



SECOND CIRCULAR
THE 18th INTERNATIONAL TOVS STUDY CONFERENCE

Dear Colleague:

In 7 months' time the International TOVS Working Group (ITWG) will be meeting again, this time in Toulouse, France and hosted by Météo-France.

The purpose of this Second Circular is to invite you to let us know if you plan to attend ITSC-18, 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/itsc18/register.html>). We would appreciate your early response if you plan to attend.

Call for abstracts

- If you wish to give an oral or poster presentation at ITSC-18, please provide your abstract before the 15 December 2011 deadline, and indicate whether you would prefer an oral or poster presentation. We will make every effort to accommodate your preference, and will let you know by 15 January if your presentation is poster or oral.

Following feedback from ITSC-17 we will not make large changes to the structure this time, but we will need to reduce the number of longer oral presentations from 60 to around 50. However every poster presenter will be able to make a short introductory oral presentation to maximize the poster exposure. Nobody will be allowed more than one oral presentation.

We are again planning two poster sessions for this meeting to accommodate the growing number of posters and we 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.

- Authors are strongly encouraged to submit a conference paper. This needs to be done in a timely manner before or shortly after the conference. We would like to increase the number of papers submitted as the proceedings form a useful record of the state of the art at each meeting. We may consider some new incentives! The format for the papers will be provided in the next circular.
- Following the conference, an electronic copy of the Working Group Report and proceedings will be published on the internet. Your oral and poster PowerPoint presentations submitted to us in electronic form will be made viewable on the ITWG web site (as .pdf files, or with your approval, as ppt files, if animation is part of the presentation).

Accommodations

Block reservations have been made in several hotels in Toulouse city centre. All the hotels are close to each other, in the very heart of the city. We will be posting a list of the available hotels on the ITWG web site (<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg/itsc/itsc18/accommodations.html>) – note that the first group of hotels listed have block reservations. Please also note that we are not permitted to publish the specific rates we have negotiated with these hotels.

To book your accommodations you have two options:

1. Contact Vincent Guidard (vincent.guidard@meteo.fr) with your preference among the hotel categories (see below) and he will book the accommodation for you at the discounted rate, or
2. Contact the hotel directly. If you have selected a hotel with a block reservation (in the list on the ITWG Web page), the block reservation rate will apply if you quote ITSC-18.

CATEGORY	BLOCK BOOKING	RATES B&B taxes included/night on a single occupancy basis
*****	10 rooms	186.10 €
****	20 rooms	132.10 €
***	40 rooms	Between 92.90 € and 122.90 €
**	40 rooms	Between 65.70 € and 77.70 €

Important Dates

3rd Circular	14 November 2011 (last call for abstracts)
Abstracts deadline	15 December 2011
Draft Program	15 January 2012
Hotel Room reservation deadline	31 January 2012
Deadline for \$350 registration fee	31 January 2012
Final Program	8 February 2012
Deadline for \$500 registration fee	18 February 2012
ITSC-18	21-27 March 2012

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 and GCOS;
- Direct readout capability and software and its real time applications;
- New results from new sounding instruments; and
- Studies and results for new and future infrared and microwave sounders especially CrIS and ATMS, the FY-3 MWTS instruments, geostationary hyperspectral sounders (MTG/IRS, GIFTS/STORM), and other innovative advanced sounding instruments.

Other important and related issues include the validation and tuning of community radiative transfer models, fast forward model calculation, clouds, aerosol/dust, and surface models, direct broadcast and community software, especially for METOP, NPP, JPSS, FY3, GOES-R, MTG, FY4 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:

- the exploitation of sounder data for data assimilation / NWP
- climate applications of satellite sounder data

- satellite sounder science, products and applications, including community software for direct readout stations
- radiative transfer and surface property models
- advanced sounders
- international co-ordination, including frequency protection

A report of the working group discussions and actions will be prepared after the meeting for consideration by WMO, the space agencies and users.

It is anticipated there will be a registration fee for the conference which will cover:

Ground transportation (city center to Météo-France only on meeting days), some lunches and dinners, special events, reception, banquet, conference facilities and publication costs for the conference.

For those paying before 31 January a special early registration fee of \$350 (US) will be collected. After 31 January, Internet registration will then cost \$500 (US). Instructions on how to pay online will be provided separately in the 3rd circular.

If you pay the registration fee at the conference, you will need to pay €450 in cash. Credit card payments will not be accepted on site.

ITSC-18 will start on Wednesday 21 March 2012 and finish on Tuesday 27 March 2012. Bus transportation will not be provided from the airport to the city for arrivals or departures as there is an excellent shuttle service; information on this shuttle service will be provided closer to the meeting. However, coaches will be provided between the city centre and Météo-France each day of the meeting.

More reception, banquet and tourist information details and the formal registration process will be provided in the 3rd Circular. Activities which could be arranged during the event include:

- Visit of the fortified Cité de Carcassonne (1h15 trip by bus to reach Carcassonne)
- Visit of the Episcopal City of Albi (UNESCO World Heritage) (1h trip by bus to reach Albi)
- Visit of the Pic du Midi Observatory (2h30 trip by bus to reach La Mongie from where the cable cars depart)
- Skiing (or hiking, depending on the snow cover) in the Pyrénées (~2h30 trip by bus to reach the ski runs)
- Cité de l'Espace in Toulouse (Space adventure park)
- Airbus A380 final assembly, in Toulouse
- Guided tour of Toulouse

We would appreciate it when you pre-register if you could indicate what activities may interest you. Please note that most of the recommended activities will be at your own expense.

Financial Support

We will be able to offer partial financial support to a small 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 formal contribution to the event. We will consider all bids for financial support in December and requests made after that time are very unlikely to be supported. Note that for those receiving support we will purchase air tickets or assist with the hotel cost; no reimbursements will be made.

ITWG Web site

All information related to ITSC-18 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-18.

Yours sincerely,
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