

United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for  
Disaster Reduction – “Lessons learned during the unprecedented pandemic  
situation”, 24-25 November 2020

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## The High-Level Expert Virtual Meeting

*Silap Boupha, Ph.D.*  
*Senior Advisor*  
*MOST*

on 25 November 2020, Vientiane Capital, Lao P.D.R.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The UN-SPIDER mission as TAM follow up was planned to be undertaken from 11<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 in Savannakhet province, Lao P.D.R. to offer technical advisories aiming at improving disaster risk management, early warning system, emergency response, and strengthening the institutional capacity. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, it has been postponed and looking for a virtual mode to deliver the purpose of this mission.
2. UN-SPIDER values the request of the governor of Savannakhet province to offer technical advisory on how the space-based information contributes to multiple challenges of disaster management during the pandemic situation. The high-level technical advisory virtual meeting is proposed between the Vice-President of the Economic, Technology, and Environment Committee of National Assembly of the Lao P.D.R., the Vice-Governor of Savannakhet province, UN-SPIDER, ADPC and IWMI.

## PARTICIPANTS

1. H.E. Sanya Praseuth, Member of Parliament cum Vice-President of the Economic, Technology, and Environment Committee of National Assembly of the Lao P.D.R.,



2. Mr. Viengthavisone Thephachanh, Member of Parliament cum Vice-governor of the Savannakhet Province



3. Dr. Silap Boupha, Senior Advisor, MOST



4. Dr. Shirish Ravan, Head, UN-SPIDER Beijing Office, UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER



5. Mr. Hans Guttman, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)



6. Dr. Peeranan Towashiraporn, Director of Geospatial Information, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)



7. Dr. Giriraj Armanath, Giriraj Amarnath, Research Group Leader, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)



8. Mrs. Anggraini Dewi



## OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss the use of Earth observation in achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework and the challenges posed by the Covid-19 outbreak to the disaster management body.
2. Facilitate the preparation of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on early warning and multi-hazard maps.
3. Specific focus on preparing a project on employing space-based tools and geospatial information for flood early warning, flood monitoring and flood hazard/risk assessment.

## OUTCOMES OF THE DISCUSSIONS

1. The meeting put forth few ideas and project proposals for consideration by the Government:
  - Need of the SOP for utilization of space-based information during emergencies
  - Coordination mechanism is the critical factor successfully utilize the technologies in building resilience, saving life and damage to infrastructure, emergency response and build back better.
  - Capacity building to be done in a strategic and systematic way
2. IWMI presented the Specific project proposal following project ideas:
  - Flood and drought monitoring and early warning for disaster preparedness and building resilience among smallholder farmers
  - Empowering vulnerable communities through climate risk insurance and promote sustainable growth and development in Savannakhet province

## OUTCOMES OF THE DISCUSSIONS (Cont'd)

3. The Vice Governor of the Savannakhet province will take lead in submitting project idea to the potential donors (Example: Global Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, UN Resident Coordinator, World Bank, ADB etc.)
4. UN-SPIDER will support the officials in Lao P.D.R. to undertake postgraduate diploma courses in remote sensing and GIS through the UN Affiliated Regional Centre for Space, Science, and Technology Education in India and China.

## FURTHER ACTIONS

1. UN-SPIDER, IWMI and ADPC (referred as the consortium) will provide a concept paper on the project idea to the Vice Governor of Savannakhet Province by mid December 2020.
2. The consortium will support the Vice Governor to plan the potential donor's meeting.
3. Full-fledged project proposal to be developed after getting some interest from the potential donors.
4. UN-SPIDER will set the funding and to provide an expert who can stay at Savannakhet province to facilitate the preparation of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on early warning and the use of space-based and information to support risk and disaster management efforts in local Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and action plans.
5. UN-SPIDER will meanwhile support the follow up mission or virtual meetings .



Thank you for your kind attention!