

Remarks

“United Nations/Indonesia Conference on Space Applications for Climate Change”

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United Nations Resident Coordinator, Indonesia

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Hotel Borobudur, Jakarta

Please check against delivery

Prof. Dr. Armida S Alisyahbana, Minister for National Development Planning/ head of BAPPENAS, Indonesia

Prof. Dr. Balthasar Kambuaya, Minister of Environment, Indonesia,

Prof. Dr. Gusti Muhammad Hatta, Minister for Research and Technology, Indonesia,

Mr. Bambang Tejasukmana, Chairman of LAPAN (National Institute of Aeronautics and Space), Indonesia,

Mr. Juan Carlos Villagran, UNOOSA,

Colleagues, Heads of UN Agencies, funds and programmes, Development Partners and Organizations, Your Excellencies,

Selamat Pagi,

Thank you and welcome to Indonesia. We are pleased to have you here and our greetings to you. We all work to see the application of satellite and space imagery and its implications for climate change. The UN promotes the peaceful use of outer space. We work for partnership in technology, navigation, emergencies, drought, early warning, environment, resilience of nations and partnership opportunities. From the ancient days of space exploration, the UN has recognized the space related technologies that can play an important role in improving the situation for the vulnerable.

In recent years, Climate Change has been recognized as a process which may deter sustainable development throughout the world. As a global phenomenon, climate change poses a threat to the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. But the impacts of climate change will be felt more severely in developing countries and Small Island developing States, which are most vulnerable to disasters and to the impacts related to climate change. Unfortunately, it is these countries which can help themselves the least when it comes to adaptation to the changing environment, and thus it is necessary to find mechanisms capable to targeting resources to help such countries in their efforts targeting adaptation.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, stated that “...Climate change remains the defining challenge of our time. The journey will be difficult, but it is one we must make. And it is one we must make together. The science demands it. The global economy needs it. And the lives and well-being of billions depends on it....”

The role of the UN is two-fold:

- It provides the platform for Member States to discuss and agree on measures to be implemented to mitigate and to adapt to climate change. The Conference of Parties (CoP) is the main political forum for discussions on climate change at the global level and is coordinated by UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).
- The United Nations helps translate decisions taken at the COPs into actions on the ground. Through its agencies and organizations, the United Nations assist governments in their efforts to pursue mitigation and adaptation aimed at promoting low-carbon, climate resilient development.

This conference focuses on the use of integrated space applications to climate change, here are some examples of efforts the UN is conducting in this area:

1. The United Nations has co-sponsored the establishment of the Global Observing Systems:
 - The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)
 - The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
 - The Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS)
2. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has implemented a geospatial database that serves as a gateway to geo-spatial information for governments in Africa. In addition, it is developing a pan-African atlas to address issues such as food security, land degradation, water management, disaster risk management and climate.
3. UNEP, FAO and other agencies make use of satellite imagery to track the status of forests through the REDD+ mechanism, assisting Member States in their efforts to monitor and report on carbon emissions and flows and greenhouse inventories.
4. FAO established the ARTEMIS system for food security early warning. ARTEMIS makes use of satellite imagery to track the status of crops during the growth season over Africa. FAO also operates the Global Fire Information Management System that delivers hotspot/fire locations and burned area information to forest agencies.
5. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission tracks changes in the extent of polar ice caps using satellite imagery.
6. WFP tracks vegetation and rainfall using satellites to monitor crops as a way to identify threats to food security.
7. The World Meteorological Organization tracks changes to the climate in the atmosphere using a variety of meteorological satellites.
8. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs promotes the use of space applications to assess the effects of climate change using integrated space applications.

This conference is of great importance because it will discuss ways we work together in Indonesia, in particular in relation to:

1. Agriculture/Food Security

There is a special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on the use of space technology within the United Nations System for agriculture development and food security. This report is outlining ways to map and utilize space technology to support agriculture development and food security issues.

2. Disasters/emergencies

With around 1700 disasters yearly, we plot out and continue to use this valuable technology especially for early warning system.

3. Space Weather Initiative (ISWI)

ISWI tried to formulate ways to expand low-cost and ground-based worldwide instrument arrays to village level

4. Private sector and industries

Broaden and expand these opportunities to gather more data to support business and industrial development.

5. Regional cooperation

To strengthen regional cooperation and promote South-south cooperation.

6. Vulnerable population

Ways for satellites to assist and identifying vulnerable populations, urbanization, mapping of resilience levels of communities.

7. Sea level rise

To measure the impact of sea level rise especially on the archipelago. We know 634 million people are at immediate risk from rising seas. Most major cities of the world and 2/3 of all populations live within 100 km of a coastline. Indonesia, China, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Japan, Egypt, US, Thailand, Philippines – most people live in low coastal areas.

It is important that we encourage communication. Indeed, we are dealing with rocket science but let's not make it only for rocket scientists. We have to find ways to make it simple (for example through explaining the concept repetitively, using colorful pictures and working diagrams) and avoid complexities. You must get the man to understand it.

We would rather entertain and hope that people learned something than educate people and hope they were entertained.

Thank you all for participating and I wish you all a very successful conference.