

FIRST CIRCULAR

THE 26th INTERNATIONAL TOVS STUDY CONFERENCE (ITSC-26)

Dear Colleague,

We have started preparations for the Twenty-Sixth International TOVS Study Conference (ITSC-26). We shall be gathering in Tsukuba, Japan from Thursday, 4 March through Wednesday, 10 March 2027. These dates are firm, so you may mark them on your calendars. This Circular is primarily to advise you of the conference dates and location and to solicit your input on the scientific program.

Conference Location

The conference location will be the Tsukuba International Congress Center in Tsukuba, Japan. Tsukuba International Conference Center is located approximately 90 km from Tokyo Haneda airport and 70 km from Tokyo Narita airport. ITSC-26 will be hosted by the Japan Meteorological Agency and Tohoku University in cooperation with CIMSS/SSEC/UW-Madison.



More information on the conference venue, logistics, accommodations, and visa applications will be forthcoming in the 2nd Circular along with a call for abstracts. Below is a summary of key dates for ITSC-26.

2nd Circular (call for abstracts)	15 June 2026
3rd Circular	15 September 2026
Abstracts Due	30 September 2026
Draft Program	30 November 2026
Early bird registration deadline	31 December 2026
Hotel reservation deadline	31 December 2026
Final Program	15 February 2027
Regular registration deadline	15 February 2027
ITSC-26	4-10 March 2027



The ITSC-26 organizing committee can be contacted at itsc26_organizers@g-groups.wisc.edu.

Financial Support

Very limited financial support is available for the meeting and we may be able to offer partial support to participants. If you anticipate the need for travel assistance, you must apply for it by the abstract deadline. Please contact us as soon as possible, via email to

itsc26_organizers@g-groups.wisc.edu, indicating the level of support you are requesting. Note that financial support will only be available to people making a presentation on one of the conference topics.

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 Metop-SGA1, MTG-IRS, QuickSounder, new satellites in the FY-3 and FY-4 series and any other new sounders, including those from commercial platforms.
- Studies in preparation for the Himawari-10 sounder, GHMS
- Evaluation of AMSR-3 microwave imager data for lower atmospheric applications.
- Studies and use cases of mesospheric sounding instruments.
- Assimilation of sounder data in operational applications and reanalysis.
- Retrieval of temperature and moisture profiles from sounder data.
- Climate data records derived from sounder data.
- Machine learning developments for improved usage of sounder data.
- Radiative transfer model development and evaluation.
- Direct readout software.
- Use of low-latency data from DBNet.
- Impact and mitigation of radio frequency interference.
- Studies and results for future sounders including commercial instruments.
- Update on satellite programs and international coordination including proposed expansion of the satellite sounding observing network.

Other relevant issues include: updates on exploitation of current operational sounders; 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. More information on the conference format and details on how to submit an abstract will be given in the 2nd Circular.

ITWG Web site

All information related to ITSC-26 will be posted on the ITWG Web site at:
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg/>

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 of any changes. The ITWG mailing list can be reached at the following email address:

itwg@g-groups.wisc.edu

Previous Reports and Publications

Reports from all previous conferences are available on the ITWG website.

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 email 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-26!

Sincerely,
Reima Eresmaa and Fiona Smith
ITWG Co-Chairs



Reima Eresmaa
Finnish Meteorological Institute



Fiona Smith
Bureau of Meteorology

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