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Micro-satellite User Community in Vietnam: roadmap and challenges

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Located in the eastern part of the Indochina Peninsula, Vietnam is a region with complex topography, land surface conditions, coastlines. Under such geological conditions and largely influenced by monsoon, Vietnam is prone to natural disasters, such as typhoons, floods and droughts. Annual losses from natural disasters are nearly 1.5 percent of Vietnamese GDP. Given such circumstances, it is important to take measures for disaster damage mitigation and prevention in Vietnam. Thus a dense ground-based observation network as well as reliable remote sensing data are essential.

Recently, space technology in Vietnam has been strongly being supported by Vietnamese Government. The Space Technology Insitute was established in Nov 2006. The VINASAT-1 with weight of about 2800kg was launched in 2008. The Vietnam National Satellite Center, VNSC, was established in Sep 2011. VNSC is also implementing a project funded from the Japanese ODA loans, about USD 600 million, which aims to build a modern space center by 2018. Besides, several other satellites are under preparation phase. Since the current missions/projects mainly focus on large-size satellites, it appears that micro-satellites have not been sufficiently recognized inside the research community in Vietnam. Therefore, this presentation will discuss about potential vietnamese users and propose a roadmap in order to succesfully create an effective micro-satellite user community in Vietnam.

Keywords: micro-satellite, Vietnam