

EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)  
International Cooperation in Earth Observation Missions (1)

Author: Dr. Darasri Dowreang  
GISTDA, Thailand, darasri@gistda.or.th

COORDINATION EFFORT OF COMMITTEE ON EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITES (CEOS)  
FOR SOCIETAL BENEFIT

**Abstract**

The Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) is the coordinated effort of space agencies to optimize the benefits of space-borne Earth Observation systems, to be a focal point for space-related Earth observation activities, and to encourage complement and compatibility among space-borne Earth Observation systems. The CEOS cooperation is made through its standing Working Groups and Virtual Constellations, whereby the planning, operation and exploitation of a number of satellites missions are coordinated with the intent of improving the adequacy of space-based measurements to meet user needs. CEOS conducts the Data Democracy Program aiming to share data and relevant resources to end users in developing countries. The dialogue initiated among space programs is developed to good effect such that the limited satellite observing resources available amongst funding states are applied as efficiently as possible. With the development of the space segment of the GEOSS, achieving the original vision for the GEOSS has become one of its highlights in the recent years. Several activities, e.g. Forest Carbon Monitoring and Greenhouse Gas Emission are prioritized. CEOS aims to focus its resources at all levels towards the achievement of tangible outcomes illustrating the effectiveness of its coordination efforts for the benefit of society.