

**FIRST CIRCULAR**  
**THE 15<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL TOVS STUDY CONFERENCE**

Dear Colleague:

Preparations for the Fifteenth International TOVS Study Conference, ITSC-15, are underway. We shall be gathering near Maratea, Italy from Wednesday 4 October through Tuesday 10 October 2006. These dates are firm, so you may mark this time on your calendars. This Circular is primarily to advise you of the conference dates and to solicit your input on the scientific proceedings.

**Accommodation and conference venue**

The ITSC-15 will be hosted by the Italian National Research Council, Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis (CNR/IMAA), located in Potenza, Basilicata, Italy. Vincenzo Cuomo and Filomena Romano are the gracious local hosts of our next meeting. The conference location will be at the Villa del Mare, near Maratea on the southwest coast of Italy ( <http://www.hotelvilladelmare.com/> ). More information on booking accommodations will be forthcoming in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular along with a call for abstracts. Below is a summary of key dates regarding this conference.

2 <sup>nd</sup> Circular	15 March 2006 (to indicate attendance)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Circular	1 July 2005 (last call for abstracts)
Draft Program	15 August 2006
Final Program	15 September 2006
ITSC-15	4-10 October 2006

**Financial Support**

Some financial support is available for the meeting. We will be able to offer at least partial support to a number of participants. If you anticipate the need for travel assistance, please contact us as soon as possible, indicating your likely needs. Note that financial support usually goes first to people making a presentation.

**Conference Topics**

The conference will cover a wide range of topics concerning atmospheric sounding, its applications and related issues. We propose that key issues for this meeting include:

- Updates on operational processing and the exploitation of ATOVS and EOS data
- New applications of ATOVS and EOS data in numerical weather prediction and nowcasting (e.g. new assimilation techniques, bias tuning, use of cloudy radiances)
- Use of ATOVS and EOS data over land and ice surfaces
- Generation of geophysical parameters with emphasis on surface emissivity, cloud, and precipitation
- Applications of (A)TOVS data in climate monitoring and GCOS activities.
- METOP direct readout software
- First results from METOP ATOVS and IASI sounders.

- Studies and results for new and future infrared and microwave sounders. Examples include SSMIS, CrIS, ATMS, CMIS, FY3, GIFTS, and others.

Other important and related issues include the validation and tuning of radiative transfer models, surface models, direct broadcast and community software, especially for METOP and NPP, satellite sounding requirements for GEOSS, absolute calibration and cross-calibration of the global satellite observing system. We solicit your recommendations on other important issues which should be included. Papers on these and related topics will be welcome.

### **Conference and Working Group Formats**

We ask participants to consider the following guidelines for the conference:

- Authors will be asked to provide short initial abstracts for their papers by 15 July 2006 to assist with preparation of the agenda. These initial abstracts will be published on the ITWG Web site.
- Authors must submit their final paper in a timely manner before or shortly after the conference. Following the conference, an Executive Summary (hardcopy) and the Technical Proceedings (CD) will be published.

### **ITWG Web site**

All information related to ITSC-15 will be posted on the ITWG Web site at:

[cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg](http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg)

If you have any science or news items of interest to the ITWG membership which you would like to share with the community, please send them to our Web Master or contact the Co-Chairs, and we shall try to include them in the Web page contents.

### **Mailing List**

It is important to continuously maintain and update the ITWG mailing list. It would help us greatly in keeping our mailing list up-to-date if you could notify us, without delay, of any changes.

### **Previous Reports and Publications**

Copies of the ITSC-12 (Lorne, Victoria, Australia), ITSC-13 (Sainte Adéle, Quebec, Canada) and ITSC-14 (Beijing, China) Reports and Technical Proceedings are available from the co-chairs on request.

### **Concluding Remarks**

The Co-Chairs serve to further the activities of the ITWG. We welcome your comments on the issues above or other topics. Please send questions and comments to both Co-Chairs at the addresses below, or use the link on the ITWG Web Page. Please forward this circular to any others you think may be interested. We hope to see you at ITSC-15.

Yours sincerely,  
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ITWG Co-Chairs

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