

**SECOND CIRCULAR**  
**THE 15<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL TOVS STUDY CONFERENCE**  
**(ITSC-15)**  
**Maratea, Italy**  
**4-10 October 2006**

Dear Colleague:

In 6 months, the International TOVS Working Group (ITWG) will be meeting again, this time in Maratea, Italy hosted by the Italian National Research Council, Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis (CNR/IMAA), located in Potenza, Basilicata, Italy.

The purpose of this Second Circular is to invite you to let us know if you plan to attend the ITSC-15, and also to submit abstracts to the conference by completing the attendance form and abstract template at the end of this circular and returning by email to [leanne.avila@ssec.wisc.edu](mailto:leanne.avila@ssec.wisc.edu) or fax to Leanne Avila at +001-608-262-5974 before Friday 07 July 2006. 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-15, please provide your text in the format described below before the **7 July 2006 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 at ITSC-13 and 14 were very productive and we will work to continue improving their effectiveness. As with ITSC-14, 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**

Below is a summary of key dates regarding this conference.

Make hotel reservation from	1 April 2006
3 <sup>rd</sup> Circular	1 July 2006 (last call for abstracts)
Draft Program	15 August 2006
Final Program	15 September 2006
ITSC-15	4-10 October 2006

## **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.
- METOP direct readout software
- First 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, direct broadcast and community software, especially for METOP and NPP, satellite sounding requirements for GEOSS and THORPEX, absolute calibration and cross-calibration of the global satellite observing system, and education and training. Papers on these and related topics will be welcome.

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 in the *Villa del Mare* near Maratea on the southwest coast of Italy. There are several other good quality and budget hotels within walking distance. The rates are:

Hotel	Packages available	Daily rates in Euro <sup>+</sup>	Web site
Hotel Villa del Mare	Single + Breakfast + Evening meal	€78	<a href="http://www.hotelvilladelmare.com/">http://www.hotelvilladelmare.com/</a> Conference hotel
	Double + Breakfast + Evening meal	€60	
Villa Cheta	Single + Breakfast	€104.6	<a href="http://www.villacheta.it/">http://www.villacheta.it/</a>
	Single + Breakfast+ Evening Meal	€114.75	
	Double + Breakfast	€155	
	Double + Breakfast+ Evening Meal	€170	
Hotel Club San Diego	Single + Breakfast	€56	<a href="http://www.costadimaratea.com/hotelsandiego/">http://www.costadimaratea.com/hotelsandiego/</a>
	Single + Breakfast + Evening Meal	€66	
	Double + Breakfast	€40	
	Double + Breakfast+ Evening Meal	€50	
Hotel Albatross	Single + Breakfast	€39	<a href="http://www.costadimaratea.com/albatros/">http://www.costadimaratea.com/albatros/</a>
	Single + Breakfast+ Evening Meal	€49	

For Hotel Albatross you are advised to make reservations by May 2006. For the other hotels you are advised to make reservations by July 2006 to ensure a room.

It is anticipated there will be a registration fee of about \$150US for the conference which will cover weekday lunches, conference facilities and publication costs for the conference.

The ITSC-15 will start on Wednesday 4 October and finish on Tuesday 10 October 2006. Bus transportation from Naples airport to the conference site will be provided on Tuesday morning, afternoon and evening (3 October). We recommend making your flight arrangements to arrive at this time. Trains also reach the area from Rome and Naples. Tourist information details and the formal registration process will be provided in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **ITSC Reports**

The Working Group Report and the Conference Proceedings from the ITSC-XIV meeting in Beijing are available on the ITWG web site at: <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg> and from [leanne.avila@ssec.wisc.edu](mailto:leanne.avila@ssec.wisc.edu). Copies of Working Group Reports and Conference Proceedings from previous meetings are also available from the Co-Chairs.

### **ITWG Web Site**

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 Webmaster ([leanne.avila@ssec.wisc.edu](mailto:leanne.avila@ssec.wisc.edu)) or contact the Co-Chairs, and we shall try to include them in the Web page contents. Please visit the Web site and provide the Webmaster or the Co-chairs with feedback on how to make the site more useful.

### **Mailing List**

For ITSC-15 we plan to set up a dedicated email list of attendees so if you plan to attend ITSC-15 please provide us with an address and email contact (see form below) so we can keep you updated with plans for the meeting.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Please forward this circular to any others you think may be interested in attending our conference. We hope to see you at ITSC-15 in Maratea, Italy.

Yours sincerely,  
Tom Achtor and Roger Saunders

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## ITSC-15 Attendance and Abstract Form

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(Please complete this form and return slip (delete things as applicable), either by replying to this email and filling in the information, or copying this form and sending it by email to [leanne.avila@ssec.wisc.edu](mailto:leanne.avila@ssec.wisc.edu) or by fax to Leanne Avila at +001-608-262-5974.)

I plan to attend the ITSC-15 in Maratea: YES/NO (remove one)

I would prefer to give an oral presentation (a title + abstract is attached): YES/NO (remove one)

I would like to give a poster presentation (a title + abstract is attached): YES/NO (remove one)

Your full name:

Your affiliation:

Email address:

Telephone number (include country code):

Postal Address:

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*Please complete for your poster/presentation*

**Title of Presentation:**

**Presenter / Authors and affiliations:**

**Abstract:** Text here (no more than 400 words)