Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Statement in the Item 3. General exchange of views, 26th April 2021

By Thailand

Madam Chair,

As this is the first time I take the floor so I would like to thank you for Charing the Meeting and extend my appreciation to UNOOSA in arranging the Meeting during the difficult time. Firstly, Thailand is pleased to welcome the adoption of the preamble and 21 Guidelines for LTS and would like to echo other Member States that we hope the working group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities could take further steps to implementation of the guidelines very soon. In this respect, we are pleased to have this opportunity to share progress of activities in Thailand.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates

In the past years, even though the pandemic of Covid-19, a number of scientific projects related to space were dramatically increased in Thailand. Accordingly, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation of Thailand has underlined the importance of space science and research through the endorsement of 10-year roadmap of Earth Space System or ESS frontier research. The roadmap covers the research on environment on earth, atmospheric area, and space domain, and will bring research institutes and universities to conduct the scientific research in the same direction. The highlighted area of ESS roadmap is space mission overarching the microgravity experiments, space weather research, space traffic management, as well as satellite development.

In the aspect of space technology development, the past year was marked as an exciting and active year for satellite community in the country. Several Thai nanosatellites were launched into orbit, consisting of NAPA-1; the nanosatellite own by Thai Royal Airforce with the mission in earth observation, BCCsat which is the cubesat developed by Thai high school students for educational purpose. Importantly, the Thailand Space Consortium was established with the intention to leverage competencies, infrastructure, and economy in the country. Under the consortium roadmap, a series of small satellites including satellites to the lunar orbit will be constructed.

Regarding to infrastructure, the Assembly, Integration and Test facilities hosted by GISTDA, will be available to provide services on satellite testing by the end of 2021.

Madam Chair,

Following the “space2030” agenda, space economy is one of key elements. We realized that for emerging space country like us, we must prove that space activities will bring up the economic benefits to the nation.

The rise of new space actors has escalated the demand on space technology and operation in the country, leading to more engagement of Thai private sector in satellite and subsystem development. Some are brand new companies focusing on space mission, where many of them have up-skill from the experienced aerospace companies to capable of crafting the space grade-systems and materials. As the purpose to uphold space private sector in Thailand, ‘Aerospace One’ network was initiated with the objective to promote domestic aerospace research and innovation through capacity enhancement program, and funding for innovation development. In addition, the National Innovation Agency of Thailand has launched the incubator program for startups in space technology with the aim to boost up capabilities for entering the space economy supply chain.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates

Apparently, Thailand has emphasized on strengthening the international cooperation with our capacity. Thailand has long-standing partnership with UN-ESCAP for capacity building, research, utilization on space applications. For the critical challenge on climate change, we have promoted Space Climate Observatory activities to stakeholders in the country, and we would like to thank major contribution from CNES and UNOOSA. Thailand also appreciates the APRSAF and APSCO forum on the opportunity for us to connect with space agencies in Asia pacific region and international space domain.

Lastly, Thailand would like address that the work of the STSC is important for developing countries like us to reinforce capabilities in space affairs. Particularly during the pandemic, the STSC has presented as a central forum bringing state members to work together. Thailand also looks forward to contribute to the Working Group on Long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space weather expert group, and other groups to facilitate the missions and outputs of STSC.

Thank you.