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Author: Ms. Paripat Pairat

Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), Thailand, paripat@gistda.or.th

Mr. Atipat Wattanuntachai

Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), Thailand, atipat@gistda.or.th

Mr. Phat Jotikanbukkana

Thailand, phat.jotikabukkana@gmail.com

HYBRID ONLINE AND HANDS-ON TRAINING FRAMEWORK FOR SPACE EMERGING NATION:
THAILAND CASE STUDY AND FOLLOW UP

Abstract

Thailand, represented by GISTDA, has recently acquired a new Earth observation system called THEOS-2. Along with two satellites, ground system, and the decision assist platform there is also a Know-How Training and Transfer (KHTT) program to develop national space human resources capacity. A THEOS-2 team of 22 Thai engineers was sent to the United Kingdom for two-years to co-developed and built a 100 kg class Earth-observation satellite called THEOS-2 SmallSAT at the Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd. (SSTL). These engineers are now in Thailand and sharing their expertise to local researchers, students, and space entrepreneurs using a hybrid online and hands-on training framework. In 2022 the THEOS-2 team creates a MOOC in satellite engineering open to public in a class of 400 online course takers. Then top 60 of the class takes an advance online training with a group assignment. The best 32 of them have a chance to work along with THEOS-2 engineers for five months. This includes a hands-on satellite component design and testing at GISTDA's assembly, integration, and test (AIT) facility in Chonburi, Thailand. Since the training program completed, those selected 32 trainees are now working in various field. This paper will summarize all lessons learnt of a hybrid online and hands-on training framework as well as the follow up of a very first alumni of this training.