

SYMPOSIUM ON VISIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE FAR FUTURE (D4)
Contribution of Space Activities to Solving Global Societal Challenges (4)

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SPACE TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Abstract

Today, space technology is no longer just a field of advanced technological development and of scientific research, but has become a valuable tool to solve challenges for the sustainable development in all countries including developing countries.

Asian Development Bank (ADB), as a regional development bank to facilitate economic development and poverty reduction in development member countries in Asia and the Pacific, has been promoting the application of space technology by holding knowledge events such as regional workshops and implementing projects applying space technology in its various sectors. These sectors includes agriculture, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk management, energy, environmental and social safeguard, health, transport, urban management, and water and natural resources management.

As an example to showcase how space technology can contribute to address such global issues, projects for sustainable development applying space technology implemented by ADB and other development partners will be presented. They include the following projects; (i) project to apply satellite- based rainfall data for the improvement of flood forecasting in Bangladesh, Philippines, (ii) project to introduce drought monitoring system applying satellite-based drought indices for food security cooperation in Great Mekong Subregion, (iii) project to apply satellite radar data to estimate rice crop cultivation area and production estimation to support agricultural statistics offices in Lao P.D.R, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Through the implementation of such projects, the issues to apply space technology in sustainable manner in developing member countries have been identified. The issues and possible solution will also be discussed and suggested in this paper.