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International cooperation in using space for sustainable development: Towards a ‘Space2030’ agenda (1)

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FROM TRENTO TO KUALA LUMPUR: THE EVOLUTION OF THE ASI-IAF “INTERNATIONAL
SPACE FORUM” INITIATIVE

Abstract

In 2020, the International Space Forum (ISF) at Ministerial Level initiative reaches its fifth edition with the Chapter dedicated to the Southeast Asia region. The ISF has become an annual gathering addressed to Ministers of Education, Science, Technology, Research and Space Authorities, representatives of scientific and academic institutions of the region, as well as Heads of space agencies and members of the International Space Organizations. It aims at promoting a greater involvement of the academic community in space activities and programs, with the ultimate goal of finding better and local space solutions to global challenges. In fact, the ISF was launched in 2015 as a contribution to the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the UNISPACE+50 process. After the first edition in Trento (Italy), the ISF has been dedicated to specific regions of the world (Africa, South America and the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Southeast Asia) to address their specific socio-economic and capacity-building needs. This paper describes the origins of the initiative; its evolution across the continents; the content of the final declarations (the “Pages”) adopted at the end of each Forum, which express the regional perspectives, goals and concrete steps that governmental delegations agreed to pursue; and the actions that have already been implemented in these five years.