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Author: Mr. Meir Moalem
Israel, Meir@multimodis.co.il

SPACE ICT ASSETS AS A CRITICAL ELEMENT IN GLOBAL SOCIETAL ISSUES

Abstract

The Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) revolution is an ongoing revolution, accelerating and expanding. ICT implications on Humanity are vast. ICT revolution which enables (among other things) constant availability of information anywhere anytime and instantaneous communication across the globe, is based on the use of space assets and technologies. Communication space systems, reconnaissance and observation space systems, Meteorological systems – all these (and more) create what is being referred to as "The Global Village". In the course of the last twenty years or so there has been major advances in information and communication technologies. Such are advances in computation, cellular and satellite communications, World Wide Web (internet) development and accessibility, all contribute to the ICT revolution. This presentation will give an introduction to ICT revolution and focus on the space segment within it, as a basis for understanding the future impact of space technologies via (but not limited to) ICT in issues such as: governance and democratic participation, Education, Health, Global poverty and hunger reduction, Providing essential services, Innovation, Urban development, Information management, International negotiations, Conflict management and Diplomacy. I will also address space assets role in ICT cybernetic power issues and Peace Support Operations (PSO). Space contribution to global societal issues through ICT is without substitute. The ability to observe the entire Earth with a variety of space sensors, the possible global communication space systems, and the global GIS (or GNSS) systems are critical components. The presentation will conclude with future prospects for space assets contributions through ICT and other fields, such as agriculture, health and energy.