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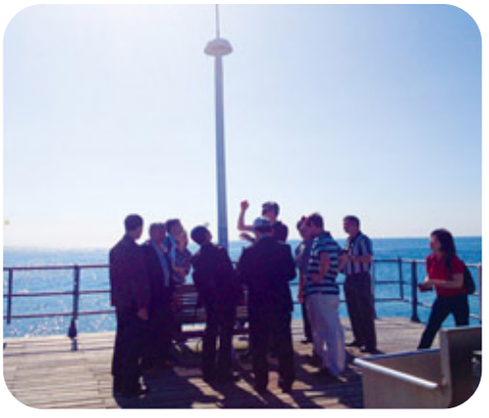
Thailand - U.S. Increasing Ties in HF Radar Technology

Information sharing to prove beneficial as Thailand expands its SeaSonde network

This August a high-ranking delegation from Thailand's Ministry of Science and Geo-Informatics Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA) kicked off a special U.S. trip by visiting SeaSonde sites along the New Jersey coast and the Rutgers University Coastal Ocean Observation Laboratory (COOLroom), where they joined Rutgers scientists as well as U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (U.S. IOOS) Program Director Ms. Zdenka Willis in discussion on U.S. experiences with HF radar and data utilization for both research and operational pursuits. GISTDA, already with expertise in satellite remote sensing, is adding HF radar technology into its suite of observing technologies and establishing a 13-radar unit SeaSonde network in the Gulf of Thailand this year. Delegates concluded their U.S. trip in San Francisco touring local radar sites inside the bay and conducting factory inspections of their new SeaSonde materials. Preparations for the installation, led by CODAR's local Thai partner Metlink Info. Co., are already underway and once completed will bring the total number of SeaSondes operating in that country to 20.



Rutgers' Hugh Roarty points out details of the SeaSonde hardware in Belmar, New Jersey.

Members of the Thai delegation, Rutgers University and U.S. IOOS pose for a group photo in front of COOLroom glider ops screen.