

FOREWORD

It is remarkable that this is the first global workshop on the production and use of satellite cloud track winds - after all they have been generated operationally across wide regions of the globe for more than a decade. Why then have we waited so long before convening this international workshop?

One reason is that the production of cloud track winds seems so simple - one merely has to track the clouds from image to image and estimate the cloud height in some way. A second reason is that it seems easy to utilise these data as if they were any other meteorological product,

In recent years we have come to realise that both of these arguments are fallacious. It is easy to produce poor quality products from satellite observations and it is equally easy to fail to make optimum use of the data. We are now fully aware that it requires considerable effort to make the most of this important source of vital data.

I am consequently delighted to note the participation of representatives from all of the operators of meteorological satellites, together with many other outstanding scientists from around the world, working together to address these issues and to share their knowledge.

The participants have produced some outstanding results. These are fully documented in this volume, which will form an important reference for future improvements in the production and use of these data.

EUMETSAT is proud to have been in a position to co-sponsor, together with the WMO and NOAA, this successful workshop. I now look forward to encouraging the implementation of the workshop recommendations across the world. The printing of this volume will not be the end of this story. I particularly note the recommendation to hold another workshop in 1993. We will certainly not wait another decade before we meet again!

I wish to thank the organisers, the participants and the hosts for the excellent work which has achieved this result. Sincere thanks are due to all those who have contributed; but their best reward is the remarkable success of the workshop.

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