

25 March 2014

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 24 March-4 April 2014
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Capacity-building in space law

Building capacity in space law: actions and initiatives

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fifty-second session, in 2013, 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-third session, of any actions taken or planned on a national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/1045, para. 133).
2. The present document contains the reply received from Canada.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.292.



I. Information received from member States

Canada

Activities of McGill University's Institute of Air and Space Law

Created in 1951, McGill University's Institute of Air & Space Law (IASL) this year celebrates its 60th anniversary and continues to provide cutting-edge graduate legal education to students from around the world. Over the past half century, the IASL has produced more than 1,000 graduates who, today, occupy some of the most senior positions in law firms, corporations, governmental and intergovernmental institutions in more than 120 countries around the world.

The principal objectives of the IASL are to: (a) educate the next generation of air and space lawyers to serve the needs of the aerospace community worldwide; (b) offer IASL students the best graduate education in air and space law available anywhere in the world; (c) publish interdisciplinary research valuable to all stakeholders; and, (d) serve the professional educational needs of the aviation and space law bar.

In 1963, the Institute became world's first institution to offer a course on space law. Now, undoubtedly it offers the most advanced and comprehensive Space Law programme in the world. As a result of grants received from the Boeing Corporation and the Erin J. C. Arsenault Foundation and funds for cutting-edge research on issues related to space law and regulatory matters, the IASL now has the most extensive and generously funded academic research and outreach programme in the field of air and space law.

The IASL organizes many workshops, seminars and conferences on different aspects of air and space law around the world. The following activities related to Space Law took place during 2013:

6th IAASS International Space Safety Conference: "Safety Is Not An Option": 21-23 May 2013, McGill Faculty of Law, Montreal, Canada

Organized by the IASL and the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS), the conference was an opportunity to reflect on a number of topics in space safety and sustainability, and to promote mutual understanding, trust, and the widest possible professional international cooperation in such matters.

Space Security Index Working Group: 12-13 April 2013, McGill Faculty of Law, Montreal, Canada

The Space Security Index project partners hosted the 10th annual Space Security Working Group workshop at McGill University's Faculty of Law on April 12-13, 2013.

The Space Security Index is a joint research project of the Institute of Air and Space Law at McGill University, Secure World Foundation, Project Ploughshares and The Simons Foundation, in cooperation with the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. The purpose of this Working Group meeting was to seek feedback on relevant developments in 2012 through a review of the draft research and a debate

of their implications for the security of outer space, based on open discussion held under the Chatham House rule. The discussion informed the development of the Space Security Index 2013 report which was released in the summer of 2013.

**Conference on the Commercialisation of Space: “Opportunities and Challenges”:
24-25 January 2013, in London, United Kingdom**

The Dhawan Chair in the Department of War Studies, King’s College London, and McGill’s Institute of Air & Space Law held a two-day Conference at King’s College where several invited experts from different countries with developed space programmes and related commercial activities discussed the civil uses and commercialization of space activities.

The IASL is organizing the following activities in 2014:

**McGill Workshop on Emerging Issues in Space Law, and 33rd ALAANZ Annual
Air Law Conference:
7-9 May 2014, Melbourne, Australia**

The 2014 ALAANZ Conference will be held with the support of McGill’s Institute of Air & Space Law at McGill University. Current plans are that the Director of the Institute, Dr. Paul Dempsey and other staff from the Institute will be speakers at the conference and McGill University will be also conducting a Space Law Workshop on Wednesday 7 May 2014 in Melbourne.

**Space Security Index Working Group:
28 May 2014 McGill Faculty of Law, Montreal, Canada**

The 11th Annual Space Security Index Working Group Meeting will be hosted at the Faculty of Law, McGill University by the Space Security Index Project Partners (see above reference).

**Manfred Lachs International Conference “Global Space Governance”:
29-31 May 2014, McGill Faculty of Law, Montreal, Canada**

This annual conference covers comprehensive deliberations on all aspects of the space regime.

Since 1999, when the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) was held, the international community has not addressed comprehensively the issue of global space governance.

Meanwhile, numerous developments have occurred in the world in general, and the space sector in particular, that have serious implications for the current and future conduct of space activities by all states. Space lies at the nexus of security, strategic stability and scientific, as well as technological, advancement.

To date, global space governance has primarily been implemented through the establishment and implementation of legal, institutional and regulatory regimes, both at the international and domestic levels. However, with the proliferation of cooperative governance mechanisms that involve non-legally binding commitments increasingly being undertaken by non-governmental entities operating in outer space, it is clear that the international community as a whole needs to review

existing mechanisms and consider new governance concepts aimed at ensuring exploration and use of outer space are carried out for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and in the interest of mankind.

**Strategic Space Law Program:
20-24 October 2014, Montreal, Canada**

There is a growing dependence, for both military and commercial purposes, on outer space, which is becoming congested. Consequential competitive interests pose challenges to its sustainable use by all nations and to international peace and security. This one-week long intensive programme is planned to spread space law knowledge to people involved in (currently employed by) militaries, foreign affairs, commerce and civil society. The focus of the programme will be to describe applicable legal principles and rules of space law and to identify gaps (especially those that may undermine global as well as national space security) and explore legal means to address the interest of space stability and security for the benefit of all nations. It is expected that with the knowledge gained during the programme they will be able to make informed contributions on space security issues globally through policy discussions, domestic and international legal instruments, diplomatic negotiations and representation, and at conferences and meetings.

**Multidisciplinary Symposium on Exploitation of Space Mineral Resources:
13-14 November 2014, Athens, Greece**

Though the event will focus on the Legal Framework & Policy Considerations of space natural resources, yet they will be addressed in the larger context of the need for space resources and resource economics, mineralogy and space mining technologies, and business initiatives and proposals.

**International Space University's 2014 intensive summer programme:
9 June-8 August 2014, Montreal, Canada**

The Institute of Air and Space Law and the University of Montreal Hautes Etudes Commerciales will host to the International Space University summer programme.

See: www.hec.ca/en/news/2012/nouv_201221_ISU_e.html