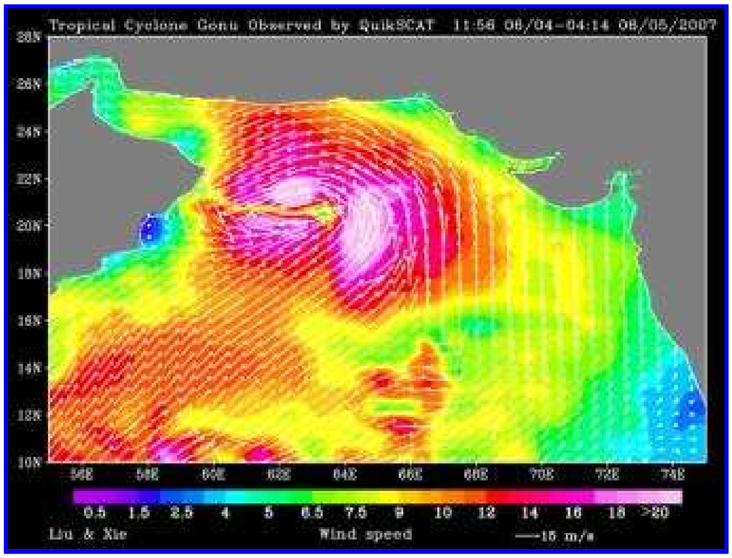
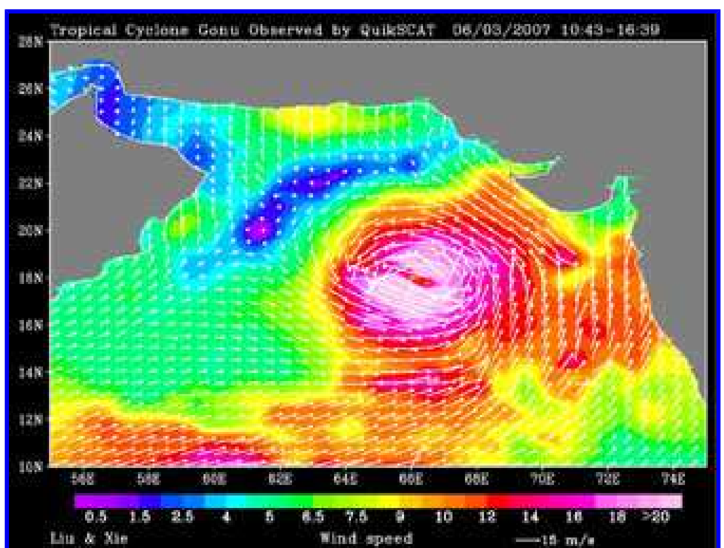
PIA09600: Tropical Cyclone Gonu Observed by QuikSCAT



Target Name: **Earth**
Is a satellite of: **Sol (our sun)**
Mission: **QuikScat**
Spacecraft: **QuikScat**
Instrument: **SeaWinds Scatterometer**
Product Size: **1418 samples x 1071 lines**
Produced By: **JPL**
Primary Data Set: **QUIKSCAT_PAGE**
Full-Res TIFF: **PIA09600.tif (4.565 MB)**
Full-Res JPEG: **PIA09600.jpg (271 kB)**

Click on the image to download a moderately sized image in JPEG format (possibly reduced in size from original).

Original Caption Released with Image:



June 3

QuiSCAT observed a rare tropical cyclone in the northern part of Arabian Sea, threatening the petroleum shipping lanes and the Gulf States (e.g. Oman) that are unprepared for such an event. This is the strongest cyclone that hit the Arabian Peninsula since record keeping started in 1945. The storm reached super-cyclone strength when observed by QuikSCAT. It weakened as it approached landfall, probably because of the intrusion of dry desert air into the storm.

In the images for June 3 and June 5 produced from QuikSCAT data, white arrows showing wind direction are superimposed on the color images of wind speed.

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QuikSCAT, managed by JPL, measures ocean surface wind/stress by sending radar pulses to the surface and measuring the strength of the signals returned.

QuikSCAT Background
NASA's Quick Scatterometer (QuikSCAT) spacecraft was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California on June 19, 1999. QuikSCAT carries the SeaWinds scatterometer, a specialized microwave radar that measures near-surface wind speed and direction under all weather and cloud conditions over the Earth's oceans. More information about the QuikSCAT mission and observations is available at http://winds.jpl.nasa.gov/missions/quikscat/. QuikSCAT is managed for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington, DC, by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA.

Image Credit:
NASA/JPL/QuikScat Science Team
