

**58th session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

Vienna, 22nd April 2021

Agenda Item 5. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development

By Thailand,

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates

Please allow me first, to join others in expressing gratitude to Dr. Natália Archinard, Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, for convening this 58th session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space virtually. Thailand were glad to be part of the “World Space Forum: Space for our Future” organized by UNOOSA and UAE Space Agency in 2020, which we learned practical experiences on benefits delivered from space toward society. Today, we commend you for providing us an opportunity to make a statement on Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development in Thailand.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates

Thailand, like many other developing countries, has faced difficulties related to economic, social and environment such as poverty, air pollution, natural disasters, and waste management. Most problems that we encounter are linked to the SDGs, and we are strongly believe that the Space4SDGs agenda can be the important pathway to tackle these challenges by using space technology. As an agriculture country and with our earth observation satellite: “Thaichote” or THEOS-1, we have used satellite images to monitor status of economic crops including rice, corn, sugar cane, and cassava. Thereby, the production rate of the crops can be estimated which contribute to planning for food distribution. This example is able to serve the SDG 2 – No hunger by ensuring food security.

Under the current space project, THEOS-2 of which composes satellites, applications and solutions, and infrastructure for space industry ecosystem, it is focused on delivering values from space to society and people. We are well aware that sole satellite operation mission does not response to the challenges in our country if it cannot deliver value to our people. Therefore, THEOS-2 project is designed to include developing solutions and applications to tackle problems in 6 aspects containing of Mapping, Agriculture and Food Security, Integrated Water Management, Disaster and Geo-Hazard, Natural Resources and Ecosystems, and Urban Planning. These 6 fields of solutions and applications could lift up our existing products to better tackle the problems and achieve the relevant SDGs.

Importantly, THEOS-2 project introduces our innovative platform called “Actionable Intelligence Policy” or “AIP”. The concept of AIP is leveraging satellite data and other statistical data, using big data analytics, to analyze socioeconomic problems and provide “Evidence-based policy making”, which will recommend solutions in a holistic way helping policy makers to make better decisions.

Under the THEOS-2 project, there are 2 pilot areas for AIP implementation.

The first pilot area of AIP in Thailand represents economic aspect, the Eastern Economic Corridor or EEC is targeted to be a new growth engine of Thailand so there are many infrastructures have been invested and economic projects have been promoted. However, the impacts from economic development that could negatively affect social and environment sectors are also a big concern for the policy makers. It is difficult to elevate economic growth while minimizing impacts to social and environment. AIP could fill this gap by analyzing geospatial big data to provide the optimal suggestion for development in a specific area at district or sub-district level.

On the other hand, Nan province, a traditional agricultural area with forest, represents pilot area for social aspect. A big challenge for Nan province is the forest areas have been dramatically decreased because of encroachments from the local farmers to increase agriculture productivity. Therefore, AIP could suggest how to re-organize the land to improve incomes for local farmers while maintaining forest areas.

It is clearly seen that both EEC and Nan represent 2 different contexts of Thailand, but those contexts could be found in other places around the country. So, once AIP for the pilot areas are successful, we could bring this innovation to solve similar problems in other areas.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates

Thailand has underlined that the space technology is one of the vital tools to improve quality of life. The THEOS-2 project and AIP as mentioned above are aimed to facilitate our intention in bringing useful space technology to benefits society. Respecting boundless of space missions, international space cooperation is the key element to tackle area-based problems. We welcome collaboration from other member states to suggest the way we can utilize the space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development effectively, in order to be coincide with international direction leading to fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Thank you for your kind attention.