

Ben et al.,

As you know, FORMOSAT-3/COSMIC is taking GPS radio occultation soundings continuously around the globe. There are routine soundings available in the vicinity of Taiwan. These soundings will provide useful information of the atmospheric conditions over the South China Sea, or any other areas of interest, including convective instability in the vicinity of the Mei-Yu front.

The normal COSMIC Data User Interface is not very easy to use. The UCAR COSMIC Team has made a special effort to create "TiMREX" field program support web page. This allows us to quickly and easily see the available COSMIC soundings over the past few days (user specified the time range, over the past "XX" hours, for example, 72, for 72-h in the past). The web page will bring up a horizontal map, showing the location of these occultation soundings. When you move the cursor close to the sounding point, it will tell you the exact date/time/latitude/longitude of that sounding. You then click on it, it will display the retrieved COSMIC sounding (in Skew T - log P format). It also displays the "first guess fields" which is based on NCEP global forecast before the COSMIC sounding retrieval. So, you can see how much new information is being retrieved from COSMIC sounding.

I would be glad to do a demo on how to use this page, at an appropriate time.

I think it would be useful to include this web page during the daily SPG briefing or mission planning. However, before any user can access the web page, he/she must register as a FORMOSAT-3/COSMIC data user (a requirement by the primary mission sponsor, Taiwan's National Space Organization (NSPO), and an agreement between NSPO and UCAR). The registration is very easy and very quick (and does not cost a penny). Just need to go to the COSMIC web page:

<http://www.cosmic.ucar.edu/>

Look at the left side, in the middle, there is something called "CDAAC Data Assess, COSMIC Sign Up". Just click on the "Sign Up", and follow the

web page, you can be registered, and given an account and password. Once you get that you will be able to access the COSMIC Special TIMREX Field Program Support web page:

http://cosmic-io.cosmic.ucar.edu/cdaac/DBif/met_highlevel.html

Let me know if you need help.

Bill Kuo