



SECOND CIRCULAR THE 16th INTERNATIONAL TOVS STUDY CONFERENCE

Dear Colleague:

In 7 months, the International TOVS Working Group (ITWG) will be meeting again, this time in Angra dos Reis, Brazil hosted by the Centro de Previsão de Tempo e Estudos Climáticos (CPTEC) of Instituto Nacional De Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE).

The purpose of this Second Circular is to invite you to let us know if you plan to attend ITSC-16, and also to submit abstracts to the conference by completing the attendance and abstract form available on the web (<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg/itsc/itsc16/register/>). We would appreciate your early response if you plan to attend. Also, we include some preliminary information on the location and accommodation.

Call for abstracts

- If you wish to give an oral or poster presentation at ITSC-16, please provide your abstract before the **30 January 2008 deadline**, and indicate whether you would prefer an oral or poster presentation (or both). We are again planning two poster sessions for this meeting to accommodate the growing number of posters. We feel the poster sessions have been very productive and we will work to continue improving their effectiveness. As with recent conferences, due to time constraints, the number of oral presentations will be limited although we will make every attempt to accommodate your preference. Papers specifically working with ATOVS, AIRS and IASI data will get priority for oral presentation.
- Authors must submit their final conference paper in a timely manner before or shortly after the conference. As with previous conferences we wish to expedite the publication of conference results, and will hold to tight deadlines for our conference publications, so we greatly appreciate your prompt participation. The format for the papers will be provided in the next circular.
- Following the conference, a hard copy of the Working Group Report will be mailed to all attendees. The Working Group Report and the Technical Proceedings will be published on CD-ROM and also made available on the ITWG web site. Your oral and poster PowerPoint presentations submitted to us in electronic form will be made viewable on the ITWG web site (as .pdf files).

Important Dates

3rd Circular	15 January 2008 (last call for abstracts)
Abstracts Due	30 January 2008
Reserve Hotel Room	Before mid-February 2008
Draft Program	7 March 2008

Final Program 7 April 2008
ITSC-16 7-13 May 2008

We plan to provide information on hotel room booking in mid-November. Details will be placed on the ITWG web page and will be sent to the ITWG mailing list.

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.
- Direct readout software for future instruments.
- New 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, community software, especially for METOP, NPP, GOES-R satellite sounding requirements for GEOSS, absolute calibration and cross-calibration of the global satellite observing system.

Papers on these and related topics will be welcome.

There are mixed views on whether to change the format of ITSC with strong views both in favour of retaining the existing format but also for changes such as fewer but longer presentations and more posters. The co-chairs have received more comments in favour of running ITSC-16 along the same lines as ITSC-15 but with as much time as possible given to new science and issues involved in operational use of the observations. We continue to welcome your recommendations on any such changes and other important issues which should be included.

The working groups will review issues and provide recommendations and actions related to:

- (i) the exploitation of sounder data for data assimilation / NWP
- (ii) climate applications of satellite sounder data
- (iii) satellite sounder science and products
- (iv) radiative transfer and surface property models
- (v) advanced sounders
- (vi) international co-ordination, including frequency protection
- (vii) software for direct readout stations.

A report of the working group discussions and actions will be prepared after the meeting for consideration by WMO, the space agencies and users.

Accommodation and registration

The conference location will be Hotel do Frade (<http://www.hoteldofrade.com.br>) in Angra dos Reis (located along the coast, approximately 180 km west of Rio de Janeiro). ITWG has negotiated the full board accommodation with the rates:

Hotel	Packages available	Daily rates	Web site
Hotel do Frade	Standard Single	\$175	http://www.hoteldofrade.com.br Conference hotel Note: All meals included
	Standard Double (2 per room)	\$235	
	Superior Single	\$210	
	Superior Double (2 per room)	\$266	
	Bangalos (shared House) 6 person (3 per room)	\$482 (~\$80/person based on 6 sharing)	

It is anticipated there will be a registration fee of \$150US for the conference which will cover special events, reception, banquet, conference facilities and publication costs for the conference.

The ITSC-16 will start on Wednesday 7 May and finish on Tuesday 13 May 2008. Bus transportation from the Rio airport to the conference site will be provided on Tuesday at 12 noon and 6pm (6 May). We recommend making your flight arrangements to arrive at this time. Please let the co-chairs know if you think neither time is likely to be convenient.

More reception, banquet and tourist information details and the formal registration process will be provided in the 3rd Circular.

Financial Support

We will be able to offer at least partial financial support to a number of participants needing assistance to attend the conference. 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.

ITWG Web site

All information related to ITSC-16 will be posted on the ITWG Web site at:
<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), ITSC-14 (Beijing, China), and ITSC-15 (Maratea, Italy) 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-16.

Yours sincerely,
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ITWG Co-Chairs

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