

WELCOME ADDRESS

*Dr. Tillmann Mohr
Director of EUMETSAT*

Good morning Ladies, Gentlemen, all Participants,

Welcome to the Fourth International Winds Workshop, which is hosted by WMO under the auspices of the Co-ordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) and organised jointly by EUMETSAT and WMO. This workshop continues the tradition set forth in the three previous workshops, bringing together, from all over the world, most scientists working in the field of wind derivation from satellite imagery data as well as many representatives from our important user community. The main objective of these meetings is, to provide the forum for discussions amongst the participants, with the goal of improving not only the methodologies that are used to derive the wind fields, but also to improve the utilisation of the data.

I would like to recall some major milestones achieved in the previous meetings:

The first meeting in Washington 1991, brought this community together for the first time and opened up more direct co-operation between the different data producers and users. Already at this meeting the need to establish a 'Cloud Motion Wind Group' within CGMS was identified. A permanent CGMS Wind Working Group was finally established in 1994 and has since played a key role in this field.

At the second meeting in Tokyo 1993, already a well-established community came together. We saw the breakthrough of the water vapour wind fields as mature data, in some areas superior to previous data and this paved the way for true multichannel wind derivation.

At the third meeting in Ascona, 1996, several key items suggested by the CGMS working group were addressed. Especially the activities to provide quality information on the derived vectors have been essential to the activities to increase the coverage, quality and extraction frequency of the wind fields. This also enables the user community to more efficiently utilise the derived data.

During this meeting there are again some important issues that need attention. Of these I would like to mention common approaches for quality flagging and the utility and trade-offs of shorter scan frequencies for the derivation of global wind fields.

The previous meetings have included many excellent presentations, innovative in their nature, providing fruitful ground for constructive discussions. This year's presentations cover, again, all important aspects of the extraction of wind fields from satellite imagery data to the utilisation in numerical forecast models. Noteworthy is the special session on 'Space Borne Wind Retrieval Systems' covering wind observations from space other than those derived from feature tracking.

I hope that this meeting will continue the traditions set forth in the previous meetings and that many of you will return home full of new ideas and plans.

I am very grateful to WMO for hosting this meeting, especially to Dr. Hinsman for the local arrangements and for providing this wonderful venue for the meeting. For EUMETSAT it has been again a pleasure to play the role of the conference secretariat and also to organise the issuing of the conference proceedings.

After these remarks, dear colleagues, I have the pleasure to open the Fourth International Winds Workshop here in Saanenmöser and I wish you a pleasant time and every success in your work.