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During 25-28 October 2004, the second session of the International Precipitation Working Group (IPWG) was hosted by the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) Marine Meteorology Division (MMD) in Monterey, California, United States. This event brought together the world’s leading experts in quantitative precipitation estimation. Over fifty participants from more than nineteen countries spanning all WMO Regions attended. WMO sponsored participants from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru and Spain.

IPWG’s genesis started with encouragement from the WMO, who had strongly encouraged the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) to participate in the formation of an International Precipitation Working Group with active participation by WMO and the Global Precipitation Climatology Program (GPCP) within the framework of CGMS. The first session of IPWG was held in Madrid, Spain in September 2002. One important outcome from the first session was the establishment of an inventory of precipitation algorithms for routinely produced precipitation estimates, and the establishment of a now-ongoing and expanding series of validation programs for satellite-based (and several NWP model) precipitation estimates.

Topics discussed during the second session included: international projects and satellite programmes; operationally-oriented precipitation datasets; validation and error analysis; and research activities. After several days of intensive and in-depth presentations, IPWG reconvened in three working groups: Operational/Techniques; Validation Activities; and Research Activities. The 2nd IPWG session ended with a formal presentation of letters of appreciation from the WMO (presented by Dr. Hinsman of the WMO) to the outgoing IPWG co-chairs, Dr. Vincenzo Levizzani and Dr. Arnold Gruber.

The new incoming IPWG co-chairs were announced, who will be Dr. Joe Turk of NRL-MMD and Dr. Peter Bauer of the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). The next IPWG meeting is tentatively planned for autumn 2006. IPWG recommendations will be considered at the 33rd session of CGMS (CGMS-XXXIII) to be held in Japan in November 2005.
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