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Title: (OA17) Earth Observation from Space: Prospects for Regional Cooperation in Coastal Zone Management

Abstract: Space Earth Observation technology plays an increasingly important role in the economic and social well being of nations world wide. The use of weather satellite data has made possible accurate weather forecasting for aviation and navigation services; space remote sensing has enabled extraction of valuable information for mitigation of disasters and for effective management of natural resources and the environment. In Asia, whilst a few countries like India and China are ahead in the development and utilization of space earth observation technology in the mainstream of nations development, many have yet to benefit from such development due to high costs involved. These countries can ill afford to be lagged in this area, as they would eventually lose out in this ever demanding global environment. Smart partnership between nations is therefore an important international agenda if space technology were to benefit many developing countries. Recent development in earth observation and related technologies has render them more useful, among others, for effective coastal zone management. This paper addresses recent developments in space earth observation technology for coastal zone management and the needs for regional collaboration. Examples where these technologies are making headway in this region are highlighted; these include for integrated coastal zone management, mapping of marine and coastal resources such as sea grass and mangrove forest, monitoring of harmful algae bloom, monitoring of coastline changes, ocean dynamics, and contingency plan for oil spill. Prospects for international cooperation which include data and information exchanges, joint research, and manpower development are also highlighted.

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