



SECOND CIRCULAR
THE 25th INTERNATIONAL TOVS STUDY CONFERENCE (ITSC-25)

Dear Colleague,

The International TOVS Working Group (ITWG) will meet in-person from 8-14 May 2025 at the Resort Rio in Goa, India. ITSC-25 will be hosted by the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) of India in cooperation with CIMSS/SSEC/UW-Madison.

Please let us know if you plan to attend by completing the registration and abstract submission form available at <https://cvent.me/rW1d20>

We would appreciate your early response if you plan to attend. ITSC-25 will be an in-person conference. We do not plan to offer a virtual attendance option.

DEADLINES

Please note: ITSC-25 will have deadlines that are earlier than we have had for previous ITSC conferences. We have set this schedule to comply with requirements from the resort. Please pay careful attention to all deadlines. We thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Important Dates

3rd Circular	1 October 2024
Abstract submission deadline	15 October 2024
Draft Program	15 December 2024
Final Program	31 January 2025
Last day to register	15 February 2025
Deadline for payment of the registration fee	15 February 2025
Visa application	15 March 2025
Hotel reservation deadline	15 March 2025
ITSC-25	8-14 May 2025

Call for Abstracts

If you wish to give an oral or poster presentation at ITSC-25, please submit your abstract before the **15 October 2024 deadline**, and indicate whether you prefer an oral or poster presentation. As the pressure on the program is increasing with every conference, participants will be allowed at most one oral presentation. We will again have several poster sessions and the posters will be on display throughout the conference. We aim to publish a draft program by mid-December 2024.

Reports from Space Agencies about current status and plans for future programs will be covered in a special poster session with brief introductions using a limited number of slides, as at previous conferences. A similar special poster session will be dedicated to status reports

from Numerical Weather Prediction Centers. We invite space agencies and NWP centers to submit abstracts for these special sessions. To allow more space for specific science topics, we are unlikely to accept overview status reports as oral presentations.

Following the conference, an electronic copy of the Working Group Report and Proceedings will be published online. Your oral and poster presentations submitted to us in electronic form will be made available on the ITWG web site as PDF files, or with your approval as Powerpoint files if animations are part of the presentation.

Venue and Accommodation

The venue for ITSC-25 will be the Resort Rio, Near Baga Beach, Tambudki, Arpora, Bardez, Goa 403518 India:

<https://www.resortrio.com/>

Rooms have been reserved at a special rate for ITSC-25 attendees at the Resort Rio:

Single Occupancy	INR 12200+ 18% GST per room per night*
Double Occupancy	INR 12200+ 18% GST per room per night*

*Please note that the room rate includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

To book your accommodation, please use the link that will be published soon on the ITSC-25 website. **Please note that the hotel policy states that your credit card will be charged at the time when you make the booking.**

Registration Fee

There will be a registration fee for ITSC-25. The exact amount of the registration fee has not yet been determined, but we estimate it will not be higher than USD 650. The registration fee covers one group dinner, catering at coffee breaks, conference facilities (including rental of audiovisual equipment), and conference planning services. Instructions on how to pay the fee online will be provided separately in the 3rd circular.

PLEASE NOTE: the registration fee will be handled differently compared to previous conferences. **There will be one registration fee amount for all attendees** – there will be no early registration fee amount or late registration fee amount. **There will be a strict deadline for registration fee payment: 15 February 2025.** We have set the payment deadline much earlier than in the past due to requirements by the resort. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation following this deadline. You must pay by credit card (there will be no cash option).

Guests

Please include guest names when submitting your registration form so that we will have an accurate number of attendees for these events. We will have more details on the cost for guests to attend the Ice Breaker and Banquet soon.

Visa Applications

All participants will need to apply for a Conference Visa or e-Conference Visa. In order to be able to do this, NCMRWF will have to submit details of your attendance to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. The ITSC-25 registration form will collect your passport information for the sole purpose of allowing NCMRWF to issue you with a letter of

invitation and to enable you to proceed with your Visa application. Please make sure that the details you insert on the registration form are correct and match your passport. This information will not be retained for any other purpose.

All accompanying persons should apply separately for a Tourist Visa or e-Tourist Visa. We will not collect their information.

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:

- Evaluation of sounder data from FY-3E, FY-3F and FY-4B, INSAT-3DS;
- Preparation for assimilation and exploitation of data from MTG-IRS, IASI-NG and Himawari-10;
- Assimilation of microwave and infrared sounder data over Tropical regions and use of low-inclination orbit sounders;
- Retrieval of temperature and moisture profiles from microwave and infrared sounding data;
- Climate Data Records derived from infrared and microwave sounder data;
- Direct readout software for Metop, Metop-SG, FY3, and JPSS sounders;
- Low-latency sounder data from DBNet;
- Impact and mitigation of Radio Frequency Interference;
- Radiative transfer model development and validation;
- Studies and results for future infrared and microwave sounders including commercial instruments;
- Updates on Satellite Programs and International Coordination (WMO, CGMS), including proposed expansion of the satellite sounding observing network and GEOSS.

Other relevant issues include: updates on exploitation of current operational sounders; the validation and tuning of surface models; preparation for retirement of NOAA-18/19, Metop-B/C, and Aqua satellites; use of sounder data for derivation of atmospheric chemistry analysis; and absolute calibration and cross-calibration of the global satellite observing system.

Papers on these and related topics are encouraged.

Working Groups will review issues and provide recommendations and actions related to:

1. the exploitation of sounder data for data assimilation / NWP
2. climate applications of satellite sounder data
3. sounding products and applications, including community software for direct readout stations
4. radiative transfer and surface property models
5. advanced sounders
6. 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.

Our Sponsors

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the organisations that have generously offered sponsorship of ITSC-25: NCMRWF; the Ministry of Earth Sciences, India; Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO; NOAA; Weather Stream; EUMETSAT; CNES; and Météo-France. If your organisation would like to sponsor ITSC-25, please let us know as soon as possible as we are still happy to receive donations.

Financial Support

Limited financial support will be available for the meeting. We will be able to offer partial support to a few participants. If you anticipate the need for travel assistance, please contact us as soon as possible (**and no later than the abstract deadline, 15 October 2024**), indicating your likely needs. Note that financial support usually goes first to people making a presentation. We will consider all bids for financial support in December. 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-25 will be posted on the ITWG Web site at:

<https://itwg.ssec.wisc.edu/>

Reports from all previous meetings are also available from the ITWG website.

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 in your contact information. Please contact Leanne.Avila@ssec.wisc.edu with any changes or updates.

The ITWG mailing list can be reached at the following email address:

itwg@g-groups.wisc.edu

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-25.

Sincerely,

Reima Eresmaa and Fiona Smith

ITWG Co-Chairs



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