

WELCOME ADDRESS

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Good morning Ladies, Gentlemen, all Participants,

This is now the third international winds workshop after the first two workshops being held in Washington, 1991, and in Tokyo, 1993. It is held under the auspices of the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) and has the objective to foster the research into methods to extract wind data from satellites by providing a forum for discussions amongst the research and operational community. Ultimately the research will lead to improved capabilities to extract operational wind information from meteorological satellite data, as regards quality, global data coverage, and the methods to optimize the methods of utilisation.

The previous two workshops had quite remarkable impacts on operations and gave valuable guidance for further evolution in this field. We may note in particular:

- The improvement of operational satellite wind data quality caused by ongoing refinement of the wind extraction algorithms used,
- The impact of wind data on meteorological forecast as proven by various impact studies during the last few years.
- The satellite wind data from Japan have further improved after the start of GMS 5 operations in April 1995 and
- Pioneering work has been undertaken into the definition of quality indicators and the operational use of the BUFR code

Noteworthy are the launch events since the last Winds Workshop in 1993 that significantly enhanced the capabilities of the global monitoring of geostationary satellites. Two satellites of a new generation of meteorological geostationary satellites have been launched by NOAA, namely GOES-8 and -9. These satellites are three-axis stabilized and provide a new insight into meso scale dynamics through rapid scans as short as 1 minute.

The Japanese GMS-5 has been a major step for JMA since this new satellite carries a WV channel and also a split-window channel which enhances the commonality between the different geostationary satellites.

New questions have been raised in the meantime, and some work that was initiated is still ongoing. Particular issues will be the implementation of quality indicators and the BUFR code into operational practice, the definition of more refined and better focused wind validation procedures, and a more intensive use of water vapour channel wind information.

A new discipline of wind measurement has gradually emerged since 1978, when the first Scatterometer data became available from SEASAT. Follow-on instruments have been flown by ESA on their ERS-1 and 2 satellites Japan will fly the NSCAT instrument on ADEOS and EUMETSAT will implement ASCAT as an operational mission on the METOP satellites from the year 2002 onwards. The positive impact of Scatterometer winds on NWP has already been

demonstrated by ECMWF and CGMS is going to assign priority to these data in future. I welcome that this workshop has at least one paper related to scatterometer winds and I encourage you to think about a further broadening of the scope of the workshop.

I am very grateful to the Schweizerische Meteorologische Anstalt (SMA) who is hosting the workshop jointly with EUMETSAT, and in particular to the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich who accepted us as users of their conference facilities in this pleasant and historically important region of Europe.

Thanks are due to the co-sponsors of the Workshop - NOAA and WMO. I should like to mention the special efforts of Dr. Don Hinsman of WMO.

Very special thanks are going to Hans Peter Roesli who took care of the local arrangements and to all those who contributed to the success of the former workshops, to mention in particular John Morgan who had the idea and Gérard Szejwach who led the previous two organising committees.

Having made these remarks dear colleagues, I am happy now to open the Third International Winds Workshop here in Ascona and I wish you every success in your work.