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SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFIT OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY FOR AFRICA

Abstract

Africa is the world's second largest and most populated continent next to Asia. When comparing Africa's land surface area, it is more than the USA, India, China and Europe put together. Space technology is a vital tool to overcome socioeconomic threats in developing countries like Africa; however, the existing serious challenges in ensuring adequate provision of basic necessities, such as food, shelter, a clean and healthy environment, and proper education, for its growing population makes Africans not to use efficiently the benefits of space technology. The benefits of space technology is underutilized as compared to other countries. The benefits from space infrastructure are becoming more evident in the management of long-term and significant challenges faced by modern society. The key contributions of space technology to meeting society's challenges include the ability to communicate anywhere in the world, the ability to observe any spot on earth very accurately and the ability to locate a fixed or moving object anywhere on the surface of the globe. This report reviews the socioeconomic benefits of space technology for developing countries in particular for Africa.