



GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium

Accelerating the realization of the SDGs with Earth Observations:
Lessons from the Asia-Oceania Region



Date: 18th - 20th September 2017



Venue: Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam

Welcome Remark of

Prof. Chau Van Minh

President of Vietnam Academy of
Science and Technology

*Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 10th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium with the theme “Accelerating the realization of the SDGs with Earth Observations: Lessons from the Asia-Oceania Region” and to thank you for participating in this event.

Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) is an institution mandated by Vietnam Government to take charge of fundamental research in natural science and technology development in priority areas.

These areas play a role as the scientific basis for management activities of Science and Technology as well as making policies and master plan for socio-economic development and high-quality training scientific human resources for the country.

The VAST has a system of more than 100 monitoring stations and experimental units located throughout Vietnam, from the mainland, coasts to islands of the country. These monitoring stations of experimental units implement experimental investigations on geology, geomagnetism, geography, resources, materials, environmental monitoring, climate change and natural disasters.

In 2006, the Prime Minister of Vietnam has approved “Strategy for Research and Application of Space Technology up to 2020”, worked out policies to develop space technology in Vietnam, assigned tasks to relevant ministries and agencies to perform the strategic mission for promoting research and application of space technology.

According to the Decision of the Prime Minister, VAST has been put in charge of space important projects such as “Small Satellite for natural resource, environment and disaster management – VNREDSat-1”, “Vietnam National Space Center” and National Program on Space Science and Technology.

As an official member of Group on Earth Observations (GEO) from 2014, it is an honor for VAST to host the 10th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium from September 18 to September 20, 2017 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

I would like to express our sincere thanks to Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). I also like to thanks the GEO Secretariat to select and support Vietnam as the host country for this important symposium

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, Vietnam is one of the countries that are heavily influenced by global climate change. In fact, flash floods, soil erosion, typhoons and hurricanes have destroyed many houses, villages, roads and killed a great number of our people. Many countries in ASIA such as China also suffered by Earth quake, Thailand, Bangladesh and other countries – by flood and Mongolia - by drought, etc.

So that through this Symposium, we will discuss on Asia-Oceania's needs of Earth observation (EO) information, biology observation, ocean observation, data sharing and data platforms, especially, the measure how to strengthen space technology and its applications for disaster management, for our sustainable socio-economic development and better life in a green environment.

I hope that at this Symposium we will share information, experience and knowledge of the space technology and enhance cooperative relation within the projects, cooperation programs, training human resources in major of space technology in order to promote research activities, application and development of space technology for socio-economic development purpose

*Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for coming to this symposium, and I wish **THE “10TH GEOSS ASIA-PACIFIC SYMPOSIUM with the theme “Accelerating the realization of the SDGs with Earth Observations: Lessons from the Asia-Oceania Region”** successful and hope that you will all benefit from this important Symposium. To our foreign guests, I wish you an enjoyable stay in Hanoi.*

Thank you for your time and attention!