



GUEST OF HON. PROF. MOHAMED ADEL YEHIA,
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR REMOTE
SENSING AND SPACE SCIENCE,
YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE AMBASSADOR OF ITALY TO KENYA,
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVE TO KENYA,
AFRICOVER CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR,
DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I would like to start by welcoming you most warmly to Kenya, and in particular the City of Nairobi. Please feel at home and enjoy the hospitality and warmth of your colleagues and the people around you. Over the last few years Kenya has played host to a number of important International Conferences, Meetings and Seminars because of the conducive political and infrastructural atmosphere.

I am grateful to be here this morning to be part of this happy occasion marking the second important meeting whose participants are drawn from the Eastern African Sub-Region. Kenya as a country feels greatly honoured and privileged to have been selected to host this great National Coordinators Meeting for the second time. Your presence here is a witnessing sign of your support of the FAO-Africover E.A. Project and to Kenya as a country.

I am therefore delighted at this juncture to extend our appreciation to FAO Africover-E. Africa for giving Kenya a second chance as a venue to hold again the Second National Coordinators Meeting in Nairobi.

Honourable Guest, Your Excellency, Distinguished guests and participants, most of our economies are seriously under-developed, and our resources are improperly exploited, environment is more and more spoilt and the majority of our people are still living in difficult and backward conditions, without access to basic services and need.

For sure one of the major causes is lack of planning in the best possible use of our resources. Often we are not in a position to plan the use of our resources because we don't know enough which and where they are. Lack of detailed and reliable information, hence do not allow any reliable planning.

The most rapid vehicle to collect the needed data on our land recourses in a reliable and detailed way is the use of advanced Remote Sensing Technologies. In this sense, we have to emphasize the effort of the FAO-Africover-E.A. Project. Infact, through the activities of this project better capacities are built up in the countries as well as detailed reliable source of information are developed to strengthen the National and Regional capacities in planning.



AFRICOVER - E. Africa

Land Cover Mapping of E. Africa Based on Satellite Remote Sensing

FAO Trust Fund Project GCP/RAF/287/ITA

I wish therefore, to urge the FAO Africover-E. Africa to continue with its endeavours and the challenge undertaken. The availability of the completed Database will allow each country participating in the project and the region itself to develop several applications in different fields; such as Food Security, Environmental Protection, Investment Development, Health and appropriate use of Natural Resources. We need to start to think of the future of this project in support of the development of these applications.

Your Excellency Belboni, Ambassador of Italy to Kenya, let me take this opportunity to thank the Italian Government for the important financial support given to the Africover East Africa Project so important and crucial for the development of the Region and national countries participating to the project.

Finally, Hon. Guest, Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests and Participants, before I declare the Meeting officially opened, I wish to invite all of you to take every opportunity during your stay here, to visit as many places of interest within Kenya as possible to see for yourself.

Hon. Guest, Your Excellency, Distinguished delegates, ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my great pleasure and honour to declare this FAO Africover-E. Africa Project Second National Coordinators' Meeting officially opened.

THANK YOU