SUMMARY OF THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL WINDS WORKSHOP

The Sixth International Winds Workshop (IWW6) was held in Madison, Wisconsin, USA from 7-10 May 2002. The workshop was organized jointly by the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS) and EUMETSAT. CIMSS, NESDIS and EUMETSAT provided support for the venue and local arrangements, which were expertly handled by Ms. Leanne Avila of CIMSS. The three organizations, along with WMO, also provided travel support for a limited number of international participants.

The IWWs provide an established forum for satellite data providers, users and the science community to portray advances and exchange ideas on the use and interpretation of atmospheric motion vectors (AMV). They also provide the WMO with a synopsis of AMV advances, issues and recommendations from which action items may be drafted for consideration by the international community. The IWW6 was attended by 47 scientists from 13 countries. It is noteworthy that all operational satellite data centers producing AMV were represented, as were most global numerical weather prediction (NWP) centers. Complementing this was a strong contingent from the AMV research and applications communities. In view of the success and importance of previous IWWs, the expectations for IWW6 were again quite high.

The IWW6 was opened with a series of welcome addresses by C. Velden (CIMSS), J. Schmetz (EUMETSAT, for T. Mohr), P. Menzel (NESDIS), and D. Hinsman (WMO). The workshop proceeded with six plenary sessions focussed on topics relevant to the processing and utilization of AMV, as well as other satellite-based observing platforms which are producing (or planned to produce) wind information. This was followed by working group (WG) sessions that addressed issues related to three AMV topics: methods, utilization and verification (including QC). The WGs also considered issues offered by the WMO Coordination Group on Meteorological Satellites. IWW6 concluded with a plenary session that reviewed the WG findings and recommendations. The detailed reports of all six sessions and the WGs are provided in the following pages.

Some of the highlights from IWW6 include: 1) The introduction of AMV over polar regions from the Terra MODIS data (preliminary NWP impact results are quite encouraging). 2) The advancement in the quality of AMV derived from INSAT. 3) The addition of a new operational AMV processor: the US Air Force Weather Agency. 4) The exciting new applications of very-high-density AMV derived from rapid scans to mesoscale prediction problems. 5) The successful proliferation and application of the new quality indicators (QI and RFF) by the user community. 6) The prospect of AMV from space-based lidar profiling missions.

It was felt that the high expectations for IWW6 were met, and that the workshops should be continued in their current format. The next IWW will be organized by the same scientific committee and is planned for the fall of 2003 in Beijing, China.

Chris Velden
CIMSS