



SECOND CIRCULAR

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

The International TOVS Working Group (ITWG) will meet in-person from 4-10 March 2027 at the Tsukuba International Congress Center in Tsukuba, Japan. ITSC-26 will be hosted by the Japan Meteorological Agency and Tohoku University 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://amarys-jtb.jp/ITSC-26/>.

We would appreciate your early response if you plan to attend. Please note that ITSC-26 will be an in-person conference. We do not plan to offer a virtual attendance option.

Call for Abstracts

If you wish to give an oral or poster presentation at ITSC-26, please submit your abstract(s) before the **30 September 2026 deadline**, and indicate for each whether you prefer an oral or poster presentation. As the pressure on the program is increasing with every conference, participants will be allowed to submit a maximum of five abstracts, and will be granted 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 30 November 2026.

We invite space agencies to submit abstracts that cover general programmatic overviews to a special poster session, which will include a brief introductory talk using 2-3 slides, as at previous conferences.

We also invite NWP centres to submit abstracts that cover general updates to their operational systems to a special poster session, which will include a brief introductory talk using 2-3 slides, as at previous conferences.

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-26 will be the Tsukuba International Congress Center in Tsukuba, Japan. We have reserved rooms at two nearby hotels: Hotel JAL City, located next to the conference

venue, and Hotel Nikko Tsukuba, located right next to Tsukuba Station and about a 15-minute walk from the conference venue.

Rooms have been reserved for ITSC-26 attendees for dates between 2nd March and 11th March (with limited availability on the nights of 2nd and 11th March). Single beds are 140cm wide. The following rooms are available:

Hotel JAL City (block of 80 single, 5 twin and 5 deluxe twin rooms)

Single Occupancy	JPY 12100 in single room JPY 17600 in twin room JPY 19800 in deluxe twin room
Double Occupancy (per person)	JPY 11000 in twin room JPY 12100 in deluxe twin room

*Please note that the room rate includes breakfast and that the rate is slightly higher on 6th March (Sat) and 11th March (Thurs).

Hotel Nikko Tsukuba (block of 30 single, 5 twin and 5 deluxe twin rooms)

Single Occupancy	JPY 13750 in single room JPY 19250 in twin room JPY 21450 in deluxe twin room
Double Occupancy (per person)	JPY 12650 in twin room JPY 13750 in deluxe twin room

*Please note that the room rate includes breakfast and that the rate is slightly higher on 6th March (Sat) and 11th March (Thurs).

Your accommodation can be booked through the registration form. All accommodation must be paid for in full, through the registration form, at least 30 days before the first day of stay.

Please book your accommodation through the form where possible, because the conference will receive a subsidy from Tsukuba City for every participant that stays in Tsukuba. If you book another hotel in Tsukuba City, please inform the organisers by email at itsc26_organizers@g-groups.wisc.edu.

Registration Fee

There will be a registration fee for ITSC-26. The registration fee covers the icebreaker, one group dinner, catering at coffee breaks, conference facilities (including audiovisual), and conference planning services. Instructions on how to pay the fee online will be provided separately in the 3rd circular.

The early-bird registration fee will not be higher than JPY 60,000 and it must be paid online using a credit card by 31st December 2026 via the registration form. The regular registration fee will be slightly higher and must be paid by 15th February 2027. We will settle the early bird and regular registration fees by the time of the 3rd circular (15 September 2026).

Accompanying guests will be required to pay to attend the group dinner and icebreaker. Please contact us by email at itsc26_organizers@g-groups.wisc.edu if you intend to bring children to the conference.

Visa Applications

To find out if you will need to obtain a visa and to learn the visa application requirements, please visit: https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html. Please indicate in the registration form if you will need assistance to apply for a visa, and the local organising committee will contact you.

Conference attendees needing a letter of invitation should contact: itsc26_organizers@g-groups.wisc.edu.

Important Dates

3rd Circular	15 September 2026
Abstract submission deadline	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 fee	15 February 2027
ITSC-26	4-10 March 2027

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.

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) sounding products and applications, including community software for direct readout stations
- (iv) radiative transfer and surface property models
- (v) advanced sounders
- (vi) 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.

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, 30 September 2026**) via email to itsc26_organizers@g-groups.wisc.edu, 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 October. 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-26 will be posted on the ITWG Web site at:
<https://itwg.ssec.wisc.edu/>

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 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

Previous ITSC Reports and Publications

Reports from all meetings are available from 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 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



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