful and stimulating workshop and a pleasant time in Tokyo.

Dr. Lars Prahm