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THE USE OF SPACE TECHNOLOGIES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Abstract

Various space technologies can be used for the Management of Disasters. These include the use of Meteorological Satellites, Earth Observation Satellites, Communications Satellites and Navigation Satellites.

Sometimes a disaster can occur at a place where the infrastructure is inadequate to support the use of space technologies. The exchange of data and the sharing of services would be extremely useful in order to have an effective utilization of space technologies.

For the countries of South East Asia, such exchange and sharing could also make use of existing cooperative projects that use space technologies, even though such projects may not have been specifically designed for disaster management.

One example would be the China-ASEAN STEP, a cooperative project between China and the countries of the Association of South East Asian Countries.

The aim of the project is to construct the remote sensing satellite Data Sharing and Service Platform in ASEAN member states in order for ASEAN countries to share China's remote sensing satellite data.

ASEAN countries could apply China's remote sensing satellite data in such fields as agricultural yield estimation, environment monitoring, disaster prevention and control, city management, in order to promote the development of the economy and society to benefit the people from the ASEAN region. The ultimate aim is to contribute to the achievement of UN Millennium Development Goals.

The paper will discuss how countries of South East Asia could utilize this project when it is fully implemented in future, to enhance the use space technologies for the management of disasters.