

# COLLABORATION OF JAXA AND GIC/AIT IN TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA ON THE APPLICATION OF SPACE BASED TECHNOLOGIES

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**ABSTRACT:** Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Geoinformatics Center (GIC) of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) have been collaborating to develop individual and institutional capacities of the use of space based technologies in Asia since 1997. Investments made by JAXA in the early stages of the collaboration were timely as there was very limited knowledge of the use of the technology and the cost of satellite data was quite expensive. Since the first program conducted at AIT, training programs have been taken different forms addressing the changing technological needs in the region and considering effectiveness of programs leading to a very successful capacity building initiative named Mini-Project. Under this format, capacity building takes place based on user requested application proposed by a national agency accomplishing a tangible output at the end of the one year long activity. Target applications vary and most requested applications are on flood risk mapping, land degradation, landslide risk mapping, coastal environment, and drought application. This paper provides a summary of programs conducted since 2004 and outcome of the JAXA and GIC/AIT collaboration in enhancing the application potential of space based technologies in Asia.