



Average aerosol optical depth from GOME-2 (METOP-A) for June/July 2013. The data is retrieved by EUMETSAT's *Polar Multi-sensor Aerosol product (PMAp)*, combining GOME-2 and AVHRR/3. AVHRR is used for cloud correction, volcanic ash and dust detection. The interpolation of the AOD and the selection of the microphysical properties are based on GOME-2. As expected, hotspots are found for dust transport from the Sahara, biomass burning in central Africa, pollution in China and dust between the Arabian Peninsula and India. The time period contains a few exceptional events, such as very strong wild-fires in Canada and western USA. This results in higher values than usual in the North Atlantic, the Hudson Bay and at the Pacific coast of the USA. An inter-comparison between chemical transport models and PMAp for the years 2013 and 2010 also shows that the dust plume from the Sahara is weaker in June/July 2013 than in previous years. Note that some pixels on earth have only a few cloud-free overpasses from METOP-A. Consequently some of the hotspots are dominated by one or two measurements only. AOD retrievals over ocean are available operationally in near-real time. AOD retrievals over land, including additional information on the aerosol type based the GOME UV index and dust/ash detection from IASI, are available on a prototype level and are expected to become operational in Q1/2016. Courtesy: Michael Grzegorsky (MPIC).