



SECOND CIRCULAR
THE 17th INTERNATIONAL TOVS STUDY CONFERENCE

Dear Colleague:

In 6 months, the International TOVS Working Group (ITWG) will be meeting again, this time near Monterey, California and hosted by the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL).

The purpose of this Second Circular is to invite you to let us know if you plan to attend ITSC-17, and also to submit abstracts to the conference by completing the attendance and abstract form available on the web (<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg/itsc/itsc17/register/>). We would appreciate your early response if you plan to attend. Information on accommodations will follow in a separate document very soon.

Call for abstracts

- If you wish to give an oral or poster presentation at ITSC-16, please provide your abstract before the **15 January 2010 deadline**, and indicate whether you would prefer an oral or poster presentation (or both). We are again planning two general poster sessions for this meeting to accommodate the growing number of posters and additionally invite posters on status of the operational NWP centres and space agencies. We feel the poster sessions have been very productive and we will work to continue improving their effectiveness. We plan to accept fewer oral presentations than were given at ITSC-16 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 are encouraged to 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 the internet and on CD-ROM subject to sufficient demand. 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

3rd Circular	15 December 2009 (last call for abstracts)
Abstracts Due	15 January 2010
Reserve Hotel Room	7 February 2010
Draft Program	14 February 2010

Final Program 14 March 2010
ITSC-17 14-20 April 2010

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, SSMIS and hyperspectral sounder data
- New applications of ATOVS, SSMIS and hyperspectral sounder data in numerical weather prediction and nowcasting (e.g. new assimilation techniques, bias tuning, use of cloudy radiances)
- Use of ATOVS, SSMIS and hyperspectral sounder data over land and ice surfaces
- Generation of geophysical parameters with emphasis on surface emissivity, cloud, and precipitation
- Applications of ATOVS, SSMIS and hyperspectral data in climate monitoring, direct broadcast and GCOS activities.
- Direct readout software and its real time applications
- New results from Aqua AIRS, AMSU, MODIS, METOP ATOVS and IASI sounders, and FY3 microwave and infrared sounders.
- Studies and results for new and future infrared and microwave sounders. Examples include CrIS, ATMS, MIS, FY instruments, geostationary hyperspectral sounders (MTG-IRS, GIFTS, GOES next generation hyperspectral sounder), and other innovative advanced sounding instruments.

Other important and related issues include the validation and tuning of radiative transfer models, fast forward model calculation, clouds, aerosol/dust, and surface models, direct broadcast and community software, especially for METOP, NPP, NPOESS, FY3, GOES-R, MTG satellite sounding requirements for GEOSS, absolute calibration and cross-calibration of the global satellite observing system.

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.

McIDAS-V Sunday Evening Workshop

McIDAS (Man-computer Interactive Data Access System) is a powerful data analysis and visualization tool developed with a focus on applications to remote sensing data. McIDAS-V,

the fifth generation, is open source, freely available software for use with METOP, NPOESS, MSG, and GOES-R advanced instrumentation. On Sunday evening (18 April), a workshop will be offered to introduce ITWG scientists to the capabilities of McIDAS-V. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please indicate your interest in the on-line registration form. We will provide DVDs with the latest release of McIDAS-V and training data sets.

Accommodation and registration

The conference location will be Asilomar State Park (<http://www.visitasilomar.com/>) near Monterey. ITWG is currently negotiating the final contract details with Asilomar due to a change in vendors at the state park conference facility. We will send information regarding the hotel reservations and costs very soon. Details will be placed on the ITWG web page and will be sent to the ITWG mailing list. Please wait until you receive this information to reserve hotel space as it will include a housing form that you will need to complete to make your reservation. However, please also note that there may not be sufficient rooms for all attendees at Asilomar so book early to avoid disappointment!

It is anticipated there will be a registration fee of \$200 for the conference which will cover special events, reception, banquet, conference facilities and publication costs for the conference.

ITSC-17 will start on Wednesday 14 April 2010 and finish on Tuesday 20 April 2010. Bus transportation from San Francisco and Monterey airports to the conference site will be provided on Tuesday 13th and for the return on Tuesday 20th. The exact times will be decided according to flight times of attendees, in order to be as convenient for as many people as possible.

More reception, banquet and tourist information details and the formal registration process will be provided in the 3rd 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.

ITWG Web site

All information related to ITSC-17 will be posted on the ITWG Web site at:
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg/>

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 Web Master or contact the Co-Chairs, and we shall try to include them in the Web page contents.

Mailing List

It is important to continuously maintain and update the ITWG mailing list. It would help us greatly in keeping our mailing list up-to-date if you could notify us, without delay, of any changes.

Previous Reports and Publications

Copies of the ITSC-12 (Lorne, Victoria, Australia), ITSC-13 (Sainte Adèle, Quebec, Canada), ITSC-14 (Beijing, China), ITSC-15 (Maratea, Italy) and ITSC-16 (Angra dos Reis, Brazil) Reports and Technical Proceedings are available from the co-chairs on request.

Concluding Remarks

The Co-Chairs serve to further the activities of the ITWG. We welcome your comments on the issues above or other topics. Please send questions and comments to both Co-Chairs at the addresses below, or use the link on the ITWG Web Page. Please forward this circular to any others you think may be interested. We hope to see you at ITSC-17.

Yours sincerely,

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