

WELCOME ADDRESS

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Director-General of EUMETSAT

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been a tradition that the International Winds Workshops receive a welcome address from the Director-General of EUMETSAT. In that tradition I would like to welcome you to the 6th International Winds Workshop here in Madison, which brings us back to the country that hosted the very first International Winds Workshop in Washington, DC more than 10 years ago in September 1991 hosted by NOAA/NESDIS.

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

I very much regret that I am unable to participate in the 6th International Winds Workshop due to other commitments. However I can assure you that I follow the activities of the Winds Workshop closely and with high interest. I regularly obtain updates on the progress of operational activities relating to the derivation of Atmospheric Motion Vectors at the annual meetings of the Co-ordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS).

At CGMS I observe with pleasure the continuous progress towards better utilisation of Atmospheric Motion Vectors at the Centre for Numerical Weather Prediction. The derivation of objective quality indicators has now become well established at most Satellite Operations Centres. I noted also at the last CGMS meeting the reports of successful campaigns employing special targeted observations over remote oceanic areas. Good quality observations from these areas are critical for good medium range forecasts. It may also be an important aspect for future satellites and their operations as one might prefer to observe a critical area more frequently and with denser spatial resolution at the expense of a global data set. Good progress has been made in monitoring the quality of Atmospheric Motion Vectors objectively in the framework of an NWP analysis. Specifically I would like to commend the Satellite Application Facility (SAF) for NWP on the efforts for the monitoring. Of course, the thanks go to all satellite operators for their sustained good reporting following the CGMS format.

The International Winds Workshops have a good reputation for being the forum for the exchange of ideas amongst the leading specialists and the user community. The user community is well represented through representatives from NWP centres and other institutions. Improvements in the wind derivation techniques would not have materialised in an improved impact of satellite winds if users, notably the NWP community, had not made significant efforts to improve the utilisation of the data. And vice-versa, the satellite operators and the relevant research community took the critical feedback as an incentive to get into deeper analysis resulting in novel ideas and improvements.

The feedback of the workshops to the CGMS meetings has always been good. This is essential in order to maintain the close relationship between the annual CGMS meetings and the Winds

Workshop which take place under the auspices of CGMS. We now have three Groups working under CGMS: i) the International TOVS Working Group which organises the International TOVS Study Conferences (ITSC) on a regular basis, ii) The International Working Group on Satellite Derived Winds (WG-SDW, formerly called Working Group on Cloud Motion Winds (CMW), which organizes the International Winds Workshops and iii) a newly established International Precipitation Working Group (IPWG) that will hold its first broad workshop in September 2002. Also noteworthy is that the last CGMS meeting approved a modification of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the WG-SDW along with a change of the name from WG on Cloud Motion Winds to WG on Satellite Derived Winds. The TOR are consistent with the TOR of the International Precipitation Working Group and copies of TOR are available to all participants of this workshop.

I thank CIMSS for hosting the 6th International Winds Workshop in this beautiful Convention Center built following the plans of Frank Lloyd Wright. I am familiar with this wonderful piece of architecture from a previous Satellite Conference dedicated to Prof. Suomi. I would like to take the opportunity to give honour to Prof. Suomi, who worked in Madison for more than three decades: I consider him as the godfather of modern satellite meteorology. With his great vision he created a geostationary meteorological satellite and 'made the clouds move'. This, as we know, was a prerequisite for deriving Atmospheric Motions Vectors, the very topic of this workshop.

It may interest you that the first satellite of the new series of European geostationary satellites (Meteosat Second Generation – MSG) should be launched this summer; target launch date is the 13th of August 2002. The new capabilities of MSG, notably the 15 minute full disk repeat cycle and many new channels, will provide the basis for further fundamental improvements in the derivation of Atmospheric Motion Vectors.

Finally I would like to thank the host Chris Velden and his team for the local arrangements. Thanks are also due to Ken Holmlund from EUMETSAT, Don Hinsman from WMO and M. Tokuno from JMA for their work as scientific programme committee.

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