



FIRST CIRCULAR
THE 18th INTERNATIONAL TOVS STUDY CONFERENCE

Dear Colleague:

Preparations for the Eighteenth International TOVS Study Conference, ITSC-18, are underway. We shall be gathering in Toulouse, France from Wednesday 21 March through Tuesday 27 March 2012. These dates are firm, so you may mark this time on your calendars. This Circular is primarily to advise you of the conference dates and to solicit your input on the scientific proceedings.

Accommodation and conference venue

The ITSC-18 will be hosted by Météo-France, Toulouse, France. Vincent Guidard, Jean-Francois Mahfouf and Jean-Antoine Maziejewski are the gracious local hosts of our next meeting. The conference location will be Météo-France conference facility <http://www.meteo.fr/meteonet/CIC>. More information on booking accommodations will be forthcoming in the 2nd Circular along with a call for abstracts. Below is a summary of key dates regarding this conference.

2nd Circular	18 July 2011
3rd Circular	14 November 2011
Draft Program	18 January 2012
Final Program	8 February 2012
ITSC-18	21-27 March 2012

Financial Support

Limited financial support is available for the meeting. We will be able to offer only partial support to a very small number of participants. 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.

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:

- Preparations for and early results with FY3, NPP and MetOp-B sounders
- 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 activities.
- Direct readout software
- Studies and results for new and future infrared and microwave sounders. Examples include MIS, SAFIRE and MADRAS on Megha Tropiques, geostationary hyperspectral sounders (MTG-IRS, 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, NPP, JPSS, 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.

We are considering allocating many of the oral presentations to invited speakers, with a smaller number allocated for unsolicited but exceptionally innovative new work. As with ITSC-17 we anticipate many presentations will be given in poster format, with a chance to give a very short poster introduction. We solicit your recommendations on the structure of the meeting.

Conference and Working Group Formats

We ask participants to consider the following guidelines for the conference:

- Authors will be asked to provide short initial abstracts for their papers by 14 November 2011 to assist with preparation of the agenda. These initial abstracts will be published on the ITWG Web site.
- Attendees will be strongly encouraged to submit a short paper at or shortly after the conference for inclusion in the on-line proceedings.

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), and ITSC-15 (Maratea, Italy) Reports and Technical Proceedings are available from the co-chairs on request. Reports from more recent meetings are on the webpage.

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,

Stephen English and Allen Huang
ITWG Co-Chairs

Stephen English
CPTEC-INPE
Rod. Pres. Dutra, km 39
Cachoeira Paulista
SP 12630-000
Brazil
Phone: +55 3186 8508
Email: stephen.english@cptec.inpe.br

Hung-Lung Allen Huang
University of Wisconsin
Space Science and Engineering Center
1225 W. Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53706 C
USA
Phone: +001 608-263-5283
Email: allen.huang@ssec.wisc.edu