

## **Cooperation on environment through satellite development eyed by ROK legislator**

From Manila Times

A KOREAN National Assembly (KNA) representative and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are exploring a collaboration on the use of communications satellite (Comsat) to monitor and protect the environment.

KNA member congresswoman Jo Myung-hee paid a courtesy visit to the DENR on July 13 in a pivotal meeting to introduce state-of-the-art technologies on the collection of data to monitor the environmental conditions on the ground.

In her visit, she was officially welcomed by DENR-Foreign Assisted and Special Services (FASPS) director Dr. Al Orolfo who acknowledged satellite technologies and high resolution images' significant role in the management and protection of natural resources and environment.

Other senior officials present during the courtesy visit were DENR OIC lawyer Ernesto Adobo Jr. and Maria Elena Morillos-Manila, director of the Knowledge and Information Systems Service (KISS).

Present also in the meeting was Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Philippines Office assistant country director Kim Younlee.

Jo explained that in Korea, they already use two systems for real-time monitoring of the environmental and weather conditions through satellite imagery and meteorological stations.

Adobo expressed DENR's gratitude to the support and assistance extended by the Korean government in the environment sector of the country, reported FASPS's John Darren Chua.

There are two ongoing KOICA-funded projects with the DENR.

One of these is the Establishment of Integrated Water Resources Management and Information System for the Pampanga River Basin Phase 2 implemented with the National Water Resources Board.

The other is the Enhancement of Marine Litter Management in Manila Bay to be spearheaded by the Manila Bay Coordinating Office.