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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-first session
Vienna, 19-30 March 2012
Capacity-building in space law

Building capacity in space law: actions and initiatives

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fiftieth session, in 2011, the Subcommittee recommended that member States and permanent observers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, of any actions taken or planned on a national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/990, para. 119).
2. The present document contains replies received from Algeria, Australia, Austria and Japan.



I. Information received from member States

Algeria

[Original: French]

With regard to capacity-building in space law, the Government of Algeria, through the Algerian Space Agency, is continuing to pursue efforts to introduce university courses in space law, either under existing programmes or under specialized programmes. Education in space law is of particular importance in developing the practical aspects of space technologies and promoting in-depth knowledge of the international legal framework for space activities.

Australia

[Original: English]

No specific capacity-building measures have been taken or planned beyond the ongoing university-level study of space law at several Australian institutions.

Austria

[Original: English]

Space law forms part of the general course in international law which is a compulsory subject at all Austrian law faculties (Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Linz). In addition, some faculties offer specialized courses on space law as an optional subject.

At the University of Vienna, two courses are offered by Professor Irmgard Marboe on a regular basis. The courses “General Legal Framework of the Use of Outer Space Technologies” and “Special Legal Issues of the Use of Outer Space Technologies” are offered in the winter semester each academic year and are taught in English. Not only Austrian students, but also exchange students, mostly from Australia, show interest in attending these courses. Furthermore, a seminar is held regularly in the summer semester which also includes a focus on space law.

The University of Graz offers courses on space law on a regular basis. They are held by Professor Christian Brünner together with Mag. Alexander Soucek.

In 2011, six Austrian students participated in the Summer Course on Space Law and Policy organized by the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL). The National Point of Contact (NPOC) for Space Law in Austria selected the Austrian participants.

From 11 July to 9 September 2011, the Space Studies Programme (SSP) of the International Space University (ISU) took place in Graz. The programme contained also an important focus on space law.

Japan

[Original: English]

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) contributes to the capacity-building in space law by providing financial support through its Space Education Center for university and graduate students from countries in the Asia-Pacific region to participate in space-related international meetings, as well as by creating a legal database on space law and accepting internships throughout its Legal Affairs Division.

JAXA is providing financial support for the winning team of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court, organized by the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), to participate in the competition's World Finals, taking place during the International Astronautical Congress (IAC). JAXA has supported to date the members of successful teams from Australia, India, New Zealand and Singapore.

While support is not exclusively limited to law students, financial support for travel has also been provided to a limited number of selected students to participate in the biennial International Symposium on Space Technology and Science (ISTS), which includes a session on space law and policy. The author of the best paper among those submitted to ISTS by the students has been provided with additional support to participate in the IAC.

JAXA, through its Space Education Center, continues to provide training opportunities for all Japanese university and graduate students by funding their participation in IAC as well as the annual symposium, Space Studies Programme and Masters programmes of the International Space University, which take up space policy and law, among other subjects.

Furthermore, JAXA, through its Legal Affairs Division, has a page on the Internet website (<http://stage.tksc.jaxa.jp/spacelaw/index.html>) containing the international space treaties and domestic space laws both in their original language and in Japanese as appropriate, since the end of 2008. This also expands the opportunities for students interested in the study of space law.

JAXA Legal Affairs Division, General Affairs Department accepts internships of university and graduate students studying law. They write reports and make presentations during their stay based on themes related to international and/or domestic space law, as well as gather experience assisting in JAXA's work. Opportunities, such as interviews with people in JAXA on related themes, are provided as appropriate. The interns are usually Japanese students, but in 2009 a French law student was accepted for three months to work on a comparison of the French and Japanese space law systems.