

Space Technology Activities in the Philippines

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This paper describes the role of the Committee on Space Technology and Applications (COSTA) as a coordinating body in the Philippines regarding space technology applications. It also discusses the various space-related activities supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as applied to natural disaster risk reduction and management.

Philippines is one of the countries in Asia that frequently experiences natural disasters such as typhoons, flooding, landslides, volcanic eruptions, etc. As a disaster-prone country, it is important that appropriate mitigation measures are put in place in order to properly manage and reduce the risks of natural disasters. One of the effective ways of monitoring occurrences of natural disasters is the use of space technologies such as remote sensing and other earth observation systems. For quite some time now, the Philippines has been using space technology for monitoring not only weather events, but also forest covers, land use and other applications. To achieve this, the country relies on other countries for satellite data.

This paper also describes project NOAH, a multi-component project assisted by the DOST comprising of 3-D mapping, geo-hazards mapping, flood modelling, landslide sensors and a warning system to alert communities of impending flooding or landslide event.

More recently, due to the increasing demand for satellite data, the Philippines is planning to enhance its data center, put up a ground receiving station and possibly launched a satellite of its own in the near future.