

WELCOME ADDRESS

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Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, all Participants,

On behalf of the Japan Meteorological Agency, I have great pleasure in extending our heartiest welcome to all of you in Tokyo. We are delighted to have you here for the Second International Wind Workshop, which is sponsored by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States, the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, the World Meteorological Organization and the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Observation from meteorological satellites, which is being made in the framework of the Global Observing System under the WMO World Weather Watch Programme, is essential for providing us with information on the meteorological conditions of data sparse areas, including the ocean. Data and products derived from satellite observation are utilized for various purposes, such as the monitoring of large-scale phenomena including tropical cyclones, and numerical weather prediction.

Wind data are fundamental for such purposes and we have been making every effort to develop and improve programmes or algorithms to extract wind data from series of satellite images in order to obtain data of high quality on a global scale. In September 1991, the "Workshop on Wind Extraction from Operational Meteorological Satellite Data" was held in Washington, D.C. with a view to exchanging expertise and information in this area among operators of geostationary meteorological satellites and researchers concerned. The Japan Meteorological Agency, as an operator of the GMS, contributed to the workshop by making a presentation on our related activities and, at the same time, we were able to learn a lot at the workshop.

Since the previous workshop, significant development has been seen not only in the technique of wind extraction but also in related technologies including sensors installed in satellites and satellite image processing. GMS-5 is scheduled for launch in 1995 and will be equipped with a water vapour channel. In preparation, the JMA is continuing research and development activities on wind extraction from water vapour images. This kind of international workshop is indeed valuable for promoting such activities and, in this respect, I believe that the "Second International Wind Workshop" is an ideal forum to review the recent developments and to promote applications dealt with in the sessions of the previous workshop in Washington, D.C.

May I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the friendly cooperation provided by all the organisations and colleagues concerned. It is a great pleasure to hold this important workshop at the JMA. As the host and one of the sponsors, I would like to say what I expect of the workshop; it should not only be an exhibition of presentations on techniques and technologies developed in the field, but also an occasion to identify requirements for better wind extraction algorithms and to elaborate strategies to meet these requirements through the creative interaction among participants having a wide range of expertise. With this as our aim, we can make further contributions to the World Weather Watch and other related programmes.

In conclusion, I am confident that the workshop will be fruitful and I do hope that your stay in Japan will be both pleasant and impressive.

Thank you.