

WELCOME ADDRESS

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WMO

Dear participants. On the behalf of the World Meteorological Organization I would like to welcome you to the 6th International Winds Workshop. The location for the current Workshop is highly appropriate as Madison, Wisconsin also was the home of Dr Verner Suomi, the recognized father of satellite meteorology. Dr Suomi was a past winner of WMO's highly esteemed International Meteorological Organization Prize and had a vision to make the clouds move through the use of images from geostationary satellites.

WMO is pleased to cosponsor the workshop. The International Winds Workshops interacts through its rapporteur, Dr. Johannes Schmetz from Eumetsat, with the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS). Thus, recommendations resulting from the 6th International Winds Workshop will be reported to the next CGMS Plenary to be held in Bangalore, India in November 2002. Furthermore specific requests from CGMS should be considered during the discussions at the Workshop.

WMO has several ongoing activities that have a direct bearing on the future of satellite meteorology as well as on future Workshops. At its fifty-third session, the WMO Executive Council, held in June 2001, agreed to expand the space-based component of the World Weather Watch's Global Observing System (GOS) to include appropriate Research and Development (R&D) satellites. NASA and ESA have already made commitments for their satellite systems, in particular NASA's Aqua, Terra, NPP, TRMM, GPM and QuickSCAT and ESA's ENVISAT. Therefore it is expected that future Workshops would be addressing satellite related wind data and products from both operational meteorological and R&D satellites. It should also be noted that EUMETSAT's future Metop series, operational meteorological satellites, would have a scatterometer, ASCAT.

It is also important to note that WMO is following the principles of a new strategy to improve the utilization of satellite systems. One principle for the strategy is to co-sponsor and participate in the work of specialized focused science groups such as found at International Winds Workshops and the International TOVS Working Group. The success of these two focused science group have provided WMO with a role model in its efforts to form a new science group for precipitation. The new International Precipitation Working Group is co-sponsored by WMO and CGMS and its first session will be held in Madrid, Spain in September, hosted by the EUMETSAT Satellite Applications Facility (SAF) for Nowcasting.

Finally, I would like to encourage all participants to actively discuss the presentations to follow. It is through dialogue that everyone can benefit and it is one of strengths of the International Winds Workshop's. The breadth of topics to be covered during the

Workshop represent an appropriate continuum including satellite systems, ground processing, research and development, operational use, NWP and climate. Such a comprehensive agenda and the recognized world-wide expertise represented by the participants already ensure that the 6th International Winds Workshop will be a success.