

**Statement**

**by Prof. Dr. Yongyuth Yuthavong**

**Minister of Science and Technology, Thailand**

**at the First GEO Ministerial Summit**

**on 30 November 2007**

**Cape Town International Convention Centre – CTICC,**

**Cape Town, South Africa**

---

**Excellencies,**

**GEO Co-Chairs,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour and privilege for me to address the GEO Cape Town Ministerial Meeting today. On behalf of the Government of Thailand, let me first extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of South Africa for hosting this important event. My thanks are also extended to

GEO Secretariat and GEO Committees for their hard work in the preparation for this meeting.

As we are aware, today our beloved planet earth has faced a lot of problems caused by both natural phenomena and human activities. The problems are evident in terms of global warming, drought, forest fire, sea level rise, forest degradation, and various pollutions which have direct impact on our daily life.

It is opportune that Group on Earth Observation or GEO has been established and successfully implemented with strong intention and collaboration from various countries and international organizations.

So far, it has been proven that GEO is one of the most successful forum that helps solve problems by using EO-Earth Observation System as a tool. However, without cooperation and contribution from various countries and organizations, the achievement would not have been possible. As a member of the Executive Committee, Thailand truly appreciates all the efforts and contributions to GEO activities both in kind and in cash.

This meeting marks a major milestone towards implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems – GEOSS. Thailand has been fully supportive of this world effort for a coordinated, comprehensive and sustained earth observation system since the First Earth Observation Summit in Washington D.C. Moreover, Thailand commits to continue participating in GEO activities at both regional and global levels especially in Capacity Building, Data Sharing and R & D collaboration.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Thailand is delighted to see the development and the implementation of the 10 year plan for GEOSS, which has significantly been achieved for nearly 2 years. In order to support the success of GEOSS, Thailand is pleased to provide its contribution via its national earth observation system, which is being managed and coordinated by the Geo-informatics and Space Technology Development Agency – GISTDA under the Ministry of Science and Technology. For over 30 years, Thailand has involved in earth observations and promoted research and development on satellite data applications in various fields. In addition, our ground receiving stations has direct access to many satellites and we also conduct annually short term

training courses in different modules for promoting the use of earth observation satellite data. Therefore, we would be pleased to offer the sharing of expertise and training services with other GEO member countries and organizations. Furthermore, in early 2008, Thailand Earth Observation Satellite – THEOS in short will be launched into orbit. THEOS is a small polar orbiting satellite, 2 meter resolution camera in panchromatic mode and 15 meter resolution camera in multi-spectral mode with swath widths of 22 and 90 kilometers respectively. Thus, Thailand is pleased to be part of GEOSS.

As mentioned above, Thailand is very pleased to contribute to the GEOSS in the following areas:

1. Sharing of satellite data available from her archives;
2. Contributing to the capacity building activities especially training of personnel from developing countries;
3. Exchanging of personnel related to earth observation activities with GEO participating members; and
4. R & D collaboration.

Thailand welcomes any opportunity to collaborate with other countries, organizations or international bodies for mutual benefits of all mankind. We look forward to collaborating with all of you in earth observation activities. Thailand also supports the Cape Town Declaration and wish GEOSS the successful system in enhancing and enriching our beloved planet earth.

**Thank you**

