

The Statement of Thailand to the 64th COPUOS

Agenda Item 4: General exchange of views

27 August 2021

Vienna, Austria

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first take this opportunity to congratulate you on your new role as the Chair of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and extend my appreciation to UNOOSA for great efforts in continuing to push forward the work of COPUOS. Under the support of UNOOSA, we note with satisfaction that this committee continues to successfully provide a substantive contribution to the peaceful uses of outer space. Additionally, we recognize that number of COPUOS members has been increasing rapidly. This is a good sign of the Committee as it reflects the importance of multilateralism in utilizing outer space. We warmly welcome Dominican Republic, Rwanda, and Singapore as the latest member states of the COPUOS and we also welcome the applications from Angola, Bangladesh, Panama, and Slovenia.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the last year, Thailand has enhanced its practice of conducting space activities for peaceful uses and sustainability. We adopted the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities or LTS Guidelines. Connected to the Guidelines, Thailand has launched its domestic procedure for registering space objects launched into outer space. We have planned on establishing a regional network center of the space situational awareness and research collaboration that

would support and provide the analyzed data of space weather, space debris monitoring and mitigation among countries in Southeast Asia in the future.

We are also developing the national space law and regulations with the purpose of assisting Thai's new space actors, both governmental and non-governmental entities, by providing initial practices and safety framework for conducting outer space activities. And, we are grateful to be invited by UNOOSA to participate in the 'Space Law for New Space Actors Project' for countries in the Asia Pacific region. In this regard, we would like to encourage other countries to join various multilateral projects initiated by UNOOSA and further exchange information about the safety and sustainability of space operations in their countries.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

How space technology can contribute to socioeconomic is what Thai focuses on. We would like to share how earth observation data can contribute to manage the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Thailand, we have developed a web-based map application to match between infected people and hospitals with available facilities which makes it easier for hospitals to reach to the patients.

In addition, we initiated a job relating to the space applications for Thai people who were suffered and lost their job caused by the pandemic. Joining the project as the trainees, these people did not only have an opportunity to learn the basic step of how to make use of satellite data for some applications but also got special income in return for their work. At present, there are more than a thousand Thai trainees participated in this project. Moreover, we intend to extend the number of trainees by inviting youth and students to participate in the project. This is the way to release the suffer from economic aspect, and the same time, it is the opportunity to build awareness of space technology applications to the communities.

In the aspect of internal cooperation, Thailand commits ourselves to international community to relief the severe and painful of disaster both in bilateral and multilateral. The Sentinel Asia under APRSAF, and UNOSAT are the community and UN body we actively participate in. Hundreds of satellite images and analytical data are provided via these platforms every year. Furthermore, in terms of space technology for social development, Thailand is the first pilot country of the Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution information (PAPGAPi) project, which is the regional project initiated by Republic of Korea and UN-ESCAP to utilize data generated by innovative Geostationary Environment Monitoring Spectrometer of Korea and ground-based data from the Pandonia network for air pollution and air quality monitoring in Thailand and Southeast Asia.

Mr. Chairman,

From our view, all countries should be supported in accessing the benefits of space-based technology that facilitates sustainable development. Thailand strongly supports the implementation of Space 2030 agenda of UNCOPUOS and commits to delivering the benefits of space to everyone everywhere.

Thank you for your kind attention.
