

FOREWORD

The International TOVS Working Group (ITWG) is convened as a sub-group of the International Radiation Commission (IRC) of the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics (IAMAP). The ITWG continues to organise International TOVS Study Conferences (ITSCs) which have met approximately every 18 months since 1983. Through this forum, operational and research users of TIROS Operational Vertical Sounder (TOVS), Advanced TOVS (ATOVS) and other atmospheric sounding data have exchanged information on data processing methods, derived products, and the impacts of radiances and inferred atmospheric temperature, moisture, and cloud fields on numerical weather prediction (NWP) and climate studies.

These Technical Proceedings provided on CD bring together the papers of the scientific presentations and posters from the Sixteenth International TOVS Study Conference (ITSC-XVI) hosted by Centro de Previsão de Tempo e Estudos Climáticos, National Institute for Space Research (CPTEC/INPE) at the Hotel do Frade near Angra dos Reis from 6-13 May 2008. The ITSC-XVI conference report is also available which summarises the scientific exchanges and outcomes of the meeting. The ITWG web site contains electronic versions of the conference presentations, posters and publications which can be downloaded (<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg/>). Together, these documents and Web pages reflect a highly successful meeting in Angra. An active and mature community of TOVS and ATOVS data users exists, and considerable progress and positive results were reported at ITSC-XVI in a number of areas, including many related to the ATOVS system, use of IASI and AIRS measurements, and to the other current and impending advanced sounders.

ITSC-XVI was sponsored by industry, government agencies and a university, including Petrobras, INPE, SBMET, VCS Engineering, CNES, Kongsberg Spacetec AS, ABB, ITT Industries, the Met Office, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Space Science and Engineering Center, EUMETSAT, NOAA/NESDIS, CPTEC, Sea Space, NASA, NPOESS and the NSMC. The support of these groups is gratefully acknowledged. We wish to thank the local organising committee from the INPE/CPTEC, located in Cachoeira Paulista, SP, Brazil, especially to Dr. Dirceu Herdies, Dr. Rodrigo Souza and Dr. Simone da Costa for their exceptional effort and talent in leading the local organization and to Carine Previatti and Marcelo Acquaviva of Acquaviva Produções e Promoções for their enthusiastic support to the CPTEC team.

Details of Reports and Proceedings from previous conferences are also available from the web site. If you require a copy of the ITSC-XV report or CDs of the proceedings please contact the Working Group Co-Chairs at the co-ordinates below.



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